

**THE SOCIAL LIFE OF
SCOTLAND IN
THE EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY. VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649707041

The Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century. Vol. II by Henry Grey Graham

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HENRY GREY GRAHAM

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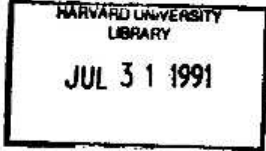
LONDON
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK
1899

~~Br 9007.27~~
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SOCIAL LIFE OF SCOTLAND IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

CHAPTER VIII

RELIGIOUS AND ECCLESIASTICAL LIFE

PART I

I

THE end of 1688 saw the beginning of ecclesiastical revolution in Scotland; and the landing of William of Orange in December was the signal for Presbyterian insurrection.¹ In the bleak month, when there was bitter frost and deep snow, the country people in the south and west counties gathered in mobs, armed with stakes, pitchforks, and clubs, and attacked the manse where for twenty-six years the Episcopal ministers had lived. During the darkness of the night the voices of assailants demanding entrance rose above the din of smashing windows and battered doors. In many cases the "curates" were dragged from their homes amidst abuse, driven to the kirkyard with cries of "Strip the curate!" the black gown (hated badge of "black Prelacy") was torn from their shoulders; their furniture and their humble store of books were flung into fires kindled in the streets. They were forced to give up the church keys and the "poor-box"; and their families were turned out of doors, exposed to the keen winter blast,

¹ *Case of present afflicted Clergy truly represented*, London, 1690; *Account of the Persecution in the Church of Scotland in several Letters*, 1690; *Apology for the Clergy of Scotland* [by A. Maure, D.D.], 1691.