

BRODIE, GEORGE, historian, Historiographer Royal of Scotland, was born in Haddingtonshire in 1786. He was educated at the High School and the University of Edinburgh, and in 1811 was called to the Scottish bar. After attaining some literary distinction, he was appointed in 1836 Historiographer Royal for Scotland. His first work was a "History of the British Empire from the Accession of Charles I. to the Restoration" (1822), which he subsequently re-cast, and in 1865 republished under the title of "A Constitutional History of the British Empire." He was also author of "Commentaries on Stair's Institutions of the Laws of Scotland" (1826). Mr Brodie was twin-brother of Alexander Brodie, author of a "History of the Roman Government." Died in London, 22d January 1867. 542

Backer

Answered March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thetford, March 14, 1832.

Dear Sir,

If you will turn to the article Birch in Chalmers's  
Biogr. Dict., you will see a mention of the accompanying Mss.  
which is apparently in the hand-writing of Dr. Birch himself.  
But of this you can judge better than myself, as I am not  
curious or knowing in autographs. I picked up the work  
by accident; I conceive it to be interesting & valuable; the  
greater part of the matter seems to be unpublished. In the  
Cabala sive Serinia Sacra, Lond. 1663. fol. there are many  
state or historical letters, but these are different. I have this  
work, & can lend it, if necessary; but there is a similar  
work under the same title, which I have not: this had, no  
doubt, been also examined by Dr. Birch, & its contents will  
prove to be different from the Mss. I have also Dr. Birch's  
Historical View of the Negotiations, in which Sir Tho:  
Edmondes was concerned, 1749. 8<sup>vo</sup> & it contains several  
of the letters contained in the Mss., but <sup>they</sup> does not affect  
the bulk of the Mss. I have examined the 3 first vol<sup>s</sup> of the  
Letters published by Mr. Ellis, & there I find about 56 letters  
from Dr. Joseph Mede to Sir Martin Stuteville, but Mr. Ellis  
gives only extracts, not the entire Letters, & Dr. Birch

<sup>Suppose these former works - as legible</sup>  
does in the Mss. On the whole I consider the Papers to be both interesting & valuable, & assuming that more than three fourths of the whole mss are imprinted, I would fix the price at 150£, & ask 50£ for the editorship, if I were to edit them, but I think that Mr. Ellis or the Rev. Joseph Hunter would be proper persons to perform this office. Would you like to give 150£ for the Mss. after proper inspection & edit them yourself? If so, I would take a Bill at 6 months, & deduct 10£, if a Cheque were given. Please to examine them, & state your wishes, as soon as you conveniently can; you can write, direct by the post, when you have arrived at a determination, and if you send back the papers, they can be sent without expense, & probably with little delay, through my friend, J. F. Welsh Esq., 6 New Compton Street, Soho, as the communications through Mr. Valpy are less regular & certain. If you do not approve of this proposal, & can dispose of the Mss. for me, securing the printing for yourself, I shall be glad for you to do so.

I have informed you, dear Sir, that I hold 4/6ths of Webster's English Dictionary, & the same stake in Boucher's Glossary. The former work is now complete; we had 920 subscriptions, but, as we printed 3000 copies, the profits are not yet visible, & I have been greatly incommoded by the heavy advances I have paid all the expenses of the work except 844£.

& I have no complaint to make of the publishers, who have dealt liberally by me. For the Boucher we gave 250 guineas, & the whole of this money has been paid: my 4/6ths form a large portion of the whole. We have incurred a further expense in providing books for Mr. Hunter, & we shall have a considerable sum to pay for his editorship. The returns may be, & I make no doubt, will be good in the end, but they will be long, you know, in arriving. Now to provide for my payments with an exhausted exchequer, & with relations willing to aid me, but unable to do so, I do most absurdly need help, & how & where is it to be had? I have a payment to make on the 19th of this month of 300£, & 80£ on the 31st I believe that you are an active patron of the Literary Fund Society; I know not the state of its finances, & never was in such circumstances as to contribute annually to such excellent institutions. I have understood that authors, who are placed in pecuniary difficulties, can obtain aid from the Society without any exposure of their names to the world. Can you obtain for me the loan of 150£ or 200£, which I can repay out of my dividends in August? I am willing to give any security in my power for the return of the money, & when I return it, I shall be happy to mark my sense of the Society's kindness to myself, & usefulness to the public, by a donation of 10£. In case

sequence of extensive forgeries on the Norwich Banks by a man  
of the name of Tuck, a matter who has got clear off to Ame-  
rica, I have not the same facilities as I used to have in raising  
money by discounts, because the Banks ~~above~~ place us under  
great restrictions. An early reply to this communication by  
the post will confer a favor on, dear Sir,

Your faithful well-wisher,

E. H. Barker

P. S. It will be a cruel necessity, if in order to provide for  
my payments I am obliged to part with any of my  
Shares in the Webster, when it is on the point of be-  
coming a source of considerable profit. Upwards of 50  
complete copies have been sold since the commencement  
of the present year.

I was glad to see  
the success of your  
exertions in the matter  
of our Lady's Cha-  
pel, St. Saviour's, South  
wark.

Green Bank

Saturday Morning 1830

My dear Sir

My brother communicated to me last night the  
purport of the conversation he had had with you.  
I understand it to be the opinion of others as well  
as of yourself that the letter I had sketched for  
the Land Advocate ought not to be sent; & there-  
fore the matter rests - my principle always being to regard  
myself as the mere organ of the Union or its Council.  
— It seems to me, however, not necessary for me  
to address the Land Advocate at present, and a trifling

matter puts it out of my power - but I have here no get  
edged paper. I will therefore feel much obliged by your coming  
it, & I think it will proceed better from you than  
from <sup>me</sup>, considering that you have already written to the  
Premier. - It is in country addressed - The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
The Lord Advocate.

Should the memorial not be productive of the proper  
effect, I shall be most happy to tender my pen  
- such as it is - in any subsequent paper where my  
be deemed necessary. For such an occasion I am  
anxious to remove myself - an additional notice for my  
not writing at present.

Believe me always

Yours very sincerely

George Brodie