
**A General History of Scotland from the Earliest Accounts
to the Present Time, Volume 5**

Guthrie William

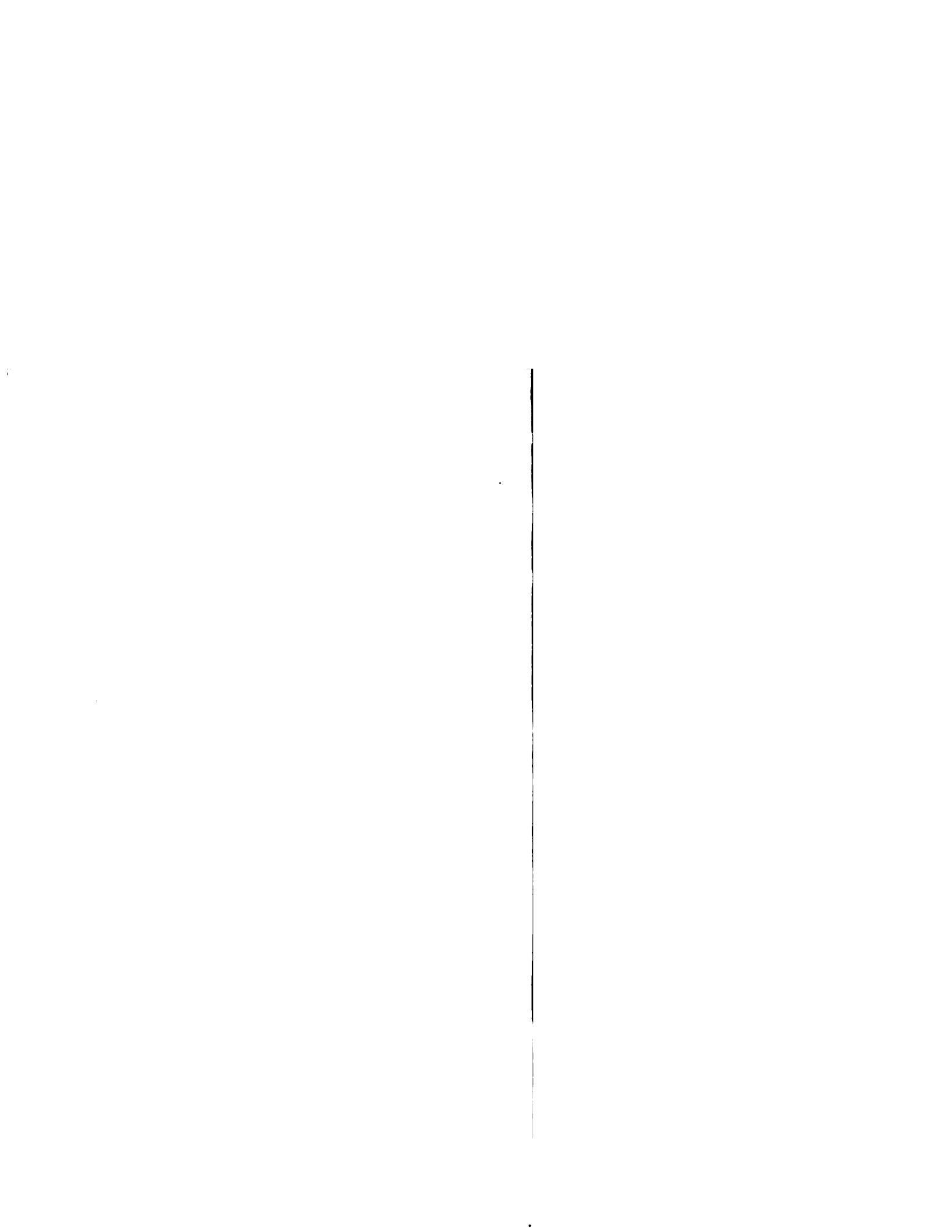
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Author: Guthrie William

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A
GENERAL HISTORY
OF
SCOTLAND,
1085 FROM
THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS
TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

By WILLIAM GUTHRIE, Esq.

VOLUME THE FIFTH.

L O N D O N,

Printed for the AUTHOR, by A. HAMILTON,
And sold by ROBINSON and ROBERTS, in Paternoster-Row.

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A
GENERAL HISTORY
OF
SCOTLAND.



JAMES THE FIFTH.

THE chusing the duke of Albany their regent was undoubtedly a wise measure for the Scots. If he was a stranger, and unacquainted with their manners, he was, at the same time, disinterested and indifferent as to their parties and divisions; and being a man of genius, it was easy for him to get such information as might fit him to be an excellent governor: nor did he deceive the expectation of the public. Upon his landing, he was waited upon by many of the Scotch nobility, and none seemed to make him more welcome than the queen herself. Looking upon himself as being already invested in the regency, he no sooner

A. D. 1515.
Duke of
Albany ar-
rives in
Scotland.

THE HISTORY

A. D. 1515.
Ambition
of cardinal
Wolsey.

This unanimity was far from answering either the expectations or wishes of the English court, or rather of Wolsey. The latter had depended upon the interest of the queen and her husband for balancing parties in Scotland in such a manner, as that the nobility might find themselves under a necessity to call in Henry, as being uncle of their young king, to take upon him the regency, by which the disposal of all the rich ecclesiastical livings in Scotland would have been left to the insatiable Wolsey, whose eyes were now fixed upon the popedom. Before the parliament rose, intelligence had arrived that Henry had actually ordered his embassadors at the court of Rome to give him the title of regent of Scotland, and to solicit for him the disposal of all the church-livings in that kingdom. The nobility of Scotland affected to distrust this information; and on the thirtieth of July a letter was drawn up and signed, in the name of the young king and the three estates, directed to the pope and the college of cardinals, which has been published by Rymer, but has been omitted by the Scotch historians. In this letter his holiness is informed, that the duke of Albany had been constituted regent of Scotland by the voice of the parliament, and even the consent of their king's most illustrious mother; and therefore his holiness is prayed to give the same credence to Albany's letters as he had done to those of
the

Rymer,
vol. XIII.
p. 514.

OF SCOTLAND.

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the late king. They then mention the proceedings of Henry's ambassadors at Rome only as reports which they could not credit, because Henry's ancestors had never pretended to such prerogatives. They speak of Scotland as having been an ancient and an independent kingdom, governed by its own sovereigns, and, during their minority, by their next in blood: that as such a claim would never be admitted by the people, it must, if prosecuted, be the source of incredible mischief; and therefore his holiness is prayed to discourage all Henry's pretensions of that kind, and to bestow the prelaties of the kingdom according to the duke of Albany's recommendation. From this letter it appears, that, notwithstanding all the precautions that had been taken to guard Scotland against the papal encroachments, yet still it was thought necessary that his holiness should confirm prelates, and other ecclesiastics, in their promotions.

A. D. 1515

Among all the persons whom the regent applied to for information concerning the state of Scotland, he found none who gave him so much satisfaction as Hepburn prior of St. Andrew's, whom I have already mentioned on account of his contest for that archbishopric. Two of the most elegant historians of their respective times have transmitted to us a detail of the information given by Hepburn to the duke, I mean Buchanan and Drummond; and
upon

The regent
directed by
Hepburn.