

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04265-9 - The Buik of the Croniclis of Scotland or, A Metrical Version of the
History of Hector Boece: Volume 2

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Excerpt

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THE
BUIK OF THE CRONICLIS OF SCOTLAND;
OR
A METRICAL VERSION OF THE HISTORY OF
HECTOR BOECE ;
BY
WILLIAM STEWART.

EDITED
BY
WILLIAM B. TURNBULL, ESQ.
OF LINCOLN'S INN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S
TREASURY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N :
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, AND ROBERTS.

—
1858.

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THE BUIK OF THE CRONICLIS OF SCOTLAND.

VOL. II.

HEIR ENDIS THE SAXT BUKE AND BEGYNNIS THE SEVINT, CONTENAND MONY SINDRIE [THINGIS] OF THE ROMANIS AND OF THE DISTRUCTION OF ROME BE THE GOTIS, AND OF THE CUMING AGANE OF THE SCOTTIS IN THAIR AWIN LAND BE THE SECUND FERGUS. Lib.7, f.100 b.
Col. 1.

Fra all the Scottis prescribit war ilkone
In sindrie landis out of Albione;
Sum in Denmark, and sum in Norowa,
Sum in the Ylis, and sum in Orkna, 20,240
So fremmitlie in mony sindrie land,
Sum be the se, and vther sum be the sand,
With soir travell than baith with barne and wyfe,
Richt mony da leidand ane langsum lyfe.
This Maximus, of quhome befoir I tald, 20,245
In all his tyme baith bellicois and bald,
Walkryfe in weir, in all thing wyss and war,
Richt circumspect and weill culd se on far
Quhat wer to cum or apperand to be,
Be thing bygane so greit ingyne had he. 20,250
And quhen he knew richt weill that it wes sua
In Albione that tyme he had no fa,
Into na steid his stait that durst ganestand,
Baith ill and gude war all at his command.

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HOW MAXIMUS HELD ANE COUNSALL IN EBORAC,
QUHAIR HE DEWYDIT SCOTLAND, DEILLAND IT
BETUIX THE BRITIS AND THE PECHTIS.

Sone efter that, in Eborac I weyne, 20,255
The lordis all befor him gart convene
Of Brit and Pecht into ane parliament,
Quhair he diuydit with thair hail consent,
The Scottis landis baith be land and se.
Syne euerilk man efter his facultie, 20,260
Als far that tyme as he culd vnderstand,
Rewardit hes than with the Scottis land.
To Pecht and Brit, Romane and all the laif,
Full greit reward oft syis he thame gaif.
So full he wes of liberalitie, 20,265
And vsit so his greit auctoritie,
In Albione bayth with knaif and knight
He louit wes aboue all vther wicht.
So large he wes, so humull and so wyss,
So meik also and full of gentreiss, 20,270
So plesand als in ernist and in pla,
That all the Romanes in Britania,
Bayth ill and gude, with thair auctoritie
Declarit him thair emprioure to be.

HOW MAXIMUS WAS CROVINIT EMPRIoure IN
LONDOUN.

Col. 2. In Lundoun toun with hie laud and honour, 20,275
With diademe maid him thair emprioure ;
And sevintene 3eir or thair about so lang,
As emprioure in Albione he rang.
At his command haif[and] both les and moir,
As neur ane vther had his tyme befor, 20,280
In Albione the hail auctoritie,
Na 3it sen syne I wait nocht quhat will be.

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HOW THE EMPRIOURE GART WITH BATTELL PERSEW
MAXIMUS.

In Rome that tyme thair rang ane emprioure,
 Hecht Walentyne, quhilk wes of grit honour.
 This emprioure, quhen that he hes hard tell 20,285
 How Maximus agane him did rebell,
 In greit contempzione of his majestie,
 Declarand him ane emprioure to be ;
 Quhairfoir with thame till him alway wes trew,
 With mort battell he gart thame oft persew. 20,290
 Bot of his purpos he culd nocht prevaill,
 Far oft ar ay he wes maid for to faill,
 And tyne the feild no victour for to be,
 Quhylis be strenth, quibilis be subtilitie.
 Quhen tua houndis richt oft hes other preuit, 20,295
 Into bergane quhill tha be baith mischeuit,
 And none of thame can haif the victorie,
 Tha wilbe fane ilkane to go other by.
 Siclyik that tyme I say heir be thai tuo :
 Quhen ilk of thame had preuit other so 20,300
 But victorie, than war thai fane to ceiss,
 Betuix thame tuo syne mak gude rest and peice.
 Than Maximus, as victour him allone,
 Ane emprioure he rang in Albione.

HOW MAXIMUS, EFTER THAT HE HAD SUBDEWIT
ALBIONE, PASSIT IN GALLIA WITH ANE GREIT
ARMIE OF PECHTIS, ROMANIS AND BRITIS,
AND SYNE WAS SLANE BE THEODOC[1]US.

Bot men that ar in greit auctoritie, 20,305
 Richt schort quhile standis in prosperitie ;
 For quhen thai ar most heiche vpon the quheill,
 And traistis than that all thing standis weill,
 Than tha misknaw God and Fortoun so far,
 Na wounder is suppois tha get the war, 20,310

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That stryvis baith aganes God and mycht,
 And Fortoun als that brocht him to the hicht.
 Men sould be war sic tyme and gyde thame weil,
 For quhen ane mane is heast on the quheill,
 He sould be wyss and beir him self rycht law; 20,315
 Quha fallis heichast gettis the grittest faw.
 Be Maximus I say this thing for-thy,
 Quhen Albione culd nocht him satisfy,
 Bot some efter he dressit him till go
 To Gallia and other landis mo, 20,320
 For to subdew thame to his senzeorie,
 Lib. 7, f. 101. For hie vane gloir and for na vther quhy,
 Col. 1. With mony Pecht and mony Romane knyecht,
 And mony vther worthie war and wicht;
 And all the strenthtis into Albione 20,325
 He stuffit thame, syne furth his way is gone.
 To schip burd went syne efter on ane da,
 Out our the pais tuke land in Gallia;
 And how he fuir that tyme in his travell,
 It war our lang and tariesum to tell, 20,330
 And I haif nocht that mater in memorie,
 It is sua lang sen that I saw that storie.
 That mater als pertenis nocht to me,
 Thairfoir as now heir I will lat it be.
 Bot for to tell zow schortlie of his end, 20,335
 Gif it be trew as my author me kend,
 Efter he had subdewit Gallia,
 And mony landis in Germania,
 And slane also had nobill Gratianus,
 Vincust he wes be Theodocius 20,340
 In plane battell quhair he lost the lyfe;
 Thus endit he that maid so mekle stryfe.
 Lat him go now sen that he is gone,
 And turne agane to tell of Albione:
 Sic aventure amang thame as befell, 20,345
 Will ze tak tent and ze sall heir me tell.

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HOW OCTAUEUS, THE SONE OF OCTAUEUS FOIR-
SAID, COME FURTH OF GALLIA IN BRITANE,
DESYRAND TO BE MAID KING.

Ane nobill man of fredome and of fame,
 Octaueus quhilk callit wes to name,
 Octaueus son, as I befoir schort quhile
 Schew to ȝow heir, that fled in Mona Yle, 20,350
 For to remane with gude Eugenius,
 And his bruther the ȝoung Ethodeus,
 Quhilk efter fled, as my author did sa,
 Fra Maximus far furth in Gallia.
 Syne quhen he knew that Maximus wes slane, 20,355
 Weill ma ȝe wit thairof he wes full fane.
 In Britane als that tyme thair wes na king
 Of Britis blude, thairfoir but tareing
 Bownit in Britane thair or he wald blin,
 His croun agane and kinrik for to win, 20,360
 Quhilk wes his eldaris heretage of ald,
 And his fatheris, befoir as I haif tald.
 Befoir the lordis that tyme in Britane,
 Into ane court quhair that counsall began,
 Thair he hes maid, with richt lang sermoning, 20,365
 Ane sair complaint in wanting of thair king;
 And that the realm sa lang wes destitute,
 Without ane king cumit of the Britis blude,
 Quhilk wes his fatheris heretage of ald;
 His will it wes thairfoir gif that tha wald 20,370
 To mak him king at thair plesour and will,
 As he that had most rycht and clame thair till.
 And als he schew, how that the Romanes strang
 Had thirlit thame in seruitude so lang,
 And maid thame all bot bondis for to be 20,375
 Quhair thai wer wont befoir for to leve frie.
 Thairfoir, he said, gif he richt wnderstude,
 Had thai ane king wer of thair awin blude

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- Col. 2. That he wald suffer greit traveill and pane,
For to reskew thair libertie agane. 20,380
And sen that he wes of the blude royall,
And narrest air discendand lineall,
And sone also to gude Octaueus,
Quhilk wes so constant and so curt[e]us,
That for thair saik sufferit sa mekle pane 20,385
For to reskew thair libertie agane.
Thus and siclike in presence of thame aw
He said, and mair than I will to zow schaw.

HOW THIS OCTAUEUS, BE THE PERSWASIOUN HE
MAID TO THE BRITIS, WAS CROVNIT KING IN
LONDOUN.

- Thro quhais sueit and subtill perswasioun,
In rob royall with sceptour, sword and croun, 20,390
Octaueus thair haif thai crownit king
Of all Britane amang thame for to ring.
The Romanis all into Britania,
Keipand the strenthis in that tyme that la,
Resistit thame than als far as tha mocht, 20,395
And euirilk da hes done all that tha docht.
Bot all for nocht, that tyme it wald nocht be,
The Britis wer so blyth of libertie,
And had sic curage als of thair new king,
Tha set the Romanis bot at lytill thing; 20,400
And euerilk da hes done thame grit injure,
Dischargand thame of all office and cuir,
Puttand thame out of all auctoritie,
And maid the Britis alway to leve fre.

HOW THE EMPRIOURE THEODOCIUS SEND ANE
ARMIE IN TO BRITANE TO DANTOUN THIS
FOIRSAID OCTAUEUS.

- The emprioure than Theodocius, 20,405.
Quhen that he hard how that Octaueus

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Rebellit had in Britane of the new,
 Than sone he send, the Romanis to reskew
 Into Britane remanand that war than
 Within strenthis, richt mony nobill man, 20,410
 And to reduce the Britis les and moir
 To Cesaris faith siclike as of befoir,
 Or with mort battell planelie thame persew.
 And so thai did, quhair mony ane thai slew
 On euerilk syde, or tha weiris wald ceiss, 20,415
 Syne at the last betuix thame wes maid peice.
 With thir conditionis endit wes¹ thair stryfe :
 Octaueus, for terme of all his lyfe,
 Sould bruik the crowne without ony discord,
 Of all Britane be callit king and lord ; 20,420
 And all the strenthis that wer in thair landis
 Suld all be put in the Romanis handis,
 Evin as tha stude at that tyme ane and aw,
 With hail power to execute the law,
 And siclike tribute for to gif alsua, 20,425
 As tha war wont to Maximus to pa.

HOW THE EMPRIoure SEND TUA LEGATIS IN Lib.7, f.101b.
 BRITANE, MARTUS THE TANE AND VICTORIUS Col. 1.
 THE TOTHER.

The emprioure then, Theodocius,
 Quhen all wes done as I haif said ȝow thus,
 Fra Rome that tyme tua legatis he hes send
 To fortife his richtis, and defend 20,430
 In Albione gif ony wald rebell ;
 The tane of thame, that tyme as I hard tell,
 Hicht Victoryn, the tother Martius,
 In Lundoun toun, my author sayis thus,
 For to remane and president to be 20,435
 Of all the South and haif auctoritie.

¹ In MS. *with.*

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THE BUIK OF THE

And Victoryn, as my author did tell,
 In Eborac for to remane and duell,
 To execute the law in Romane stylis,
 Fra Eborac evin vnto the North Ylis. 20,440
 And so thai did that tyme in Albione,
 Ouir all pairtis but contradictione.

HOW VICTORIUS COMMANDIT THE PECHTIS TO VSE
 THE ROMANE LAWES AND FORBEIR THAIR AWIN.

In this same tyme to 3ow now that I schaw,
 The Pechtis zit wer vsand thair awin law,
 As Maximus thame grantit of befoir. 20,445
 This Victoryn thame manassit with grit schoir,
 In pane of deid, tha sould sua hardie be
 As to hald law of thair auctoritie ;
 Sen of the Romanis that tha held thair land,
 Tha war ouir hardie for to tak on hand, 20,450
 And semit weill that stude bot litill aw,
 At thair awin hand to execute the law,
 As tha to Cesar suld pertene nothing,
 Thair self, thair law, thair landis, and thair king.
 Quhairfoir, he said, wnder all charge and pane, 20,455
 To execute sic barbour lawes agane,
 In tyme to cum Romanes sould judgis be,
 And tha ansuer to thair auctoritie ;
 Of na les pane na wanting of his heid
 Incontinent quha that maid pley or pleid. 20,460

HEIR FOLLOWIS HOW HARGUSTUS, THE KING OF
 PECHTIS, WAS SO SUBDEWIT WITH VICTORYN,
 FOR GREIT DISPLESOUR ON ANE TYME QUIET-
 LIE IN HIS CHALMER SLEW HIM SELFF.

Hargust thair king, that wes baith waik and ald,
 Quhen that he hard thir tydenis to him tald,
 So greit displeour thairof that he take,
 The lang nycht ouir but ony sleip he woik.