

INGLEBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

ANTIQUARIAN TO SIGHTSEER: A Bibliographical Study of the Literature inspired by the topography and people of the local area dating between 1500 and 1939.

AUTHOR SURNAME:

BOSWELL

TITLE:

Lord Auchinleck

FIRST NAMES:

JAMES

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

1740 - 1795

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH:

Eldest son of Judge, Lord Auchinleck. Educated at Edinburgh Univ. 1760 he ran away to London & turned Roman Catholic (temporary). 1763 met Johnson. Tour of Europe: intro. himself to Voltaire & Rousseau. 1768 wrote *Account of Corsica*, 1773 elected to Johnson's literary club. Accompanied Johnson to the Hebrides 1773. 1777-83 made 70 monthly contributions to the *London Magazine*. Johnson d. 1784, 1785 pub. *The Journal of the Tour of the Hebrides*, began the *Life of Samuel Johnson* not pub. until 1791. 1786 called to the English bar.

TITLE(S):

THE JOURNAL OF A TOUR OF THE HEBRIDES WITH SAMUEL JOHNSON LL.D. Contain9ng some poetical pieces by Dr Johnson, relative to the Tour, and never before published. A series of his Conversation, Literary Anecdotes and Opinions of Men and Books: with an authentic account of The Distress and Escape of the Grandson of King James II in the Year 1746.

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NOTES:

The following extracts relate to the observations of archaeological interest:

“Dr Johnson was curious to see one of those structures which northern antiquarians call a Druid’s temple. I had a recollection of one at Strichen; which I had seen fifteen years ago so we went four miles out of our road, after passing Old Deer.....But I had augmented it in my mind; for all that remains is two stones set up on end, with a long one laid upon them, as was usual, and one stone at a little distance from them. That stone was the capital one of the circle which surrounded what now remains.” Page 112

“Mr Robertson sent a servant with us, to shew us through Lord Finlater’s Wood, by which our way was shortened, and we saw some part of his domain, which is indeed admirably laid out. Dr Johnson did not chose to walk throughtit. He always said, that he was not ocme to Scotland to see fine places, of which there were enough in England; but wild objects – mountains, waterfalls, peculiar manners; in short, things he had not seen before. I have a notion that he at no time has had much taste for rural beauties. I have myself very little.” Page 118

“About three miles beyond Inverness, we saw, just by the road, a very complete specimen of what is called a Druid’s temple. There was a double circle, one of very large, the other of smaller stones. Dr Johnson justly observed, that, ‘to go and see one druidical temple is only to see that, it is nothing, for there is neither art nor power in it; and seeing one is quite enough” page 143 (The site is still called Druid’s Temple, a Neolithic burial site)

“We passed through Glensheal, with prodigious mountains on each side. We saw where the battle was fought in the year 1719. Dr Johnson owned he was now in a scene of as wild nature as he could see; but he corrected me sometimes in my inaccurate observations.....Another mountain I called Immense.

JOHNSON: ‘No; it is no more than a considerable protuberance.” Page 155

“It was dark when we came to Fores last night; so we did not see what is called King Duncan’s monument...” p.123 (ie. Sueno’s Stone)

According to Dr Johnson’s account of the Tour:

“At Fores we found good accommodation, but nothing worthy of particular remark” (Ignored 9th – 10thc.Sueno’s Stone)