



The Bishop's Bridge

Over the Water of Cruden there stands a bridge called, '*the Bishop's Bridge*'. James Drummond, Bishop of Brechin, 1684-1689, was deprived of his temporal powers as a bishop due to the Presbyterian Settlement of 1689 which abolished episcopacy. He found refuge at Slains Castle the home of John Hay, 12th Earl of Erroll who had married Drummond's sister, Lady Ann, as the Countess of Erroll.

When the burn was in spate the congregation had to make a long detour to get to the Parish Church. Bishop Drummond with great compassion decided to build a bridge for them. Now a 'B' listed ancient monument, it was completed in 1697. The Bishop had carved on the south side of the bridge his coat of arms and that of his '*protector*' James Hay, Earl of Errol. In a plaque erected in 1919 in the Parish Church to both Bishop Drummond and William Dunbar, who continued to minister to his parish congregation through all legal adversity of that day. About Drummond the plaque proclaims "*He was a good and pious man, and diligent in his office. By his generosity, the church was enriched with two silver communion cups and by his help and means, the bridge, which leads to the church, still known as the Bishop's Bridge, was built.*" William Dunbar, who became



Bishop Drummond's Memorial Plaque

Bishop of Aberdeen is honoured thus "*He was a faithful pastor and diligent preacher. Under his influence and largely by his pen, the remarkable book entitled, 'A Representation of the State of the Church in North Britain and the sufferings of the Orthodox and Regular clergy' was written at Cruden in 1716.*" [picture above left] I often quote from this book as it gives a shocking insight into the cruelties and deprivations our catholic clergy suffered on our behalf, for the sake of the Episcopal faith.

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Stuart Donald

The picture of St James the Less Church, Cruden, and the title page of '*Representation*' is from the Diocesan Archive; the picture of the Bishop's Bridge is from '*Buchan*' by the Revd John B. Pratt, published in Aberdeen 1858; the Memorial Plaque is from the Internet

contact: archives@aberdeen.anglican.org

A
REPRESENTATION
OF THE
State of the CHURCH
IN
NORTH-BRITAIN,
AS TO
EPISCOPACY and LITURGY;
And of the
SUFFERINGS

OF THE
ORTHODOX and REGULAR CLERGY,
From the Enemies to Both.

But more especially of the Episcopal Churches
within the Diocese and Shire of Aberdeen.

In which is profest,

A DISQUISITION

Concerning ECCLESIASTICAL CENSURES in Causes
Civil and Criminal, particularly in Matters of
Treason and Rebellion.

With Original Papers and Attestations.

LONDON: Printed for W. and J. LEITCH at the
Princes Arms in St. Pauls Church-yard; and sold by
James Robertson at the Crown in Peterborough-Row.
1716. (From 12. 64.)