reluctant part in the well-known case of his father’s suc­cessor, Professor Simson of Glasgow, who was finally depos­ed from his office for teaching erroneous doctrines. How­ever much he might lament the exercise of the powers conferred by the obnoxious act alluded to, which was passed by the Jacobite party for the evident purpose of subverting the church as an establishment, he uniformly inculcated sub­mission to the civil power in such matters, and used his best endeavours to promote peace and harmony in cases of dis­puted settlements. It might not indeed be possible to over­estimate the amount of injury done to the interests of reli­gion, and of the country at large, by this act of Queen Anne, restoring to lay-patrons the exercise of a civil right, in re­gard to the presentation of ministers to vacant parishes, without some efficient check on its due exercise. In his MS. correspondence we find Wodrow often expressing his deep-felt regrets at the evil effects it was then beginning to produce. “ If the Lord open not a door of relief (so he writes in 1717), we are in the utmost hazard of a corrupt ministry.” And the reiterated expression of his fears of “ a corrupt ministry,” and his remarks on “the servile crouching (of the probationer) to every thing his patron happens to be for,” were but too fully justified by the declining state of the church during the last century. Looking at its effects dur­ing Wodrow’s own time, it was the primary cause of eject­ing from the bosom of the church some of her most faithful ministers, of alienating the affections of the humbler classes of the people, who retained a longing after the fruits of gospel ministrations, and of fostering in those who continued within its pale a growing laxity of principle, however out­wardly its standards were professed ; and thus, while no ade­quate means were provided for the spiritual wants of an in­creasing population, and no attempts made to win back to their fold the people who had left it in search of more faithful and devoted pastors, the church as an establishment seemed fast verging into a state of languor and spiritual death. But it would be out of place to enlarge on such a topic, even if Wodrow had filled a more conspicuous situation in the church. His reputation is founded on his literary labours as a diligent and successful investigator of the history of the church prior to his own times.

The work by which Mr Wodrow is best known, is “ The History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland from the Restoration to the Revolution.” Edinb. 1721-2, 2 vols, fol. It was the labour of many years. In 1717, having prepared the first portion of it, the manuscript was submitted to George Ridpath and other literary friends, and he pro­fited by their suggestions. Two years later, the plan was laid before the General Assembly, when it was cordially ap­proved of, and an act was passed recommending the members of assembly and the several ministers of the church to sub­scribe for copies, and “ to deal ” with such in their bounds as were well disposed to encourage the work, “ now ready for the press.” He obtained by those means a most respect­able list of subscribers ; and on its publication, the work being dedicated to George the First, copies of it were pre­sented, through Dr Fraser, to the king, the queen, the prince and princess of Wales, by all of whom it was most graciously received. In fact, the reception of the work by the public must have been gratifying to the author ; and he appears from his correspondence to have received with com­parative indifference some scurrilous attempts to depreciate his labours by the nonjuring episcopalians, or rather by one of their adherents, Alexander Bruce, advocate, first in an anonymous tract, “ The Scottish Behemoth dissected, in a Letter to Mr Robert Wodrow, &c;” Edin. 1722, folio; and then in the preface to a Life of Archbishop Sharpe, 1723, 8vo. Mr Bruce next announced, in 1724, a great work, an “ Impartial History of the Affairs in Church and State in Scotland from the Reformation to the Revolution,” in two volumes folio. He did not survive long enough to make

much progress in this work, which was taken up by Bishop Keith, who published only the first volume in 1734, bring­ing the history down to the year 1568. Keith’s history is only important as a collection of materials, for the author was equally destitute of acuteness and liberality. To what extent he may have profited by Bruce’s labours, is nowhere stated.

It does not appear in what manner Wodrow’s History was again brought under the notice of George the First ; but his majesty, “ to certify our esteem of the said author and his works, by bestowing on him some mark of our bounty,” ordered the sum of one hundred guineas to be paid to the Rev. Robert Wodrow by the Treasury. This grant is dat­ed the 26th of April 1725 ; and such a mark of royal favour, wholly unexpected on Wodrow’s part, was well bestowed on one whose labours served by contrast to exhibit in lively co­lours the advantages which were secured to Great Britain by the Hanoverian succession. In more recent times public attention was directed to the work by the high eulogium of Mr Fox on its fidelity and impartiality ; and the demand having increased its price beyond the means of ordinary purchasers, a new edition in a more commodious form was published at Glasgow in 1830, 4 vols. 8vo, with a memoir of the author prefixed, by Robert Burns, D. D., one of the ministers of Paisley. The work itself was seasonably un­dertaken, the materials were ample, and in general not dif­ficult of access ; the events were still recent, and many of those who had experienced the hardships and sufferings of the times were either still alive or had been personal friends of the author ; and he brought to the task a singular degree of industry, and a fidelity and impartiality which compensated for his want of literary skill and elegance of composition ; and by incorporating such a mass of original and authentic do­cuments, he has rendered his work interesting by the copi­ousness and minuteness of its details, no less than by exhi­biting an appalling picture of the times.

The publication of this great work had no effect in relax­ing Wodrow’s literary ardour. It had always been with him a cherished plan to form a series of biographical memoirs of the more eminent ministers in the church of Scotland ; and he took every opportunity of collecting materials for that design. Before proceeding with this task, he wrote a memoir of his father, Professor Wodrow, who was well entitled by his learning and usefulness to such a mark of filial affection and regard. He commences this memoir with the following remark : “ When I have a design of mak­ing all the collections I can now recover, concerning the lives of persons in this church and nation, remarkable for piety and usefulness, the apostolical rule of shewing first piety at home, and requiting parents, seems to lead me to begin with my worthy and excellent father.” It is dated February 5th, 1724, and the MS. remained in the possession of the family for more than a century. This “ Life of James Wodrow, A. M., Professor of Divinity in the Uni­versity of Glasgow,” was published at Edinburgh in 1828, under the direction of the late Dr John Campbell, one of the ministers of that city. The series of lives, chiefly com­piled between 1726 and 1733, forms ten volumes in folio, with four quarto volumes of appendix. These volumes are preserved in the library of the University of Glas­gow ; and a selection was commenced in 1834 for the members of the Maitland Club, under the title of “ Col­lections upon the Lives of the Reformers and most emi­nent Ministers of the Church of Scotland.” This work is certainly not the most important of Wodrow’s labours. The lives are compiled and filled with extracts from works now much better known and more accessible than in his days, and being in most instances only first draughts hastily put together, the style is remarkably careless and slovenly. The lives already printed, however, are rendered of much greater value by the copious illustrations of the editor, Mr