

An account of the most remarkable Trials and Executions which took place in Scotland for above 300 years, against the persons who suffered for Witchcraft, Adultery, Fornication, &c. &c.

Thomas Aikenhead for denying the Trinity, and the authority of the Scriptures, and for maintaining the Eternity of the world, was found guilty, and sentenced "To be taken to the Gallow-lee on the 8th of January, 1697, between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, and to be hanged; his body to be buried at the foot of the gallows, and his moveable estate to be forfeited"—Mercy was asleep, as well as Justice and Science; so the dreadful sentence was executed!

John Ogilvie, Jesuit, was tried in 1615, before the Magistrates of Glasgow, specially appointed, for saying of Mass, acknowledging the Pope to be Judge in controversies of religion, and declining to answer certain Questions put by his Majesty's Commissioners, concerning the Pope's power to excommunicate Kings, the murder of a King excommunicated and deposed by the Pope, and a Subject's being absolved from the allegiance due to such a King. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be taken immediately from the Court to the place of execution, and there to be hanged and quartered. He was hanged that same afternoon, but the quartering was dispensed with.

Alison Pearson in Byre-hills, Fifeshire, accused of witchcraft, was brought to trial in May, 1538, she was convicted and condemned, strangled and burned.

Janet Grant and Janet Clark, were convicted of witchcraft, in August 1590.

Agnes Samson of Keith, was accused of assembling at North Berwick in 1590, with 6 men and 90 women, all witches and of having raised storms, and kissed the devil's a—e. She was burned.

Euphan M'Calzeane was tried for witchcraft in 1591, she was a lady possessed of a considerable estate in her own right. She was the daughter of Thomas M'Calzeane Lord Cliftonhall, one of the Senators of the College of Justice; she was burned alive, and her estate confiscated.

Patrick Lawrie was tried for witchcraft in 1605; he was burned alive.

Margaret Wallace was tried for witchcraft in 1620, and she was strangled and burned.

Isobel Young in East Barns, was tried in 1629, for having by enchantment, stopped a mill 29 years before; she was strangled & burned.

Alex. Hamilton was convicted on his own confession, in 1630, of having had many meetings with the devil, from whom he once received a severe drubbing for not keeping an appointment.

In 1697, in the shire of Renfrew, 24 persons, male and female, were accused of witchcraft, and seven of them was convicted and committed to the flames in one day.

John Neil was tried for witchcraft in 1631, and the usual sentence was pronounced.

Janet Brown and others was tried in 1640 for having a meeting with the devil, and of renouncing her baptism. The prisoner, and two other women, were convicted, condemned, and executed in one day.

The last person who was prosecuted before the Lords of Justiciary for witchcraft was Elspeth Rule, who was tried before Lord Anstruthers at the Dumfries Circuit, on the 3d of May, 1709, she was burned on the cheek, and banished Scotland for life.

The last person who was brought to the stake in Scotland was condemned by Capt. David Ross, Sheriff-depute of Sutherland, in 1722.

The devil has never been seen in Scotland since.

John Guthrie was prosecuted for the crime of notorious adultery; in 1617, when he was sentenced to be taken to the Cross of Edinburgh, and hanged on a gibbet till he be dead; and he appears to have been carried to immediate execution.

Patrick Robertson and Marion Kemp, were accused of adulterous commerce with each other. They were convicted on their own confession, on the 18th December 1627, and were sentenced to be hanged on a gibbet at the Castle-hill.

John Murdoch and Janet Douglas both married persons, were tried in 1699, for one act of adultery. The libel was restricted, and they were banished for life.

The last person that was tried in Scotland for adultery, was the Rev. Mr. Nisbet of the Established Church of Scotland, he was a minister in Invernesshire, and was tried in 1762, and sentenced to be banished beyond seas.

This law with regard to adultery, still remains in force in Scotland.

Christopher Jameson and Margaret Little were tried and found guilty of fornication with each other in 1653, and ordained to pay £.40 Scots, and in case of refusal to be kept prisoners for eight days, and to be fed on bread and small drink, and next market day to stand an hour bareheaded on the pillory.