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My dearest Robin:

After various setbacks, I finally opted for the ~~the~~ Erskine, too here. With the Erskine Saga, as per C. Silvester Horne, M.A. 'A Popular History of the Free Churches', James Clarke & Co 15-17 Fleet Street (late!) 1903.

I hasten to add that the whole gist is to do with the Administrative argument; it was in no way doctrinal. The Establishment reserved the right of appointing the ministers to the jobs; the Erskines were the first (in Scotland, at any rate) to claim that each parish flock had the right to choose, appoint & pay, their own minister. I.e., who controlled the goodies. As regards religious detail, there was not fundamentally all that much between R. of E., Cal Scotl., & the Free Churches. A "Free" Church doctrinal and administrative body, indicates only

Re: the legend concerning goats with large noses! What price old Bhergept's coat?

that it was "Free" of the Master Church! 2

The said Master Church was the Episcopalian ditto, endeavoured to be set up by Charles I (the 'eye') + Archbishop Laud, his "fascist running dog", (in the argot), his "lickspittle hyena" ect, ect. Laud thought out the complete administrative + theological Doomsday Book for the ~~the~~ Church of Scotland, to be set up by force of Royal Authority, of Charles' I Army + Dragoons; which caused the Scots to rebel as a body, + in 1638 to invade England as far as Newcastle, where they sat down + sent messengers to London saying:- "Eject us if you can". Owing to forty years inflation, Charles' treasury was skint, so to eject the Scots he had to call a Parl! who were landowners + local justices of the Peace; ~~but~~ every one certain that he could detect reckless Govt spending when he saw it. (Too many Van Dycks + Rembrandts' ect). As the J.P.'s were also the local Govt system as well, (the only tax collecting machinery then existing), they had an excellent means of controlling (a) the extra special taxes that they agreed to vote to the King

and (b) ~~the~~ to control inch by inch the tax (3 collecting machine that got the money from the peasants (all in solid coin, no cheques or notes) all the way in horse carts to the Royal Exchequer in London.

So, as they were the first Parlt for 12 years, years of financial ducks + drakes of fairly energetic extravagance at Court, obviously the first thing these country gentry wanted was a dear sorting out, + a few heads in the basket. No money till then, + then only on condition. Meanwhile the Scots Army was eating the North of England down to the bare gravel. The King agreed that on second thoughts he could spare Archbishop Laud and Sir Thomas Shafton (the Duke of Ulster; how we could use him now!). Their heads flew yards before bouncing, but not far enough to pacify the H. of C. The outcome was the Civil War, + the end of Charles the eye in 1649. During the Common Wealth (1650-1659) Scotland hastily set up a Calvinistic Kirk of Scotland, to which (father) Henry Baillie ~~it~~ belonged, serving at that place in Northumberland (see text). In 1660 Charles II was restored, not so much because he was sorely needed, but that it was the only way to keep out a revolting

Succession of hankering little men such as Oliver Cromwell's piously bearded son (much given to weakening bad habits) and an even more sinister crew of renegades in the shadowy background. The first general election after 1660 produced a bumper majority of M.P.s of the defeated ex-Royalist, ex-lard owner type, all legged in the Royal cause, and red-hot to put themselves on top again (1) and (2) to put the long-eared ones (non conformists) well & truly down again. Like most political chemical experiments, the process proved irreversible by due process of law but in their efforts they passed about seven primitive acts, which need not occupy space here, beyond that they were of the "castrate all shop stewards, I.R.A. and immigrants" etc etc. BUT, BUT, they did include in the seven an act for harrying non-conformists, called the Test Act (which survived in the Statute Book until 1828, when Wellington, then Prime Minister, agreed to its abolition along with Catholic Disability & a lot more) the Test Act was a real winkler-outer. Every member of society above the rank of railway porter equivalent, had to take Holy Communion in the Parish Church of his own parish

or ~~not~~ not get a job there, or lose it if he ~~is~~
had already got one. (+ the parish were tiny) in
population. Poor old Henry got caught by
his most prized possessions in that one, +
was outed. The long, long end of it was
that in generations to come his descendants
created far more long-eared 'uns than
the Test Act ever aimed at suppressing,
and in the process established non-conformity
in the law to an extent that has
enormously affected the social structure ever
since. In fact, the results of those two
years were the mould in which English
social history has been cast ever since.
In short, to the thinking mind (mine,
for instance) they represent a monumental
warning by the way side to any harkening
towards the legislature, with hand +
fast, binding, legislative proposals for
righting the wrongs of society. One does
not need to know the gaggling details. If it
is to be a forced diet, then "No", (see
under Cavalier Parls!)

Jack Ferguson was gratified
to find himself the centre of attention in
some minor Scottish Bazaar many many years
ago, when it transpired that he was

at great distance connected to Ebenezer, (6
P.S. the Scottish Lutter! my old Grandma in
Hampton used to trot out the tribal
lore at length on the subject. So how
you know about it more about the purple
vines from which we all depend.

All going on just whilst the
J.S. Bach was wiggling away in Leipzig
or whenever.

Here all goes on one leg. No one
wants this house yet, but there is a
better possibility in Athol.

Gina Horke greatly touched by
your letter & news.

I wanted to go to the Brit Mus. for
the Thracian Exh. + Burlington Ho. for
the Spanish ditto, but it just isn't poss
to get there for 10.30 openings + back
here for 4.00 certain to meet thing from
Skule. And my resilience next day is
not all that it used to be. Pattering
feet are a social + cultural tie.

However

With enormous loving love to all 3 of you
Yours very loving Pam. Law, Pa +
Grand pa to Henry Erskine (just

But cultural level has reached
the moonlight & is a tree
+ is full of green life!
dawn!