

4. Biographical Notice of Adam Black. By the Rev.  
Dr Lindsay Alexander.

ADAM BLACK was a native of Edinburgh, where he was born on the 20th of February 1784. He received his education at the High School of the city, and afterwards attended for two sessions the classes at the University. Having selected bookselling as his profession, he became apprentice to Mr Fairbairn, an Edinburgh bookseller, and at the close of his apprenticeship spent two years in the house of Lackington, Allen, & Co., London. In 1815 he commenced business for himself in Edinburgh as a bookseller; and entered upon that career of wise and vigorous enterprise which he pursued to the end of his life, and in which, both as a man of business and as a public man, he earned for himself a wide-spread reputation. When the first Town Council under the New Municipal Act was elected, he was returned as one of the councillors; shortly after he became treasurer of the city funds, and laid the foundation of that scheme by means of which the pecuniary affairs of the city were at length brought into order, and the city relieved of the pressure of debt; and in 1843 he was raised to the office of Lord Provost, an office which he held by re-election for six years. On his retirement from this office he was offered a knighthood by the Government, but this he declined, alleging that as he was still in business as a retail bookseller and stationer, it would be incongruous for him to be standing behind his counter to be addressed there as "Sir Adam" by some boy sent up from the market "for a hard pen and a pennyworth of ink." In 1856 he was returned to Parliament as one of the members for the city, and to this dignified post he was repeatedly re-elected, and represented the city for nearly ten years. On his retirement from Parliament he still continued to take an interest in public affairs, as well as in the conduct of his business. For some years he had been withdrawing from bookselling and confining his energies and resources to publishing. By a happy union of boldness with prudence he raised his house to a foremost place among the great publishing firms of the country. Two large editions of "Encyclopædia Britannica," each of which was nearly all written anew, and numerous editions of the "Waverley Novels," and other writings of Sir Walter Scott, in various sizes

and at prices that brought these matchless productions within the reach of all classes of the community, attest the vigour and skill with which he carried on his enterprise as a publisher. To him also is due the honour of being the first to summon the learning of the churches to the preparation of a "Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature," such as should present in a condensed form the results of the most advanced investigation into the history, literature, and archæology of the sacred writings. These are but a very few of the works he published, but they are the most important; of the rest it may be said generally, that they all possess some quality of excellence such as makes them valuable contributions to the literary or scientific products of the day.

Mr Black died on the 24th of January 1874, having nearly completed his 90th year. Not only for the services he rendered in various ways to the city, not only for his abilities and his success in business, not only for his enterprise and wisdom as a publisher, but still more for his moral qualities, his perfect integrity, his transparent honesty, his steadfast consistency, his unaffected piety, and his unswerving loyalty to truth and equity, will his name be handed down to posterity by the people of this city as that of one of the noblest and worthiest of her citizens.

##### 5. Biographical Notice of Sheriff Cleghorn. By David Maclagan, Esq., C.A.

THOMAS CLEGHORN was born in Edinburgh 3d March 1818, and died there 13th June 1874. His father, Alexander Cleghorn, Collector of Customs, was an esteemed citizen of Edinburgh; his uncle, David Cleghorn, was long Crown Agent; and a second uncle, the Rev. Thomas Cleghorn, was parish minister of Smailholm, of which his great-grandfather, Dr Duncan, had also been pastor.

Mr Cleghorn was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and at the University, in both of which he was distinguished by earnest application and by high character. His favourite study was that of natural philosophy, and in the distinguished occupant of that chair, James David Forbes, he found a life-long friend and correspondent. Mr Cleghorn wrote a cordial and discriminating notice