

A Rare Tract on Persecution in Scotland.

The Devonshire House Reference Library has recently added to its literary treasures a 4to 12-page tract with the following title, "Some Queries touching | EXCOMMUNICATION | Published by the People of GOD, (termed in derision *Qua- | kers*) to be considered by all the Bishops and Synods of | this Nation, or any others that may be concerned | in such Proceedings against them. But most | especially, by the present Bishop and | Synod of *Aberdeen*." The Queries number eleven. The first asks how the power to excommunicate comes from God (as they allege)—mediately or immediately; then follow questions regarding the nature of the excommunication, the particular grounds and reasons thereof, and the form of the words used, and some further Queries from *Isalah lxvi. 5*. The ninth query refers to a "sermon by G. M. in the 9th month, 1666, falsly chargeing the People of the Lord with Heresies." The conclusion of the pamphlet is as follows:—

These where delivered to the late Bishop of *Aberdeen*,¹ in his own hand, at the Synod-house door (access being stopped) by *John Cowie*, and *Thomas Milne*, as he was coming out, 1674.

After which, the said Bishop put a stop to such proceedings, dureing his life-time, being one of the most sober and moderate among them. And now this present Bishop, his successour,² and his Clergie being intending a new procedure, with their sentences of Excommunication, (so-called) against the people of the Lord; we have published these Queries both for them and others of their National-Church-Officers, (as they are called) to consider and answer: which we judge they are holden to do in reason before their procedure, as they would be esteemed just or equal in their dealings by the World. And they are now proposed not out of any regard to their sentence, or for seeking any delay thereof, out of any fear we have of it, but only for clearing the Truth, and out of Compassion to them; lest they be found fighters against God & his people.

G. M. Fraser, librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library, in response to an enquiry, states that the date of the tract is 1682. His library has no copy of the tract, but there is one in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. It does not appear to be in the British Museum. Edmond, in his *Aberdeen Printers*, pt. 3, p. 131, says, "I have no hesitation in ascribing this tract to John Forbes's Press. It was probably printed shortly after Bishop Haliburton's translation to the See of Aberdeen in 1682."

Henry T. Wake, of Fritchley, Derby, from whom the copy of the tract now in D. was purchased, writes, "I bought the tract from Ludwig Rosenthal, München, Germany [in 1898]. It appeared in my Catalogue No. 286 and again in the recent one from which thou ordered it."

¹ Patrick Scougal, consecrated Bishop of Aberdeen 1664, died 1682.
—G. M. FRASER.

² This was George Haliburton, translated from Brechin to Aberdeen, 1682, and remained Bishop of Aberdeen until the Revolution in 1688. He died at Cupar Angus in 1715, æt. 77.—G. M. FRASER.