

Queries and Replies

FRANCIS HAMILTON OF SILVERTONHILL. 'KING JAMES HIS ENCOMIUM. Or a Poeme, in memorie and commendation of the High and mightie Monarch Iames . . . our late Sovereigne. By FRANCIS HAMILTOUN of Silvertown-hill. *Edinburgh. Printed by John Wreittoun, 1626.*' A copy of the above was recently offered for sale, and was stated to be one of the only two known.

The author, Francis Hamilton, born probably about 1585, was eldest son of Sir Robert Hamilton of Goslington and Silvertonhill by Elizabeth Bailie, eventually heiress of Provand, near Glasgow. Elizabeth Bailie, with consent of her husband, granted a charter in 1599 in favour of their eldest son, Francis Hamilton, of the lands of Provand, reserving the life rent and certain provisions in favour of her five daughters (*R.M.S.* 1593-1608, No. 973). 'Franciscus Hammiltoune Sylvertonii haeres' matriculated at Glasgow College in 1601 (*Mun. Univ. Glas.* iii. p. 64). He had a licence, 10th July, 1621, 'to go abroad and remain for three years beyond seas for his lawful affairs' (*R.P.C. Scot.* xii. p. 529), but we find him raising an action against his father, which was unsuccessful, 18th January, 1622 (Morison's *Decisions*, xii. p. 9451). Another licence was granted to him, 31st March, 1624, to go abroad for seven years (*R.P.C. Scot.* xiii. p. 485). He raised another action, this time against his sisters, in the endeavour to escape the fulfilment of the provisions secured to them on the lands of Provand, but was again unsuccessful, 29th June, 1624 (Morison's *Decisions*, v. p. 4098). He now seems to have run deeply into debt, and his lands of Provand were 'apprized' from him by John Crawford in Milntoun of Provand for 1550 [2550?] merks owing to him, 3rd July, 1624 (*R.M.S.* 1620-1633, No. 670). The next mention is 6th March, 1634, when Robert Stevenson finds caution for 300 merks 'that Francis Hamiltoun, younger of Silvertounhill, and his family and possessions, would not be molested by him nor by any of his causing' (*R.P.C. Scot.* 2nd Series, v. p. 227). The lands of Provand were recovered by Edward Hamilton of Balgray, immediate younger brother of Francis, and were included in a confirmation to Edward under the Great Seal, 18th July, 1635 (*R.M.S.* 1633-1651, No. 350). A charter was granted by Edward Hamilton in favour of Christiane and Agnes, lawful daughters of Francis Hamilton of Silvertonhill, eldest son of Sir Robert Hamilton of Goslington, of annual rents of 560 merks and 400 merks respectively, out of Provand, to come into force on the decease of Sir Robert, dated 8th July, 1637, and confirmed under the Great Seal, 24th July, 1657 (*R.M.S.* 1652-1659, No. 606).

According to Douglas (*Baronage*, p. 425), who, however, makes him the last of an imaginary elder line of the Silvertonhill family, Francis Hamilton was 'a very enthusiastick wrong-headed man. He fancied himself bewitched by dam Isabel Boyd, lady Blair, which appears by several extravagant petitions to parliament from "Francis Hamilton of Silvertonhill against the said dam Isabel Boyd, anno 1641."' The authority given is the Minutes of Parliament, but these, so far as printed in the Appendix to the *Acts*, make no mention of the petitions.

Sir Robert Hamilton of Goslingtoun and Silvertonhill died in January, 1642. Francis is not named in the Will, dated 20th December, 1641 (*Glas. Com. Rec. Tests.*). In the confirmation (9th March, 1642) Edward is described as 'then styled feare and now of Siluertonhill.' 'Francis Hamiltoun of Silvertounhill, indueller in Edinburgh,' died in 1645, and his testament dative was recorded 7th February, 1646 (*Commissariat of Edinburgh*).

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WOOLLEN AND LINEN TRADE IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND. I asked a question in your Review some months ago (*S.H.R.* vi. 103) as to the Scotch woollen industry, and the foreign trade in cloth and wool in the Middle Ages. Some very interesting information was sent me by Miss Theodora Keith regarding the later Scotch industry for which I desire to thank her; but there seems still work needed on the earlier periods. The only other response sent to me was from a correspondent in a daily paper, who was of the opinion that no such trade existed on any scale. In the course of my reading I have come across a great number of references to Scotch wool and Scotch cloth in the Netherlands market. For example, I have found some of these scattered through the *Hanseatisches Urkundenbuch* and in *Recueil de Documents relatifs à l'histoire de l'industrie drapière en Flandres* by Espines and Pirenne. I have not kept these references, as they lay outside my subject, but I feel sure that any student of medieval Scotch history would be rewarded by collecting such information as to the industrial and commercial activity of medieval Scotland.

I should be grateful if any scholar who in his researches meets with references to Irish commerce would be good enough to send them to me.

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'A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR THE WHIGS' (*S.H.R.* vi. 245).

In the first note which Professor Frith has appended to his interesting contribution under the above heading, there is an obvious *lapsus plumae*. He says that Papillon and Dubois (the 'Papillion' and 'Duboice' of the ballad) were Whig candidates for the post of Sheriffs of London in 1684. This should be 1682. There was no popular election of Sheriffs in the years 1684 to 1687 inclusive, these functionaries being appointed directly by the King during the suspension of the charter. A full account of the election in 1682, at which Papillon and Dubois were candidates, is found in Dr.