

THE JEPHTHA AND BAPTIST

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649617722

The Jephtha and Baptist by George Buchanan & Alexander Gibb

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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GEORGE BUCHANAN & ALEXANDER GIBB

**THE JEPHTHA
AND BAPTIST**

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BY
GEORGE BUCHANAN.

TRANSLATED BY ALEXANDER GIBB.

EDINBURGH:
J. MOODIE MILLER, LINDSAY PLACE.
1870.

10th Annual ANNOUNCEMENT



P R E F A C E.

THE two sacred dramas of Buchanan—the “Jephtha” and the “Baptist”—are worthy of being better known to the lovers of literature, especially amongst Scotchmen, than they have hitherto been. Their author, as a scholar and man of genius, is an honour to his country; and in the opinion of illustrious critics like Henry Stephens* and the Scaligers,† his poetical merits are of a distinguished order. These tragedies bear the impress of the age in which they were produced, the important era of the Re-

* Henry Stephens styles Buchanan “Poetarum sui seculi facile princeps.”

† Joseph Scaliger says, in the Scaligerana, “Buchanan is the one man in all Europe who has excelled all others in Latin poesy.”

Montaigne, in his famous essay, “De l’Institution des Enfants,” speaks of him as “Georges Buchanan, ce grand poete Escossois.”

formation, wherein were laid the foundations of our civil and religious liberties. The "Baptist" is specially connected with the poet's personal history, having been written within two years after his escape from a prison in Scotland in 1539, and while he still dreaded the rancour of Cardinal Beaton, whom some suppose to be depicted under the character of Malchus. Both were composed for the use of the students attending the College of Guienne at Bordeaux, in which Buchanan was a regent.

In rendering these works into English, the translator has attempted to give the thoughts and style of the writer as literally as he was able. In the revision of the text he has been indebted to a friend, whom he regrets he is not at liberty to name, for many suggestions.

Buchanan's dramatic works, together with his life, are now issued to the public, in the hope of making somewhat better known the poems, character, and deeds of one who has been widely and highly admired as a Latin writer; who suffered much for conscience sake, and amidst great privations and severe persecution witnessed steadfastly for what he esteemed the truth.

THE TRANSLATOR.

JEPHTHA; OR, THE VOW.

