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JOHN HOWIE OF LOCHGOIN: HIS FOREBEARS AND HIS WORKS.

Throughout Scotland and beyond it, John Howie has been a power for good for more than a century. Strictly speaking, he ought to be described as John Howie *in* Lochgoin, not *of* Lochgoin, as he was merely the tenant, not the owner; but the Howie family have occupied that moor-land farm for so many generations that they are constantly and naturally spoken of as the Howies of Lochgoin; and of the many Johns in that family the author of *The Scots Worthies* is preëminently known as John Howie of Lochgoin.

There is no certainty as to the precise year, not even as to the precise century, in which the Howie's first went to Lochgoin; nor is there any certainty as to the district or country from which they came. The origin of the Howies, indeed, like that of many of the oldest landed Scottish families, is lost in the haze of antiquity.

In one passage, the author of *The Scots Worthies* thus refers to the origin of his family:

"Our house had been very ancient in suffering for religion; (some have said that our first progenitors in this land fled from the French persecution in the 9th century)."¹

It will be noticed that he does not vouch for the truth of

¹ *Memoirs*, 1796, p. 153.

In Dr. Robertson's book the following subjects are discussed: "The Messianic Consciousness of Jesus", "The First Appeal of Jesus", "The New Departure", "The Galilean Campaign", "The Special Training of the Twelve", "The Attack upon Jerusalem", "The Answer of Jerusalem", "The Final Triumph of Jesus".

Dr. Robertson is master of an attractive style. His sentences are short and pithy. In fact, the book is full of strikingly bright remarks; antithetical statements and aphorisms abound. The reader is carried forward rapidly, and his interest is sustained to the end. And, what is more important, Dr. Robertson writes from the right point of view. He is in sympathy with the portraiture of Jesus as given in the Gospels, and has left to others the work of retouching or repainting the canvass which "old masters" have immortalized.

It would be a pleasure to call attention to numerous points of interest in Dr. Robertson's book, but the interest of discovering them may be left to the readers who discover the book. May these be many and may Dr. Robertson's service in this popular presentation of the Gospel story find the appreciation and the gratitude that it deserves!

Princeton.

WILLIAM P. ARMSTRONG.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY.

A SCOTS EARL IN COVENANTING TIMES: being Life and Times of Archibald, 9th Earl of Argyle (1629-1685). By JOHN WILLCOCK, F. R. Hist. Soc. Edinburgh: Andrew Elliott, 17 Princes Street. 1907. 8vo.; pp. xxi, 448. With Index and fifteen portraits and other illustrations.

Mr. John Willcock, Minister of Lewick, in the Shetland Islands, has made himself favorably known to students of Scottish history by a series of biographical memoirs—one of them detailing some passages in the life of a Shetland minister of the eighteenth century, but most of them touching on phases of life in the century of the Covenants. Of these the *magnum opus* thus far consists of two volumes, published separately, but dealing with consecutive history as it wrought itself out around the figures of two notable men, father and son. The first of these two volumes, called *The Great Marquess*, presented the "life and times of Archibald, 8th Earl and first (and only) Marquess of Argyle". The second, now lying before us, presents "the life and times of Archibald, 9th Earl of Argyle."

The period covered by the two volumes embraces nearly the whole of the seventeenth century—from 1607 to 1685; and comprehends the entire significant history of the Covenants, which may be said to have closed with the Revolution of 1688. This history is presented, however, from the point of sight of its relation to the two Earls of Argyle, whose

fortunes furnish the central thread of the two volumes respectively. There is no doubt a difference in the handling of the history in the two volumes. The earlier one is more of a biography of its subject; the later more of a history of the times in which its subject lived. This is in accordance with, and perhaps has been determined by, the relative prominence of the two figures. Both occupied a great place in the history of their country: both died as martyrs for their country's liberties and the Covenant. But the father was indefinitely the greater man of the two, played incomparably the greater part in the history of his times, and stands out on the page of the story much more boldly—in black or white (we think, white) according to our judgment of his in any event great character and career.

Perhaps the task of writing the life history of "the great Marquess" and placing it in its proper perspective in the history of the times was more difficult than the task of writing the history of the times of "the ninth Earl" and pointing out his place in it. Perhaps the mass of controversial material which has gathered around the figure of "the great Marquess", necessitating a continual attitude of defense when dealing with his career, unavoidably hampered the presentation of his portrait in a historical narrative. In any case, we think Mr. Willcock's second volume in this family history better than his first. We have read it with more pleasure and we think with more profit. We do not admire the ninth Earl as we admire the eighth: we do not look back to him with the gratitude which quickens in our hearts as we think of that great lord and Christian who, fortunately for Scotland, was virtually King in the land during some of the most fateful years of its history. But we follow his fortunes through Mr. Willcock's pages with, we think, an adequate appreciation of the high qualities of heart and mind which ultimately asserted themselves and enabled him too to accomplish a death which goes far to vindicate many passages of his checkered life. The volume, however, in its capacity of history rather of the times than of the mere life of the ninth Earl deals mainly with the fortunes of the Covenant in Scotland in the period of its depression. And it is Mr. Willcock's presentation of this history which chiefly grips the reader's attention. We do not fully share Mr. Willcock's attitude towards the several parties of the Covenanters: and there are accordingly passages in his narrative which we should have painted in colors the reverse of those which he employs. But we find the outlines of the narrative sound, and have risen from the perusal of the work with a sincere sense of satisfaction with it. The two volumes together give a clear and useful picture of the Covenanting century in Scotland which students of that period should not miss.

Princeton.

BENJAMIN B. WARFIELD.

THEOLOGISCHER JAHRESBERICHT. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. G. KRÜGER und Prof. Dr. W. KÖHLER in Giessen. Sechszwanzigster Band, enthaltend die Literatur und Totenschau des Jahres