

**HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
FROM ITS FOUNDATION.
VOL. I. - MEMOIR**

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History of the University of Edinburgh from Its Foundation. Vol. I. - Memoir by Andrew Dalzel

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ANDREW DALZEL

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VOL. I.—MEMOIR.



Professor Dalziel

Born 1728 - Died 1818

HISTORY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
FROM ITS FOUNDATION.

BY ANDREW DALZEL
PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THAT UNIVERSITY

WITH A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR

VOL. I.—MEMOIR.

EDINBURGH
EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS
1862.

P R E F A C E.

Soon after Professor Dalzel's death, his family and literary friends were desirous that some memorial of his life should be given to the world; and when Sir Robert Liston, his most intimate friend through life, came to reside permanently near Edinburgh, he undertook to collect materials and prepare notes from his own recollection, for that purpose. Sir Robert had certainly commenced his task, and had probably even made some progress, when he was struck by his last illness, and a loss of memory, which altogether disabled him for such an undertaking. This caused a long delay, and, it is feared, the irrecoverable loss of many documents and memoranda which he may have prepared, and which his life-long familiarity alone could furnish.

The intention, however, was not abandoned. In 1821, Professor Dalzel's old friend, and assistant in his works, Dr. Tate of Richmond, wrote to his son :—
“Allow me to hope you will give at least a brief and distinct account of his learned labours, with some extracts from his correspondence with eminent scholars at home and abroad.”

To John
Dalzel,
March 29,
1821.

To Mr. James
Gibson-
Craig,
October 23,
1830.

Some years later, the same zealous admirer again sought to impress on the family of Dalzel, through a common friend, the duty of preserving a fit memorial of so distinguished a scholar. "Whoever undertakes it," he concludes, "may depend on some contribution from my pen, if it be only a sketch of my connexion, first by letter and then by personal knowledge, with one of the most elegant of scholars, and most amiable of men."

The Memoir thus suggested, taken up at long intervals and delayed by various causes, might have been abandoned altogether but for the devoted affection of one member of the Professor's family. The discovery of the long mislaid Annals of the University compiled by Professor Dalzel, and their publication, seemed to offer a suitable opportunity for giving to the public some account of their author; and Miss Dalzel, the Professor's eldest daughter, has placed in my hands the materials from which the following Memoir is compiled.

C. INNES.

EDINBURGH, August 1861.

MEMOIR OF PROFESSOR DALZEL.

CHAPTER I.

FROM HIS BIRTH TO HIS MARRIAGE, 1743-1786.

PROFESSOR ANDREW DALZEL was born in the year 1743, at Gateside of Newliston, Linlithgowshire, a farm which had been held by his family for several generations. His father, William Dalzel, tenant of the farm, had married Alice Linn, of Linnsmill (whose mother, Mrs. Linn, was known in the family and neighbourhood as "the Lady"). They had four sons, of whom Andrew was the youngest, and a daughter Elizabeth, all children when William Dalzel died in 1751. His widow undertook the management of the farm and of the family; but to relieve her in some degree, a kind uncle Andrew, minister of Stonykirk in Galloway,¹ took charge of his mother, who had lived with William, and two of the boys, Archibald and his own name-son Andrew, and carried them off to his Galloway manse, where he devoted great care to their education during the short

¹ He got the church of Stonykirk in 1740-41. In his first letters from his new cure he writes it Stephenkirk. Does that spelling represent the popu-

lar tradition of the place, or is it only an effort at etymology? I cannot find the parish known otherwise than as Stonykirk.

remainder of his life. In 1751 he writes to his brother's widow :—

Stonykirk,
September 2,
1751.

“DEAR SISTER,—I am glad to hear by John Shanklie's servant that you and the children are well. He will tell you that he saw Archie and Andrew, who have little or no remembrance of Lothian. We have had here for some days most tempestuous weather, and I'm afraid it is little better with you. My kind compliments to the Lady, Mr. and Mrs. Drysdale, Mr. Baillie and family, Mrs. Drummond and the Goodman in the Overtown. The lad is just going off, and, indeed, I have nothing worth while to add but that I am your affectionate brother,

ANDREW DALZEL.”

Among the memorials treasured up by the affection of the family of the Professor, is a joint letter by the two boys to their mother three years later,—“Stonykirk, 14th June 1753.” It is in large text, but quite to the purpose. They like this place very well, and have a schoolmaster that is careful enough, though he is not, they think, quite so good a scholar as Mr. Hastie. They are reading Cornelius Nepos, where they meet with much agreeable entertainment, and are soon to be put into Virgil, and either Cæsar or Sallust. They send their service to Mr. Drysdale, Mr. Hastie, their brothers and sister, and in a word, all friends. The body of the letter is written by Archibald, who also signs it, leaving a narrow margin where we have the first autograph of the future Professor,—“I, Andrew Dalziel, have no room.”

But next year the kind minister was ill, and perhaps