

BUCHANAN EXHIBITION IN GLASGOW.

An exhibition of portraits, books, and relics relating to George Buchanan, and promoted in connexion with the quater-centenary celebrations in honour of the great humanist, was opened on Wednesday in Glasgow University by Principal Story. The exhibition is on similar lines to the one recently held at St. Andrews University, and the example of that ancient seat of learning has been followed in Glasgow, largely owing to the initiative of Lord Provost Bilsland, Dr. David Murray, Mr. James L. Galbraith, the University librarian, and Mr. F. T. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library. The personal relics are few, but the exhibition as a whole is a worthy reflection of Buchanan's influence. The importance of the exhibition lies in its bibliographical side; the volumes run to several hundreds. They comprise books which belonged to Buchanan, a profusion of editions of his works, and a selection of that vast literature of biography, criticism, and political controversy which is perhaps the final attestation of his force in history and his place among the men of letters of the world. One section of no ordinary significance contains between 20 and 30 Greek works which once had their place on Buchanan's own bookshelf, being chiefly books which he presented to the University libraries of St. Andrews and Glasgow. They indicate something of his scholastic surroundings, showing the kind of book he had in his work-room. Many of them bear his autograph and his occasional annotations, not only in Latin, but in Hebrew as well as Greek. The Glasgow University set of these books includes texts of Plutarch, Plato, Demosthenes, Apollonius, Aristophanes, and Euclid. Many of them contain manuscript rubrications, cross references, and annotations, which close examination by the Rev. Patrick Aitken has demonstrated to be in numerous instances from the pen of Buchanan himself. The text of Plato receives a large number of these proofs of midnight oil. A Plutarch is also considerably annotated in the same hand, and its flyleaf carries a notable inscription which both Mr. Aitken and the Rev. Robert Munro (who have made careful comparisons of the script) believe to be not only in Buchanan's handwriting, but of the nature of a motto chosen by himself. "Omnia mea mecum porto;" these are its terms, which are strikingly apposite to the case of a wandering scholar like Buchanan, who might well say, "I carry my all with me." Wednesday's ceremony was attended by an influential gathering. Lord Provost Bilsland presided, and Principal Story, in declaring the exhibition open, referred to the depth of feeling which still existed, he was proud to say, in Scotland regarding Buchanan. There was no doubt Buchanan's memory had suffered from his politics. Just as in Germany they might speak in vain about Erasmus unless they mentioned Luther, in Scotland they might speak in vain about Knox without mentioning Buchanan, and the debt they owed to him for the impetus he gave to education, for the influence he exercised throughout Europe in his anxiety for learning and culture, was not to be forgotten.

PRINCIPAL LINDSAY, of the United Free Church College, Glasgow, delivered the oration in connexion with the celebration in the Bute-hall of Glasgow University last night. He said Buchanan distinguished himself pre-eminently in three departments. He was great as a teacher, as a poet, and, above all, as a political thinker. He revolutionized the teaching at Ste. Barbe. His whole generation was prodigal of its praise of his poetry. He used Latin, especially Latin verse, in a way none excelled. In a way he had his reward. His contemporary audience had been infinitely wider than had he chosen the vernacular, and his poems were read in every country of Europe from Poland to England, from Scandinavia to Italy. Buchanan taught what were political commonplaces now, but were anything but commonplaces when he uttered them. Scotsmen ought to be proud to remember that in the interviews of Knox with Mary Stuart and in the treatises of Buchanan we had almost the first clash of autocratic kingship and the power of the people hitherto unknown. It had been said that Buchanan "bartered immortality for an immediate fame." Principal Lindsay doubted that judgment. How many of them knew that Buchanan did write a nervous Scottish prose? How many had read or even heard of the "Chamæleon," yet to his judgment the works of Buchanan which had done most to influence and mould mankind were his tragedy the "Baptistes" and his celebrated *De Jure Regni*. Buchanan taught in both that the people have their inalienable rights, including in the last resort the sacred right of insurrection, that the kingly power has its limitations, that kingship is based on a mutual recognition of the rights of the people and the rights of the Monarchy. Buchanan impressed those with whom he came in contact as a man of incalculable force of character. Perhaps the greatest gift he gave to his native land was himself; a genuine Scot to the marrow of his bones, who had attained an almost unique position among the learned men of Europe, by his native abilities, no doubt, but also by his unwearying industry, by his patient acquisition, by the undaunted way in which he fronted poverty, danger, and continual disappointments he stamped his image on generations of his countrymen.