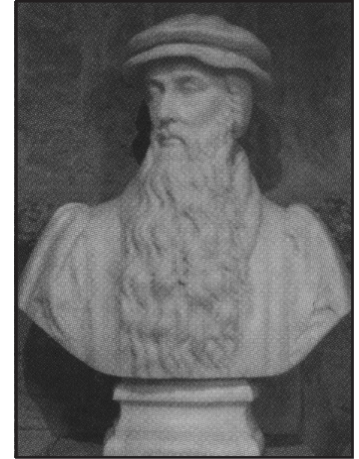


JOHN KNOX

born 1510, Haddington – died 24 November 1572, Edinburgh

Sculptor: David Watson Stevenson (1842-1904)
Donated by: The Sons of David Yellowlees, 1886

*To promote a woman to bear rule,
superiority, dominion or empire above
any realm is repugnant to Nature,
contrary to God.*



Knox was ordained as a Catholic priest, but he abstained, having already taken up the principles of Protestantism, and was, above all others, credited with the rise of Protestant Scotland.

Knox travelled to St. Andrews to preach for reform. When the castle was attacked by French troops in 1547, Knox was captured and made to serve as a galley slave for 18-19 months. He was released in 1549 and moved to England to carry on his work until the reign of Mary Tudor.

At this point he travelled to Geneva and was greatly interested in the ideas of Calvin, which in 1558 helped to inspire his published works 'First Blast of the Trumpet against the

Monstrous Regime of Women'. Queen Elizabeth I of England was said to take some of his remarks personally.

Knox returned to Scotland in 1559, where he became Minister of St Giles' in Edinburgh. In 1561, the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots returned home from France, only to be subjected to an unrelenting attack from Knox, who admonished hellfire and damnation on her until she abdicated from the throne.

With Knox's strong and empathic ideas, his belief in a rigorous discipline produced a gloomy and joyless legacy. In his later years he wrote a "History of the Reformation in Scotland", which arrogantly shows Knox as the only leader of the Reformation.

