Edin.r 27 March 1816

My Lord,

I intended long ere now to have acknowledged your Lordship's obliging communications of Feby 6th. But I have delayed from day to day, partly from official business, and partly from the labour requisite in preparing a Fasciculus of dissertations &c, which is to be published in a few weeks, by our Antiquarian Society here, that has been so long in a torpid state.

The plan your Lordship has suggested, of putting some queries, is certainly the best. I shall therefore beg leave to suggest a few. I am very much indebted to Mr Ellis, whose obliging offer is perfectly correspondent with all that I have ever known of him. As I observe from the papers, that your Lordship is in Lond.n, I avail myself of your indulgence in putting any queries that occur to me under cover to you; and beg my respectful Compliments to Mr Ellis.

I beg your Lordship to forgive the inaccuracy of these lines, as I have been several times interrupted.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithful

and obliged Servt

John Jamieson

Is the MS., among the Donation MSS. referred to by Mr Elles, in prose or verse?

Is there any circumstance that determines the date of it to be so late as the reign of Chas I.? Would not the orthography indicate an earlier date; as sriff for stirfo, Lourmabane, Estirwilling for Stirling &c.?

Has Mr Ellis compared it with the poem of Blind Harry? If so, is there an agreement as to the narrative? If in prose, does it seem to have been compiled from Harry's poem? The oldest edition known of this, in the Museum, among the books that belonged to Q. Elizabeth, 4to 1570.

As it is supposed that there are some about the Museum who are employed in copying, what might be the expence of a transcript of the whole MS. referring to Wallace? and of what extent in size?

Is there the slightest historical evidence that Wallace ever was in France?

Has Mr Elles met with any hint, in any English History, of the burning of the barns of Ayr related by Blind Harry Book 7th.

Is there any record of the trial, condemnation, and execution of Wallace?

I have never seen the Chronicle marked Claudius D. VII. but suppose it must contain some curious facts as written by a Canon of Lanercost Priory - as H. Knighton says the Scots in their expedition A. 1296 passed a night at Lanercost, after burning the religious house or nunnery of Lameslay. How long, does it appear, did the Scots continue in England? How far did they carry their invasion? Is there any foundation for the pretended interview between him and the Queen of England? Does the canon of Lanercost mention Wallace?

Mr James
1179
Shelburne
Antrim

Edinr. Novr. 14th 1819

Dear Sir,

The Earl of Aberdeen was so kind as to communicate to me your very obliging letter of Jany 30th 1816. For some time after receiving it, I had almost relinquished the idea of publishing the Bruce and Wallace; so slender was the encouragement I met with. But I have been going on with the work for nearly a year past. And, like a true Scotsman, I am struggling to get out of difficulties, when it is almost out of my power to do so. The printed accounts, connected with the history of Wallace, are so meagre, that I can get very little for my Notes.

It has occurred to me today, that it is possible that you might be able to give me some aid, either from the additions to the Canon of Lanercost's Chronicle, in the Cotton Library, marked Claud. D. VII Article 13th. or from some other MS. As you kindly put it in my power to propose queries to you, I shall trouble you with a few, that I may do all possible justice to my edition; which is now printed off, of both works, except some of the preliminary matter and notes. As I have found in some instances, that Blind Harry seems to have had truth more on his side than is generally admitted, my queries are such as, I fear, can scarcely admit of elucidation; and some of them may even excite a smile.

Is there any reason to think that Edward I. ever met with Wallace in battle during his incursion into England, A. 1297 or 1298?

Does any thing occur in the MS. annals of England of that date, that could give rise to the story of the Queen being sent on an embassy to him? B. Henry makes the meeting at St Albans.

Have you met with any notice that would confirm the idea that Wallace was in France, — or that he had warred against the English in Guienne?

In the account given of the ravages in Cumberland, does it appear (from Chron. Lanercost) that Wallace was present, or was it after his death (as I rather suppose)?

Can you find any proof that Wallace was betrayed by Sir John Menteith, acting in concert with Edomar, or Aymer, de Valloins, Earl of Pembroke?

Perhaps you may meet with a statement of some fact regarding Wallace, overlooked by other writers, — although not included in these genealogies.

Is there any written proof that John Cummin had betrayed the contract between him and Robert Bruce to Edward?

At what age does the writing (or composition) of the Kilhamers, Hart. Coll. Donation MSS. No 4934, appear to be? By whom is the note — ending with — plura, sed inordinate, cauit?

You have not said, whether the MS. in the same collection, No 1226, be in prose or rhyme.

"If the scrip & is thus as in MS.? [illegible]

What is the extent of the work?

From the orthography, would you not suppose that it is older than "the time of Charles the first?"

Does it seem, as to substance, to be copied from Henry the Minstrel's work, or contains other matter? From the heads of the chapters, it should be inclined to suspect that the former is the case.

If in poetry, might I beg a specimen of a few lines?

You have the edition of Wallace 1570. I think of 1596 or 1601 in the Museum. If that of 1594, I would beg a few words by which I might know if an imperfect one in my possession be of that year. In the title in the first page, for it wants all before, Wallace is called "the mirror of knightly deeds". It appears that he is simply called "the Knight" in that of 1570.

Any obligations to you will be greatly enhanced, if you will favour me with an answer as soon as possible, as I must till then stop the press where I am. The work ought to have been published by this time; as my Paper Bills are due next month, and cannot be renewed, the London house having become bankrupt.

I am,

Dear Sir,

With much esteem,

Your faithful and obliged Servant

John Jamieson

I answered this letter Nov. 22d 1819. The passages in the Chronicle of Lanercost relating to Wallace, though few, are curious. They will be found in that MS. in fols. 208 b. 210 b. 211. At the battle of Stirling King Edwards Treasurer Hugh de Cressingham was killed — "Inter quos cecidit Thesaurarius Anglie Hugo de Kersingham de cujus corio et sociorum ejusque ut talem Walleis Latam corrigiam sami fecit et inde sibi fecerat cingulum suorum sui." In fol. 211. Wallace is stated to have been betrayed by a Scotchman, "Nom. Joh. de Menteithe". — After his execution his head was placed upon London bridge — his right arm upon the Bridge at Newcastle

upon Tyne and his left arm sent to Berwick. His right foot (her) to
St. John's Town and his left to Aberdeen. — "1307 in die sancti Pascha
Dungallus factus est miles, et infra eandem septimanam captus est dominus
Johannes Walein et ad regem apud Karl. adductus qui misit eum London ut
ibi caperet idem judicium quod prius acceperat frater suus Willelmus." fol. 212.

H. C.

Edinr March 30. 1824

Dear Sir,

I have long meant to send you a copy of The Bruce and Wallace, as a small token of my sense of obligation to you for the great trouble you took for me in procuring some of the most valuable Notes. I cannot offer a sufficient apology for my delay. But you, from experience, must have some fellow-feeling as to the ennui produced by a literary life, and one's constant disposition to delay. I have been for years past so constantly engaged in getting ready my Supplement to the Dictionary (which is now in the press) too often jostling with pretty severe professional duty, that the idea of writing a few lines of a letter has habitually assumed the appearance of a mighty exertion.

Having an opportunity that I can depend on, I cannot let it slip. Mrs Jameson is going up to town in order to get an operation performed on my youngest son, himself lately admitted by the Royal College here, as a Surgeon. His disease is cataract.

As my friends are just going off, I have only time to add that,

I am,

My Dear Sir

Your faithful and obliged Servt

John Jamieson

Joseph Hunter 14V.3
1785 - 1861
Author & Antiquary
Historian

Christopher Clarkson 14V.2
- 1830
Author History of
Richmond Yks etc

John Jamieson
1759 - 1839 14V.3
Philologist, Author
Antiquary D.D. 15V.4