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First published in 1933 as part of the Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought series, Coulton's *Scottish Abbeys and Social Life* was an expanded version of his Rhind Lectures given to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1931. Although a rigorous academic, who stressed the importance of using primary sources, Coulton was skilled at making medieval history accessible to a wider audience. He played an important role in encouraging interest in the study of social and economic, rather than political and military, history of the Middle Ages among younger scholars. In the present work, he used his wide reading of the evidence to examine how monasticism developed in Scotland, from the early Celtic period to the Reformation. Much of the material reveals a complex relationship between the monks of the various orders and the world in which they lived, and teaches the reader about the Church and Scottish society.

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IN
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Edited by G. G. COULTON

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SCOTTISH ABBEYS & SOCIAL LIFE

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PREFACE

MY first acknowledgement must be to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, who did me the honour of choosing me as Rhind Lecturer for the year 1931. From individual members of that Society, and from the officials at the National Library of Scotland, at the Register House, and at His Majesty's Office of Works, I have received kindness and help at every point. To the last-named Office I am indebted for permission to reproduce more than one of my illustrations. My footnotes will mark my indebtedness to Dr James Curle for details about Melrose, and to Professor R. K. Hannay, Historiographer Royal, for advance proofs of his *Acta Dominici Concilii* and for much valuable information. Finally, Miss Jessie Cameron has generously supplied me with notes and transcripts from her as yet unpublished gleanings in the Vatican Archives.

The present volume contains more than twice the matter for which it was possible to find room in the actual lectures; but those lectures dictated its general form, and it seemed inadvisable to obliterate all traces of oral delivery. I have tried to leave no really important avenue altogether unexplored; but I am fully conscious that this volume, in many directions, can only indicate the problems which need much fuller investigation before the evidence can be looked upon as exhausted.

G. G. C.

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