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OLD FACES, OLD PLACES,
AND
OLD STORIES OF STIRLING.
SECOND SERIES.

BY WILLIAM DRYSDALE.



STIRLING :
ENEAS MACKAY, 43 MURRAY PLACE.
—
1899.



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PREFACE.

In presenting a Second Series of "Old Faces, Old Places, and Old Stories of Stirling," I desire very cordially to acknowledge the warm welcome accorded its forerunner, both by friends at home and friends abroad, and to express the pleasure I feel at having been able to afford them any degree of delight and enjoyment.

Many of these friends gave expression to a wish for still further information concerning our ancient and royal burgh in bygone days, as well as for additional biographical sketches of some of its more prominent citizens: and as everything connected with the "City of the Rock" has at all times had peculiar interest for myself, I presumed a like feeling prompted the desire, and was thus more readily led to accede to it.

By means of friendly assistance—given, I may say, with the utmost willingness—I have been enabled to bring together in the following pages a goodly amount of information of a specially local character, a number of incidents, recollections, and reminiscences, and a series of biographical notices which I fain hope will be equally acceptable with what has gone before, and serve to recall scenes and circumstances to many of my readers which will prove, at least, pleasurable. I have deemed it right to begin the volume with an account of how the people of Scotland generally lived about a century ago, and of some of the manners and customs which then prevailed.

Several friends, both lady and gentleman, having placed portraits at my disposal, I am thus able to present quite a large collection of photographs of citizens "of credit and

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PREFACE.

renown," and this, I have no doubt, will prove acceptable, as well as enhance any interest that may attach to the volume. Another feature calculated to afford pleasure, is the inclusion of pictures of places of note which, in "the march of improvement," are now amongst the things that were; and in connection with this attractive section of the volume I desire to express my great indebtedness to Messrs Crowe & Rodgers, photographers, for the especially tasteful manner in which they have carried out the work of illustration, and blended with the portrait groups appropriate local sketches.

As in the First Series, I have to acknowledge valuable aid rendered by Mr Archibald Duncan, of the "Stirling Observer," and to his interest in the preparation of the volume is in great measure due much of the attractiveness it may possess.

Every care has been taken to have dates and references reliable; but should error have crept in, I trust such may be set down to lack of information rather than of research, and that this Second Series of "Old Faces, Old Places, and Old Stories of Stirling" may be accepted by my readers with kindness.

Yours Truly
Wm Duguid

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OLD FACES, OLD PLACES, AND OLD STORIES OF STIRLING.

— ❧ —

SECOND SERIES.

— ❧ —

Who is by Verses able to set forth,
Or to declare the lovely Stirling's worth?
Our Kings oft in this place of safety,
Secure into their little Cratches ly. (Cradles)
It's Air is pure by Heav'n's near influence ;
From Foes' assaults no Town hath more defence ;
A Castle on two Rocks stands here so fair,
That with Tarpeian-Joves it may compare.
The Arched-Bridge here meets Forth's glyding stream,
And to its Vault obeysance from't doth claim :
As in the Phrygian Coasts Meander runs,
And winds it self about in various turns :
The River here doth force its Passage so,
Flowes and returns, is tossed too and fro.
The Traveller whose found of daily change,
And through the Earth with tedious steps doth range ;
When hither he doth happen to retire,
This Town and Countrey's Wealth he doth admire.
These strange things do deserve the sweetest layes :
But Warlick-Vertue merrits further Praise.
The Roman pride how oft hath Stirling quel'd,
Their Conquering Swords it more than once repell'd,
The Flood wherewith this Cities-fields are wet
Did bounds to their O're-running Empire set.

The above lines are entitled, "Epigram on Stirling," by Dr. Johnstoun, from his Poems printed at Middle-Burgh, 1642; translated into English by J. B.

c

Old Faces, Old Places, and Old Stories of Stirling.

BYGONE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

THE condition of the working classes in Scotland, especially those connected with agriculture, about the middle of last century, was not an enviable one. The educated portion of the community was, as yet, extremely small, and displayed a general indifferentism on all subjects. There was no one possessed of any enterprise or wealth, and a middle class could scarcely be said to exist. Some idea of the state of affairs may be formed from the fact that about that time the whole circulating medium of the Edinburgh banks was only £200,000, which was found amply sufficient for the requirements of trade and commerce, which had scarcely yet sprung into existence. The Bank of Scotland was established about 1695, by, it is understood, William Paterson, who projected the Bank of England. It seems to have been long ere the full uses of a bank were recognised in Scotland; and, in illustration, it is recorded that, in November, 1707, a gentleman was robbed of £1000 in coin, which he had in his study at his lodgings in Edinburgh. This seems to show that for some years after the bank was established gentlemen continued to keep large sums of money in their own houses instead of banking it, but, according to a writer of the time, by 1727 the bank "has obtained a very universal and good reputation among all ranks, though the nation in general knows little about it except the bare name, and that the company lends money, and has public notes running, which are paid on demand." This is certainly a modest enough statement. In a letter from James Drummond of Blair Drummond, dated May 26, 1720, to Mr David Drummond, treasurer to the Bank, the following passage occurs:—"I'm heartily glad the Bank holds out so well. There's great pains taken in the country to raise evil reports

upon it. I had occasion to find so in a pretty numerous company the other day ; yet I did not find any willing to part with your notes at the least discount." An insinuation was made about the Bank of Scotland that its management was ill-affected to the Government, and that Mr. David Drummond, who was manager for many years, was a Jacobite. Many curious papers of this gentleman, which were preserved in Balthayock House, in Perthshire, including a series of friendly letters to him from the exiled Earl of Perth, the most hated of the ex-Ministers of the Stuarts in Scotland, indicate something of this nature. There was also a subscription list for a fund to provide sustenance and legal counsel for the many Scotch gentlemen confined at Carlisle for their share in the insurrection of 1715, said subscription list being under his charge.

At this period

ALL BURDENS WERE CARRIED ON HORSEBACK ;

and when the farm was too small, or the crofter too poor to keep a horse, his own or his wife's back bore the load. The horse brought peats from the bog and coals from the pit, and carried the crops to market. Sacks filled with manure were also sent a-field on horseback ; but the use of manure was so little understood that it is said that if there was a stream near it was thrown in and floated away, and in summer it was burnt.

Very small quantities of corn were grown ; nine-tenths being grown within five miles of the coast ; and of wheat very little was raised—not a blade north of the Lothians, and when the first crop of that grain was to be seen near Edinburgh people flocked to look upon it as a wonder. Clover, turnips, and potatoes had not yet been introduced on farms, the two latter being confined to gardens. Though barley was raised in the Carse of Falkirk and Clackmannan, yet to the westward of Stirling there was only rough bere, the quality of which depended much on the soil and culture. In the carse of the lordship of Stirling, the King's tenants paid, among other things, bere or malt—Cornton, five chalders bere ; Inverallan, two chalders ; Manour, a chalders of malt. Very few cattle were

fattened, the better class of people salting beef and mutton, which was stored up betwixt Michaelmas and Martinmas for the year's consumpt. At Polmaise a dozen cows were killed at a time, and it was the custom for the more substantial burgesses of Stirling to lay in at laidner time

A COW FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY,

the sucking child not excepted. A curious paper in the British Museum describes the provision of a Scottish family to consist, in 1522, of three great vats of salt eels; forty-four kine; three hogsheds of salted salmon, forty quartes (quarters) of grain; besides many cows, sheep, etc. In this enumeration the particular of salt eels appears somewhat curious. Undoubtedly they were conger eels; but it is singular to find such an article salted for preservation among the ancient Scots, while those of the present day are known to hold it in national dislike. As showing how little butcher meat was consumed, a gentleman near Edinburgh is reported to have sold ten wedders to a city butcher, who stipulated for three several times to take them away, to prevent the market being overstocked with fresh butcher meat. An Act was passed during the reign of Queen Anne, "That no butcher be a graizer, or hold, or possess any grass more than an acre, under the pain of an hundred pounds for each fault, and that they forfeit the nolt and sheep on the grass, half to the Queen, half to the informer; as also, that they lose their freedom in all burghs; and tacks made, or to be made to them of parks, or grass above an acre, are declared void after Whitsunday, 1704, unless tilled and sown yearly."

In 1769 the average rental for the whole Kingdom did not exceed ten shillings per acre; in some parishes in Scotland six shillings an acre was a fair price; while £7 was thought a big price for a horse. Ploughmen had £3 a year in wages; maid-servants thirty shillings; the ordinary wage of a day labourer being fivepence in winter and sixpence in summer. Bounties were occasionally given. The big man had five ells of grey, and if he remained a second year, as much black kelt or finer

grey stuff, two harn shirts, two pairs shoes, and two pairs plaiding hose. The little man had three or four ells of grey according to his size. The woman a serge or drugget gown, two harn skirts, an apron, two pairs shoes, and two pairs stockings. The clothes were made at the master's expense, the tailors being paid threepence a day. Ploughs, harrows, and other implements of husbandry were in general made by the tenant or his servants, and, in consequence, were clumsy and ill-constructed. The plough graiths, i.e., the timber of the plough, rough and unshapen, were brought by the Highlanders to the Martinmas Fair at Doune, and sold at 1s or 1s 6d a piece. The collars of the work horses were made of straw, and other implements were equally cheap and primitive.

The servants sat at meat with their masters, and

OATMEAL PORRIDGE BEING ESTEEMED A LUXURY

among that set of people at the time, bere-meal was generally used, as the following shows. Two tenants on Blair Drummond were passing one morning through Stirling, when they spied children eating oatmeal porridge. "Ah!" said the one to the other, "when will we get that to eat?" Pease or bere bread was a staple article with them. In times of scarcity recourse was had to inferior kinds, viz., grey meal, i.e., a special compound of oatmeal and mill dust; others made use of eggermeal, consisting of equal portions of oat, pease, and bere meal. The latter took its name from the beggars mixing different kinds in the same bag. It was a rich and a full house that could afford a few spoonfuls of porridge in the forenoon, left over from breakfast, and this, with the addition of a cupful of float-whey, formed a grateful refreshment that was often bestowed with pride, and accepted with thankfulness by the most respected visitors in a family. Broth, or kail, was a standing dish in every family; yet of old we had no barley except what was imported from Holland. Its place, however, was supplied by grotts, i.e., oats stripped of the husk in the mill, or by knocked bere. Every family had a knocking-stone, wherein

the bere was beat early in the morning by the kitchen-maid. Garden stuffs were very scanty, kail and leeks being the chief vegetables. Lady Touch (whose maiden name was Stirling, a daughter of Lord Garden), to save part of the estate from being sold, would attend the plough from morn to night, with nothing but an onion and bit of bread in her pocket. Nor does tradition disdain to tell how she made more bannocks out of the peck of meal than any of her neighbours. Country people never visited but at Christmas, when the entertainment was broth and beef. The visitors sent to an ale-house for five or six pints (Scotch) of ale, and made merry over it.

About this time

IMPROVED METHODS OF HUSBANDRY

began to be adopted, among the first to introduce them being Alexander Galloway, St Ninians, and Henry Stirling at Park of Keir. There being a carse farm below the town, the former, who was a distiller, went to the Laird of Polmaise and offered for it. The laird, being heartily tired of broken tenants in that farm, was well pleased, and told him that he should have it provided he would take a two nineteen years' lease. The farm having been very much run out, Mr Galloway set about enclosing it; he then gave it a complete summer fallow, field by field, and after laying on plenty lime and dung, sowed wheat. In the important article of manure he was no doubt luckily situated; the distillery giving him a command of dung, and having water-carriage for lime at hand. In assorting his crops, he had a large proportion of clover and rye-grass. The country people, who marvelled to find him following the gentles in their maggots, began to think more favourably when they saw his crops. No sooner was the land in good heart and the hedges fencible, than he let it off in pasture at a very high rent, and after being a proper time in grass, it was broken up occasionally for flying crops of corn, a species of husbandry equally cheap and profitable, but pasture was his principal object. Thomas Buchanan, in Bandeath, a sensible, old-fashioned farmer, happening to pass by the ground rough and

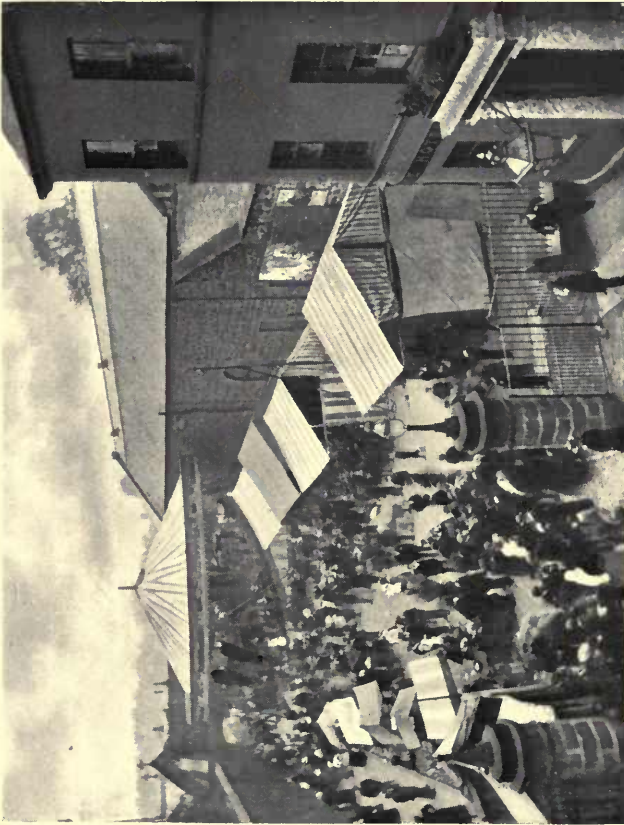
dirty, asked what was the meaning of ploughing at that season ; and being told it was intended for wheat, answered, "You may as well sow it in the crown of your hat."

Lime for farmers and others was brought by boat from Broomhall, near Dunfermline, and discharged at Manorpow or Chirmlands (Causewayhead) for the country around ; for the western district it was carted through the lands of Cornton and Greenock, across the Allan and Teith. The going by Drip was not advisable, the Forth being only fordable in dry weather. In 1770 the stone bridge at Drip was built, mainly by the tenants, though Lord Kames subscribed £100 sterling, besides losing the rent of the ferry. Since then all cartage has gone that way.

The now rich and fertile county of Ayr was for the most part a wild and dreary common, with here and there a poor, bare, homely hut, where the farmer and his family were lodged ; there were no enclosures of land, except, perhaps, one or two about a gentleman's seat, and black cattle roamed at large over the face of the country. More deplorable still was the condition of those counties bordering the wild highland districts, the inhabitants of which regarded the lowlands as their lawful prey, and the only method by which security of a certain sort could be obtained for property was by payment of blackmail to some of the principal caterans, though this was not sufficient to protect them against lesser marauders. Regular contracts were drawn up between proprietors in the counties of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton and the MacGregors, in which it was stipulated that if less than seven cattle were stolen—which peccadillo was styled "picking"—no redress should be required ; but if the number stolen exceeded seven—such amount of theft being termed "lifting"—then the MacGregors became bound to recover. This

BLACKMAIL WAS REGULARLY LEVIED

as far down as to within a few months of the outbreak of the rebellion in 1745. Cromwell's Government, though rigorous in many instances against the highland clans, yet sanctioned



CORN EXCHANGE SQUARE ON A MAY FAIR DAY.

and enforced the exaction of blackmail among them, as the following will show:—

“At Stirling, in ane quarter session, held by
sum Justices of his Highness' Peace, upon
the third day of February, 1658-9, the Laird
of Touch being Chrysman.

“Upon reading of ane petition given in be Captain M'Gregor, mackand mention That several heritors and inhabitants of the paroches of Campsie, Dennie, Baldernock, Strablane, Kilearn, Gargunnoch, and uithers, W'hin the Schirrifdome of Stirling, did agree with him to oversee and preserve their houses, goods, and geir frae oppression, and accordingly did pay him; and now that sum persones delay to mack payment according to agreement and use of payment, thairfoir it is ordered, that all heritors and inhabitants of the parochies affairsaid, make payment to the said Captain M'Gregor, of their proportiones for his said service, till the first of February last past, without delay. All constables in the several paroches are hereby comandit to see this order put in execution, as they will answer the contrair. It is also hereby declared that all go have been ingadgit in payment, sall be liberat after such time that they goe to Captaine Hew M'Gregor and declare to him that they are not to expect any service frae him, or he to expect any payment frae them. Just copie

Extracted be

James Stirling, Cl of the Peace for Archibald
Edmonstone, bailzie of Duntreath, to be published at ye kirk of Strablane.”

There can be no doubt that this practice led to more general and oppressive extortions being often made a pretence for the indiscriminate spoliation of those who had come under no such satisfaction. The following is a copy of receipt granted by Mr Graham of Glengyle to Mr Robert Galbraith, paternal great-great-grandfather of Mr T. L. Galbraith, Town Clerk, Stirling:—

Hill, 12 Dec., 1744.

“Then Receaved by me, James Grahame of Glengile, from

Robert Galbreath, portioner of Enbelly, fourtie shillings Scots money in full payt. of all bygone watch money due to me out of his portion of Enbelly preceding Martinmas last. As witness my hand, place and date above-written.

JA. GRAHAME."

This is marked on the back, in the same hand—

"Receit Glengile to Galbreath."

There is a story of Rob Roy, who made an attack on Garden Castle to enforce payment of protection dues. Mr Stirling of Garden had, with his lady, gone, about 1710, on a visit from Garden Castle, which stood on an eminence forming an island in what was a lake, but now is a fertile meadow. On their return, they found the fortalice occupied by a party under Rob Roy MacGregor, and the drawbridge up. Robert appearing at a window, thus accosted the ousted owner, "You have hitherto withheld the reward of protection, Garden, but must render it now." Garden firmly refused, stating reasons more satisfactory to himself than to the other party; when the latter, bringing a child from the nursery, held it out at the window, and threatened to throw it over the walls; which speedily brought the laird, at the intercession of his lady, to an agreement, when Rob restored the keys and took his leave.

By 1783 land had risen to three times its former value, and was enclosed with thorn hedges or dykes. Wheat was sown, also turnips, cabbages, and potatoes; farmers paid £15 to £20 for saddle horses, and for farm work £10 to £15. Wages had risen to £7 or £8, and for maid-servants to £3; labourers' wages had doubled. People had begun to visit, and after dinner a large bowl of rum punch was drunk, then tea, and again another bowl; after that came supper, and what was called grace drink.

THE WEARING APPAREL OF THE FAMILIES

in agricultural areas was for the most part spun and dyed at home; the most substantial farmers seldom having anything

better than a coat of grey or black kelt, spun by their wives. Twice or thrice in a lifetime, perhaps, they had occasion to buy a greatcoat of English cloth, as what was homespun would not keep out rain. Harn shirts were commonly worn. Female vanity was never confined to narrower limits, even marriage apparel being mostly manufactured in the family, that for ordinary wear being only a few degrees coarser and plainer. The gowns of women, old and young, were made by country tailors, who never thought of changing the fashion. Of substantial clothing in some houses there was often a superabundance, but, from want of cleanliness, there was little comfort. The woollen "shift" (chemise)—destined never to see water above three times in the year—was not yet totally discarded, but in great measure supplanted by one of coarse harn, very little superior to sacking, only not twilled in the loom. This had the advantage of being subjected to a regular process of being wetted and dried in a rather curious manner, which at that time was called washing. The clothes were placed in a tub, and covered over for twenty-four hours with cow-dung, which was called "bouking;" after being rinsed out of this, they were trampled in ley, principally composed of old urine, to which, by housewives of more than ordinary scrupulosity, a little soft soap was added; they were then laid on the green, where a watering or two, and drying finished the process. Saddles were not used by the farmers' wives, they having to ride on sods, over which, on occasions of ceremony, a plaid or bit of carpet was spread. The people were noted for their dexterity in knitting, and of their fine wool made the best worsted stockings in the world, some of these being sold for a greater price than silk.

The dwelling-houses of the highest class of citizens usually contained only one public room or dining room, and even that was used only when entertaining company, the family at other times usually eating in a bedroom. Occasionally, when relatives might be dining with them,

A FEW PLAIN DISHES.

were put on the table at once, the simple folks holding in

contempt the attention which they said their neighbours, the English, bestowed on what they ate. After dinner, the husband went to his place of business, and, in the evening, to a club in a public-house, where, at little expense, he enjoyed himself till nine o'clock, at which hour the party uniformly broke up, and the husbands went home to their families. The wife gave tea at home in her own bedroom, receiving there the visits of her "cummers" (female acquaintances), and a great deal of intercourse of this kind was kept up, the gentlemen seldom making their appearance at these parties. This meal was termed the "four hours." Families occasionally supped with one another, and the form of invitation—used to a late period—will give some idea of the unpretending nature of these repasts. The party asked was invited to eat an egg with the entertainer, and when it was wished to say such a one was not of their society, the expression was used that he had never cracked a hen's egg in their house. The race of burghers, living in this manner, had from time to time connected themselves with the first families in the country.

The now familiar tea-table was a matter of considerable astonishment at first to the common people. A Highlander, being desired to enquire after the health of Mr Graham of Braco's family, brought back word that he fancied they were not well, as he found them

DRINKING HOT WATER OUT OF FLECKED PIGS.

John Stirling of Keir played a trick on one occasion on a neighbour who came to him a little riotous from the market of Keirhill. Tea being almost over, he was asked if he cared for a dish. To this he assented, provided he got a little brandy in it; upon which Keir ordered the kettle to be filled with tea, and a good teaspoonful of brandy being poured from a bottle into every cup, the poor gentleman expressed great satisfaction at the goodness of the tea, which, of course, soon set him asleep.

After the year 1740 the intercourse of society was maintained by evening parties, never exceeding twelve or fourteen persons,

invited to tea and supper. They met at four, and after tea played cards till nine, when they supped, their favourite games being whist and quadrille. The gentlemen attended these parties, and did not go away with the ladies after supper, but continued to sit with the host drinking punch till a late hour.

GENTLEMEN FREQUENTLY HAD DINNER PARTIES

in their own houses, but it was not till a much later period that the custom of visiting was attempted to be carried on by dinner parties. In a conversation with Lord Glencairn as to the difference between dinners in Glasgow and Edinburgh, His Lordship observed that the only difference he knew of was, that while in Glasgow the dinner was at sight, in Edinburgh it was at fourteen days' date. In Glasgow the guests were generally asked by their entertainer upon "'Change," from which they accompanied him, at same time sending a message to their houses intimating that they would not dine at home. These dinner parties usually terminated with hard drinking, and gentlemen in a state of intoxication were, in consequence, to be met with at most evening parties and in all public places. Lord Kames tells that on one occasion, at a country gentleman's house with

WILLIAM HAMILTON, THE POET,

the party drank excessively hard; when they came to take their horses it was pitch dark, but after the rest had mounted Mr Hamilton was amissing. Candles being brought, he was found lying among the horses' feet, hardly able to articulate more than "Lady Mary, sweet Lady Mary! when you are good, you are too good!" alluding to the legend of the man who, being unable to mount his horse, prayed to the Virgin for aid, and was so strengthened that at his next attempt he jumped over his horse.

About the year 1770 the dinner hour was two o'clock; shortly after that it was three, and gradually it came to be later, until, about 1828, it reached six o'clock. In Edinburgh it was

a common practice to lock up the shops at one o'clock, and open them after dinner, at two. The first instance of

A DINNER OF TWO COURSES

being served in Glasgow was about the year 1786, and the lady who made this change from the usual custom justified herself against the charge of introducing a more extravagant style of living by saying that she had put no more dishes on her table than before, but had merely divided her dinner, in place of introducing her additional dishes in removes.

Rooms were very plainly furnished, all ornaments being put into cases or closets, and only brought out upon occasions, and not much silver was kept in daily use. Silver forks were only used by the nobility and foreign ambassadors, although silver-handled knives and forks were frequently seen, but more generally ivory or bone handled, or ebony fluted with silver ferrules. Forks had only three prongs, and knives were made with broad ends for eating peas in summer, with a smaller size for catching up the juice of a fruit pie, dessert-spoons being quite unknown.

In 1788 butcher meat was 5d. per lb.; bread 4d. to 5d. a quartern loaf; eggs, in spring, 16 to 18 for 4d.; fowls, in summer and autumn, 1s. 6d. a pair; loaf sugar, 7d. per lb.; wages, 7 to 8 guineas. In 1786

SALMON WERE SO PLENTIFUL

in Glasgow that large slices, boiled, were sold in King Street of that city at one penny each. Sugar, which is now got at such a low price, was originally considered as a cordial, or, at best, a luxury. There is a tradition that on a certain Lady Halket being taken ill in Dunfermline Church, Queen Anne of Denmark took her into her apartment in the Palace, hard by, and, opening a press or aumrie, scraped a little off a sugar loaf into a glass of wine, and gave it to Lady Halket. At the breakfast of the gentry at the beginning of last century, water gruel, skink—a species of soup peculiar to Scotland (made of

cows' houghs), strong ale, or a glass of wine or water, was given.

The people were in general religious, and particularly strict in their

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH,

some of them, indeed, to an extent that was considered by others to be extravagant. There were families who did not sweep or dust the house, did not make the beds, or allow any food to be cooked or dressed on Sunday. Others opened only as much of the shutters of their windows as would serve to enable the inmates to move about, or an individual to sit at the opening to read. In cities the Magistrates, influenced by the regard for the Sabbath, employed persons, termed "compurgators," to perambulate the streets on the Saturday nights, and when, at the approach of twelve o'clock, these inquisitors happened to hear any noisy conviviality going on, even in a private dwelling-house, they entered it, and dismissed the company. Another office of these "compurgators" was to perambulate the streets and public walks during the time of Divine service on Sunday and order every person they met abroad, not on necessary business, to go home; if they refused to obey they were taken into custody.

Amongst the gentry,

FUNERALS COST ENORMOUS SUMS,

extending sometimes to a full year's rent of the estate, one of the most expensive about this quarter being that of the young Laird of Keir. He was a youth of great promise, and much esteemed; and, therefore, besides calling company far and near, the Perthshire troop of horse, of which he was an officer, attended, and accorded him military honours, cannon being brought from Stirling Castle to make the pageant more imposing. This is vastly different from the request which Sir George Stirling, who died in 1667, made to his cousin, Lord Garden, in his last will, namely, to bury him without embowelling, in the Church of Dunblane, without trumpets, and

without asking any friends. At the interment of friends and neighbours it was almost the

UNIVERSAL CUSTOM TO DRINK TO EXCESS.

The bulk of the company were common acquaintances, collected, many of them, from a distance, therefore refreshments were required. Relatives and acquaintances being, of course, intermixed, familiar conversation took place, and in spite of the melancholy occasion, people's hearts warmed to each other by degrees; meanwhile the glass went freely round, and nobody thought of rising, till the whole company insensibly forgot the rules of moderation and decency. At the Laird of Abbots-haugh's burial, the company appeared so rosy and merry in the kirkyard, that some English dragoons, quartered at Falkirk, said one to another, "Jolly dogs! A Scot's burial is merrier than our weddings." Sir John Stirling of Keir, meeting a person staggering home from the house of a neighbour who was lying a corpse, asked him whence he came in that condition, and received the reply, "From the house of mourning." The very dying man on his deathbed sometimes gave instructions as to treating the company well, one, in giving directions about his burial, adding, "For God's sake, John, give them a hearty drink."

The country was as yet without roads, so that communication between towns, especially in winter, was very difficult; in wet weather the paths became mere sloughs, through which the cart or carriage had to go in a half swimming state.

SINGLE HORSE TRAFFICKERS, CALLED "CADGERS,"

plied between country towns and villages, supplying the inhabitants with salt, fish, earthenware, and articles of clothing, which they carried in sacks or creels hung across the horse's back. Even the trade between Edinburgh and Glasgow was carried on in this primitive way. So limited was the consumption by the comparatively small population about the middle of last century that the most part of the butter, cheese, and



THE RAILWAY STATION.

poultry raised within six miles of the city was carried by cadgers to Edinburgh in panniers on horseback. On one occasion a load of ducks, taken from Campsie to Edinburgh for sale in the Grassmarket, finding themselves at liberty, rose upon wing and flew westwards, some of them being afterwards found at Linlithgow, others succeeding in reaching their native "dub" at Campsie, some forty-five miles distant.

STAGE COACHES

were first introduced into Scotland in 1678. On the sixth of August of that year, Provost Campbell and the other Magistrates of Glasgow entered into an agreement with William Hume, a merchant in Edinburgh, that he should run a coach between Edinburgh and Glasgow. The following is a copy of the indenture:—"At Glasgow, the saxt day of August, 1678, the foresaid parties finally agree that the said William Hume shall, with all diligence, have in readiness one sufficient strong coach, to run betwixt Edinbro' and Glasgow, to be drawn by sax able horses, to leave Edinbro' ilk Monday morning, and return again (God willing) ilk Saturday night, the passengers to have the liberty of taking a cloak-bag for receiving their clothes, lines, and sicklike, the Burgesses of Glasgow always to have a preference to the coach; the fare from the first of March till the first of September, which is considered summer weather, is to be £4 16s. Scots (eight shillings sterling); during the other months, considered winter weather, the fare is to be £5 3s. Scots. As the undertaking is arduous, and cannot be accomplished without assistance, the said Magistrates agree to give to the said William Hume two hundred merks a year for five years, the latter agreeing to run the coach for that period, whether passengers apply or not, in consideration of his having actually received two years' premium in advance £22 4s. 5½d. stg."

In 1739 a Glasgow gentleman went to London, making the journey on horseback. There was no turnpike road until Grantham, within one hundred and ten miles of London, was reached. Up to that point the road was merely a narrow

D

causeway, with an unmade soft road upon each side. From time to time strings of pack horses, from thirty to forty in a gang, would be met, this being the mode by which goods were transported from one part of the country to another. The leading horse of the gang carried a bell to give warning to travellers coming in an opposite direction, and it was said that when these trains of horses, with their packs across their backs, were met, the causeway not affording room to pass, travellers were obliged to make way for them, and plunge into the side road, out of which it was sometimes found difficult to get back to the causeway. On the 26th December, 1703, Charles of Spain landed at Portsmouth on a visit to Queen Anne. He was received by the Dukes of Marlborough and Somerset, and immediately set out for Petworth, the splendid seat of the latter nobleman. There he found Prince George, who, to render fit honour to a crowned head, had generously devoted himself to the fatigue and peril of a journey along the almost impassable roads of Sussex. What His Royal Highness underwent on this little expedition may serve to show the difficulties of winter travelling in the commencement of the last century, even in the case of persons of the highest rank. During fourteen hours, the time consumed between London and Petworth, the Prince never left his coach, but sat benumbed with cold, very hungry, and expecting each moment to be overturned. An accident would infallibly have happened but for the rustics of the neighbourhood, who saved His Highness from a roll in the mud by supporting the coach with their shoulders nearly the whole way from Godalming. The carriage which conveyed the royal attendants was actually upset. Similar difficulties were encountered on the journey to Windsor, where it had been arranged that the Queen should receive His Majesty. The coach containing the King and Prince was successfully hauled through the mire, but the coaches of several noblemen in attendance broke down, and the occupants were compelled to make their way to Windsor in the best manner they could. In 1749 the Edinburgh and Glasgow caravan performed the journey of forty-four miles between the two cities in two days; ten years later another

vehicle was started, which was named "The Fly," because of its extraordinary speed, it making the journey in rather less than a day and a half. When a coach with four horses was put on between Haddington and Edinburgh, it took a full winter day to perform the journey of sixteen miles.

TRAVELLING BY COACH WAS A MISERABLE AFFAIR.

You were buried above the ankles in musty straw, and the coach pockets were filled with bottles and packets of provisions; the smell was of spirits, sandwiches, and stable litter. Then there would be the asthmatic gentleman with the cough, who objected to the windows being lowered under any circumstances; the old lady with the big basket and the endless small packages; or the fruitful mother of a boisterous brood, with the child on her knees, whose squalls made sleep impossible. If you decided to weather it on the top, you very often repented doing so: bitter work it was on a blustering winter night (there were no ulsters then), and the box-coat and the many caped coat were the monopoly of Corinthian Toms. The rain beat down your neck, the sleet was driven in at every buttonhole, your overcoat was speedily saturated, you lost all sense of feeling in your hands and feet, but, nevertheless, in the depths of misery you would yield to the seduction of sleep. The first private carriage in the City of Glasgow was possessed by Mr. Allan Dreghorn, joiner and timber merchant, in 1752, and was made by his own workmen. In 1815 there were only 23 private carriages in the city.

The roads cut through the Highlands by Marshal Wade gave the example, and showed the advantages of promoting communication. These roads were begun in 1726 and completed in 1737; they were about 250 miles in length, and fit for wheel-carriages, or a train of artillery; and entered the Highlands at two different points from the low country, the one at Crieff and the other at Dunkeld. As showing the difficulties encountered, it is recorded that at Lochness the miners were slung over the face of the rocks while they bored into it; the work being carried on by five hundred of the soldiers then

quartered in Scotland, the privates receiving sixpence a day over and above their pay, corporals eightpence, sergeants one shilling, and subalterns two shillings and sixpence. Huge stones were set up by the roadside to serve as guides in deep snow; and at every five measured miles pillars were erected. In 1748

A TURNPIKE LAW WAS OBTAINED

for the roads from Edinburgh to Stirling, and from Glasgow to Falkirk. But the most important step towards the improvement of this part of the country was the opening of a road by the foot of the Gowan Hills, which rendered it unnecessary any longer to climb Ballangeich with every carriage. The Craigforth road was made with gravel carried from the mouth of the Allan across the Forth in sacks on horseback. But it was not till the days of Telford and Macadam that the system of road-making received its chief impetus, the reform commencing in Scotland. In 1802 a Board of Commissioners on Roads and Bridges was established, and Thomas Telford was appointed engineer. From Carlisle to the extremity of Caithness, and from east to west of Scotland he intersected the whole country with beautiful roads, threw bridges of admirable construction over the rivers, and improved many of the harbours. The extent of new roads made by him was about one thousand miles, and he built

ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED BRIDGES

over rivers, some of them wild mountain torrents. The united labours of Telford and Macadam placed the roads of Britain at the head of those throughout the world. At the end of the reign of George III. there were in Scotland, including the streets of towns, upwards of three thousand miles of roads.

Sea coal, or pit coal, the latter in great perfection, was had at very small cost, but turf and peat formed almost the sole fuel the poorer class had.

By an Act of 1597 "Strong beggaris and their bairnes" were

liable to slavery for life by an order of the ecclesiastical courts, and by an Act eight years later,

ANY MAN IN NEED OF LABOUR

could seize the first tramp he found, lead him to a sheriff or bailie, and, in the event of conviction as an able-bodied beggar, brand him with his branding-iron as he branded his cattle, and recover him as he would his "other goods." These sturdy beggars were mostly put to work in coal mines or saltworks. Among them it was customary to "arle" their children at baptism to the coalmasters in return for a small sum of money, which was forthwith spent in feasting. These "arles" bound the child as soon as of an age—six for a girl and seven for a boy—to enter and work in the mines until the age of thirty. In 1775 an Act was passed abolishing this slavery, but it was not until 1799 that another Act was passed which completely freed these serfs.

At the northern extremity of the farm of Queenshaugh a curious relic was, about 1790, dragged out of the river. It was a brass collar with this inscription:—"Alexander Stewart, found guilty of death, for theft, at Perth, 5th December, 1701, and gifted by the Justiciars as a perpetual servant to Sir John Aresken of Alva."

As to drinking, in the year 1744 the number of men and women seen drunk about the streets of the cities and towns was so great that it formed the subject of debate in Parliament; in 1742 there were nineteen millions of gallons of spirituous liquors consumed in England and Wales, which, taking the population at that time as six millions, gives the average of above

THREE GALLONS ANNUALLY TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL!

A statement like this may appear incredible; but it was fully and fairly tested, and given in evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1743. In 1756 there were about six hundred licenses for retailing excisable liquors given out for

the City and Royalty of Edinburgh, and about the like number for the county. As late as 1830 the number of persons licensed to retail spirituous liquors in the ten parishes of Glasgow was 1393, the number of families being 19,467. Feuds were of constant occurrence between neighbouring baronies, and even contiguous parishes; and the country fairs, which were tacitly recognised as the occasion for settling quarrels, witnessed as bloody fights as were ever known in Ireland, even in its worst days.

In Royal burghs Latin and Greek were taught in the schools, and the teachers had tolerable salaries (for that time); besides, each scholar gave two shillings to two shillings and sixpence a quarter, and in these schools nothing else was taught, there being also English and writing schools where there were grammar schools. In country parishes the schoolmaster was usually

PRECENTOR AND SESSION CLERK,

and received 1s., and sometimes 1s. 8d., for making proclamation of banns of marriage; 6d. for registering the birth of a child; and 3d. for a certificate for any person who removed from the parish. All schoolmasters were obliged to take the Oath of Allegiance, to subscribe to the Confession of Faith, and had to undergo trial by the Presbytery of the bounds.

Workshops.

A working man, writing in 1848, thus gives his experience of tradesmen about the end of last century and the beginning of this; he was a cabinetmaker, and wrought in a workshop where the number of "hands" employed, including an apprentice or two, varied from six to nine, according to the state of trade. The hours of work from March to October were from six in the morning till seven in the evening, and during the other half-year work commenced in the morning at daylight and ended an hour later at night. Working by candlelight commenced for the season on the 13th of October—why this

particular day was selected he never could find out—and ended punctually on the 1st of March. The men had half-an-hour for breakfast, at eight, an hour for dinner, at twelve, and half-an-hour for tea, between four and five in the afternoon. At times, however, instead of going home to the latter meal, they drank a pint of beer in the workshop.

THE MEN WERE PUNCTUAL IN THEIR ATTENDANCE

according to the conventional acceptance of the term; that is, if they reached the shop within five or ten minutes of the exact time it was considered as being all fair; but the hour of leaving off work presented a singular contrast to the loose and straggling system of arrival; then everyone was ready to depart, even before the "clock was cold." On commencing in the morning, or returning from a meal, some time was wasted in gossip while stripping for work; then a stroke or two of saw or plane, interrupted by a few additional snatches of conversation; and, perhaps, a quarter of an hour was lost in getting the shop fairly under way. All at once, after the lapse of an hour or so, some topic of general interest—a prize fight, a murder, or Radical Reform—would be started, and a general suspension of labour ensued, the debate not infrequently producing a quarrel; but an eye and ear were always on the alert for the master's foot, and, no sooner heard, than all fell to work as busy as bees. In the afternoon a proposition would now and then be made to have some beer, the youngest hand being posted as sentinel, and when no other mode of escaping observation presented itself, the beer would be raised to a back window by means of a cord. Fines on every absurd excuse were made—if the grindstone or rubbing-down stone, on which the plane-irons were sharpened, were not used according to certain prescribed regulations; sometimes a point connected with the fire or candle, the glue-pot or tinder-box, constituted the ground of an imposition. Then there was a

"FOOTING" EXPECTED FROM EVERY NEW HAND engaged to work in the shop. If the new hand proved

refractory he laid himself open to all sorts of annoyance, the chief of which was hiding his tools. This was called "setting Old Mother Shornie to work;" and as the poor man's tools disappeared one by one, the old lady was said to have carried them off. Every annoyance was caused, so that the recusant had either to pay or leave the shop. Bad luck, too, to the unfortunate wight whose apron was hemmed at the bottom! He immediately rendered himself liable to a fine, as the universal custom required the apron to be decorated with a fringe made by pulling out a few cross threads at the bottom. Among blacksmiths, when a man put on a new apron, it had to be stamped from a quart pot, which, it is needless to say, was full of beer; and a painter became fineable while at work if he allowed his brush to drop and it was picked up by a shopmate before he could recover it himself. One of the men in a workshop was appointed treasurer, and collected the fines until they amounted to a sum sufficient to allow a "blow-out." There was also a penny-a-week collection for tramp workmen. Stealing was very common—nails, screws, sandpaper, veneer, and other things being taken away, but such pilferings were never looked on as theft. The writer concludes thus—"In my youthful experiences I saw little pure-minded conscientiousness; the only guiding principle was selfishness injuriously exercised." On how widely different and pleasant lines the tradesman's lot is cast to-day. Short hours, good pay, and every appliance which can make work an agreeable task, coupled with food of the very best quality, of such variety and at a price such as would never be dreamed of by the very best society in 1800.

STIRLING IN 1801,

with its 630 houses and 5256 inhabitants, was a very insignificant place, what with its lanes (as they could not, with the exception of Quality Street, now King Street, and High Street, now Broad Street, be called anything else), its old, thatched and red-tiled houses, its shops, or rather long, narrow



arches or pends, frequently without a fireplace, where the shopkeepers sat from morning to night waiting for customers, all in marked contrast with the handsome streets and buildings of to-day. These pends or shops were built in the form of arches to render them more durable, and as far as possible proof against fire and nocturnal depredations. One can picture in imagination these miserable places lit up with oil or candle-light. The streets were blocked with cobble stones, a great part of the filth of the town ran openly down the "sivers" or runchannels by the pathway, and many of the citizens had dung-steads or "middens" at the backs of their houses. Sanitary questions, which now enter so largely into consideration by our civic bodies, were not thought of by our forefathers, and filth was never looked on as a cause of disease. Everyone, also, erected a house as suited him. Projecting on the street, or retired, a great many houses had outside stairs, from which, as in Edinburgh, the cry of "Garde de l'eau!" was very much required. Formerly

THE TOWN WAS PROTECTED BY A WALL,

the remains of which are yet visible here and there. It was built during the minority of James VI. by one of his favourites, the Earl of Arran, to add to his own security. It ran from the south-east corner of the Castle rock along the south side of the hill, until it joined the East Port, where there was an arched way of ponderous masonry, on which a huge iron gate was hung, and a portcullis of iron could, at pleasure, be let down from the upper part of the arch. The arch was taken down about 1770, but the two pillars remained for some time, when they also shared the fate of most mechanical labours of our ancestors. They were at least twenty feet thick, built of ponderous basaltic stone, and contained large apartments to accommodate the guard who watched or defended the gate. When the pillars were removed to improve the entry to the town, a silver piece of the size of a crown was discovered in the foundation. Three cinque foils occupied the shield, on which were emblazoned a helmet surmounted by the crown of

royalty. The legend around was "Margareta. D. G. Prin. Com. A.B. Arburgh." On the obverse was the Holy Child in the centre holding a globe with a cross on the top. Around the child was a "Glory," and around the latter, "Protector mevs es tu, 1576." The river protected the town on the north side, and the bridge was also secured by an arched way and iron gate. Both this gate and that of the east port had keys of solid silver; these, fortunately, are preserved, and are in the custody of the Town Clerk, and are shown in one of our illustrations, that of the present Town Chamberlain, Mr. James Brown, solicitor. The Magistrates, on the approach of the Sovereign, usually present these keys, the last to receive them being Her present Majesty, in 1842, on her first visit to Scotland.

For a long period there were but two inns—Gibb's, in Quality Street, and Masson's, at the top of Friars Wynd. Travellers were liable to disagreeable interviews at times. Two English gentlemen who were making a sketching tour through Scotland, after visiting Loch Lomond, Loch Katrine, and Callander, arrived at Stirling, where, of course, the Castle attracted most attention; but they might have paid dearly for the exercise of their talents in sketching. At their hotel they were one day informed that a gentleman wished to speak with them, and, on entering, he announced himself as a Magistrate of Stirling, who had come for the purpose of

APPREHENDING THEM AS FRENCH SPIES.

Their protestations of innocence would probably have been in vain, had they not luckily known that the Colonel of the Royals, who was personally acquainted with them, was then quartered in the Castle, and that officer, on being referred to, readily certified them to be loyal subjects and natives of Great Britain.

Up to 1774 the townspeople got their water from St. Ninians Well and the Butt Well, but in that year, to the great benefit of the place, water was brought in from the Gillies Hill.

Cowane's, Spittal's, and Allan's bequests were of great use

at the end of last century and beginning of this, as Stirling appears to have been the happy hunting-ground for those in want. A writer of the time says—"So numerous are the poor in Stirling, and so ample the funds for their relief, that it resembles a vast hospital;" and a statistical writer on Stirling, in 1793, gives his opinion of the cause, as besides poverty he enumerates the number of "low, wretched houses, which none but the poor will hire, and the tippling-houses, where they drink and get dissipated, the low rate of female labour affording no effectual encouragement to honest industry; and, principally, the Castle, as being garrisoned by invalids, who connect themselves with poor women in Stirling, and become parents of a race of beggars." It may be added, that the pensioned paupers of Stirling, being prohibited from following their vocation in the burgh, issued forth in good weather, much to the annoyance of the neighbourhood for miles around.

The town had no newspaper—indeed hardly any readable matter whatever. The arrival or departure of a regiment, the mail coach, with news of a battle, a victory, a duel, a prize fight, a cock fight, a scandal, such as the charge brought against the Duke of York in 1809 of disposing of military commissions for keeping up an establishment, presided over by Mrs. Clark, his favourite, must have been a god-send and

CREATED MATTER FOR GOSSIP.

Trafalgar stirred up the inhabitants, Waterloo more so; but, more than all, the news of peace sent the joy-bells ringing with more than ordinary vigour, as the people were sick at heart by reason of the strain of their best men who fell on foreign battlefields, as well as the drain of money, the high price of provisions, and trade almost at a standstill. Happy were the people in all parts when they became convinced that Napoleon was securely confined at St. Helena, and that there was no chance of his again escaping and disturbing the peace of Europe. The verdict in favour of Queen Caroline sent joy to many a heart in Stirling, as the inhabitants of "The Rock" were very loyal to their ill-used Queen. The very china and

crockery ware had verses on it in her favour, and a lady in town has a jug in her possession with the following:—

Long Live Queen Caroline.

As for the Green-bag Crew,
Justice will have its due.
God save the Queen!
Confound their politicks,
Frustrate their knavish tricks;
On Her our hopes we fix,
God save the Queen

Queen of England.

There are scrolls, too, with, on the right, the names of Denman, Waithman, Williams; and on the left, Brougham, Wood, Lushington—gentlemen who made themselves very conspicuous in Her Majesty's defence.

An Address to the Good Town of Stirling.

Robert Galloway, author of "Poems, Epistles, and Songs, chiefly in the Scotch dialect," was born at Stirling in June, 1752. He was bred a shoemaker, but, finding that occupation too sedentary for a weak state of health, he became a bookseller and rhymster, and latterly kept a circulating library in Glasgow. His poems were published in that city in 1788, and the volume contained also a brief account of the Revolution in 1688. He died March 4th, 1794. The following verses were included in the volume referred to:—

Wild beats my heart with fond alarms!
Ye gales from Forth, that fan my face,
Breathe music soft, while Stirling's charms
With filial tenderness I trace.
O, Stirling dear! my native place,
O'erlooking many a hill and dale,
Adorn'd with ev'ry rural grace,
Haunts of my early childhood, hail.

Thy slumb'ring thunderbolts of war
I, on majestic Snowdon, view,
Whither, from glory's gilded car,
Old Scotia's monarchs oft withdrew.
Oft, when rebellious tempest blew,
And blasted Scotia's faded form,
Th' indignant fort, to justice true,
Defiance hurl'd, and mocked the storm.

Where are thy steel-clad warriors fled?
Who stay'd their bleeding country's fall;
All in their narrow mansions laid,
No more hear glory's wak'ning call.
The ruin'd dome, and mould'ring wall,
O'erhanging, frown in sullen state,
And echo through the empty hall,
How vain, how transient are the great!

Me, Stirling, still thy mansions charm,
Tho' of their royal splendour shorn;
Thy scenes recall the mem'ry warm
Of joys that smil'd upon my morn.
On life's tempestuous ocean borne,
What billows, breaking o'er my head,
Have beaten on my bark forlorn
Since from thy blest abodes I stray'd.

With pilgrim's awe, towards the dome
Where infant learning dwells, I tread,
And, raptur'd, thro' the meadows roam
Where youth its frisky gambols led,
Awaken'd recollection, glad,
Delights to mark the hallow'd ground
Where innocence and beauty clad,
And blissful ignorance me crown'd.

Of those who on this pleasant spot
Once with me stray'd, in youthful bloom,
How many wander far remote,
How many sleep within the tomb!

For you, blest few, who keep at home,
 Move humble in your native spheres,
 With you, to-night, I shall resume
 The converse sweet of former years.

Wild beats my heart with fond alarms!
 Ye gales from Forth, that fan my face,
 Breathe music soft, while Stirling's charms
 With filial tenderness I trace.
 O, Stirling dear! my native place,
 O'erlooking many a hill and dale,
 Adorn'd with every rural grace,
 Haunts of my early childhood, hail.

The March of Improvement.

It is recorded that the streets of Stirling, particularly Bow Street and the top of Baker Street, had, in the early years of the century, what were like ridges rising towards their centres, which, taken in connection with their narrowness, threatened not only danger to the contiguous properties, from the aptness of carts, etc., to slide down the declivity, but placed the lives of passengers in considerable peril. They were, however, improved by being raised to a level to the full extent of their breadth, which made them of a much handsomer and more spacious appearance, though the improvement gave little pleasure at the time.

In February, 1821, Mr Allan Johnstone, architect, Stirling, took off feus for sixteen houses, at £8 per acre, for a new line of street, to be called Queen Street.

About 1824 drovers were informed that they might take their cattle by the Mill Road (now Murray Place), thus avoiding the inconvenience of passing the Corn Market, at the head of King Street.

NEW BRIDGE AND NEW ROADS.

At a meeting held in Stirling in October, 1826—Mr. Murray of Polmaise in the chair—it was proposed that a new bridge

should be built, as the old one was of little use for traffic. The bridge was afterwards contracted for by Mr. Kenneth Mathieson, at a cost of £13,368, and completed by Whitsunday, 1832.

Several new lines of streets were also proposed, one being that, instead of entering the town by the Port, to enter by Dumbarton Road, with an opening in front of Gibb's Inn, this work being estimated to cost eleven to twelve thousand pounds. The other route suggested was to enter the town by the east side, round towards Mill Lane, which was to cost about four thousand pounds. Provost Thomson, in the course of the discussion, said he was of opinion that instead of entering the town from behind the dye-houses, thus avoiding the narrow part of Port Street, the line of street should keep by that street, widening it on both sides, and at the same time crossing the foot of King Street. This proposal was ultimately agreed to, and the improvement was commenced in June, 1833, by the taking down of a house in King Street belonging to Mr. John Calder, and others in Port Street.

In the beginning of 1854 great indignation was felt in town through the interdicting of the work at the High School by the Incorporation of Fleshers, with James Finlayson, flesher, Baker Street, and Deacon James Johnston, tailor in Raploch, as their representatives. The action was based on some obsolete claims on the part of the Incorporation, but without success, as Sheriff-Substitute Sir John Hay, Bart., after hearing parties, recalled the interdict, and allowed the important improvement to proceed.

THE OLD MINT.

In the march of improvement which has taken place in the City of the Rock within the past quarter of a century many notable landmarks have been swept away. A building which had an interest considerably more than local was that known as "The Mint." A high, somewhat unsightly tenement, with a crow-stepped gable to the street, it stood at the upper end of what was known in bygone days as Baxter's Wynd, now

Baker Street. Its connection, however, with the Scottish coinage is purely traditional. In early days, it would appear that money was made within the Castle, but during the fourteenth century this ceased, and it became customary to rent a house in the burgh and convert it into a mint. In 1442 the appointment of "Moneyer to His Majesty" was conferred on one Alexander Tod, who issued coins, both of gold and silver, in a house occupied by a person of the name of Robert Hakate, and this house may or may not have been the building in Baker Street known as "The Old Mint."

A century later the moneyer's house stood, according to local tradition, in Baker Street. In 1542 James V. began the issue of what were known as "babies" and "half-babies." These were coined from an alloy of silver and copper, and the "babies" were of the value of three halfpence. The copper was got at Airthrey, and the mine from which it was extracted is now the source of the Mineral Wells at Bridge of Allan. These "babies" were issued during the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, and from them is derived the Scottish appellation of halfpenny, viz., "bawbee."

After the Union of the Crowns Stirling ceased to be a place of money manufacture. The house locally known as "The Mint" stood for many years to witness to the glory that had departed; but in the seventies it was thrown down in order to improve the thoroughfare. A plot of grass enclosed with an iron railing now marks the spot. One of our illustrations shows the old building and "Broad Stairs."

Textile Manufactures.

At the beginning of the present century, Stirling was specially noted for its cottons, its shalloons, camblets and other woollen goods; and so famous was it for tartans, that George IV., when Prince of Wales, and on a visit to Scotland, had a Highland tartan dress manufactured in Stirling, being woven by Messrs John Callander & Company, and so satisfied were Messrs Hunter & Company, His Majesty's clothiers, with the



THE OLD MINT, AND BROAD STAIRS,
HEAD OF BAKER STREET.

fabric that they wrote a letter of commendation to the manufacturers.

In 1868, two woollen manufactories were in operation, the most extensive being Forthvale Mills, belonging to Messrs John Todd & Sons. The principal branch of trade carried on was the spinning of yarns for the manufacture of tweeds, shawls, and fancy stuffs. There were six sets of carding machines, and the number of spindles employed in the spinning department was 6284. The machinery was propelled by an engine of fifty horse-power. The quantity of wool (all foreign) used annually was 376,000 lbs., and the value of the annual production was £30,000. There were 65 persons employed—19 males and 46 females. Boys and girls received from 8d. to 1s. per day; women employed as winders, etc., made from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 8d.; and the men 2s. 6d. to 5s. 10d.

Parkvale and Hayford Mills, situated near the village of Cambusbarron, belonged to Messrs Robert Smith & Sons, and comprised dyeing, spinning, and weaving by power. The branch of trade carried on here was different from any others in the neighbourhood—the class of goods manufactured being a superior quality of winceys and other materials for ladies' dresses. Wincey was brought to great perfection by the Messrs Smith, who obtained the only prize medals awarded for this class of goods at the International Exhibitions of London, in 1862, and Dublin, 1865. The warps of these goods were cotton yarn, which was chiefly spun in Lancashire; the wefts were of wool, the produce of the spinning department of the works. In the weaving factory there were 530 power-looms, and in the spinning department there were 13 sets of carding engines. The whole machinery was driven by six steam engines of 300 horse-power. The wools manufactured were English, German, and Colonial, and the amount used annually was 610,000 lbs. The annual production amounted to from £170,000 to £200,000, according to the price of raw material. There were in all 950 workers employed—140 adult males, 120 boys above thirteen years of age, 590 women, and 100 hand-loom weavers, who were employed outside the works. The amount of wages paid annually was £19,000. Juveniles were paid from 4s. to

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6s. per week; women winders and weavers earned from 8s. to 13s. 6d.; men employed in the dyeing department from 18s. to 28s. per week; beamers and twisters, 25s. to 30s. per week; powerloom tenters, or overseers, 35s. per week.

At Bannockburn there were two extensive works—one owned by Messrs Wm. Wilson & Sons, the other by Messrs J. & J. Wilson. That of Wm. Wilson & Sons embraced spinning, dyeing, and the weaving of carpets, tweeds, and tartans. The number of carding machines employed was fourteen. The quantity of wool used annually (including 50,000 lbs. which they purchased from other spinners) amounted to 680,000 lbs. The value of annual production was £80,000, and the number of persons employed was from 500 to 600. Messrs J. & J. Wilson manufactured carpets only. The wool used by them annually amounted to 500,000 lbs., and the value of their annual production was about £25,000. They employed 180 hands, including weavers, dyers, and wool-sorters.

There were other two small manufacturers, who employed about 50 hands in the weaving of tartans and kiltings. The value of their annual production was about £45,000.

The wages paid in Bannockburn were as follows:—Spinners, 19s. to 26s.; children and women, 4s. to 9s.; powerloom weavers, 10s. to 12s.; weavers (tweeds), 20s. to 24s.; weavers (carpets), 20s., 22s., 24s. to 30s.; handloom weavers (tartans), women, 9s. to 10s.; men, 12s. to 14s.; dyers and wool-sorters, 14s. to 20s. Tartan weaving was paid at a very low rate.

The Price of Commodities.

From the account of a wholesale grocery firm in Glasgow for goods supplied to a retailer in Stirlingshire in 1832 we extract the following items:—

10 lbs. Tea,	4s. 10d.....	£2	8	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Yellow Soap,	56s.....	1	8	0
1 bottle Castor Oil,	2s. 6d.....	0	2	6
14 lbs. Soda,	2d.....	0	2	4
$\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. Sugar,	56s.....	0	14	0

As evidence of the sort of business relations which existed betwixt buyer and seller, a note is appended to the account, which says—"We formerly told you that you had sent us more money than you had got goods for, and, after putting this day's goods to your account, we are still owing you 12s. 4d.; and if you will send for goods to that amount we will send a receipt in full, and then begin a new account." This shows the trustfulness of the purchaser, a circumstance which stands out in marked contrast to what generally prevails at the present day, when, as the saying goes, "It's hard tae get siller oot o' some folk;" but it also reveals another phase of Scottish character, which says, "Keep what ye've got, an' look for mair."

In the month of July, 1842, the salmon fishings on the Forth did remarkably well. In one day three shots produced 231 salmon, grilse, and trout: the first shot 92 fish, the second 72, and the third 67. Grilse was sold at 4d. and trout at 3d. per pound. The people looked forward to the time when salmon would be selling at 3d. per pound. Alas for their hopes!

In 1843, veal was hawked about the streets at 1½d. per pound.

American cheese was first sold in Stirling in 1844, and was 6d. per lb.

In 1842, the price of gas in Stirling was 10s. 6d. per 1000 feet. In 1845, it was 8s.; in Edinburgh, 6s. 9d.; and in Glasgow, 6s. 8d.

In November, 1855, large numbers of a singular kind of fish were disposed of in Stirling. They were about 15 inches long, weighed about half-a-pound each, and were provided with a sword-like snout about an inch and a half long, doubtless for the purpose of destroying prey. Along the back they were dark in colour, like an eel, but the lower part was of a light hue. A vast shoal of them appeared at Kincardine, and in Stirling they were called "Egyptian Herring," while at Newhaven they were known as "Herring Jarvies." They were exceedingly oily, and were sold from carts at 6d. per dozen.

Oysters, in 1856, sold at 9d. to 1s. per 100.

In 1847, the peck of oatmeal was selling at 1s. 7d., and the 4 lb. loaf at 10d. In the spring of 1801 the peck of oatmeal cost 5s. in some places in Scotland, and 4s. 6d. in others, and the loaf 1s. 10d. and 2s.; while wages in 1847 were at least one half more, and in many cases double what they were in 1801. A working man in 1801 had been known to lay out the whole of his week's wages, 9s., for two pecks of meal to support himself, his wife and two children. The only substantial difference in favour of 1801 was the price of butcher meat, which sold from 2d. to 4d. per pound, while in 1847 it was 8d. to 10d.

STATEMENT OF FEES CHARGED FOR WRITING,
ARITHMETIC, BOOK-KEEPING, AND MATHEMATICS,
IN THE BURGH SCHOOL OF STIRLING.

In 1826 there were three classes of pupils attending the Writing and Mathematical School, viz., day scholars, attending four hours daily, by far the more numerous class; Grammar School scholars, attending one hour daily, for writing only; and girls, attending two hours daily, for writing and arithmetic. The following fees are taken from the cash-book and ledger of the late Mr. Peter Macdougall, which does not extend beyond 1826; it is believed, however, that the fees for twenty years preceding—at least those for book-keeping and mathematics—were the same, and, it is well-known, continued so until the resignation of Mr. Macdougall in 1846.

Writing and Arithmetic for Day Scholars, the children of Freemen, including 6d. for ink, ink-bottles, and putting on fires; no pens supplied,	4s. per Quarter.
Writing and Arithmetic for Day Scholars, not Freemen,	7s. 6d. ,,
Writing, one hour daily for all classes, including ink, etc., but no pens,	3s. ,,
Writing and Arithmetic for Girls, two hours daily, for Freemen,	3s. ,,

Writing and Arithmetic for Girls, two hours daily, not Freeman,	5s. per Quarter.
Book-keeping, including Writing and Arithmetic, Freeman,	9s. 3d. ,,
Book-keeping, including Writing and Arithmetic, not Freeman,	15s. 4½d. ,,
Mathematics, including Writing and Arithmetic, Freeman,	14s. 6d. ,,
Mathematics, including Writing and Arithmetic, not Freeman,	18s. ,,
Geography, with use of Globes,	21s per Course.

Book-keeping was always charged separately, at 21s. per course (varying from 9 to 12 months) for freemen, and 31s. 6d. per course for all others. Mathematics was also charged separately, at 42s. per course, but this did not include the usual fee for writing and arithmetic. In 1826 the master was paid £50 of salary from the town, and £50 for an assistant. The average sum collected by the master as Candlemas offering, to supplement the low fees, was about £30, and £15 by the assistant. Each pupil, in addition to the fee, paid 1s. per annum for coals.

1867.

Day scholars for writing and arithmetic were now nearly unknown; the average number attending the last session of 1867 being only 13. Those taking book-keeping or mathematics attended generally three or four hours daily, as writing and arithmetic were included in the fee, at the pleasure of the master, who asserted his right to charge those branches separately, if so disposed.

FEES.

Writing and Arithmetic, one or two hours daily for all classes,	5s per Quarter.
Writing and Arithmetic, three or four hours,....	6s. 6d. ,,
Book-keeping, including Writing and Arithmetic if required,	7s. 6d. ,,
Mathematics, including Writing and Arithmetic if required,	7s. 6d. ,,
Natural Philosophy or Phonography, per session of eight months,	5s. ,,
Pens and Ink, Sixpence additional per quarter.	

The master had a salary of £50 per annum from the Town and Hospital funds, and only £20 for an assistant, the balance of £30 or £35 being paid by the master. No Candlemas offerings were received, and the shilling for coals was not exacted. Geography was taught by the English master.

How Our Forefathers Travelled.

The following copy of an advertisement will be found of interest:—



CHEAP, EXPEDITIOUS, AND CONVENIENT
TRAVELLING BETWEEN STIRLING AND GLASGOW.

MEIN'S COACHES.

Performing the Journey in Three Hours and a Quarter! Leave Stirling at a Quarter Past Six O'clock every Morning, and Four O'clock Afternoon; and leave Glasgow at Eleven Forenoon and Five Afternoon.

In 1844, Mr. Gibb, of the Red (now Golden) Lion Hotel, provided coaches between Stirling and Falkirk Station, where passengers joined the railway for Edinburgh; the fare, fourth class, to or from the Capital being 2s. and 2s. 3d.; also from the Star Inn, Stirling, to Glasgow, by coach to Castlecary, and then by canal boat, the fares for which were—Inside and cabin, 2s. 9d.; inside and steerage, 2s. 3d.; outside and cabin, 2s.

3d.; outside and steerage, 1s. 6d. Our present mode, though much more expeditious and comfortable, compares unfavourably in the matter of fares.

On one of the Mondays in July, 1846, no fewer than 738 passengers were booked as travellers from Stirling by the coaches; and, notwithstanding very severe weather in the second week of 1850, the number of passengers by coach increased instead of decreased, 790 having preferred that mode of travelling to the railway, 149 of them being first-class passengers.

At the present day we have abundance of facilities for indulging in a Saturday afternoon excursion, but we have not such an opportunity afforded—in the way of cheap fares, at least—as the people of Stirling had in 1853, when such an excursion, to Perth, could be enjoyed for the following return fares—Third class, 1s.; first class, 2s.

In 1850 Mr. Grant started the Stirling and Bridge of Allan Omnibus, which ran seven times a day and eight on Saturday. There was an early morning trip, starting at half-past six, giving time to walk to the Mineral Wells to take the water, and be back in town by a quarter before eight.

RAPID TRAVELLING IN 1842.

Mr. Scott, fishmonger, Baker Street, happening to be at Tarbet, on the west side of Lochfyne, looking after fish, an idea struck him that he would bring home a few herrings in the shortest possible time. Accordingly, going to the landing-place, he got a few which were taken from the water at six o'clock in the morning. Taking the first steamboat for Greenock, here he landed, took the first train to Glasgow; from that proceeded in the first train, on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, to Castlecary, thence by coach to Stirling, and by two o'clock he had some of the herrings cooked for dinner. Thus herrings which were sporting in the sea at Tarbet were, eight hours afterwards, supplying a family in Stirling—upwards of one hundred miles distant—with their mid-day meal.

The First Umbrella seen in Stirling.

The important epochs of the American War of Independence and of the French Revolution seemed to have set men's intellects astir, and the inventions of the time indicate a very considerable impetus to the world's trade. Umbrellas were an American invention, and on their introduction to this country they were called "American Shades," the colour of the cloths being various, scarlet, green, crimson, blue, etc.

Nowadays, in purchasing an umbrella, ladies—and gentlemen, too, for that matter—wish something dainty, by no means heavy, and that will roll up in very small compass. Such conveniences form great contrasts to those which were in vogue during the latter half of last century. A resident of Stirling is in possession of a relic of this nature, which is generally believed to have been among the first of the kind seen in Stirlingshire. It is in an excellent state of preservation, and is made of stout green gingham, with three white border lines at the top and edge, and has, instead of a closing spring, a stout green tape for tying the folds together. This umbrella weighs 2 lbs. 10 ozs., and is fitted with strong brass mountings. The ribs, nine in number, are of whalebone, $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference, tipped with white bone, and have strong steel supports. The staff is somewhat short, being only $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with an elaborately carved horn handle, and the umbrella, when open, measures round the tips exactly 12 feet 6 inches, covering easily six grown-up persons.

About the third and second last decades of the eighteenth century there was a frequenter of the fairs and other great gatherings in Stirling, named Rodger Bennet, who carried on a trade in gingerbread. Rodger's residence was Falkirk, and he was known among town and country folks by the soubriquet of "Toss up, lads," this cognomen having reference to an oft-used phrase he employed in seeking to dispose of his treacle and flour compositions. Wherever a great gathering was held, races or fairs, there "Toss up" made his appearance, being

familiarly known in the west as well as the east, in the north as well as the south of Scotland. In the latter district he had purchased an "American shade," when they had been but newly introduced, and brought it to Stirling during one of his visits to a fair. The day having been a little gloomy, "Toss up" found the "shade" useful in protecting his stock-in-trade from the drizzling rain. Being somewhat large, when ensconced beneath it both he and his wares were exposed to the gaze of the wondering crowds, and occasioned no small amount of attention. Rodger's stand was the best frequented that day, and, aided by his well-known loquacity and originality, he did a roaring trade.

An importation of "American shades" was soon after made by the merchants of the town, and not a few were purchased by the beaux and belles of the day, in order to their ranking in the fashionable world. They were found by the economical to be useful, inasmuch as they helped to save a favourite hat or defend a good coat from sundry duckings; while the ladies viewed them as great auxiliaries in protecting their beauty from the burning rays of the sun.

About the year 1783 or 1784, a youth herding his father's cows in the neighbourhood of the Shore, saw two ladies of Stirling walking along the banks of the river with their "American shades"—the first he had ever seen—and he was not a little puzzled at the novelty. At "four hours," when he returned home with his charge, he told his parents thus of the wonder he had seen, "Two ladies walking with staffs in their hands, and the staffs had petticoats on!"

The "Backraw" Kirk.

The foundation-stone of this building, known as Erskine United Presbyterian Church, was laid on 4th May, 1824, by Allan Johnstone, architect, Stirling. In a sealed bottle was placed a copy of the "Stirling Journal," a medal struck upon His Majesty's coronation, one in commemoration of his visit to Scotland, specimens of the paper currency of the Stirling Bank, and a written paper with the following:—

"The Reverend Ebenezer Erskine having been ejected from the West Church of Stirling in the year 1740, in consequence of a sentence of deposition pronounced by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for his faithfulness in contending for the rights of the Christian people, those of the inhabitants of the town of Stirling and the neighbourhood, professing their adherence to those principles for the purity of which Mr. Erskine testified, erected a place of worship for him in the same year a little in front of this spot, where the blessed Gospel of our Lord and Saviour has since been preached by him and his successors, viz.:—

"Mr. James Erskine, his nephew, ordained his colleague and successor in 1752 ;

"Mr. Robert Campbell, the husband of his granddaughter, ordained in 1766 ;

"Mr. John Smart, ordained as colleague and successor to Mr. Campbell in 1789 ; and

"Mr. David Stewart, ordained in 1806 as colleague and successor to Mr. Smart.

"But the house originally erected having fallen into decay, the foundation-stone of the edifice was laid down during the ministry of the aforesaid John Smart and David Stewart by Allan Johnstone, architect in Stirling, upon the 4th day of May in the year of God 1824, and the reign of His Majesty George 4th, the 5th year ; the expense of the building being estimated at £2670 sterling.

"In the year 1747, a division took place in the Secession Church, from a difference of opinion as to the lawfulness of the Burgess Oath ; but, by the blessing of God, the separating brethren were re-united in 1820, upon a basis the copy of which is herewith inclosed.

"May peace ever remain within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces."

Church Accommodation in 1835.

The sittings in the East and West Churches in 1835 were 2700, of which 1400 were let and 1300 unlet. In the Backrow

Kirk there were 1480 sittings, of which 1200 were let and 280 unlet. In Back o' Toun Church, now Viewfield United Presbyterian, there were 620 sittings, with 500 let and 120 unlet. Cowane's Yard Church (Free South Church) 780 sittings; 390 let and 390 unlet. In Craigs Church there were 424 sittings, which were free. In Friars Wynd Church 360 sittings, also free. In the Episcopal Church there were 230 sittings, all of which were let. Besides these there were 2 Baptist Churches, 1 Berean, and 1 Roman Catholic.

The Athenæum Weather-Cock.

When King Street steeple was erected, the weather-cock then placed in position having gone off the "straight" and become dangerous, had been replaced by a new one, which in a short time was found to answer the purpose as ill as the former one, though in a different way, for it had not been long up when part of the tail was blown away, owing to its having been insufficiently attached, which balanced the cock so equally that it ever afterwards presented its side to the wind, blow from whatever quarter it did. This being an eyesore and an inconvenience, the question was how to get it put right without going to the expense of erecting scaffolding, and Mr. James Finlayson, slater, volunteered to do the job without any expensive apparatus. The method of ascent was very simple. A long ladder was first placed upon the flat roof of the house adjoining, the upper end leaning upon the steeple fully half way up. Mr. Finlayson then ascended till he reached the place where the steeple begins to taper. Here there is a pediment surrounding the building, which just affords footing for a person to walk upon, and round this he went with a rope with which to fasten the ladder tightly. Having lashed it firmly, he ascended to the first cornice, some twelve feet higher up, and, throwing another rope round the steeple, fastened his second ladder here. A serious point was to attach the next ladder. This he lashed to the lower one for some considerable space, and then directed its upper end to one of the octagons, which at this point was fortunately so

narrow as to be embraced by the ends of the ladder. Trusting to this rather frail support, he ascended to the next cornice, another twelve feet up, where he made his ladder fast; and, climbing to the upper cornice, yet twelve feet upwards, he embraced the steeple, and finally secured another ladder, and with the aid of a short one Mr. Finlayson finished his job, and brought the weather-cock down. In a day or two he fixed a new chanticleer upon his dizzy eminence; and a noble-looking fowl Mr. Robb (tinsmith) had made, which still breasts the breeze in the attitude of a game cock drawing himself up when about to maintain the possession of his own midden-head against an intruder. After having accomplished his task, Mr. Finlayson left his ladders for a time to learn whether the vane would move freely on the pivot, and answer to the wind as it ought.

During this interval, a boy, hearing about the daring and hardihood exhibited by Mr. Finlayson, felt his mind stirred with that ambition which Jonathan Oldbuck says characterises the male sex when contrasted with the female—and which induced the brother of Jenny Rintherout to harry birds' nests, steal Mr. Oldbuck's apples, and finally to enlist, where he may possibly be made a corporal, or promoted to a halbert, or perhaps to the gallows—to try if he could also go up to the weather-cock. Accordingly, getting himself smuggled into the building, and then up to its roof, he ascended the ladders with the utmost heroism, and, getting to the top, with the coolest nonchalance imaginable, placed his bonnet upon the cock, and, clapping his hands upon his thighs, crowed most lustily, and then descended, fully satisfied with himself, and without receiving the least injury.

The Prince of Wales' Visits to Stirling.

His Royal Highness visited Stirling on Saturday, 30th July, 1859. Leaving Edinburgh in the morning, he proceeded to Grahamston, where a coach with four horses and postilions in scarlet livery, supplied by Mr. Duncan Campbell, of the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, was in waiting, and the Prince and his

distinguished party were conveyed to the Carron Company's Works, which they inspected under the guidance of Mr. Dawson, the manager. On leaving Carron they drove to Stirling, which was reached shortly after mid-day. On arrival at the Castle Fort-Major Peddie took the party under his guidance, and pointed out the various objects of interest. His Royal Highness was then conducted round the Douglas Garden Wall, where he, too, as his Royal mother had done in 1842, viewed the beauties of the surrounding country. He afterwards visited the Douglas Room, where Mr. Wood, the custodian, with customary freedom and volubility, delighted the party with his descriptions, some of his sallies occasioning hearty laughter from the Prince, who expressed great delight with his visit. The distinguished party then proceeded onwards, by way of St. Mary's Wynd, and near the ancient palace there fresh horses were attached, and the journey continued, by Keir House, to the Trossachs.

It is said that during the time Mr. Wood was in company with the Prince, His Royal Highness caught sight of the smoke rising from the chimneys of Alloa, and asked his guide what place that was. "That, your Royal Highness," said Mr. Wood, "is Hallowa." "Hallowa," said the Prince; "I don't remember having heard the name before. And are there manufactories there?" "Yes, your Royal Highness. It is famous for one thing, at least." "And what is that, Mr. Wood?" queried the Prince. "Your Royal Highness, as a good Hinglishman—if you will pardon my saying it—dearly loves a glass of hale; and that place, your Royal Highness, is specially famous for its hale—Hallowa hale is known hall the world over wherever Scotchmen are found." "Indeed," laughingly remarked the Prince, "I can't say I ever heard of it; but, no doubt, Mr. Wood, you, as a good Englishman also, will be well able to judge of the quality of the ale made there."

The Prince of Wales' Marriage.

Although a raw, sleety, blustery day, the 10th of March, 1863, was kept in grand style in Stirling. Notwithstanding the

disagreeableness of the weather the town was crowded with visitors, and what with the rosettes of ultra-loyalists, the profusion of bunting flying from windows, and the many artistic designs displayed, the streets wore a true holiday aspect, and if allowance be made for size and population, Stirling's celebration of the Prince's marriage-day will stand favourably when compared with what took place in either Glasgow or Edinburgh. Heartier or more spontaneous the rejoicings could not have been, and the liberality of the citizens in the way of decoration and illumination, and the manner in which the varied arrangements were carried to a successful issue by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, reflected great credit on all concerned. A procession, headed by Mr. Robert Macfarlane ("Ruskie Rab") as captain, was formed in Allan Park, the Ancient Society of Omnium Gatherum leading the way. Behind the captain rode a curious figure, with head and face enveloped in goat-skin in lieu of beard, but a gale of wind detaching the cover, revealed, to the no small astonishment of the onlookers, "Bauldie Frank" (Archie France, smith), who, by the way, came to grief a little later through his horse becoming restive and throwing him in the mud. The processionists marched to the Esplanade, where they were met by the Volunteers and regulars from the Castle. The 2nd Stirling Artillery Volunteers, under command of Lieutenants Murrie (banker) and Ash (station master), fired a salute from the Castle batteries, and the Volunteers and regulars a feu-de-joie. Three cheers were then given with great heartiness by the assembled crowd. A banquet took place in the Union Hall, Thistle Street, immediately after the procession—Provost Murrie in the chair. Sheriff-Substitute Robertson proposed "Health and prosperity to the Prince and Princess of Wales." A public dinner took place in the Golden Lion Hotel at 4 p.m.—Provost Murrie again presiding. The Abstainers' Union held a soiree in the evening—the Rev. Mr. Culross occupying the chair; the Guildry supped together in their own hall; and the Incorporation of Weavers dined in the Trades Hall—Deacon Angus in the chair—where an "Old brother," upwards of 90 years of age, sang "The Tight Little Island" admirably,

and treated the company to a few "auld farrant" reminiscences. He recollected the marriage of the previous Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., in 1793. The Incorporation of Bakers dined in the Crown Inn in King Street—Deacon Watt in the chair; and the Independent Order of Oddfellows and the Incorporation of Mechanics had also entertainments in honour of the auspicious event. The soldiers of the garrison fared sumptuously, and the poor of the town were not forgotten, as 400 were feasted in the Corn Exchange.

The illuminations were, of course, the great general feature of the day, and far surpassed anything ever formerly attempted in Stirling. The Castle ramparts and various buildings presented one of the most attractive sights, the flaring padella lights rising tier above tier, with occasional coloured lights between. The Guildhall Bowling Green also presented a beautiful sight, as did Drummond's Tract Depot, and, indeed, there was hardly a house or shop where the loyalty of the occupier, from highest to lowest, was not shown. A torchlight procession of the Oddfellows and others took place, thereafter fireworks being let off from Mar's Work, the tower of the High Church, and the Ladies' Hill.

Davie Taylor, the St. Ringans poet, wrote a rhyming account of the proceedings, a few verses from which we append:—

In Allan Park they gathered strength,
The grand procession formed the while;
'Twas beautiful! an' sic a length—
"Twad measure maist a lang Scots mile.

The "Gatherums," sae brave and brisk
Wi' marriage favours, led the van;
Their buskit naigs their tails did whisk,
An' pranced aneath the sturdy clan.

O leeze me on his witty gab,
His lang grey locks, like friar holy;
And on his cronie "Ruskie Rab,"
The Captain of the carters jolly.

OLD STIRLING.

The different grades in splendid style
 Did follow up in order due ;
 Bands gaily played, flags fluttered, while
 Aloft was borne the "Blanket Blue."

Artillerymen fu' brave and braw,
 Made five big cannon roar an' flash ;
 They did their duty ane an' a',
 Commanded by Lieutenant Ash.

The banquet held that day, I'm sure
 Brocht bliss dull care could ne'er destroy ;
 And at the dinner for the poor
 Was heard the sound of festive joy.

And wives that lang had lean'd on crutches
 Were very happy that same day ;
 And as they waved their snaw-white mutches,
 For Yellowlees they cried hurra !

An' when the gloamin' brang the mirk,
 Began the bricht illumination ;
 Tract Depot, Castle, Steeple, Kirk,
 Shed glory on the grand occasion.

And up whaur "Stanie Breeks" is seen
 The folks got some enchanting sights ;
 The fairies on the Boolin' Green
 Micht danced tae Willie's tiny lights.

An' Irishmen, it may be said,
 O' loyalty showed nae great sign ;
 Macartney was the only blade (poulterer)
 That tried to mak' his window shine.

But lowly Scotsmen, I'm inclined
 Tae think, are o' anither stamp ;
 Will Speirs, the sweep, we'll keep in mind
 For lichtin' up his lonely lamp.

The Resurrectionists.

The lifting of the dead to be used as subjects for the dissecting-table was going on for some years before the public even suspected the detestable practice. In 1813, however, a class

of Glasgow students banded themselves together to procure subjects, either by fair or foul means, meeting with such success as to make the whole matter public, and their leader was compelled to fly to the United States, where he, it is recorded, became one of the most eminent surgeons and physicians in that country. A dark, cloudy night, when no moon appeared, or, better still, a night when rain fell in torrents, was the time most fitted for the work of "lifting," and under these conditions those employed went about the job with the utmost care, making sure, after seizing a body, to fill up the grave and make it appear as if nothing had occurred since the interment. At last they became quite careless as to the manner in which the work was done, and the practice becoming so common in country churchyards, roused people to such a pitch of indignation, that it was a bad job for any one when caught. Still "body-snatching" was carried on for a long time with few detections, until the law made provision for students and others being supplied with subjects.

The first hint of a "lifting" in Stirling was given by the then beadle of the West Church, who had gone into the churchyard on a morning in 1822 and noticed that the grave of a poor woman named Witherspoon appeared to have been disturbed. He mentioned the matter to some of the authorities, among them Bailie Jaffrey, a grocer in Baker Street, who, afraid of creating alarm among the inhabitants, decided to open the grave. Consequently the Magistrates proceeded to the place where the poor woman had been buried, and, after examination, it was found that the coffin had been opened, the body removed, and the shroud and dead-clothes huddled together at one end of the grave. Three strangers were suspected, but no one was caught. A watch was afterwards put on in a house which stood above the walk in the Old Churchyard near the Guild Hall, and which was removed a number of years ago. One grave near the entrance to the West Church steeple still shows what was one of the precautions taken against "lifters," this being an iron cage, which was put round the coffin and securely fixed and kept there till the body was past being of use.

F

Burkites.

The "City of the Rock" was disturbed and alarmed by the report that the infamous M'Dougall, and the scavenger, Constantine Burke, with his wife and family, had made their appearance in town after the trial and condemnation of Hare. It was also rumoured that they had taken a house in Baker Street and paid rent in advance, and that, while it was undergoing necessary repair for their reception, with, it was alleged, a view to facilitating operations in carrying on their unhallowed practices, they had taken up a temporary domicile in the Castlehill. Some of the inhabitants of the latter district, who were not a little alarmed at the idea of having such notorious people harbouring in their neighbourhood, proceeded to examine sundry premises there, and among others some lodging-houses. No one, however, could be found answering the description of M'Dougall and the scavenger; but in their search they lighted on a luckless wight and his wife whose countenances were not of the most placid cast, and succeeded in persuading the party with whom they were staying that their lodgers might be the persons of whom they were in quest. On that supposition they were turned out to seek other quarters. Reports, too, of children being amissing were knowingly whispered about; particularly the child of a decent woman residing in the suburbs, who was most indignant at the idea of her "oye" being kidnapped, while he had never been out of her sight. The climax, however, was reached on a Saturday night, when a tailor, from a neighbouring village, who had got "half-seas over," and was joyously wending his way homewards, imagined he had had a very narrow escape from the hands of the anatomists. As he trudged along, an acquaintance of his, who had been lying in wait for him, sprang from behind a hedge and clapped a plaster on his mouth. "Snip" roared most lustily, and, setting off at full speed, soon left his practical joking crony behind to enjoy his laugh. On making his appearance in the village where he resided the plaster was found to be a paper with a little gas tar, which

had been taken from a hole where a quantity of it had just been deposited.

Boating.

Boat-racing, on a very small scale, however, occasionally took place on the River Forth at Stirling, challenges being given by rival local crews, but, in 1854, through the liberality of John Macfarlane, Esq. of Coneyhill, Bridge of Allan—who presented the Stirling Club with new boats—the first organised regatta came off on the Forth, and was a great success, crews coming from Glasgow, Dumbarton, Dundee, Alloa, and Dunmore, the course being the stretch of water above the Old Bridge. By July, 1855, the Club had greatly improved, mainly through the gift of a magnificent silver cup, value £50, also presented by the patron, Mr Macfarlane. A grand stand was then erected, and its seats were graced by a large company of ladies and gentlemen from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Bridge of Allan, and other parts, and as the day was propitious, thousands of spectators lined both sides of the river. The cup was gained by the “Scotsman,” Stirling; but the “Blue Jacket,” Edinburgh, having protested against the “Scotsman” crew as not being amateurs, the Club being proprietors of the boat, waived their claim to the prize, which, accordingly, fell to the “Blue Jacket.” Along with medals it was presented to the St. Andrews Club, Edinburgh, on 24th November, by Bailie Rankin, in the absence of the Provost. The medals bore the following inscriptions:—“Presented by John Macfarlane, Esq. of Coneyhill;” and in the centre was the Macfarlane arms, with the motto, “This I’ll defend;” on the reverse side—“Macfarlane Amateur Champion Cup Medal,” and in the centre a beautifully engraved view of the regatta at Stirling, the river Forth, and the company assembled; with the words, “Stirling Regatta, instituted 1854.” The advent of the Volunteer movement in Stirling diverted attention from boating, and the annual regatta having fallen into desuetude, the cup above mentioned was placed in the custody of the late Provost Murrie by the donor. A few years ago, on the successful

organisation of the Stirling Amateur Boating and Swimming Club, a still more massive silver cup was provided by subscription, and is annually competed for on the Forth at Stirling.

The contest for possession of the valuable trophy prompted Poet William Sinclair to write the following verses:—

Auld Scotland lifts her head right hie,
Her bairns throw ilk bonnet up,
This day, my lads, ye'll surely try
To win the silver challenge cup.
The challenge cup, the challenge cup,
Macfarlane's handsome challenge cup,
This day, my lads, ye'll surely try
To win the matchless challenge cup.

The day was fine, the sun shone out
Wi' smiles upon the daisied green,
While Scotia's thistle on the earth
Wi' nodding head enjoyed the scene.
The lasses busk'd right braw, I ween,
Wi' cherry lips an' airy step,
Frae the Auld Brig to famed Kildean,
Say, "Wha shall win the challenge cup?"

Brave Manchester, a' belted tight,
Is here, fair England's flower an' pride;
The Glasgow lads, in arm o' might,
Ha'e come right boldly frae the Clyde.
The gallant crews a' bravely ride
Upon the wave wi' colours up,
Auld Reekie, shouting o'er the tide,
Cries, "Wha'll tak' frae us the challenge cup?"

Each crew is eager for the race:
Wi' dripping oars and merry heart,
They hang awhile—a moment's grace,
When—hark! there goes the signal start.
Away the manly crews depart
Wi' bending strength an' sinewy grip,
An' like the lightning onward dart,
All striving for the challenge cup.

They come, they come, they near the goal,
And pull wi' might and main—well done !
Brave Manchester, wi' heart an' soul,
Right bravely hath the goblet won.
And now, Auld Reekie, cast nae doon
Your head, but keep your courage up,
Another day comes racing roun',
When ye may tak' the challenge cup.

The challenge cup, the challenge cup,
Macfarlane's glorious challenge cup,
Another day comes racing roun',
When ye may win the challenge cup.

New Year Customs.

As the New Year and Auld Handsel Monday customs are now nearly forgotten, it would be a pity that the rising generation should not have some idea afforded them of how these days were kept by their forefathers. In the beginning of the century the custom, in Scotland, of the wassail bowl on New Year's Eve was still in comparative vigour (wassail, from the ancient Saxon phrase, "Wass hale," that is, "To your health;" the words and the custom associated with them thus came to be used as Wassail, or Wassail Bowl). On the approach of twelve o'clock a "hot pint" was prepared, that is, a kettle or flagon full of warm, spiced, and sweetened ale, mixed with spirits. When the clock had struck the midnight hour, the members of the family drank a portion of this mixture, each one proffering the other the wish, "A good health, a happy New Year, and many of them," with a general handshaking, and, it might be, an impromptu dance round the table, and generally the addition of a song, to the air of "Hey, tuttie, tuttie"—

"Weel may we a' be,
Ill may we never see,
Here's to the king
And the guid companie !"

The older members of the household would then sally out

with the hot kettle and a supply of shortbread, or bread and cheese, for the purpose of visiting their neighbours. If they chanced to meet by the way another party known to them, bent on the same errand, they would halt and give and take sips from each other's kettles. The party first to enter a friend's house after twelve o'clock was called the "first foot," and as such it was most important, for luck to the family in the coming year, that the "first foot" should not make entry empty handed, but carrying cakes and bread and cheese, which had to be partaken of by all in the house.

There was also in Scotland first-footing independent of the "hot pint." Then was the time for a youthful male friend of the family to steal to the door, in the hope of meeting there the young maiden of his fancy, and, as her "first foot," obtain the privilege of a kiss. Great was the disappointment on his part, and great the merriment among the family, if, through accident or concerted plan, some elderly aunt or ancient grand-dame came to receive him, instead of the young lady.

HOGMANAY.

In country places in Scotland, as well as in the more retired towns, it was customary, on the morning of the last day of the year, or "Hogmanay," for the children of the poorer class to get themselves swaddled in a great sheet, which was doubled up in front, so as to form a vast pocket, and then go along the streets in little bands, calling at the houses of the wealthier classes for an expected dole of oaten bread. Each child got a "farl," and, if favourites, a piece of cheese, and this was called their hogmanay. In expectation of the demands thus made upon them, the housewives busied themselves for days beforehand in preparing a suitable quantity of cakes. The children, on arriving at a door, cried, "Hogmanay!" which was in itself sufficient announcement of their demands; but other exclamations were used for the same purpose, one of which was—

"Hogmanay, trol-lol-ay,
Give us of your white bread, and none of your gray."

Another favourite rhyme was—

“Get up, goodwife, and shake your feathers,
And dinna think that we are beggars ;
For we are bairns come out to play,
Get up, and gie's our hogmanay !”

The following is of a moralising character, though a good deal of a truism—

“Get up, goodwife, and dinna sweer,
And deal your bread to them that's here ;
For the time will come when ye'll be deid,
And then ye'll neither need ale nor breid.”

The favourite, however, is more to the point than either of the foregoing—

“My feet's cauld, my shoon's thin,
Gie's my cakes, and let me rin !”

GUISING.

The doings of the “guisers” or “guizards” (that is, masquers or mummers) formed a conspicuous feature in the New Year festivities throughout Scotland. These are still imitated, but only by children with blackened faces, who do little in the way of acting or singing. The favourite night for such exhibitions was Hogmanay, although Handsel Monday also enjoyed a privilege in this respect. Boys possessed of good voices practised for weeks before from a collection of songs, and being able to render “Barbara Allan,” or the “Wee cot-hoose and the wee kailyairdie,” came out in the part of “guisers.” For this purpose they donned old shirts belonging to their fathers, and had mitre-shaped casques of brown paper on their heads, possibly borrowed from “the Abbot of Unreason ;” attached to this was a sheet of the same paper, which, falling down in front, covered and concealed the whole face, except where holes were made to let through the point of the nose, and allow sight and breath. Each vocal “guiser” was, like a

knight of old, attended by a humble squire, who assumed the habiliments of a girl, with an old woman's cap or "mutch" and a broomstick, and was styled "Bessie." "Bessie" was equal to her fellows in no respect except that she shared fairly in the proceeds of the enterprise. She went before her principal, opened all the doors at which he pleased to exert his singing powers, and busied herself during the time of the song in sweeping the floor with her broomstick, or in playing any other antic that she thought might amuse the inmates.

The more important doings of the "guisers" were of a theatrical character, and there was one specially grotesque drama which it was the custom to perform on these occasions. The performers—who were never less than three, but sometimes as many as six—having dressed themselves, proceeded from house to house, generally contenting themselves with the kitchen as an arena, whither, in mansions presided over by the spirit of good humour, the whole family would resort to witness the spectacle. Sir Walter Scott, who delighted to keep up old customs, and could condescend to simple things without losing genuine dignity, invariably had a set of "guisers" to perform this play before his family both at Ashestiel and Abbotsford.

Such were the leading features of the Hogmanay festivities in Scotland, and which have now mostly died out.

Epidemics.

Stirling has always enjoyed a good reputation in regard to health, the situation of the town contributing in no small degree to this favourable circumstance. The slope on which it is built conduces greatly to excellent drainage, the Forth affording a ready outlet, and successive municipal authorities have been fully alive to sanitary requirements. At various periods, however, the town has, in common with other parts of the country, been visited by serious epidemics, although not for many years past.

PRECAUTIONARY ENACTMENTS.

In 1604 special precautions were taken, "becaus of the present infectioun of Edinburgh in the pest and plaig, and for bettir keiping of this burgh, gif it pleis God," against the ingress to the town of any person, "wnder the pane of deid," until the bailie of the quarter had been apprised of their presence, it being at the same time ordained "that all nyctbouris repair and mend thair yard heidis and bak yettis, to the effect that na persoun cum ouir or in thairatt." Various enactments were subsequently made "for the better preservatioun of the toun fra this feirfull plaig of pest quhairwith sindrie pairtes of Fyff ar now, at the plesour of God, infectit, . . . and ordinis all strainger pure to be putt and haldin af the toun." Notwithstanding the care exercised, the epidemic found its way into Stirling in 1606, and the Council had "dailis bocht att thair command . . . to be lugis to thair diseisit and seik personis in the Brighauch, in the present visitatioun." In February, 1607, there was "producet be ilk baillie a roll of all persones deceisit in his awin quarter in this last visitatioun of pest, to the number of sex hundreth [blank] persones in the haill, by and attour the number of [another blank] persons who amendit and convalessit of the seikness." Later, "The baillies and counsall, convenit, haifing consideratioun of the grete desolatioun of this burgh this yeir bigane be resson of the pest, quhairthrow thair hes bene litell or na tred within the samyn during the tyme of the said seikness, thairfoir defalkis and discharges to the takismen of the tonnes customes and rentis underwritin as eftir followis."

In 1645 it is recorded that a pestilence had come from England, by way of Kelso, to Edinburgh, and the Parliament removed to Stirling, but, being overtaken by the dread enemy, were obliged to adjourn to Perth. It raged in Stirling from the middle of July till October. The Town Council held their meetings in an enclosure called the Cow Park, on the south side of the town wall, and the municipal election also took place in the open air, as appears from the following entry in the Burgh Records:—

"At the Park of Stirling, the 22 day of September, being Mononday, being the day of the electioun of the counsall of the burgh of Stirling for the yeir to cum, convenit within the said park (in respect of the plaige of pestilence within the said burgh and thair boundis besyde) the persones following:" . . . Every precaution against infection was taken, complete isolation and thorough supervision being arranged for—in some cases, it would seem, even more rigorous than at the present day—and where it was necessary to have the infected persons removed, "ludges," or temporary erections were put up for their detention. The enactment runs as follows:—

"The counsall thinkis fitting for the present that sum ludges be maid, as occasioun requyris, upoun that parcell of land callit Chirmerland"—(Sheriffmuirlands),—"at the eist syde of the lang calsey leidand fra the brig, and the toun sall satisfie the heritour for the loissis quhill farder cours be takin.

"And the buriall of these that dyes of the plaige to be at the chapell well" (St. Ninians Well).

"Clengeris," or cleansers, were appointed for the several quarters of the town, and a tax put on the inhabitants for the expense thus incurred. Six members of the Town Council, who had been particularly active in their endeavours to alleviate the sufferings of their afflicted fellows, caught infection themselves, and died, they being interred in St. Ninians Churchyard.

During the prevalence of the great plague in London, in 1665, the Council, "for the good and saifety of this burgh, under God," took special precautions against the entrance of goods into the town "without good certificatis that the same are free of suspicion; . . . and ordeans the proclamatioun against lodgeing of beggeris and vagabonds to be published throw the town by tuck of drum." A little later, "The counsell, finding that the portis are not carefullie enough kept by the customers, recomendis to the magistratis to put a watche daylie thereto of honest neighbouris for keeping out suspected persons and goodis, and to set doune orders for them, and to begin on Munday next." The town, however, appears to have had complete immunity from infection.

CHOLERA AND INFLUENZA.

Coming down to more recent times, it is recorded that the first case of cholera noted in Stirling—an epidemic of which raged throughout the country at the time—was reported to the Board of Health on 14th June, 1832, the party seized with the malady being one Charles M'Farlane, a dealer in old clothes, who resided at the foot of St. John Street. His illness began about mid-day, and he died next day. An Irish girl's case was the next reported; then a cobbler named M'Donald, who resided in Cowane Street, and died before he could be removed to hospital. The number of cases rapidly increased until 19th July, by which date 46 had been reported, 30 proving fatal; but thereafter the epidemic gradually abated.

In January, 1849, cholera again made its appearance in Stirling, and by the end of April, when it had disappeared, there were over 70 deaths reported.

In the beginning of 1837 a severe epidemic of influenza broke out in Stirling, the mortality being greater than during the cholera visitation. In seven days—from the morning of the 16th till the evening of the 22nd of January—there were no fewer than twenty-three funerals, and from 1st January till the 26th, there were fifty-one, and that in a population scarcely reaching 10,000. (At that period the average yearly interments was 169, which was about fourteen per month). Mr. Rankin mentioned at the Town Council meeting that the gravedigger intended applying to the authorities for liberty to dig a trench to bury the poor in. In Glasgow on one Sunday at that time there were nearly one hundred funerals.

Postal Matters in Stirling.

It is generally admitted that, next to the invention of printing, the cheap, frequent, and efficient transmission of correspondence by means of the postal system takes rank amongst those beneficial influences which have contributed in a marked

degree to the moral, intellectual, and material welfare of mankind. As a means of communication between persons separated by distance the one from the other, letters have been in use from a very early period, but for centuries the mode of transmission was slow, cumbrous, and expensive; and it is almost in our own day that the system has been lifted out of the groove in which for these long ages it had run. James Watt's invention prepared the way for that of George Stephenson, and by and bye the post-chaise was displaced by the iron horse, and now correspondence by means of letters is transmitted in one-sixth of the time then taken, whilst the amount of correspondence thus carried has been multiplied thousand-fold.

The first regular postal system for the use of the public was founded in the time of the Stuarts, and Thomas Witherings, Postmaster in the reign of Charles I., has the credit of being the first postal reformer. In 1635, he successfully memorialised the Privy Council to "establish a post between London and all parts of the kingdom for the transmission of letters," for the reason that, "private letters being now carried by carriers or persons travelling on foot, it is sometimes two full months before an answer can be received from Scotland or Ireland to London." Witherings was directed to adjust "a running post or two, to run night and day between Edinburgh and London, to go thither and come back again in six days, and to take with them all such letters as shall be directed to any post town in or near that road." Two years afterwards a proclamation forbade the carriage of letters by any messengers except those of the King's Postmaster-General, and thus the present system was inaugurated.

A STIRLING AND EDINBURGH HORSE POST.

In the end of 1715 there was established by the Postmaster-General of Scotland, a horse-post from Stirling to Edinburgh (two years before that between Glasgow and Edinburgh), and those curious in such matters may see, in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, enclosed in a glazed frame, a copy of the notice having reference thereto, and which reads as follows:—

By direction of James Anderson, Esquire, Postmaster-General of Scotland,

For the conveniency of the noblemen and gentlemen of Stirling. That they may not lose so much as one post for correspondence with London, or any post on that road, the Postmaster of Stirling is each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, commencing on Thursday next, the first of December, to send off a horse post precisely at 2 in the afternoon, to bring letters from Stirling to Edinburgh, to answer the posts which go for England on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights. The said horse post will also carry letters from Stirling to Edinburgh. And as the post comes in from London to Edinburgh there will a post horse be sent off with such letters as are for Stirling.

Given at Stirling, Tuesday, the 29th day of November,
1715 years.

JAMES ANDERSON.

In January, 1777, the riding post from Edinburgh, in fording a stream near Falkirk, was swept down—boy, bags, and beast; but, mercifully, all were fished out. In 1754 mail coaches were first used, continuing until the advent of railways throughout the country.

PENNY POSTAGE.

One great change effected during the last sixty years—a change that is distinctly Victorian—is the Penny Postage system. When the Queen came to the throne in 1837, the average general postage was estimated at 9½d. per letter. A letter delivered within 15 miles cost 4d.; while a distance of 230 to 300 miles cost a shilling, a penny being charged for every additional hundred miles, and a halfpenny toll for carrying the letter over the Border. This was for a one sheet letter; double rates were charged for an enclosure; and four times as much for a one ounce letter. The postage of a letter from Edinburgh to London was 1s. 1½d., and if it weighed an ounce it was rated as four single letters. To carry a letter, that would now cost a penny, from Land's End to John o' Groat's, would then have cost about eight shillings. In the beginning of 1841, it is deemed so much of note that a Stirling newspaper

has a paragraph stating that "a person in town received five gross of fly hooks, mounted upon gut and dressed, at the small cost of sixpence as postage. Under the old system the same parcel sent by post would have cost sixteen shillings and sixpence." Sir Rowland Hill's scheme of a uniform rate of postage of one penny was ridiculed on all hands, and treated by officialdom as "perfect ruination and madness," and "likely only to advantage the commercial houses and bankers, who can well afford to pay the postage." But the proposal being adopted after a severe struggle, along with the additional facility afforded by the introduction, on 1st May, 1840, of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage—these last being the invention of Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, who, as early as December, 1837, submitted specimens to the House of Commons' Committee on Postage, for incorporation with Mr. Hill's plan of reduction — considerable impetus was given to correspondence. A leading newspaper, in 1840, contemptuously described the new stamps as "bits of sticking plaster for dabbing on to letters," and even Sir Rowland Hill himself was not sanguine that they would come into general use; but so great was the demand for them that the presses of the Stamp Office, though they worked night and day, were not able to supply them fast enough. We have no record of the number or value of stamps issued in these early days, but the postal reformers could not have entertained the remotest idea of the magnitude to which the scheme would develop, or the almost fabulous number and the enormous value of the stamps issued at the present date, 1899. The last report of the Postmaster-General states the total estimated number of postal packets as 3,318,723,000—of which 2,012,300,000 were letters—an average of 83.1 packets and 50.4 letters for each person; and the total revenue of the Post Office as £12,420,376.

WEEKLY AVERAGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Mr. Miller, our esteemed local Postmaster, has kindly favoured us with the following particulars as to the amount of

business transacted in Stirling Post Office during the year 1898-99. The total staff, in all branches, was 62, and the average number of letters posted in Stirling was 85,598 per week; the number delivered, 91,720 (an average of about 5 per head of the population); parcels posted, 1420; delivered, 2467; transmitted (i.e., dealt with in passing on to other offices), 1237. The number of mails received was 249 per day; despatched, 229. Telegrams received during year, 47,907; despatched, 41,142; transmitted, 71,370. Postal orders sold, 33,994; cashed, 33,111.

EARLY MEANS FOR OBTAINING INTELLIGENCE.

The "Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Stirling" contain various references to posts and postal matters. In June, 1665, the Council arranged with Robert Mean, post-master, Edinburgh, for "intelligence weeklie from Edinburgh of all publict newes dureing the tyne of the war with the King of the Dutch for information of the people," the amount payable therefor being "twa shilling sterling weeklie, as Glasgow and utheris burghs payes." In July of the following year it is recorded that "The magistratis and counsell hes chosen John Straton to be thair common post for careing and bringing thair intelligence from Edinburgh for a quarter of an yeare to come, and langer whill he be discharged be the counsell, and for his sellarie he is to have fyfteen pound quarterlie to be payed him be the thesaurer." A spirit of economy came over the Council in September, 1668 (in the present day it might have been said that it was occasioned by the approach of the election), for we read that "The magistrats and counsell, considering the great expence upon the town in paying twentie foure shilling Scottis, weeklie, to Robert Mein, postmaster in Edinburgh, for newes letters and gazets, and that in this peaceable tyme there is no necessitie to be at such a charge, they have therefore quat the said Robert from continowing any longer in sending any moe newes letteres or gazetts to this town till they be farder advysed."

A proposal for "the settling ane letter office for giving the

town and countrey tharabout intelligence from Edinburgh twice a week" having been made in 1674 by "John Graham, postmaster generall of this kingdome," the Council, it is stated, "having taiken the same to ther consideration they are not fullie resolved upon their ansuer but shall give the same to him within ane short space," but no further record appears of the matter.

Coming down to January, 1695, we find that "The magistrates and council nominates and appointes Mr. Thomas Rigg of Riggland, wreter in Edinburgh, to be agent for this burgh from henceforth, during their pleasure, and allowes him the ordinar sellarie of ane hundred merks per annum for being agent and furnishing the news lettres and gazets weiklie." In the following year a change took place, for in June it is reported that Bailie Burd and conveyner "had transacted with John Richardson, servant in the post office, and who hes furnished the toun with newes lettres since Candlemas last, for furnishing the toun with newes lettres in time coming during the counccills pleasure, and had transacted with him for fourtie eight pounds Scotcs."

Three years later, our civic rulers still further economised in the matter of "newes lettres," as it is recorded that "considering that they may be served with the weeklie newes by the Edinburgh Gazett, which containes both forraigne and domestick occurrences, at ane far more easie rate then by the transactione formerlie made with John Murray, generall postmaster, therefor they pas from and overgive the said transactione for the future, and appoints the clerk to acquaint the said John Murray therwith, that he forbear from hencefurth to send any Gazetts or Flieing Post newes here." Recourse was again made to the Post Office, for in 1702 there appears the following entry:—"Item, to John Forrester, Keiper of the post office heir, for ane years sellarie allowed to him by the counccill for furnishing the toun weekly with the Gazets, 12 li. Scots, and for getting them furnished with Dyers news letters 30 li, £42."

At the present day we are made fully aware, in a few hours, of what has transpired on the other side of the globe, but in

the early years of the eighteenth century, the inhabitants of Stirling only became cognisant at irregular intervals, and often from unofficial sources, of the state of public affairs even a few miles from home. The political unrest of the period put the authorities of the burgh on the alert, and led to active steps being taken to procure speedy and reliable information, as may be gathered from the following extract, of date 17th March, 1708:—"The councill considering how necessar it is for this burgh in the present juncture to keep ane fixed correspondence for some time both with Edinburgh and Perth for getting the most exact intelligence of all occurances from time to time until settlement be made, therfor they appoint two posts to be employed one for Edinburgh and ane other for Perth, and appoints the clerk to wreat to Bandalloch on all occasions as the magistrats shall enjoyne to converse with my Lord Grange and any of her Majesteis privie councill he shall think fitt, to the effect the burgh may have ther advice how they shall behave and quhat intelligence of publict as well as national concerns can be had; as also to wreat to provost Crie in Perth and the toun clerk there to the same effect, and to signifie the councils inclinations to continue the said correspondence with them untill it please God to remove the present confusions."

"GREAT EXPENSE AND NO CONVENIENCE."

Coming down to more recent times, however, we find that in the earlier months of 1838, considerable dissatisfaction prevailed respecting the postal service for Stirling, a local newspaper of the period stating that, "with the exception of the foot-post to Alva and that to Bannockburn, there is not another post so arranged as to accommodate the public in this neighbourhood, for whose behoof they are all professedly driving and riding every day at great expense and no convenience to the community." The complaint sets forth that the Glasgow Mail is delayed several hours after arrival of the London Mail in that city; but the Edinburgh Mail is the one which occasioned the greatest grievance, the writer stating that "of all the absurdities thrust upon the public by even the ill-

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managed Post Office, this is the most perfect. Here we have a public mail-coach ostensibly intended to convey letters and papers for the accommodation of the people of Stirlingshire, which arrives at its destination after eight in the evening, when every person has left his place of business and gone home to enjoy the comforts of domestic life; but even this, bad as it is, is nothing, were it possible to return letters or papers by it, which, however, cannot be done, unless people turn night into day; and, after having exhausted themselves at their ordinary avocations, set themselves to work all night also, for, according to the present arrangements, off it starts again at five o'clock in the morning, just as if it were a coal cart, leaving in the morning empty, to return in the evening with a load. This is certainly a precious way of accommodating the public. Our readers will unquestionably think that we are not telling the truth, or if we are, that a madman must have arranged it so, or that it has been got up for the private accommodation of some high aristocrat. No such thing, for even this would be accommodating somebody. What will the public think, then, when we tell them that the Stirling Mail, which everybody thought until now had been intended for the benefit of the people in the centre of Scotland, is started at this irrational hour for the benefit of the people in Ireland? Yes! Irish letters coming to Scotland in the Edinburgh bag, instead of being forwarded to Dumfries, and taken up by the mail from the south, which everybody but the Post Office people would think the legitimate and speediest way of forwarding them, are actually sent to Glasgow, and thence despatched to Denny in a gig, where they are picked up by the Stirling Mail, and so ultimately find their way to Edinburgh. So that those of them which are addressed to Stirling, after having reached within six miles of the town, are wheeled into Edinburgh, and, lying there till four in the afternoon, are deliberately brought back by the same coach fourteen hours later. Verily, the Post-Office stands much in need of reformation. The consequence of all this is that, as a public conveyance, the mail is half useless to the public, and wholly ruinous to the contractors, who are hereby cheated out of their passengers."

Other anomalies are referred to, affecting the mails for Alloa, and those from Kippen and Callander, which, arriving at 8 and 10 p.m. respectively, the latter conveying correspondence for Perth and the North, had, of necessity, to lie in Stirling Post Office until 4 p.m. next day. At the meeting of Town Council following the appearance of this complaint, on the motion of Bailie Monteath, it was unanimously agreed to memorialise the Post Office on the subject, several members of Council bringing forward very glaring instances of the inconvenience experienced, Bailie Smith urging that "the committee should also endeavour to have the Edinburgh Mail sent by the old road instead of going round by Denny. He might mention another thing. If a letter is put into the Edinburgh Post Office at four o'clock on the 21st, it is delivered to you here on the 23rd; you write an answer on the 23rd, which is delivered in Edinburgh on the 24th. Thus four days elapse before an answer can reach Edinburgh, almost as long as you might write to Liverpool and have an answer back."

A month or two later Rowland Hill's Postal Reform Scheme was under discussion, and the Council agreed to petition Parliament to adopt the plan proposed.

Subsequently several changes were made, which had the effect of slightly improving the service, but it was not until the adoption of a new order of things consequent upon the carrying out of Mr. Hill's scheme that anything like adequate satisfaction was obtained.

STIRLING POST OFFICES.

Turning to the buildings in which the postal business of Stirling has been carried on, we find, from a most interesting pamphlet, printed for private circulation in 1895, shortly after the opening of the present Post Office in Maxwell Place, that "The earliest Post Office which can now be identified was situated in St. Mary's Wynd, and was a thatched house of one storey," occupied, probably, between 1780 and 1795, and "the entire correspondence of Stirling at that date was accommodated in a series of pigeon holes in a frame twelve inches

long by six inches deep." The office was transferred to the close No. 12 Bow Street, and from thence to St. John Street, where it was continued from 1796 till 1806, finding then location in the close No. 60 Baker Street, until 1825, when it was removed to the shop now No. 71, and again to the shop No. 13 of that street. In 1829 the shop 79 King Street was occupied by Mr. John Shearer ("Dandy"), who had been appointed Postmaster, and, in 1840, when penny postage and adhesive stamps came into operation, the great increase in postal business necessitated removal, and the shop now No. 7 King Street was occupied.

Later, on account of the considerable volume of business (largely contributed by the Stirling Tract Enterprise), the Post Office was dissociated from all trade connection, and the premises now No. 10 Murray Place wholly occupied. No. 51 Murray Place were the next premises occupied until 1879, when a house in Maxwell Place became the Post Office, continuing till 1893, when the present handsome buildings were commenced on the same site, business during the operations being carried on in the Corn Exchange.

We have entered at greater length than we originally intended into the subject of postal matters in Stirling, but the service being one having a close and intimate connection with the commercial life of the country, and having grown to such amazing proportions—150,110 persons (of whom 119,576 are males and 30,534 females) being employed during the year ending 31st March, 1898—must be our apology, if such is necessary, for so doing.

The Total Abstinence Movement.

In the first series of this work, in narrating the circumstances and conditions of life in Stirling in bygone days, reference was made to the number of public-houses in the town and the convivial gatherings which prevailed, and from what we set forth it has been concluded in some quarters that the inhabitants were for the most part given to drinking. Such,

however, was not the case, although the customs of the earlier years of the century had great hold upon the people, and it was considered something exceedingly strange if a person abstained from partaking of intoxicating liquors. The first total abstinence society in Scotland was organised in October, 1829, and during the next few years, owing to the itinerating of some of the "Early Heroes of the Temperance Reformation"—John Dunlop, Robert Kettle, Father Matthew, James Mitchell, and others—societies were here and there formed. Mr. John Davie, merchant, Dunfermline, a "Son of the Rock," and an ardent temperance reformer, along with a few others, on 21st September, 1830, signed a declaration "for the promotion of temperance by the relinquishing of all intoxicating liquors," which was held to be the second of the total abstinence pledges adopted in Scotland.

AN ABSTAINING EXCISEMAN AND THE LIQUOR DEALERS.

"The name of James Mitchell," says Mr. Robert Reid, of Glasgow, in writing for "Early Heroes," "is inseparably and nobly associated with the early struggles of the abstinence enterprise. In the year 1837, when following his calling as an Officer of Excise in the town of Stirling, intelligence reached him of the new movement and its marvellous results. He was charmed by the simplicity and reasonableness of its principles, and, without hesitation or delay, espoused them. The difficulties Mr. Mitchell had to encounter in giving effect to this resolution would have discouraged and driven back to drinking practices any less resolute man. He was living in the very midst of the liquor manufacture, and in daily intercourse with the men who were making rich by the drinking habits of the people. An exciseman at best was considered a nuisance at a distillery, but of the two evils, the one who drank freely of the product of the still was greatly to be preferred to the one who preserved his senses, by obstinately refusing to partake of it. Indeed, up to Mr. Mitchell's conversion to abstinence principles, it was not considered by those interested in the traffic,

that the anomaly of an abstaining exciseman could possibly exist; and when convinced to the contrary by an example concerning which there could be no mistake, they felt it to be an intolerable outrage, which they were called upon by every means in their power to resist. He was accordingly warned by the traffickers to desist from his teetotal crusade, but his courage was not to be shaken by their threats, and he defied them to do their worst; which they did, by requesting his superiors to remove him from the service. Having nothing to urge against him but his abstinence, they failed in the attempt, and were informed by those to whom they applied, 'That they had frequently been under the necessity of dismissing officers for drinking, but saw no reason why they should do so on account of their abstaining.'"

In 1831 a Temperance Society was formed in Stirling, St. Ninians falling into line the following year, and these societies, with auxiliaries in the surrounding villages, sought to advocate the principle of abstention from the use of ardent spirits, but permitting wine and malt liquors in moderation, with considerable success, and, at the sixth annual meeting of the Stirling Society, held in Friars Wynd Chapel on 21st March, 1837, the report, which was read by the Rev. Alex. Marshall, stated that since last annual meeting, there had been added to the Society's list the names of 103 new members; and, after carefully erasing the names of all who were known to have violated the rules, the number connected with the Society was very nearly 400, exclusive of those in Cambusbarron. The chapel was quite filled, and the meeting was addressed by Rev. Messrs Harrower, Denny, and Fraser and M'Dowall, Alloa.

For the most part the annual social gatherings took place in the Guild Hall, the names of those taking part including Rev. Alex. Marshall, Stirling; Rev. John Logan, St Ninians; Rev. Mr. Somerville, Airth; Rev. Mr. Gordon, Falkirk; Rev. Mr. Harrower, Denny; Rev. Mr. Henderson, Dunblane; Rev. Peter M'Dowall, and Rev. Mr. Fraser, Alloa; Messrs William Thomson, John Gourley, John Hewit, bookseller (who was the recipient of a silver snuff-box in acknowledgment of his services); John Callander, teacher; George Robertson, town

missionary ; George Mitchell, Ninian Robertson, Robert Kyle, Charles Williamson, and James Taylor, Stirling ; Messrs John H. Logan and John Robertson, St. Ninians. The Bannockburn and Cambusbarron Bands gave their assistance, and songs and glees were contributed by friends in Stirling and St. Ninians. In later years we come across the names of Messrs Alexander Hamilton, tea merchant, Alex. Scott, confectioner, who sang delightfully ; John Wands, china merchant, an adept in flute-playing ; Wm. Dowdy, and others.

Juvenile societies were also formed, and social gatherings were not infrequent, these being very largely attended, reports stating that "want of accommodation caused the limiting of the sale of tickets," and that "such was the demand for tickets that upwards of one hundred more might have been disposed of had there been accommodation," and it is noted, in connection with a soiree in Mr. Hardie's schoolroom at St. Ninians, that "the surplus—both fragments and money—was devoted to the necessitous poor of the village."

By and bye the total abstinence movement came to be embraced by the societies, the workers having it forced upon them that the only successful way of combating the evils of intemperance was by out and out abstinence, not only from ardent spirits, but from all kinds of intoxicating drinks. On 10th October, 1838, that powerful apostle of total abstinence, Mr. James Stirling (whose wife, on hearing he had signed the pledge, said, "Thank God ; if he has signed it, he'll keep it"), the first agent of the Scottish Temperance League, visited Stirling, when the Stirling Total Abstinence Society was formed, and at the close of the first year it was reported there were 640 members on the roll. So firmly did the principles included in a conclusion of this nature get imbued in the minds of the people, that the number and strength of the societies rapidly increased, and, doubtless, to a very considerable extent is due the result we now see all over the country, that, whereas formerly it was the custom for every one to partake of intoxicating liquors when presented, or be looked upon as a somewhat strange person indeed, now it is the total abstainer who is commended and the drunkard condemned. We cull the

following from a local newspaper of the period, to show the light in which both sides of the question were regarded, the village referred to being Menstrie.

TEE-TOTAL WEDDING.

On Friday last, a marriage was celebrated in this village, entirely on the plan of total abstinence. Notwithstanding this mighty innovation on the old-established rules of social life, peace, law, and order were the prevailing principles of the day. The party were extremely happy, and their joys were real, because rational. For some days previous it was wondered by many how a wedding could be got over without intoxicating drink of some kind, and it was thought that the bridegroom would at least be under the necessity of withdrawing from the society; yet so it was, that the mirth and glee were none diminished at two o'clock next morning, although not so much as a glass of small beer was allowed to disgrace the festive board. The food might indeed be much the same as on similar occasions, but the only drinks were tea and pure water—while songs, duets, recitations, etc., well said and sung, served to instruct, as well as enliven the whole party. Nothing cramped in their energies, though without the “inspiring” influence of “John Barleycorn,” most of the party proceeded, next morning, up the Glen of Menstry, to the top of Dunmyat, where, after partaking of strawberries and cream, they awakened the echoes of the neighbouring glens to the tune of “Begone, strong drink,” and other appropriate pieces—visited the “Smugglers’ Cave” in the neighbourhood, and made its damp, rocky walls resound with the melody of a few temperance hymns, associating in contrast the present scene with the profane and drunken orgies which these walls had witnessed in days of yore. In short, a more happy marriage party has seldom met; and it is no small triumph to the cause of total abstinence to receive this testimony from some of the party—“that, although they were to be present at twenty weddings, they would never desire to see one drop of intoxicating liquor there, being completely satisfied that all the virtue ascribed

to it is a mere delusion, and that when their intellects are free from the fumes of alcoholic liquors, they have eyes to discern the rich beauties of nature, and hearts to relish pure, rational enjoyments."

"What for a Toun Sterling Was."

"That Puritanical Towne."

STORY OF A PRIEST'S DESIRE TO AVOID IT.

The following curious narrative is taken from a volume, entitled, "A Brieffe Narration of the services done to three Noble Ladyes by Gilbert Blakhal, Priest of the Scots Mission in France, in the Low Countries, and in Scotland," and edited by Dr. John Stuart for the Spalding Club in 1844. Of Blakhal little is known except what is gathered from his "Narration." Ordained a priest at Rome in 1639, he proceeded to Paris to act as confessor to Lady Isabelle Hay, daughter of Francis, Earl of Errol. Returning to Scotland in 1637, he became a missionary to the Catholics in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, acting at the same time as chaplain to Lady Aboyne. On her death Blakhal went to France with the object of inducing the Marchioness of Huntly to withdraw her granddaughter, the only child of Lady Aboyne, from Scotland to that country. It is from his third and longest chapter, in which he relates the success of this enterprise, that the following extract is taken. In describing "My Voyage from Holy Ylande to Straboggie, in the North of Scotland, he has got the length of 'Edenbrough,' and thence he proceeds:—

"NO WAY TO GO BY THIS UNHAPPY TOWNE."

"The earnest desir which I had to sie her ons out of Scotland, suffered me not to reste long in any place; and, therfor, how soone I had spoken with her, and found her inclined to go to France, proryding that she got the consentment of her tutour, I did tak my journey towards the North upon Satur-

day, the euve of Easter. Twelfe houres chapped as I did enter in Leith, and our Puritans were at that time more as halfe Jewes; for they had forbidden al servile work to be done from Saterday at noone until the next Monday, under great penalties; so that a boate durst not go upon ferries to pass any man over, what pressant affair soever he could have; and, therfore, I could not passe at Leith, or returne back again to Edenbrough, specially upon their day of general communion, because theis dayes they send searchers to al the innes to sie who are their absent from their churches; and, if any be found, the hostes are finned for loging them or suffering them to be absent. So I did choose rather to be in the fields then in any town; and, therfor did ridde up the water to Queenes ferry, wher I found that same prohibition in vigour. I offered a shilling for a boate, which cost but two pens ordinarily, but, if I would have given tenne pounds, the pouer fellows durst not sette a boate to sea; wherfor I resolved to ridde to the Bridge of Sterling, four and twenty miles out of my way, rather then stay in any of theis puritanical litle townes, which are much more zealous then the greatest. I loged that night at Borrowstownnesse, as I believe it is called. Myn host at supper asked me if I would communicat with him the morrow tymously. I answered that I was pressed to go home to Fyffe, but would be tymly enough at Sterling, wher my affairs pressed me to go to passe the water at the bridge, seing I could not have a boate until Monday, and that I would do my devotion at Sterling. He did acquiesce; and I loath to discours, fearing to be attraped therin, as ordinarlye men are who feanie themselves to be of a contrie wherof they are not, therfor, immediately after supper, I went to sie my hors suppe, and then called for my bedde, as if I had bein wearyed, and, paying myn hostesse at night, was mounted upon my hors by the brack of the day, and passing by the Fakirk, a place wher Walas resorted oft, I did sie the contrie people whigging their meres, to be tymously at the kirk, as if they had bein running for a pryse. They passed me, bidding me spurre my hors to communicat with them, to whom I gave no answer, but did ridde softly to the end of the Torrewode, wher I did find an aile

house al alone. Ther I asked how far it is to Sterling; the hoste said but two miles. I had never been in theis partes before, and did not know what for a towne Sterling was, but had heared much of the towne, the castel, and the bridge. I was loathe to enter in Sterling until the people should be gone to the churches for the preaching afternoone, and therfore I stayed and dyned at the aile house, and when my watch showed a little over midday, I did tak my hors and ridde softly. When I had passed the Torrewood, which now hath nothing but some scattered oackes, dying for antiquity, which conserve the name and memory of that sometymes famous a wood, specially in the history of Wallace, I, bein come nere the towne, looked to the situation of itselfe, and of the castel, and perceiving that it was a vive (lively) representation of the towne which my Ladye of Aboyne had shown me in my dreame, wherof I spokke above in the seventhe paragraphe, and had forbidden me to go throught, althought it would be my way, because I would be in as great hazard of my life ther as I had bein in the sea, and that she would not be able to deliver me out of it as she had done out of the tempeste, I said to myselfe, this is seurlly the towne that was shewn me in my slepe, and which I was forbidden to passe through. What shal I do, or how shal I pass by it? for I sie no way to go by this unhappy towne. I was truly in a very great amaisment, thinking with my owne selfe what cours I should take, saying, if I shal turne back again I shal be remarked and pershewed in theis troublesome tymes, where every unknowen man is suspected to be an enemy to the one partye or the other, that is to the Covenanters or to the Anty-Covenanters. If I go forward, I must passe through the towne, for I sie a long stone wal at every syd of the town gate. I was no lesse troubled at the very sight of that puritanical towne then I had bein at the sight of the raging tempest, because my good ladye had tould me that my life would be in as great danger heir as it had bein in their, and that she could not helpe me heir as she had done ther. Yet, seing no other cours to be taken but to go forward, I staped on slowly, as one going to a place where he must necessarily perish, if he be not miraculously delivered above al expectation.

HE IS AIDED BY TWO GENTLEWOMEN.

In this sadde condition, I looked up and did sie, the mater of three hundred paces from me, two gentlewomen going to the towne by another way, which joyned with myn about a hundred paces before we came to the gate. I spurred my hors to overtake them at the joining of the two wayes, which I did, and, saluting them very humbly, prayed them to show me how I could go to the bridge ungoing through the towne. The one of them asked me, why I would not go through the towne, as if she had thought I durst not go through it. I answered, saying, deare ladye, I am not affrayed to go through it, for I have no enemy nather within it nor without it, but, on the contrair, many good friends, who may be hurtful to me at this tyme, as I shal show you how. I have a processe of graet consequence to be judged the morrow, which, if I loose, it shal mak me, my wyffe, and children, so many beggars, for my whole standing doth depend upon it. Now if I go through the towne, I must go to the preaching, wher I shal be sein by many of my best companions, who shal draw me perforce to the wyne, and so I shal not get home this night with my recommendations to my judges, which hath coast me this journey to Edenbrough, and the morrow before nynne hours my caus shal be judged. My recommendations are from great personnes, and may do me much good if I can but deliver them to my judge in due tyme, and, if not, I may suffer great harme, through my owne fault, for not coming with them in tyme. And, notwithstanding I have used al the diligence that I can, for my nerest way was to passe over the water at Leith, but twelf houres being chapped yesterday before I entered Leith, no boat durst go upon the sea until Munday, and that obliged me to come this way to the bridge. But, if I be forced to stay al night heir, I shal be ferder from my owne house then if I had remained at Leith; and if I gette no hinderance heir, I shal be at my own house befor I slepe. Heir I have shown you, dear ladyes, the caus why I would eschew the towne, and mak al the hast that possibly I can to gette home this night,

and I pray you assist me therin if you can, and I shal remain ever your obliged servant.

HIS HORSE DESCENDS A STAIR.

They seemed to have compassion on me, and said, we are sorry that you have come so nere the towne, for now you can nather go back again nor turne to any hand unremarked, and followed as an enemy to the state, and therupon kept in prison until your cause of going by the towne be tried. But we believe your friends will gette you soon brought out of prisonne, but it would ever hender your voyage. Therfor your best cours wil be to enter in the towne, and you shal not go sex times the length of your horse in it, for we shal tak you out by a back gate. Speak not to us befor any body, but follow us wher we go. The towne gatte was shutte, and the wicket only open. I lighted from my hors, and bouldly followed them in, and they entered in at the first great gatte of the towne. They left the dore open behind them, for me to follow, and when I was in they did boulte it, for befor it was only shut with a sneck that lifted up, or, as the French call it, unloquet. The logging perteaned seurlly to some personne of quality, for it was very faire, a great courte builded on three quarters, and a baluster of iron on the side towards the garden, which had a faire and large parterre. By good fortune, there was no body in al the logging; whither no body was then dwelling in it, or that al the people were gone to the preaching, I cannot tel, for I was so glad to winne away that I did not enquyr. They did take me through an alle of the garden to a stare which descended by the side of the towne walle: The stare was al of stone, and but little more as one foote broade, and very steep downe. The walle was on the lefte hand of it, and nothing on the other side to sauve people from falling from it to the right hand. My hors made great difficulty to enter it, but one of the gentlewomen did tak the end of the bridle, and going befor him did draw him to her, and I did go behind and pousse him downe until he got his hindermost feet one marche downe, and then he did runne downe al the reste, and

the gentlewoman befor him, and did hold him until the other and I came to her. They were two very handsome gentlewomen, and very civil, and, as I could judge, sisters; for in visage and voice and clothing they were so lyke one another, that they could not be easily distinguished, unles both present together. When we were al downe, they did show me the way to the bridge, distinguished it from the way which did go to Alloway, a little towne upon the same water of Forth; and they bidding God give me good success of my processe, and I giveing them my humble thanks for the great favour which they had done me, we separated. They went up the stare againe, and I to the bridge, but softly, until I had passed the bridge, and was up the bray on the other side of the water.

I thanked God with al my heart and soule, who had so mercifully provided theis two gentlewomen to deliver me out of the danger that threatened me. For if I had gone through the towne (as I would have bein constrained to do if I had not rencountered happily theis gentlewomen) I would have bean sent with a gard to the castel, to bein examined. For the Scots army was then at Newcastel, and no stranger or unknown man was suffered to passe through any towne that had a gouverneur untal he were first presented to him; wher if I had been carried my fortune had bein soone made.

Miscellanea.

FORTH AND CLYDE JUNCTION RAILWAY.

The ceremony of cutting the first sod of the Forth and Clyde Junction Railway took place in Cowane's Hospital Park on 12th January, 1854, the Duke of Montrose cutting and wheeling one or two pieces of turf, and then expressing his wish that the undertaking should be a successful one. A dinner afterwards took place in the Golden Lion Hotel, where upwards of a hundred gentlemen sat down—His Grace occupying the chair, Mr. Bruce of Kennet (father of Lord Balfour of Burleigh) and Mr. Leckie of Arngomery being croupiers.

REV. JAMES GUTHRIE'S CLOCK.

This relic of Covenanting times, after having, as part of the confiscated property of the Martyr, lain for many years in Stirling Castle, was sold with his other effects, falling into the hands of Fort-Major Joice, in whose possession it remained until 1793, when, at the sale of that officer's furniture, it was purchased by a gentleman in Stirling. About 1852 it was presented to the Rev. Dr. Beith, of the Free North Church, who was first minister of the town at the Disruption, and thus, at that time, Guthrie's successor in the parochial charge. A chair which belonged to Guthrie, forms part of the permanent collection in the museum in the Smith Institute.

TEA DIRECT TO STIRLING FROM CHINA.

In September, 1836, it is recorded that Messrs D. & J. MacEwen, grocers, in conjunction with Mr. James Paterson, grocer, Alloa, had ordered, direct from Canton, a large quantity of tea, "a circumstance which could hardly have been expected some years ago. This is one of the fruits of free trade."

DAGUERROTYPE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS.

Among the first daguerrotype portraits taken in Stirling were those in 1843 by Mr. Edwards, of the Royal Adelaide Gallery, London, at Mrs. Stirling's, Melville Terrace, and they were charged 10s. 6d. each.

In 1837 likenesses were taken by a machine "of unerring principles, which in every instance secured the resemblance beyond the possibility of failure," and were delivered in a neat frame and glass for one shilling, by Messrs. Raine, at Miss Brown's lodgings, foot of Baker Street (opposite Mr. Millar's, bookseller).

SEWING MACHINES.

The first sewing machine in Stirling, so far as known, was shown in 1853 by Mr. John Murray, of Victoria Place, who was a tailor and clothier at that time in Bow Street.

JOHN BRIGHT AND RICHARD COBDEN AT A FREE TRADE SOIREE IN STIRLING.

A great and enthusiastic meeting in favour of free trade was held in the Corn Exchange on 17th January, 1843. There were about 1500 persons present, of whom a great number were tenant farmers. Wm. Murray, Esq. of Polmaise, occupied the chair, and Provost Galbraith was croupier. Stirring addresses were given by the chairman, by Richard Cobden, Esq.; John Bright, Esq.; the Hon. Fox Maule; Colonel Perronet Thomson, M.P.; Mr. Stewart, M.P., and others, after which Provost Galbraith presented Mr. Cobden with the freedom of the burgh.

A CURIOUS DISCOVERY.

In 1865, while workmen were engaged making the necessary excavations for the extension of the premises of Messrs. Menzies & Melrose (now Messrs. T. Menzies & Co.), drapers, King Street, they discovered the keel, ribs, and other portions of an ancient canoe. The remains were lying on a bed of matter which looked like straw in a state of decomposition, and which some believed to be sea-weed. The canoe appeared to have been formed of solid block oak. A gun ball, about three inches in diameter, was also found near the spot.

THE HIGH CHURCH BELLS.

These bells, four in number, are very pleasing in tone, and many observations have been made as to the hap-hazard way in which they are manipulated. Although they, as well as the carrillon in Broad Street steeple, offer excellent opportunity for campanology, but little effort has been made to utilise them. In 1836, one of the local newspapers had the following paragraph:—"To prevent the inhabitants being taken by surprise or alarm, we consider it right to state that, at a late meeting of the Council, Mr. Rankin mentioned that some of the non-commissioned officers of the 76th Regiment,

at present quartered here, who are first-rate bell-chimers, and who have a regular set of bells with them, on which they play tunes beautifully, had agreed to instruct some of our townsmen to ring the bells in the High Church tower, which bells they have examined, and declare to be a very fine set, and a sufficient number for a chime. The Council having unanimously approved of it, we may therefore expect a merry peal being struck up some day soon."

"A PUIR FOREFAITHER."

Sandy Bennet was an old school politician, strict in upholding Dissent, and vowing by the wrongs "oor forefaithers" suffered for their adherence to the dictates of conscience in times of old. Sandy was a bit of a Radical, and in the burgh voted for the Liberal candidate. A Tory candidate of the rankest sort, whose purse was all in all, came forward to contest the seat. Poor Sandy was at the time in arrears for rent, and the landlord coerced him into voting against his conscience. His remorse was great, his curses many and deep, but, alas! there was no release. The day after the poll Sandy was met by his old comrade, Radical Jamie, who had been incarcerated in Stirling Castle for some months subsequent to the Bonnymuir Rising. Sandy groaned, and again took up the theme of what "oor forefaithers" had undergone; "they had dee'd for conscience-sake, and for us, their descendants." "Tuts, haud yer tongue, Sandy, you auld fule," says the Radical; "man, Sandy, you wad ha'e made a puir forefaither."



“Stirling: A Satirical Poem.”

The following is taken from “Stirling: A Satirical Poem,” published in 1809:—

See Stirling's sons in various parties meet,
Hands in their breeches, lounging in the street;
Or one by one, in sneaking progress, drop,
To damn mankind in Elgin's idle shop;
While some to R—dp—th's loyal den repair,
To hear Napoleon triumph in despair;
And, lab'ring hard her virtues to efface,
Announce Britannia's glory, stern disgrace.

Others, again, the Coffee-House frequent—
Magnificent, where once the Poet went,
Here as I entered—mark the vast surprise!
What marv'llous objects struck my wondering eyes!
Like fishing-nets, suspended cobwebs spread,
From the black ceiling, almost touch'd my head;
Placards, advertisements, defil'd and torn,
And filthy maps, the greasy walls adorn.
This splendid room most lib'rally affords,
Cover'd with baize, three nine-inch verdant boards;
And dirty candlesticks of purest brass,
With farthing lights, the brilliant tables grace.

Before the fire a politician sate,
One foot politely resting on the grate;
One decent hand the “Evening Star” sustain'd,
The other plac'd—nor was the wretch asham'd;
His greedy elbow on the table held
The “Glasgow Courier,” till the “Star” was spell'd;
A small brown hat secur'd the reptile's head,
Once black his gaiters—drab coat worn to thread;
His waistcoat, breeches, red and plush compose,
And o'er his shanks were drawn his light-blue hose.

OLD FACES.



NOTABLE CITIZENS OF STIRLING.

✓ Professor William Binnie, D.D.

Died 22nd September, 1886.

The Rev. Dr. Binnie, whose stately figure was a familiar one on the streets of Stirling for twenty-six years, was a native of Glasgow, born on 20th August, 1823, his father, Mr. Thomas Binnie, being a well-known builder. The subject of this sketch entered the University of Glasgow before he was fourteen, and graduated Master of Arts at the close of his University career. He seemed to have had no other thought from boyhood than that of being a minister of the Gospel, and was all along of a studious habit of mind. Although tall, he could never be called a robust man. He entered the Divinity Hall of the Reformed Presbyterian Church—of which his father and mother by heredity and conviction were staunch supporters—and studied at Paisley under Dr. Andrew Symington for the usual number of terms. At the close of his theological course in this country, he went to Berlin, where he attended the prelections of the renowned Neander. An illness, which seized him in the then Prussian capital, caused him to shorten the period of his residence and study abroad. Arriving at Glasgow in 1846, he went forward to licence the following year.

Mr. Binnie was called by the Craigs congregation in Stirling

on 12th March, 1849, and was settled on 20th May. He loved the town and our beautiful locality, and every country road in the neighbourhood was well known to him; the strength thus gained being employed in the furtherance of his studies. He was greatly loved and revered by his people, who waited regularly and patiently on his ministry.

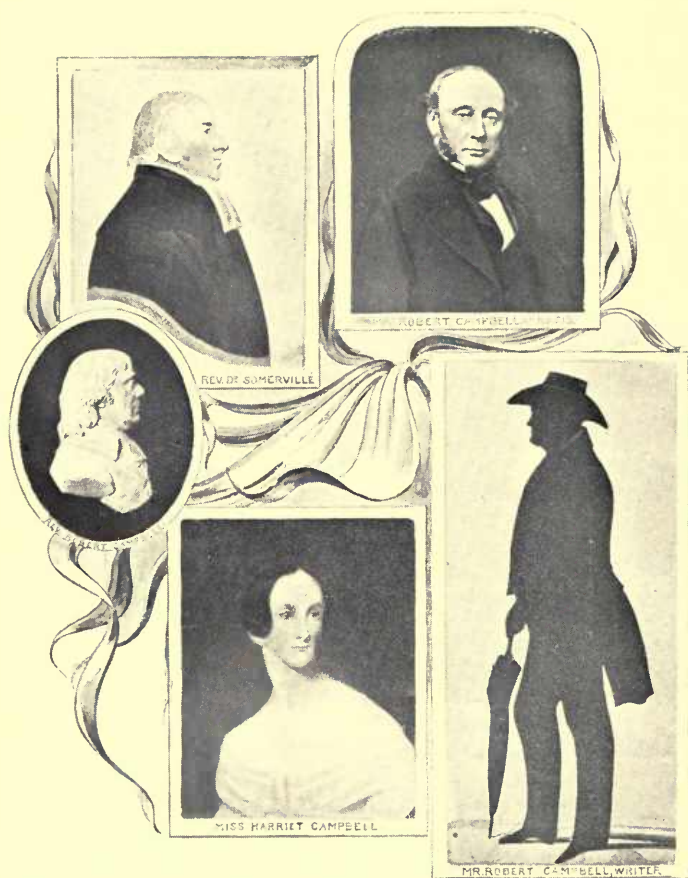
In 1862, the Chair of Systematic Theology became vacant by the death of Dr. William Symington of Glasgow. With one consent the Synod of his denomination called on their minister at Stirling to fill it. To this he consented, travelling daily to Edinburgh during the session, and taking a useful part in the training of the young ministers. The University of Glasgow recognised his eminence and worth by bestowing on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1866.

In 1870, Dr. Binnie published his much-esteemed work on "The Psalms: their History, Teachings, and Use," of which a second edition was brought out in 1886.

In 1875 the late Rev. Dr. Beith of Stirling proposed, in the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, that Dr. Binnie should be appointed to a new chair of Church History in the Free Church College at Aberdeen, and this motion was unanimously agreed to. Accordingly, at the close of the same year, Dr. Binnie removed to Aberdeen, and took up that office, which he held till the close of his life.

In Stirling the worthy Doctor deserves to be remembered gratefully, among other things, for his efforts in the promotion of the education of the young. He was the first Chairman of the School Board of the Burgh of Stirling. In recognition of his character and worth he was entertained, on 20th October, 1875, to a public breakfast. The gathering was attended by many leading citizens of Stirling, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. Beith.

Dr. Binnie died suddenly at Glasgow in September, 1886. He was a gentleman and a scholar, a man greatly beloved and much mourned.



The Campbell Family.

Four Generations.

The Rev. Robert Campbell.

For the last hundred and forty years the Campbells have been prominent citizens of Stirling.

The Reverend Robert Campbell, the first of the family to settle in Stirling, was called to the ministry of the Burgher Congregation (the "Back Row") in succession to the celebrated Erskines, Ebenezer and James. In exercising "the Divine right of a Christian people," the Burghers fought and disputed over his election until he earnestly entreated the Synod to relieve him from his call, which, however, they did not do, and he was finally elected minister in the year 1766, and continued to hold the cure for the long period of thirty-seven years.

Mr. Ramsay of Ochtertyre, in his "Scotland and Scotsmen," remarks on the Church and the Secession thus—"It is curious, however, that the Divine right of the Christian people, which was long the Shibboleth and support of their sect, should at last have produced such heart-burnings and even convulsions as almost baffled their Synod to compose. Some congregations were kept vacant for years, it not being possible to fix the people by chopping and changing the candidate, an expedient which used to prove effectual, and which, in fact, threw the choice into the hands of the clergy. This took place in the case of Mr. Campbell of Stirling, who was a man superior to most of his brethren." The author of the memoir of Mr. Campbell's successor, the Rev. Dr. Smart, says of him—"By the weight of his character, the power of his preaching, and the strict impartiality of his pastoral attentions, the opposition to Mr. Campbell in the congregation was ultimately

subdued, and some of the protesters became his most enamoured admirers. He was a man of commanding presence, a minister of distinguished ability and acquirements, and a preacher of much celebrity."

Mr. Campbell was born in Glasgow in 1738, educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated, and appointed to the ministry in Stirling in 1766. He married—first, Alison, daughter of the Rev. James Fisher, of Kinclaven (afterwards Professor of Divinity in Glasgow), by his wife, Jean Turpie Erskine, daughter of the celebrated Ebenezer Erskine. He married—secondly, Marion Hay, a Fifeshire lady, who bore him two children, Robert and Marion, the latter of whom married Dr. Smart, her father's colleague and successor. Mr. Campbell died at Stirling on 30th June, 1803, in the sixty-fifth year of his age and thirty-seventh of his ministry, and was buried alongside his predecessor, Erskine, in the old original church, the spot being marked now by the monument erected in front of the present church to the memory of Erskine.

A good story is told of Mr. Campbell, that, as he was proceeding home one evening in the dark to his residence at Rosebank (what is now Annfield), on crossing the footbridge over the Town's Burn—which ran across Port Street in those days—the burn being in full spate, he heard a splash and a groan. On calling out, "Who is that?" the well-known voice of one of his flock—a notorious tippler—answered, "It's me, Maister Cawmil. I'm in the swallow's o' Jordan." "Well, well," said Mr. C., "You had better remain there till you get sober, sir."

Mr. Robert Campbell, Writer.

Robert Campbell, only son of the foregoing, was born in Stirling in 1780. He followed the profession of law, and was a man of vigorous character, ability, and intellectual culture. A Tory of the Tories in politics, he was agent for the party in the stirring times of the Reform Bill agitation, and his zeal led him into many a political fray, in which personal

violence and outrage were not unknown. Mr. Campbell held the office of Clerk to the Commissioners of Supply, and had a large practice in his profession. Like his father, he was a man of immense stature, and his appearance, as represented in the silhouette, crowned by his peculiar, canoe-shaped hat, made him a well-known figure in the Broad Street and St. Mary's Wynd, his residence being what is now the Episcopal School house. Mr. Campbell married, in 1806, Mary Hinton Hasluck, an English lady, who bore him a large family of sons and daughters.

Miss Harriet Campbell.

His daughter, Harriet, whose portrait we give, was a young lady of great ability and promise. She was the authoress of several novels of no ordinary merit, viz., "The Cardinal Virtues," "The Only Daughter," and "Katherine Randolph," but she died at the early age of 24.

Mr. Robert Campbell, Procurator-Fiscal.

Robert Campbell, the third of the name, was the eldest son of the preceding. He was born in Stirling in the year 1808, and educated at Stirling Grammar School and Edinburgh University.

He followed his father's profession of the law, and, inheriting his father's zeal in politics, he also prominently identified himself with the Tory side, and was a zealous and active agent of the party in the county. He was also Clerk to the Commissioners of Supply, and, in 1861, succeeded Mr. Robert Sconce as Procurator-Fiscal, which office he held till his death in 1879.

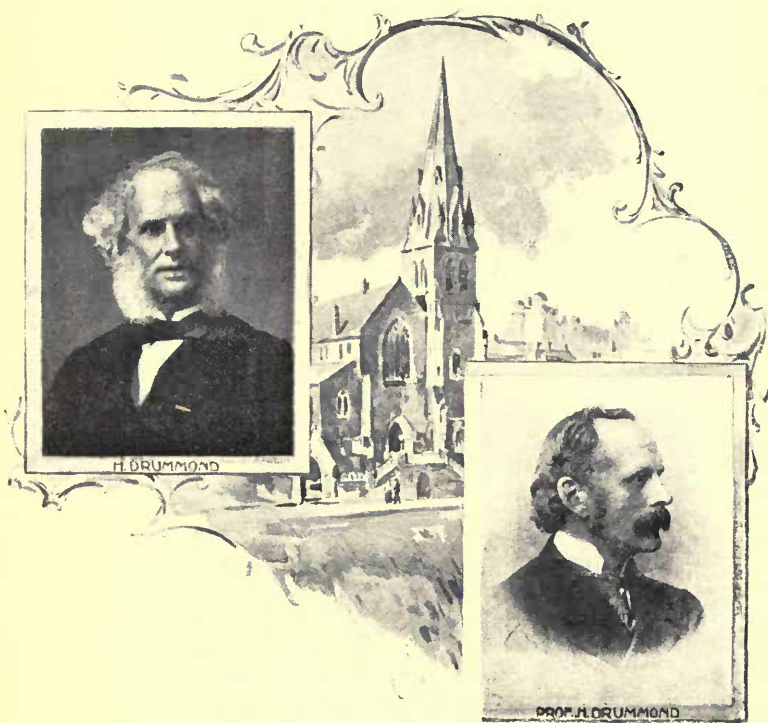
The family is represented in Stirling in the fourth generation by Mr. J. W. Campbell, agent of the Bank of Scotland.

✓ Professor Henry Drummond, F.R.G.S.

Died 11th March, 1897.

This distinguished scientist, author, and traveller was the second son of the late Mr. Henry Drummond, seedsman in Stirling, and nephew of Mr. Peter Drummond, the originator of the Stirling Tract Enterprise. He was born at Stirling in 1851, and received his early education at the High School, where he had as companions Dr. Watson ("Ian Maclaren") and William Durham, Dr. Watson's "Lad o' pairts." He attended Crieff Academy for some time, passing, in 1866, to the University of Edinburgh. Though it never was his ambition to gain prizes, he worked hard, especially in the study of biology, botany, and kindred sciences. He entered eagerly into the life of the city, and was noted alike for his personal charm and for the great interest he took in what was transpiring around him. A chair of geology being instituted, with Professor Geikie as first occupant, Henry Drummond was the first to enter his name on the class list. The Professor and he soon became close friends, and in after years visited together the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Drummond's religious impressions began very early, and these led him later on to enter the New College, the well-known theological seminary of the Free Church in Edinburgh, where he soon attained a prominent position among the students. He was preparing for the degree of Doctor of Science when Messrs Moody and Sankey visited Scotland for the first time, and his association with them turned his thoughts into another channel. A deep affection sprang up between Mr. Moody and Mr. Drummond, who was persuaded to accompany the evangelists on a tour through the three kingdoms, his simple yet pointed addresses and winning manner being specially helpful to many, both young and old, whose minds had been directed to spiritual concern. On several occasions, also, Mr. Drummond subsequently visited America,



for the purpose of delivering addresses in connection with various educational institutions.

Another of Mr. Drummond's large-hearted works was that among the slums of Edinburgh. On a piece of vacant ground at the foot of Blackfriars Street an enterprising play-actor had erected a variety theatre, or "Penny Gaff," which, on week-day evenings, was filled by the lowest denizens of the Cowgate. Mr. James Fairbairn, a brother of Principal Fairbairn, took the "Gaff" for Sabbath evenings, and there Professor Drummond delivered many addresses. The little theatre was attended on Sabbath days by the very class who frequented it on other nights, and on the stage was a drawing-room scene, fairly well painted. One evening a little boy of eight led the singing, and at Professor Greenfield's request tried a solo, but began on too high a key. "Too high, Jamie; try again," said Mr. Drummond encouragingly, which the little singer did, and succeeded. On the way to these meetings Professor Drummond used to speak to groups of men standing at the street corners, and endeavoured to induce them to come with him. When they asked, "What for?" he would reply, to hear something that would raise them, and many of the lowest characters in Edinburgh first heard the Gospel through his persuasion. His work amongst the students of the New College was something phenomenal, the freshness and originality of his presentation of religious truth commending itself to them no less than his winsome manner and singleness of purpose, and not only in that College, but in others, as well as amongst young men generally, were his untiring efforts manifestly blessed.

In 1888, Professor Drummond was presented with a requisition, signed by Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Curzon, and others, to deliver lectures on four Sunday afternoons in June at Grosvenor House, London, lent for the purpose by the Duke of Westminster. These lectures were duly given in June, but Professor Drummond earnestly requested the press not to insert even a brief sketch of them, as such would be apt to be misleading.

In 1877 Mr. Drummond was appointed Lecturer on Natural Science at the Free Church College, Glasgow, which soon be-

came one of the most popular classes there, the lectures being always fresh, lively, and up-to-date. His first literary work was two sketches on Alva Glen and Gilmour's Linn, both in the neighbourhood, written for "The Stirling Observer." The first of these was published when he was about seventeen, and has the charm of style which afterwards so strongly marked his writings. In 1883 he gave to the public "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," which has had a circulation of hundreds of thousands, and been translated into French, German, Dutch, and Norwegian. He afterwards published "Tropical Africa," after an eventful expedition up the Zambezi; this being followed by "The Ascent of Man," being his lectures given at the Lowell Institution, Boston, U.S.A. His other works, though of a lesser nature, were cordially received, and attained enormous circulation. These were "The Greatest Thing in the World," "Pax Vobiscum," "The Changed Life," "The Programme of Christianity," and "The City Without a Church." "The Greatest Thing in the World" has been translated into various languages.

As a boy Professor Drummond was noted for his brightness and winsomeness, and was beloved by his elders. He was devoted to his mother, who was latterly the only person he wrote to, and his last words were a message of love to her. He set great store on his father's esteem, who lived to know his son famed and beloved, both for his works and also for his goodness and greatness of heart. Before his illness, when at Glasgow he often took a run to Stirling to see his mother, tapping at the window frame unexpectedly, remaining a couple of hours or so, and then back to Glasgow to his duties. The Professor was long and closely intimate with the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, among whose children he was known as "Uncle Henn." At their house he often met Mr. Gladstone, who, with others, urged him to enter Parliament, but he always declined.

The news of the Professor's death at Tunbridge sent a thrill through Christendom. He was one of the purest and most lovable spirits that ever graced this planet. To know him, to look into those large, lustrous eyes, to feel the warm clasp of

his hand, was in very truth to love him. And to love Henry Drummond enabled one the more truly to love everything good, and noble, and true. He was buried in Stirling Cemetery on Monday, 15th March, when a very large company, both lay and clerical, from all parts of the country assembled to pay their last token of respect to the remains of a dear friend and teacher. A short service was held in his mother's house by two of his closest friends, the Rev. D. M. Ross, Dundee, and the Rev. James Brown. A public service also took place in the Free North Church, which was completely filled. The coffin—which was placed near the pulpit—was surrounded by professors and ministers, and in the body of the church were relatives and friends, the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Stirling; students of his College, with the janitor; representatives of the Canal Boatmen's Institute, the Boys' Brigade, and other bodies with which the Professor had been identified. Rev. Dr. Stalker, Glasgow, who presided, read telegrams from Princeton University, America; the Honourable W. E. Dodge and other friends in New York; and from the Earl of Aberdeen, at that time Governor-General of Canada. A very impressive service included the singing, by the congregation, of the following verses of the 54th Paraphrase, which the Professor had frequently asked during his illness to be sung, and in which he had joined the Sabbath before his death:—

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend His cause,
Maintain the glory of His cross
And honour all His laws.

Jesus, my Lord! I know His name;
His name is all my boast:
Nor will He put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.

I know that safe with Him remains,
Protected by His power,
What I've committed to His trust,
Till the decisive hour.

Then will He own His servant's name
Before His Father's face,
And in the new Jerusalem
Appoint my soul a place.

After reading from the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians, Dr. Alexander Whyte, Edinburgh, engaged in prayer, and the benediction being pronounced by Dr. Bruce, the cortege proceeded to the cemetery, where the coffin was taken from the hearse and carried on the shoulders of students to the grave. As the remains were being lowered beside those of his honoured father, the students sang the last verse of the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," and after prayer had been offered by the Rev. D. M. Ross, the "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the Boys' Brigade (with which organisation the Professor was intimately associated, as he saw in it great possibilities for the youth of the country), and the mournful and impressive ceremony terminated, the grave thereafter being literally covered with floral wreaths and other tokens of respect for the memory of the deceased Professor, in whose removal it was abundantly manifest many had lost a very dear and valued friend.

Rev. Robert Frew, D.D.

This revered and highly-esteemed minister of the Gospel, although in the 87th year of his age and the 65th of his ministry, still continues his sacred calling with eye undimmed and mental vigour unimpaired.

Born at Perth 8th September, 1813, he studied at the University of St. Andrews, and entered the Theological Hall of the Relief Church in 1831. After completing his studies he was licensed by the Presbytery of Perth in June, 1835, and, after a short period of probation, was called to the St. Ninians congregation as colleague and successor to Rev. Mr. Logan, on 25th November in that year.

Only a few incidents of the Rev. Doctor's life can be noticed in this sketch. His distinguished talents as a theologian were acknowledged by the University of St. Andrews in 1856, when

he had conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. On 27th November, 1860, when he completed the 25th year of his ministry, a large gathering took place in the church at St. Ninians, to congratulate him on the auspicious occasion. Many of his friends and brethren (a good number now gone) gave testimony on that occasion to his great worth, his scholarly attainments, and his beautiful character. In 1868 he was appointed to the Moderator's chair of the United Presbyterian Church, a position which he filled to the satisfaction and admiration of all.

Another great gathering of the St. Ninians congregation and friends was held on 21st July, 1873, on the occasion of the centenary of the church, when it was said "there never was such a meeting of Doctors of Divinity in St. Ninians before—these having come, not on account of the occasion itself, but out of respect for Dr. Frew." A small but interesting volume was issued at that time, which contained a history of the church, prepared by Dr. Frew, and is well worthy of perusal.

On 29th December, 1885, the Doctor was entertained at a public banquet in Stirling on the occasion of his jubilee celebration, when a great company sat down to do him honour. When expressing thankfulness for such a reception, the Doctor confessed he felt quite overwhelmed, and said the occasion would remain engraven on his heart for the rest of his life. At a service in the evening, the Doctor was presented with £1200 and several addresses.

Another remarkable gathering took place on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of his ministry (26th November, 1894), when he was presented with his portrait, and numerous friends testified to his continued usefulness, his unfailing courtesy and kindness, and specially his help in the great cause of missions. A poetess of some note wrote a song of thanksgiving for the occasion, in which she says of him—

“With sorrow’s sons and daughters
He, like Lis Master, wept
When, ’mid the swelling waters,
The billows o’er them swept ;

A son of consolation,
Of strength a very tower,
In walk and conversation
A presence and a power."

The writer of this notice was present on that occasion, and on remarking to one of the members of the church that no such gathering would ever be likely again to take place within its walls, was answered, "Oh, yes, when the Doctor attains the seventieth year of his ministry."

Bishop Gleig.

Died 9th March, 1840.

Bishop George Gleig was born at Boghall, in the parish of Arbuthnot, near Stonehaven, on 12th May, 1753. After receiving his early education at Arbuthnot, he, at the early age of 13, went to King's College, Aberdeen, where his career was one of the most brilliant on record. In his youth Mr. Gleig was an ardent Jacobite—Jacobitism having been instilled into him from his tenderest years, and his ancestors had fought and suffered for the cause. His father rented a farm under Lord Arbuthnot, which up to 1715 had belonged to the family of Glegg, when his father (the Bishop's grandfather) having gone with Lord Mar's forces, only escaped hanging as a traitor through the kindness of his neighbours, and by changing the spelling of his name from Glegg to Gleig. There is no information that any of the family were out in the '45. The restrictions and penalties enacted against the Episcopalians after Culloden acted on the young mind of George Gleig, and made him what he was for many years, "a rank Jacobite," but in after years, seeing how hopeless the cause was, he submitted to the reigning power.

Mr. Gleig was ordained in 1773 to the charges of Crail and Pittenweem, where, in 1765, the whole subscriptions amounted to only £8 3s.; but in 1772 they rose to £30. In 1787 Mr. Gleig was appointed to the charge at Stirling, which for fifty-

five years continued his home, and where he died. At the time of Mr. Gleig's appointment Stirling had in a high degree the advantage of intellectual and well-cultured society. There was an excellent Literary Society, connected with which were Doctor Doig, the headmaster of the Grammar School, an admirable classic; Mr. Ramsay of Ochtertyre, a great antiquary; Mr. Moir of Leckie; Mr. Graham of Meiklewood; Sir William Stuart of Allanton and Touch; and Lord Woodhouselee. They met at times for literary and scientific discussion.

The Stirling congregation having been broken up by reason of the Penal Laws, for many years after 1746 there was no place wherein public worship was performed, and the clergyman, whose name was Skene, used to go to the houses of his flock, and administer to them the Holy Sacrament, at the risk of being arrested, imprisoned, and transported. One of the houses in which these furtive exercises used to be conducted was Murrayshall. Another place where they congregated is now used by Mr. Sangster, china merchant, top of Spittal Street, as a store. It was reached by descending a narrow flight of steps, and was low and dark, being lighted by windows only on one side. A little space railed in at one end enclosed the altar, and one tribune served for both reading-desk and pulpit. The congregation numbered about 50 people, and consisted of county families and about 20 poor persons, some of them emigrants from the Highlands. There were also two or three old ladies, Jacobites to the heart's core, who, long after the regular church was built, continued, as often as the Royal Family were prayed for, to shut their books with a slam, rise from their knees, and yawn audibly.

The Scottish congregation met in Broad Street, in an old house bearing the motto, "Nisi Dominus frustra." The room used as a church was about 30 feet long, divided into five compartments, with glass sashes, holding four or five each, so that the clergyman might keep within the letter of the law, which forbade more than five persons to meet for service.

Mr. Gleig, when inducted into the cure at Stirling, resided in the Bakers' Wynd, now Baker Street, occupying a house above the shop of Mr. Sawers, baker, and which is at

present occupied by Mr. Brown, furniture dealer. He occupied the two flats and attics, and here his son, the late Chaplain-General of the British Forces, was born. About 1802 Mr. Gleig purchased a house in Upper Bridge Street, where he resided until his death. In 1789 Mr. Gleig married Janet, the youngest daughter of Robert Hamilton of Kilbraemont, who bore him three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Gleig was consecrated Bishop of Brechin in 1808; and created Primus in 1816, which dignity he retained till within a short period of his death. It was not as a clergyman alone that Bishop Gleig deserves to be held in remembrance. He was author of several important works; but his reputation rests on a much broader basis—on labours which, though necessarily anonymous, were highly appreciated in England as well as in Scotland. While superintending the issue of the third edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica," he contributed very valuable articles, amongst which may be mentioned "Theology" and "Metaphysics;" he was, besides, during many years a regular contributor to the London periodicals. The Bishop was ever ready in promoting objects of charity, and took great interest in the schools of the town. He was of an essentially kind and benevolent nature, and never condescended to personal animosity, whatever opposition he met with in public.

By the year 1830 his health had begun to decline, and in May, 1835, writing to Bishop Torry, he said, "I completed my 81st year yesterday, and have not been able these five years to go into bed or come out of it, far less go up and down stairs, without help." The decay of his faculties began when he was in his 83rd year. He was able to take a daily walk, leaning on his son's arm, when he visited him. The reverence which the people had for the old man was very touching. A large stone, called "the Bishop's Stone," was placed on the footpath of the road leading from the Old Bridge to Causewayhead. It was about half-a-mile or so from his house, and on this he used to rest a little before returning. By and bye strength failed him even for this, and for a year or so his only movement was from his bedroom to his study,



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BARNTON STREET.

and on 9th March, 1840, he passed away as quietly as an infant sleeps. When he died he had nearly completed his eighty-seventh year, and at that time been fifty-two years in Stirling, thirty-two years a Bishop and twenty-four years Primate. His remains were placed beside those of Mrs. Gleig, in a chapel attached to the Greyfriars Church, Stirling, and rich and poor alike followed his body to the grave, eager to pay their tribute of respect. His son,

The Reverend George Robert Gleig, M.A.,

Chaplain-General of the Forces,

was born in Stirling in 1796. In 1812, while a student at the University of Oxford, he joined, as a volunteer, a regiment then marching through that city on its way to Lisbon. Having obtained a commission in the 85th Regiment, he served in the Peninsula. During the American War in 1812-1814 he was engaged in the campaign of Washington, at the capture of which city, in August, 1814, he was severely wounded. In 1821 he published an account of the "Campaigns of Washington and New Orleans." At the close of the war he retired on half-pay, and, having completed his studies at Oxford, took holy orders, and in 1822 was presented, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the living of Ivy Church, Kent. In 1825 he published "The Subaltern," a novel founded on his experience in the Peninsular War. In 1844 he was appointed Chaplain of Chelsea Hospital, and in 1846 Chaplain-General of the Forces. He wrote a variety of biographical, historical, and religious works, his most interesting and most important being his "Life of the Duke of Wellington."

Rev. Alexander Leitch, M.A.

Died 17th April, 1868.

Few provincial towns in Scotland could, with truth, boast of clergymen more famous, in one way or another, than Stirling. Ebenezer Erskine, "Black" Russell, Robert Camp-

bell, John Smart, Archibald Binnie, Alexander Beith, John Stuart, all, in their turn, played important parts in its ecclesiastical history. The name of Alexander Leitch, latterly of the Free South Church, also calls for notice, not only on account of his amiability of character and useful pulpit ministrations, but by reason of his godly life day by day, and fervent desire to do his Master's work wherever and whenever found. Born in Glasgow, at an early age he devoted himself to the ministry, and his first charge was at Gartmore, to which he was appointed in 1825. From the first Mr. Leitch made it manifest that his primary object was to do his best to save souls, and generally to extend the boundaries of Messiah's kingdom. It has been recorded, by one well able to judge of his character and aims, that "He was at times carried away by his anxiety to bring the sinner to Christ."

In 1832 Mr. Leitch was called to the third charge in Stirling, and proved himself not only a faithful and zealous minister, but a firm friend to the poor, the needy, and distressed, apart from denomination or creed. When the Disruption of 1843 came, Mr. Leitch joined the Free Church, but as Dr. Norman Walker shows in his "Memorials" of Mr. Leitch (published in 1871), it was not without hesitation that he left the Established Church; and he was one of those who witnessed with sadness the withdrawal of Chalmers and his friends from St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, on that memorable day when they marched to Tanfield Hall, Canonmills. It is not to be denied, also, that Mr. Leitch's wife had something to do with his decision to leave the Establishment. A reference to Dr. Walker's "Memorials" (page 43), will go far to verify this. Mrs. Leitch appears to have been a woman of principle in the most unselfish sense, and all her sympathies were with Chalmers and his followers.

In reviewing the general character and characteristics of Mr. Leitch, they are found to be rather of a rare than of a common kind. When one recalls his kindly face and words; when memory lifts the curtain and gives a glimpse of the serenity and sweet content which—alike by nature and by

unquestioning faith—rested on his brow, the Vicar of Wakefield or the good and reverend clergyman described in "The Deserted Village" are brought to mind. All through life he gave daily evidence that he was meek and lowly in heart, and he never allowed an opportunity to pass of trying to do good. His ambition was all heavenward, and he sought not worldly reward. With the trustfulness of a child Mr. Leitch looked forward to his Master's reward, which abideth for ever.

One of the delights of Mr. Leitch's life was to interest himself in, and encourage, young students connected with Stirling. One of these young men says he came often in close contact with Mr. Leitch, and to this hour he speaks with deep regard and reverence of him and his many acts of kindness and hospitality. It was the good man's custom to invite him to his house on the evening before returning to college. Many good and kind advices he got, and, after supper, he used to say quietly to his young friend, "Willie, come with me." Reaching his study and closing the door, Mr. Leitch prayed fervently for the young student, not only that he might succeed in his studies, but he kept from the snares and temptations of an evil world. After the lapse of many years "Willie" speaks of Mr. Leitch with unbounded love and reverence, and declares that to him he owes, in great measure, any good principle he possesses.

In April, 1868, Mr. Leitch went to Maryhill, Glasgow, to fulfil a preaching engagement for an old friend, which he was able in part to accomplish. But he was seen to be ill; and, on the Monday, he significantly said to his friend, "My work is done," on the following Friday passing quietly away. His funeral was a public one, and was followed not only by the Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Stirling, but by the High Constables, whose genial chaplain he had been for many years. The Sheriff of the County was also in the procession, and many clergymen of all denominations, amongst them the Rev. Paul Maclachlan, the Roman Catholic clergyman of Stirling, who had been a close friend. Mr. Leitch and Mr. Maclachlan were much alike in their kindly and earnest

natures, and often met on the stairheads in Broad Street, St. Mary's Wynd, and other quarters of Stirling, where dwelt, not the rich, but the poorest of the poor. It was the delight of both these men to do what in them lay to smooth the pillow of the sick, the sorrowful, the afflicted, and the dying. Their real loftiness shone forth in their lowliness.

Mr. Leitch was not only a devoted minister, but a kindly and warm friend, by no means devoid of either wit or humour; and, above all, never was he entangled in dispute, or uttered a word which could, in the slightest degree, give offence or pain. He was alike pure in thought, heart, and life; and, beyond all doubt, is reaping the everlasting reward which remaineth for the people of God.

The Muschets.

We give the portraits of three generations of this now extinct Stirling family. There are still some who remember Dr. Patrick, and many who were well acquainted with Dr. John Saunders Muschet, of Birkhill, who died thirteen years ago.

The Rev. John Muschet, who was minister of the High Church, was the son of Mr. Harie Muschet, of Cuthill (or Kirklands), in the parish of Kincardine, by his wife, Anna Robertson. He was born in February, 1728, ordained to the ministry on 2nd August, 1760, inducted to the Second Charge in the Parish of Stirling the same year, and to the First Charge in 1780. He married Ann Graham, daughter of David Graham of Meiklewood, May, 1762, and by her he had Dr. Patrick, whose portrait is given. He died 22nd April, 1795, and was interred in the chancel of the East Church.

Mr. Harie Muschet of Kirklands was the last who bore that territorial title, the land having been in possession of his ancestors from the Reformation. At one time the Muschets—who were the first barons of Kincardine—occupied every farm in Menteith, from Norriestown on the west to Mill of Torr on the east, and from the Ross of Meiklewood



on the south to Calziechat on the north; and the late Dr. John Saunders Muschet was the last of a race greatly distinguished indeed in olden times (having given a Queen to Scotland), and through the fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries intermarrying with the oldest and most distinguished families in the kingdom. In the Doctor's veins ran the blood of the Edmonstones of Duntreath, the Stirlings of Keir, the Murrays of Tullibardine, the Guthries of that ilk, the Forresters of Torwood, the Drummonds of Colquhalzie, the Campbells of Ardkinglass, and many others; and exceedingly proud was he of his descent. The decay of the main branch of the family seems to have begun as far back as the middle of the seventeenth century, in the time of the Doctor's great-great-great-grandfather. The "Laird Muschet" of that date is said to have entertained the King (Charles I.) at a hunting party at Burnbank (now Blair Drummond), and to have begun then to "perish the pack." Certain it is that about this time the bulk of the Muschet lands passed into the hands of the Drummond family, who have held them ever since. A notable instance of the vicissitudes of families is found in the fact, that, while as late as two hundred years ago the Muschets swarmed in Menteith, there is not now left one man of the name within the bounds of the old stewardry.

Dr. Patrick Muschet, as above noted, was the only son of the Rev. John, and, adopting the medical profession, lived an uneventful life, although brought more or less into contact with all classes of the community. His only son, Dr. John Saunders Muschet, the last male descendant of the Menteith Muschets, after devoting himself for some time also to the medical profession, latterly lived a more or less retired life at his residence at Birkhill, near Cambusbarron. As a J.P. of the county he frequently attended the Courts, but otherwise took little part in public matters. He was a man of somewhat irascible temper, and was uncompromising and severe with those who differed from him. A rather good story is told apropos the Doctor's quarrel with his minister, the late Rev. Dr. Beith, and how Dr. Muschet nourished and perpetuated his dislike for that eminent Disruption minister. A friend

calling upon him on the occasion of his being indisposed, found the Doctor seated in front of his dining-room fire, with two fine cats, one on either side of him. The friend remarked that they were fine animals, and very like each other, and asked if they had names. "Oh, yes," said the Doctor; "they are full brothers; this one we call 'the Devil' and the other 'Dr. Beith.'" Another story is told, illustrative also of his irascibility. He had taken a lady friend to visit the tombs of his kindred in the old burying-ground at Kincardine-in-Menteith, and the lady, thinking it a favourable opportunity to "draw" the old gentleman as to his intentions regarding the disposal of his estate, began to moralise on the brevity of life and its uncertainty, and to comment on the prudence of having everything arranged for the call when it came. Her hints, however, could not induce the Doctor to gratify her curiosity, so she resolved to put the question direct. "And who's to get your money, Doctor?" Sharp came the Doctor's reply, "The Devil, madam!" If the lawyers can in any sense be said to personify his Satanic Majesty, the legatee has, if all stories be true, got at any rate a large payment to account, as he died intestate, and his property fell to the Crown, as *ultima hæres*, but it is now in possession of the legal heirs. The Doctor died 24th October, 1886, aged 85.

A project he took up very warmly was for the erection of a Bruce Memorial Chapel at Chapelcroft, Cambusbarron, on the site of a former chapel there, in which King Robert Bruce was said to have partaken of the Lord's Supper the evening before the Battle of Bannockburn. The project, however, did not meet with ready response, and was abandoned.

Rev. James Somerville, D.D.

Died 23rd January, 1817.

The Rev. James Somerville, a native of the parish of Carnwath, was called by the Town Council, Kirk Session, and Heritors of Stirling, from the parish of Whitburn to the second charge of Stirling in July, 1789, and to the first charge on 9th May, 1793.

His first charge was the collegiate one of the Scottish Churches at Rotterdam, from which he was presented to the living of Whitburn on 10th May, 1775. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the University and Marischal College, Aberdeen, in October, 1793. Mr. Somerville contributed, to Sir John Sinclair's "Statistical Account of Scotland," published in 1793, the article dealing with the Town and Parish of Stirling, which, at the urgent request of several subscribers, we have reproduced at the end of this volume.

Scott, in his "Fasti Ecclesianae," says—"In preaching his manner was fervent, animated, affectionate, and impressive, while his sentiments were strictly evangelical. Though deeply imbued with religious feeling, yet was he sociable and benevolent in an eminent degree, easy of access, anxiously interested in and tenderly sympathising with the wants and wishes of his parishioners." He died on the 23rd January, 1817, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and the forty-second of his ministry. A marble slab, erected in the West Church, bears the following inscription:—

To the Memory
of the Rev. James Somerville, D.D.,
First Minister of Stirling,
who died 23rd January, 1817, in the 69th year
of his age and 42nd of his Ministry.
For the space of 27 years he zealously discharged
the public and private duties of his
sacred office in this parish,
and was, by the blessing of Divine Providence,
the happy instrument of alluring many
to the ways of holiness,
which lead to everlasting life.
His numerous friends,
desirous of paying a tribute to his worth
as a faithful Minister,
a good man,
and a sincere Christian,
Erected this Monument, 1819.

It may be noted that Dr. Somerville and his family were the last to occupy the picturesque old manse which stood at the east end of the High Kirk, and which is described in ex-Bailie Ronald's book, "Landmarks of Old Stirling."

Dr. Somerville married Anna Yates, daughter of Alex. Yates, merchant, of Aberdeen and Rotterdam, and by her had a family of one son and several daughters. His descendants are represented in Stirling now by the widow and family of the late Robert Campbell, Procurator-Fiscal.

The late Mr. William Peddie, news agent, remembered Dr. Somerville, and was wont to relate his experience of the kindness of his disposition, and how on one occasion he called down the blessing of heaven upon him when a mere child, and when he was engaged assisting his mother (who had on the day in question been left a widow) to store a cart of peats which had been emptied at their door. Mr. Peddie used to say that the fervour and devotedness of the old man's blessing had a great effect upon him in after life.

Provost James Forman.

Died 28th February, 1838.

This estimable gentleman died at his residence, No. 8 Broad Street, in the 62nd year of his age. Mr. Forman carried on business as a bookseller in Stirling for upwards of forty years, his shop being at No. 10 Broad Street. He had, previous to being elected Provost, been a Bailie for about fifteen years. At the time of the Reform Bill agitation in 1830-31 he was Chief Magistrate, and conducted himself "greatly to the satisfaction of the citizens and to the credit of the town, when the dignity of the Provostship was attempted to be encroached upon by the bustling zeal of other functionaries." He was unanimously chosen to be the first Provost of the burgh when the Reform Bill came into operation, notwithstanding that he made great exertion to induce some one else to fill the office. Much against his will he



deferred to the wishes of his colleagues, but resigned at the end of the first year, in consequence of growing infirmities. Mr. Forman took an active part in the work of the public institutions of the town, especially those of a charitable character. In July, 1831, he was the recipient of a testimonial, in the form of a handsome silver salver (now in the possession of his nearest relative, Miss Christie, Culloden Villa, Portobello), from the Stirling Gas-Light Company, as "a mark of gratitude for his faithful services as their Treasurer since the commencement of the Company." For general suavity of manners and kindness of disposition he had few equals, and his death was universally regretted by the citizens. The portrait we reproduce is from an oil painting (also in the possession of Miss Christie), which is spoken of as an exceedingly good likeness.

✓ Provost John Sawers.

1849-1858.

John Sawers was born at Viewfield, Stirling, on 17th December, 1817. He was a son of Mr. John Sawers, a native of Stirling, who spent thirty-six years of his life in Jamaica. Provost Sawers was educated at the Burgh School of Stirling and at Dollar Academy, and, having resolved to devote himself to banking, served his apprenticeship in the Commercial Bank of Scotland in Stirling. At the termination of his apprenticeship he was for a short time in Edinburgh, in the office of the newly-formed Edinburgh and Leith Bank, afterwards Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. On reaching his 21st year he was appointed agent of that bank at Tillicoultry, the first bank agency opened at the "Hillfoots," then a rising woollen manufacturing district. After remaining there for two years he was translated to Stirling, to open a branch of the bank there.

Very soon after settling in Stirling Mr. Sawers was appointed Dean of the Guildry and Dean of Guild of the Town Council. After holding these offices for five years he was elected Provost

of the burgh, which office he held for nine years. His public spirit and business activity soon found scope in various ways. His first public act—which gave rise to a good deal of discussion—was the purchase, in a quiet way, of a large ugly building at the top of Broad Street which disfigured the view of the fine old churches. About the same time he set on foot a scheme for laying sewage pipes in the streets; but as a number of proprietors refused to connect their house pipes with the mains, and the Town Council possessed no compulsory powers, Provost Sawers convened a public meeting of the inhabitants, by whom the Police Act was adopted in the burgh, and the extended powers thereby acquired by the Magistrates and Town Council led to many important improvements in the town.

Within two years of his appointment as Provost of the burgh, Mr. Sawers, in consideration of his services to the community, was entertained at a large public dinner in the Golden Lion Hotel. Some time thereafter, with the active aid of Bailies Rankin and Morison, the Provost purchased, from the then Earl of Mar, "Mar's Work," at the head of Broad Street, with the ground behind, and the present beautiful Cemetery was thus begun to be formed.

On receiving one morning a letter from Colonel Tovey Tenant, of Stanmore, near London (a native of Stirling, who was married to a daughter of Sir Archibald Christie, Governor of Stirling Castle), along with a cheque for £1000 towards the erection of a High School in his native town, the Provost called a meeting of the Council and chief inhabitants, by whom a committee was formed to collect subscriptions, of which committee the Provost was chairman and the Rev. Dr. Beith deputy-chairman. A considerable sum was soon collected, which, supplemented from the funds of the burgh, was the beginning of the now prosperous High School of Stirling. As a strong friend of education, Provost Sawers did his utmost to assist in getting the very best teachers for the High School. On his advice the Council first appointed Dr. Donaldson (now Principal Donaldson, of St. Andrews University) to be rector of the school, and on the removal of that gentleman to the

High School of Edinburgh, Mr. Paton, now Dr. Paton, and rector of the Glasgow High School, became his successor.

Being an active man of business, Provost Sawers was for many years a director of the Scottish Central Railway Company, and of the Dunblane, Doune, and Callander Railway Company; auditor of the Stirling and Dunfermline Railway Company; and one of the promoters and directors of the Forth and Clyde Junction Railway Company.

During the reign of Provost Sawers an event occurred of a kind not so common then as it has become in recent years, and he frequently referred to it as a memorable one in his experience. Along with some of the Provosts of the largest burghs in Scotland, he was invited by the Lord Mayor of London to a banquet in the Guild Hall there, to meet Prince Albert, who had then proposed the first great national exhibition, and he was afterwards present at the return dinner given at York. The Provost was appointed to collect samples of the manufactures, etc., of this district for the exhibition, and, in consideration of his services in this respect, he was, at the close of this memorable undertaking, presented with a medallion by Prince Albert.

Although a staunch Conservative, a strong adherent of the Church of Scotland, and a Representative Elder from the Burgh for many years at the General Assembly, Mr. Sawers never allowed his political or ecclesiastical tendencies to prevent his maintaining the most agreeable relations with all classes of the citizens. Indeed, the writer of these notes recalls the fact that many of his most intimate friends were keen, steady-going Whigs, and adherents of one or other of the Dissenting Churches. It is particularly recollected by some of the older townspeople that, at the time of the Disruption, when the congregation of the West Church, under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Leitch, had not a place wherein to worship, they were much gratified in obtaining from the Provost, as the then Dean of the Guildry, the use of the Guild Hall, the erection of the beautiful window in which took place during the time Mr. Sawers held that office.

On the winding up of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, in

which he was one of the largest shareholders, Mr. Sawers removed to Gothenburg, the chief shipping and mercantile city in Sweden, where he continues actively to carry on business, although now in his 82nd year. He is now not so able to go into society as he used to be, but is a diligent reader of the English and Scotch newspapers, and has been long engaged in gathering old china, of which he has perhaps the finest collection in the north of Europe. His three sons, who were educated at the High School of Stirling, are prosperous men. The eldest, John, is Superintendent of the Bank of Australasia, and has charge of the many branches of that institution scattered over the Australasian Colonies. His second son, Robert, holds a high official position at Euston, for the London and North Western Railway Company; and his youngest son, William, who is owner of two large sheep runs in New South Wales, is Member of Parliament for his county, and resides at Sydney.

The print of the photograph of Provost Sawers which we have been enabled to present to our readers, was taken when he was about 80 years of age, and includes also a portrait of his grand-daughter.

✓ Provost George Christie.

1870-1879.

Among those who have made local history, Provost George Christie occupies an honourable position. A "Son of the Rock," having been born in the ancient burgh, he comes of a family which has been connected with Stirlingshire for nearly three hundred years. Mr. Christie received his education at the Burgh School. In company with his brother, the late John Christie, Esq. of Forthbank, he engaged in the business of brick and tile manufacture, then being successfully prosecuted by his father at the Shore, Stirling, at Perth, Aberuthven, and Blackgrange, and to this commercial enterprise he devoted his attention for a number of years.

Mr. Christie's public life dates from 1867, when he entered the Town Council under the old system, and took his seat at the municipal board as one of the party of progress and reform. He was soon raised to the Magistrates' bench, and held office for some time as a Bailie. It was chiefly due to Mr. Christie that the town was divided into wards for electoral purposes. He and several others were appointed Government Commissioners to report on the advisability of the change, with the result that the year 1870 saw the town divided into wards and a general election of Town Councillors. In that year Mr. Christie came forward as the representative of Cowane Street Ward, and, along with the late Bailie Muir, was returned by that electorate. At that period he was elected Provost and High Sheriff of Stirling, a position which he held for three terms, being re-elected in 1873, and again in 1876. The chief feature which, it may be said, marks Provost Christie's tenure of office is what may be called the "Hospital Reform." It had become generally apparent that the charities in Stirling were not being dispensed with anything like satisfactory results, and to rectify this Provost Christie framed a scheme for the better application of the money, and this (with a few alterations by the Scotch Office) is practically the Stirling Education Scheme of the present day. In 1880 Mr. Christie was again returned to the Council, and, although he did not occupy the Provost's chair, continued to serve as a Councillor until his retirement from municipal life a few years later.

In addition to his Council duties, Mr. Christie took an active interest in the educational affairs of the burgh. In 1873, when the first School Board was formed, he was elected a member (being returned at the top of the poll), and sat at several succeeding Boards.

Since his retiral from municipal life, Mr. Christie has devoted considerable attention to Freemasonry. Admitted to the Order in the sixties, Mr. Christie's zeal has led him through thirty-two out of the thirty-three degrees in Masonry. In addition to these he has taken innumerable lesser or "side" degrees, as they are called. A member of Stirling Ancient, No. 30, he was for two years Master of that lodge. He there-

after entered the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, in which he has filled every office from that of Warden to that of Provincial Grand Master, which he at present occupies. In Scottish Freemason circles Mr. Christie is highly and deservedly esteemed.

✓ Provost Robert Yellowlees.

1882-1891.

Mr. Robert Yellowlees was born fifty-eight years ago at No. 2 (now No. 28) Upper Bridge Street. His early education was obtained at the Stirling Grammar School, and completed at School and College in Edinburgh. Thereafter he devoted several years to acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the leather trade (including tanning and currying), which his father, Bailie Yellowlees, had carried on at Queen Street from 1825.

Before settling down in his native town, Mr. Yellowlees spent the greater part of the year 1865 in foreign travel—his father having put ample means at his disposal for the purpose—the scenes of his travels being Cape Colony, Kaffirland, and Natal. Two years after his return he was induced to re-visit South Africa, but this time to be resident in Cape Town, while engaged in the business of tanning and hide exporting. On completing the term of three years for which he had stipulated, he came back to Stirling, bringing with him a partner for life, who has proved a worthy helpmeet, and taken a warm and lively interest in the religious and benevolent institutions of the town. Before leaving for the Cape, Mr. Yellowlees took an active part in public affairs—specially in the Young Men's Christian Association, the School of Arts Lectures and Library, and in Sabbath School work. Ever fond of athletic sports, he was known as a keen cricketer, footballer, and boat-racer.

After his return from the Cape Mr. Yellowlees took up municipal work, and was soon immersed in it. For nine years

he held the office of Chief Magistrate, and for the same length of time was chairman of the Burgh School Board. Indeed, for a quarter of a century past, he has been closely associated with all the principal events in the history of the burgh, and has devoted a great deal of his time and means towards promoting and furthering the best interests of the town.

He is an Honorary Sheriff-Substitute and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Stirling. As a Unionist, he contested, unsuccessfully, the Western Division of Fifeshire, but as he is a comparatively young man, he may yet attain to Parliamentary honours.

Provost George Kinross.

1891-1897.

Ex-Provost Kinross is a "Son of the Rock" in the fullest sense of the term, as he was born and educated in Stirling. His grand-uncle, Mr. Henry Kinross, founded a public work for coachbuilding in the first years of this century, and in 1837, his business had attained such eminence that he was appointed Coachmaker to Her Majesty. Our ex-Provost's father, Mr. Wm. Kinross, succeeded to the business, which prospered so much that, in the year 1865, he found it necessary to obtain greater space, which he did by removing his works from the head of Shore Road to their present situation in Port Street, where a greatly extended business has been carried on. Since Mr. William Kinross' death, in the year 1874, the business has been entirely managed by the ex-Provost along with his brother, Mr. James Kinross. Many vehicles built by them are sent to India, as well as to London and other cities of the home country; whilst not a few workmen, who received their training when in the employment of the Kinross family, are filling positions of trust in large carriage-building establishments all over the world.

Ex-Provost Kinross was elected a member of the Town Council in 1879, and has represented Port Street Ward for

twenty years in succession. He was elected a Bailie in 1882, and served in that office for three terms—nine years—and was unanimously elected Provost and High Sheriff of Stirling in 1891. He was again unanimously elected Provost in 1894. At present he is still one of the representatives of the Port Street Ward, sitting at the Council table as Councillor Kinross.

During his Provostship several notable local events occurred, in which he took a conspicuous part. In August, 1892, when Dr. Rogers' bust was unveiled in the Entrance Hall of the Wallace Monument, Provost Kinross, as chairman of the Custodiers of the Monument, presided over the large meeting gathered around the archway entrance, and introduced Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollok, who unveiled the bust, and stirred the enthusiasm of his audience by the delivery of an excellent speech.

In December, 1892, the Right Honourable Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, G.C.B., M.P. for the Stirling District of Burghs, was presented with the freedom of the Burgh, when, in presence of a very large gathering of the inhabitants in the Public Hall, the Burgess ticket was presented to the Right Honourable gentleman by Provost Kinross.

On 24th May, 1895, Stirling's present Post Office was officially opened by Provost Kinross in presence of a large gathering of the principal inhabitants, and it being the Queen's Birthday, the first telegram was despatched to Her Majesty, to which a gracious reply was received, the first letter posted being one to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, acknowledging his services in connection with the undertaking.

In 1896, the new filters at the Stirling Water Works, on Touch Hills, were opened by Provost Kinross, when he was presented with a silver jug in commemoration of the event.

In 1897, the members of the Franco-Scottish Society, on the occasion of a visit to Stirling, were entertained by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, the Provost afterwards receiving a letter, signed by M. Casimir Perier, ex-President of the French Republic, expressing warm thanks, and a high sense of the courteous attention received from the municipal authorities at Stirling.



In September of the same year, the Provost was chairman at the national gathering on the Abbey Craig, on the occasion of the six hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge, and led the way for the other speakers with a patriotic speech. On the evening of the same day he presided at a banquet in Stirling, when the Earl of Rosebery, in a historic and eloquent speech, proposed "The Immortal Memory of Wallace."

Again, in October, 1897, the Provost presided at a crowded meeting in the Albert Hall, when the Earl of Rosebery received the freedom of the burgh. Provost Kinross had the honour of being amongst those invited by Her Majesty the Queen to a reception at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of her diamond jubilee, and of receiving the medal commemorative of that event.

Provost Archibald Forrest.

Provost Forrest is a member of an old Stirling family, was brought up in the heart of the town, and has all his life been deeply interested in its welfare and prosperity. Along with his brother, Mr. William Forrest, he has carried on a successful business as cabinetmaker, which trade their father and grandfather practised in their days.

The Provost entered the Council in 1876, and, after serving the town for 18 years—during ten of which he filled the office of Magistrate—retired in 1894. Upon his retiral, in recognition of his long and faithful public services, he was presented with his portrait in oil, and Mrs. Forrest with a beautiful silver tea service. On that occasion ex-Provost Yellowlees, who made the presentation, said that "it marked the public appreciation of an exemplary life, a life marked by high moral worth and by the honourable discharge of all commercial and personal obligations and of much public usefulness."

Although Mr. Forrest at that time resolved permanently to retire from public life, still, in 1897, when the municipality of Stirling was stirred by some burning questions, he was

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requested to stand for Baker Street Ward, which he had so long and faithfully represented formerly, and to this request he yielded, with the result that he was again returned to the Council, and at the first meeting was appointed Provost. He has filled the chair with considerable credit, and it is hoped he may be long spared to occupy a position of public usefulness.

Bailie Bow of Smallburn.

Died 12th March, 1870.

Mr. Bow began business as a haberdasher in Stirling in the year 1812. His shop was where now stands the King Street entrance to the Arcade. Having always taken a deep interest in matters connected with the Guildry, he was, at Michaelmas, 1821, elected Dean of Guild and a Councillor of the Burgh, to both of which offices he was subsequently re-elected. In 1826 he was appointed one of the Magistrates, held office for several years, and was Senior Bailie from 1833 to 1836. He was also in the Commission of the Peace for the County. In 1838 Mr. Bow retired from business, and in 1851 went to reside at his property of Wright Park, near Kippen, where he died. Mr. Bow being a man of energy and of good business capacity, discharged the duties of the various offices he held with ability and advantage to the public. Although never a violent partizan, he was throughout a warm adherent of the Liberal party, and to the close of his life took a deep interest in its success, giving constant and influential support. He was in the habit of revisiting Stirling now and again, and during the last ten years of his life seldom allowed two or three weeks to pass without spending some days in the town, his figure being almost as familiar on our streets as if he had been still a citizen.

Mr. Bow was a man of strict integrity, and at the same time of a very genial nature; and his loss was sincerely regretted by all those who had the pleasure of his friendship. He was the

first who wore the present chain of office of the Dean of Guild, on the occasion of the visit of George IV. in 1822.

✓ **Bailie James Davie.**

Died 19th June, 1885.

Mr. James Davie was born at Cambus, near Alloa, in 1819. He learned the trade of a blacksmith, and commenced business for himself in Sauchie, afterwards removing to Tillicoultry, having acquired the smithy there. At Whitsunday, 1857, he entered into partnership with Messrs Daniel Wylie, millwright, and Thomas Smith, ironfounder, in Stirling, and they acquired the iron foundry in Orchard Place, which had been started by ex-Bailie John Christie a few years previously, and carried on business under the firm of Wylie, Smith & Davie, millwrights, ironfounders, and engineers. Several changes took place in the firm during the period prior to 1873, when Mr. Davie acquired the whole business, which has ever since been carried on under the firm of James Davie & Sons. The firm carried out several large contracts in connection with the Glasgow Waterworks near Duchray, ironwork of several large mills in Glasgow, and the whole of the ironwork of the Singer Manufacturing Company's Works at Kilbowie. The tradesmanlike manner in which these works, and, indeed, all the orders entrusted to the firm, have been carried out, has established in Stirling a flourishing industry, which is still carried on by his only surviving son.

Mr. Davie was elected a Town Councillor for Baker Street Ward in 1869, and was appointed a Bailie the following year. He served 11 years in the Town Council, and was a Magistrate for ten years. He worshipped in the North Established Church, and, in May, 1867, was ordained an elder. He was for a number of years Representative Elder from the Burgh of Stirling to the General Assembly. He died suddenly, after a short illness, at his residence in Forth Place, on 19th June, 1885, at the age of 66 years. Mr. Davie was of a quiet—in-

deed, somewhat retiring—disposition, and, while he filled the offices above noted, was not a speaker. He brought to bear, however, upon the questions under discussion a shrewdness and common sense which commended him to the constituency.

✓ Councillor William Dowdy.

Died 22nd April, 1890.

Few public men enjoyed the respect and esteem of the community in greater degree than Councillor William Dowdy. It is sometimes no easy matter to serve at a municipal board with general acceptance, but it may be said with perfect fairness that Mr. Dowdy's tenure of office as a Town Councillor was markedly successful in this direction.

A Son of the Rock, Mr. Dowdy was born in Stirling in 1826. His father was engaged in business as a merchant tailor, and to this trade Mr. Dowdy was duly apprenticed. He did not, however, engage in this occupation for any great length of time. His father, in addition to tailoring, set up business in 1841 in Murray Place as temperance hotel-keeper. Here he was engaged for some time, subsequently removing to King Street, and Mr. William Dowdy undertaking the management of this enterprise, retired from the trade of tailor altogether. To the duties of hotel-keeper he devoted his abilities, and as a Temperance Hotel, "Dowdy's" had a wide popularity.

Mr. Dowdy's public life began with his connection with the old Parochial Board. As a member of that body he worked for many years in the interests of the public, and here his characteristic spirit of philanthropy enabled him to do excellent service. From the Parochial Board he passed to the Town Council, and was for two terms of office a representative of the King Street Ward electors. He took an active interest in the affairs of the town, and, as Convener of the Cemetery Committee, was closely identified with the formation of the Ballengeich Cemetery. Apart from the doings of the Town Council, his anxiety for the welfare of the community is witnessed by

the Jubilee Fountain in Barnton Street. This Fountain, which was erected in 1887, as a memorial of the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, is a lasting monument of his energy and perseverance. It also memorialises one of the principles of his life—that of total abstinence. Mr. Dowdy was an esteemed member and office-bearer in the Baptist Church, but he was not religious in the denominational sense of the word, and many other religious movements enjoyed his patronage and support.

For over twenty years Mr. Dowdy was connected with the Stirlingshire Rifle Volunteers, holding the rank of sergeant in A Company for some years, and being one of the leading "shots," was not only the winner of numerous prizes, but was a very regular competitor at local and other meetings, where his geniality was thoroughly appreciated.

Mr. William Dowdy's death took place somewhat suddenly. The result of a chill, congestion of the lungs set in, and after a few days' illness he passed away. As a mark of the esteem in which he was held he was awarded a civic funeral. In addition to the Magistrates and Town Council several other public bodies were present, and, as testifying to the good work which he had done among the poorer class, it may be mentioned that a vast concourse, chiefly of this section of the community, gathered all along the route to the Cemetery and watched the funeral cortege on its way.

In summing up his life-work, it may be well to do so in the words of a newspaper critic—and a journalist is often an impartial judge. Stirling, said a newspaper of that time, has lost one of whose character and disposition too few remain. It is, no doubt, true that he never bulked so largely in the eyes of the community as some of those with whom he was associated in the discharge of public duties, but at the same time he was known to everybody in the town on account of his genial affability and kindly humour. He was a philanthropist who strove to do good in secret. Frequently he used to visit the homes of the poor to see if they had the necessities of life, and in this way he distributed much in charity from week to week. His only reward was the consciousness

that he was doing what was right. In a pulpit reference, the minister of the Congregational Church used the following words, and with these we close our short notice:—"William Dowdy needs no epitaph on stone, for he has a better epitaph, even an epitaph written upon many hearts, and his truest eulogium will be enshrined in the memories of those who knew him."

Councillor William Crawford.

Died 20th January, 1894.

William Crawford was one of the most acute and shrewd men of the town of Stirling. Born in Dunblane in 1836, he went, when a boy, with his parents to Deanston, where his youth was spent. He learned the trade of a moulder, and after completing his apprenticeship he went to Alexandria (Egypt), where he remained in the employment of a firm of Liverpool engineers for about ten years. Shortly after returning to this country he married, and began business as a china merchant in the Cowcaddens and Parliamentary Road, Glasgow, which business he carried on with much success. In the year 1872 he came to Stirling, opening a china shop in Baker Street, a few doors above the Star Hotel. While there he added the business of cabinetmaker to that of china merchant, removing, after some years, to larger and more central premises in Murray Place.

Mr. Crawford was not many years in Stirling until he developed schemes for improving the town. His first purchase was an old property in King Street, on the site of which now stands what is called the Royal Restaurant. Later he purchased a property in Murray Place, where he built two large shops, and what was known as the County Club. He also purchased a property in King Street, and another in Murray Place, and built, at a cost of about £20,000, the Arcade which bears his name. His property purchases are too numerous to

detail, but it may be mentioned that he purchased the Golden Lion Hotel property, and erected in Murray Place, on the site of some small one storey shops, the three large blocks of shops and dwelling-houses. He also purchased the estate of Beechwood at Newhouse, the Queen's Hotel, Stirling, and the Queen's Hotel, Bridge of Allan. In addition, he had numerous other properties in Stirling, as well as in Kilsyth, Callander, and Dunblane.

Mr. Crawford entered the Town Council in 1877 as a representative for Cowane Street Ward, and continued in the Council until his death, when he was the oldest member. While in the Council he was Convener of the Works Committee for some years, in which office his great practical knowledge and natural ability were of great value to the town. He was a president of the Albert Place Bowling Club, and took a keen interest in the King's Park Football Club, to whose funds he was a generous donor.

Councillor Andrew Colquhoun.

Died 6th May, 1899.

Andrew Colquhoun was born at Tullibody, near Stirling, on 10th June, 1840. He was educated at the village school of Tullibody, under Alexander M'Gregor, a man of considerable reputation in the district as a teacher. In 1856 Mr. Colquhoun became a clerk to Robert Knox & Sons, brewers, Cambus. There he also learned the trade of brewer, and in 1866 he came to Stirling to commence business. In 1867 his half-brother, Mr. Charles Macdonald, built the St. Ninians Well Brewery in Burghmuir, where, under Mr. Colquhoun's management, Mr. Macdonald and he carried on the business of brewers and aerated water manufacturers, as co-partners under the name of Andrew Colquhoun, till Mr. Colquhoun's death.

In 1868, when the Rev. W. F. Goldie came from Tullibody to Stirling to be minister of the South Free Church, Mr.

Colquhoun attached himself to that congregation. From 1869 till his death, Mr. Colquhoun acted as general treasurer of the congregation and also treasurer of the Sustentation Fund. During that long period he managed the finances of the church with success and ability. He also filled the office of deacon in the church till his death. In 1871 he married Jane Keith Murray, daughter of the Rev. James Somerville Murray, M.A., St. Cyrus, near Montrose.

In November, 1878, Mr. Colquhoun was elected a member of Stirling Town Council, and continued a member without a break until his death, a period of fully twenty years, during that time serving under five different Provosts. He was elected Treasurer of the Burgh in 1892, and held this office till 1898. He was also a Stirling Waterworks Commissioner from 1888, and a member of the Stirling Educational Trust from the commencement of the Trust in 1886, in both cases till his death. He was a keen Liberal in politics, and was a leading member of the Committee of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Burgh Member of Parliament.

Mr. Colquhoun not only filled these public offices, but also gave gratuitous service in various private trusts, and was a valued friend and adviser to many.

His death was extremely sudden and startling. He was busy, as usual, at his work on Saturday, 6th May, 1899, and retired to rest at the usual hour apparently well. In the morning he was found dead in bed. He was buried on the following Tuesday in Stirling Cemetery, in the presence of his fellow Town Councillors and a large and representative gathering of citizens. A monumental tombstone was readily subscribed for by his many friends.

Mr. Colquhoun was one of those whose life enriches any community. While attentive to his business, he was not absorbed by it. He was a man of deeds, not words. He made no show, no pretence, and yet all the while he was conscientiously serving the public with a single eye, and at the same time showing the largeness of his heart by giving advice and help to those in difficulties. This latter side of his character was little known till after his death, when the story of



one little, kindly, unobtrusive act after another served to show the real nature of the man. A man of practical common sense and considerable foresight, his advice was always valued by his friends. His conscientiousness, added to his long service and natural ability, made him conspicuous in the various bodies of which he was a member. He was faithful to his party both in politics and in the Town Council, but his broad-mindedness and natural good humour preserved him from all petty feelings towards those who differed from him. Possessed of a natural talent for finance, his Convenership of the Finance Committee of the Town Council and Police Commission—from 1891 to 1898—was perhaps the sphere in which Mr. Colquhoun's usefulness as a Town Councillor was most clearly shown. At the time of his death he was President of the Stirling Curling Club. He was a keen curler, and here again his good qualities showed themselves in the fairness and courtesy which characterised his conduct and his play.

Mr. Colquhoun's name is deserving of notice in this book as a citizen of integrity and ability, who was useful in his day and generation in the conduct of the public business of the town of his adoption, and as one who, by his unobtrusive acts of kindness, his genial disposition, and straightforward conduct, showed himself to be worthy of what is indeed the best title a man can receive—that of a Christian gentleman.

✓ James Rae, M.D., R.N.

Died 15th May, 1899.

Dr. James Rae was the son of Dr. John Rae, St. Ninians, and was born on 16th March, 1821, and educated in the Parish School of St. Ninians, under the late Dr. Knox. After leaving school he studied at the University of Glasgow, which he left in 1840 with the degree of qualified surgeon. Dr. Rae entered the Royal Navy on 20th May, 1841, and was appointed additional assistant-surgeon to H.M.S.

"Queen," at Portsmouth, but was afterwards transferred to H.M.S. "Electra," in which he went to the West Indies, where he served till early in 1845. On his return to Britain he studied under Dr. Buchanan to perfect his knowledge of anatomy.

On August 27th, 1845, he was appointed assistant-surgeon to H.M.S. "Meteor," in which vessel he served on the Mediterranean Station till 2nd November, 1848. On 27th March, 1849, he was appointed assistant-surgeon (in charge) to H.M.S. "North Star," which sailed from Greenhithe on 16th May, 1849, for the Polar regions, to deposit supplies for Sir John Franklin, which it was hoped he would receive on his return journey, but which were not destined to be used by the great explorer. The "North Star" was to have called for letters at Aberdeen, but stress of weather compelled them to go on to Stromness, where fresh provisions were taken on board. On 8th June they sighted ice near Cape Farewell, and the steamer, "Stromboli," which had accompanied them so far, returned home, taking letters from the "North Star." After much discomfort and labour, a safe harbour for wintering was got in Woolstenholme Sound on 1st October. For about twelve months the ship was fast in ice, and only through much labour and sawing was it got safely out, and reached England in October, 1850. On the 10th of that month Dr. Rae was appointed full surgeon.

After being on half-pay for some months, on 7th August, 1851, he was appointed to H.M.S. "Volcano," in which he served on the West Coast of Africa till 30th January, 1854. On 13th February of the same year he was married to Miss Christina Young Somerville, St. Ninians. On 22nd March, 1854, he was commissioned to H.M.S. "Fisgard," for duty at Greenwich Hospital, where Sir Edward Parry was Lieut.-Governor and Sir John Liddell Inspector-General. He held this appointment until 17th March, 1857. A few months later Dr. Rae was appointed Assisting-Surgeon to the Lunatic Department of Haslar Hospital, Captain (afterwards Sir Sidney) Dacres being superintendent. On 6th November, 1858, he was appointed to take full charge, and on 7th July,

1859, promoted to be Deputy Inspector-General, under the Hon. George Hastings, Captain-Superintendent. An opportunity having occurred, Dr. Rae took his M.D. degree at Aberdeen on the 27th July, 1860.

Sir John Liddell was anxious to remove the Lunatic Department from Haslar to Great Yarmouth, where they could have an hospital to themselves, and this was done under the superintendence of Dr. Rae on 28th May, 1863. After three years' service at Great Yarmouth, Dr. Rae retired on 26th June, 1866, when he came to reside in Stirling.

For some years after coming to Stirling Dr. Rae engaged in private practice, but a good deal of his services were given to the poor, and believing that medical advice was of no use unless there were the means to carry it out, he frequently provided such along with the advice. Dr. Rae avoided publicity on every occasion, and it was only his most intimate friends who knew of the many kindnesses he performed to suffering humanity.

To the last he was a keen student, and spent much of his time in microscopical research. After retiring from his profession he devoted considerable attention to the study of the Diatomaceæ, and possessed a most valuable collection of these microscopic Algæ, which, by his will, was left to the Museum of Haslar Hospital, where it is now deposited. Dr. Rae was one of a number of gentlemen who met at the Smith Institute over 20 years ago to consider the question of forming a local Natural History Society, which still flourishes under the name of the Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society.

For a year or two declining health prevented him from enjoying active exercise, or from taking part in excursions in quest of diatoms, but all his interests and clear intellect were retained till the end, when he was struck down by a paralytic stroke, after which he only survived a few days, passing peacefully away on the 15th of May, 1899. He was interred in Stirling Cemetery.

Colonel Edmond.

More than three centuries ago, a boy of ten or twelve years of age, the son of a respectable baker in the burgh, removed a coin from the collection-plate at the door of the Parish Church. The larceny was discovered, and the youth, ashamed of his fault, departed hastily for the Continent, and for many years was unheard of. He had enlisted in the army of Maurice, Prince of Orange, where he so greatly distinguished himself by his valour and good conduct, as to rise to the rank of Colonel. Having acquired a competent fortune, he retired from military service, and, returning to Stirling, made compensation for his juvenile delinquency by erecting a manse for the Minister of the First Charge. The structure, which stood in the open space at Church Wynd, at the head of Broad Street, was removed in 1824. For eleven years preceding 1660 it was the abode of the Rev. James Guthrie, one of the most distinguished martyrs of the second Reformation.

One day, while Colonel Edmond was on parade with several brother officers, he was accosted by a stranger, who professed to have newly come from Scotland, and left the Colonel's relations well, enumerating several of high rank. Edmond, turning from him indignantly, informed the circle, that however this unknown personage might flatter his vanity, he must, in candour, inform them, if they did not already know, that he had the honour (of which he should ever be proud) to be the son of an honest baker and freeman in the ancient borough of Stirling. He then ordered the abashed impostor out of his sight. Colonel Edmond would not visit in Stirling unless his father and mother were invited. The Earl of Mar having asked him to dine or sup, Edmond agreed on the aforementioned condition, which was politely granted by his lordship, and thus, happily escorted by the aged pair, did the gallant Colonel wait upon the Lord High Treasurer of the kingdom.

Sir Archibald Christie, K.C.H.

Died 10th August, 1847.

Sir Archibald (or Sir Archie, as he was familiarly known to the townspeople) died in Stirling Castle on 10th August, 1847. He entered the army early in life, and served with the 42nd and 78th Highlanders in Holland in 1793, where, on two occasions, he was severely wounded. In Holland Sir Archibald attracted the attention of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who continued his warm friend and patron, being god-father to his son, Captain Frederick Christie. He also possessed the regard of the other members of the Royal Family, and by George IV. was twice offered a baronetcy. Sir Archibald, after holding several staff appointments, was, in 1811, nominated Commandant-General of Hospitals and Colonel of the 1st Royal Veteran Battalion. In 1821 he was appointed Commandant at Chatham, which he retained till 1831, when he was appointed Deputy-Governor of Stirling Castle, where he resided until his death. He had the honour of receiving Her Majesty Queen Victoria on her visit to Stirling in 1842. Sir Archibald endeared himself to a large circle of friends by his urbanity and kindness, and was a general favourite with the townspeople, rich and poor.

✓ **Fort-Major Henry Peddie.**

Died 27th November, 1871.

This officer, mentioned in our First Series, was a well-known figure on the streets of Stirling. The Major came of a family of officers dating back as far as 1692, who, with few exceptions, belonged to the North British Fusiliers, now the Scots Fusiliers. At the age of sixteen the subject of our sketch was gazetted second lieutenant, served in the Netherlands, and

was present at the attack on Merxem, where his life was saved by His Majesty William IV., then Duke of Clarence. Afterwards he was at the bombardment of the French fleet at Antwerp, the attacks on Bergen-op-Zoom, and was subsequently two years in France with the 1st battalion. In 1819 he succeeded his father as Fort-Major in Stirling Castle. The political martyrs, Baird and Hardie, were under his care in Stirling Castle until their execution in Broad Street, and on the scaffold they desired the Sheriff attending to express to Major Peddie their sense of gratitude for the humanity and attention he had shown them.

Major Henderson of Westerton.

Died 24th March, 1858.

Major John Henderson (the surname, Henderson, assumed on his succeeding to the estate on the death of his uncle) died at Westerton House, Bridge of Allan. He was born in Stirling in 1806, his father being Edward Alexander, Esq. of Powis, and his grandfather a prosperous merchant in Stirling, who claimed propinquity with the family of Alexander of Menstrie, of which the famous Sir William, afterwards Earl of Stirling, was the most distinguished representative. The Major's mother was a member of the family of Glas, which for a long period occupied a prominent position in Stirling, and had sprung from the old house of Glas of Sauchie. After finishing his education—begun at Stirling Grammar School, under Mr. Burden and Mr. Peter McDougall—young Alexander was gazetted to a cornetcy in the 4th Light Dragoons, and proceeded to India, where he served in the field at Kolapore. After returning from India he was appointed Captain in the Rifle Brigade, in which he rose to be Major, and in this regiment he served in America and the Mediterranean. Having retired from the army, the Major took up his residence at Westerton in 1844, where his energies in the interests of the village of Bridge of Allan were unwearied. As a landlord he

was liberal and encouraging. He was a most zealous agriculturist, and converted the upland district of his estate from a bleak moor into a fertile tract, now adorned with beautiful villas.

At his accession to the estate a few plain, whitewashed houses near the bridge constituted the entire hamlet, but he lived to see the place become a little "city of villas" and the most celebrated watering-place in North Britain. Fond of all outdoor amusements and Highland sports, he opened his fine park at Westerton for the annual games known as Strathallan Meeting, which has now reached vast dimensions. He was one of the keenest of curlers, and was the perpetual President of the Bridge of Allan Club. Of a most amiable disposition and benignity of manner, his procedure under all circumstances was conciliatory, he rejoiced in effecting reconciliation between those who had chanced to differ, and it is questionable whether he ever himself caused an enemy. In April, 1856, he became seriously ill in the King's Park, Stirling, during a military review, and continued, until his death on the above date, under medical treatment. The remains of the gallant Major lie in the picturesque Churchyard of Logie.

**Sir James Alexander of Westerton, K.C.L.S.,
C.B., F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S., J.P., D.L., &c.**

Died 2nd April, 1885.

Sir James, who died at the Isle of Wight, aged 82, was descended from the Alexanders of Manor Neuk, a branch of the Menstrie family which produced the famous poet and statesman, Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Stirling. In 1722, James Alexander, second son of William Alexander of Manor Neuk, became a burghess of Stirling, and was successively Town Treasurer, Dean of Guild, and Bailie. His eldest son, who was Provost of Stirling in 1772, subscribed the celebrated "Black Bond" which brought about the disfranchise-

ment of the burgh. He was also one of the seven partners who formed the Stirling Bank in 1779, an engraving of his house at Allan Park being on the notes—the house being known as “The house that Jack built.” Provost Alexander married the widow of James Henderson of Westerton, by whom he had two sons, the younger of whom, Edward Alexander of Powis, county of Clackmannan, a Deputy-Lieutenant, etc., was father of the subject of this sketch. He was twice married—first to Jenny Colquhoun, who died in 1796; and, secondly, to Catherine, daughter of Provost Glas, Stirling, by whom he had two sons and three daughters.

James Edward Alexander, born in 1803, was the elder son, and it is probable (though the fact is not mentioned in any of the records we have consulted) that he received the elements of education in the Grammar School of his native town. The following sketch of his career is mainly taken from the Rev. Dr. Rogers’ scarce work, “Memorials of the Earl of Stirling, and of the House of Alexander.” After studying at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities, he proceeded, at an early age, to India, where he served a short time in the Madras Light Cavalry as Adjutant of the Governor’s bodyguard, and afterwards in H.M. 12th Light Dragoons and the 16th Lancers. Anxious to see some active service, he volunteered for the war in Burmah, his third application, in 1825, being successful. After the peace he became attache on the Persian Mission of Sir John McDonald Kinnier, and was with the Persian Army in the field engaged with the Russians. He received the Order of the Lion and Sun from the Shah of Persia, and returned to England through Asia Minor, Turkey, etc., with Sir Henry Willcock, carrying despatches.

After finishing his military studies at home he proceeded to Russia to join the army of Field-Marshal Diebitch, and the Black Sea Fleet of Admiral Greig, then engaged with the Turks. On his return to the Crimea in a Russian frigate in which the plague appeared, he was placed in quarantine at Sebastopol. Whilst there, H.M.S. “Blonde” (Captain Lyons) came to that port, and was only allowed to land at the quarantine. Lieutenant Alexander communicated with him

there, and thus became suspected of being an emissary of the British Government, was confined two months with other prisoners, and finally sent to St. Petersburg, where he was liberated, returning to England by Sweden and Denmark, and on going to Lord Hill, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, with reports and plans of what he had observed in the late seat of war in Turkey, he was promoted to be Captain unattached. The next year was spent in the service of the Colonial Office, travelling through North and South America and the West Indies, and as the results of his travels he presented a report on the state of slavery previous to emancipation, and was examined before a Committee of the House of Lords. He then joined the 42nd Royal Highlanders as Captain, and, while connected with that regiment, was invited by the Royal Geographical Society to undertake an expedition, to be fitted out by the Colonial Office, to report on the interior of South Africa. On his way thither he visited Portugal, and there took the opportunity of joining the Queen's Army in the field against Don Miguel, and was made a Lieut.-Colonel by the Emperor Dom Pedro. Leaving Portugal, he proceeded round the west coast of Africa in H.M.S. "Thalia," visiting Madeira, Teneriffe, Gambia, Sierra Leone, etc. On his arrival at the Cape he found the Kaffir War just begun, and as the time was unfavourable for exploration, he joined the troops of Sir Benjamin D'Urban in the field, and became his Excellency's private secretary and aide-de-camp. At the conclusion of the war, in 1835, he commenced his work of exploration, and with a party of seven men explored the countries of the great Namaquas, Boshmans, and Hill Damaras, and, it is said, discovered the Orange River. For his services in Africa he received the dignity of Knight Commander of the Bath.

In 1844-45 we find Sir James, as Captain, with the 14th Regiment, serving in America, where he undertook the arduous task of exploring and surveying for a military road through the forests of New Brunswick and Canada, east from Quebec to Halifax. Sir Benjamin D'Urban becoming Commander-in-Chief in British North America, Sir James was again appointed his aide-de-camp, and was with that distinguished officer till

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his death in Montreal. Under his successor, Sir William Rowan, he served five and a half years, and then, as Major, proceeded to the Crimea; became Lieutenant-Colonel, succeeded to the command of the 14th Regiment during the siege, and was at the fall of Sebastopol. His last military service was in the Maori War, the outposts of the Waikato being placed under his charge. By the slow steps of seniority he attained the rank of Major-General in 1872, and was placed on the retired list in 1877, his period of active service extending to 57 years. Besides the Order of the Bath, he received the Turkish Order of the Mejidie. He had also seven war medals and two clasps.

Sir James was the author of a number of works of travel and adventure, which, at the time of their publication, were widely read as the experiences of a traveller whose statements could be relied on as correct. He also wrote a volume on salmon-fishing in Canada (illustrated by Lady Alexander); also on New Zealand warfare, military exercises and tuition, and on a variety of other subjects, all of them being treated in an attractive and readable style. Sir James took great interest in bringing Cleopatra's Needle to England, labouring with untiring zeal for several years, and this, through the liberality of Dr. Erasmus Wilson, was successfully carried out. He also advocated the fortification of the rivers Forth and Clyde.

In 1822, Sir James' younger brother, John, succeeded to the estate of Westerton, which was in his mother's family, and assumed the name of Henderson. He died in 1858, and Westerton fell to Sir James, who took up his permanent residence there in 1863, the occasion being celebrated by a banquet in his honour, at which the late Sir William Stirling Maxwell presided. The new laird was very popular, and his help was invariably invoked for any movement to promote the prosperity of the district. He also gave great encouragement to the Strathallan Meetings, which had been started in 1852 by his brother, and for years figured as Chieftain at the gatherings.

One who was there says—"I will never forget his appear-

ance as a speaker at a temperance meeting, when, to the horror of the total prohibitionists beside him on the platform, he advised the people not to cease drinking whisky, but to be sure and mix it well with water; neat spirits were his abhorrence, but he had no objection to a good glass of grog."

An enthusiastic Freemason, Sir James was elected R.W.M. of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire in 1872, and held the office till his death. He took part in many public functions in Stirling, and his fine figure, frequently enwrapped in a green tartan plaid, was quite notable on our streets.

Sir James married Eveline Marie, daughter of Colonel Charles Cornwallis Michell, K.H., K.B.A., Surveyor-General, Cape of Good Hope, by whom he had four sons, Edward Mayne, of Westerton, Colonel (late) Seaforth Highlanders; Ronald Michell, Captain (late) 3rd Battalion Black Watch; Herbert Rowan, Captain (late) Royal Scots Fusiliers; and Gerard D'Arragon, Major Royal Artillery. Sir James was laid to rest in the beautiful kirk-yard of Logie, on 8th April, 1885.

Dr. George T. Galbraith.

Dr. George T. Galbraith, eldest son of Captain George Galbraith, 1st Royal Scots Regiment, was born in Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Although thus not actually born on "the Rock," he claims to be virtually a son of it, having been brought to Stirling in infancy, on his father retiring from the army, and settling down here in civilian life. When stationed in Stirling, Captain Galbraith had married Margaret Gibb, a member of an ancient Stirling family, which traces descent from Gib of that ilk, who was stirrup-man of James IV. at the Battle of Flodden. Gibb, with its derivative, Gibson, is the name of one of the oldest Scottish families, the founder coming over with William the Conqueror as de Guibes, from the hamlet of Guibe, in Normandy. A tombstone in the burial-place of the Gibbs in Stirling Cemetery bears date 1579. Captain Galbraith, noted in our First Series, was for thirteen years Provost of Stirling.

Dr. Galbraith received his early education at the burgh schools, under Mr. Weir, in English; Peter ("Patie") Macdougall, writing and arithmetic; Dr. Monro, Latin, and afterwards in the classics at a private school. At a very early age—too early, he thinks, to have derived much benefit from it—the Doctor for two years wore the scarlet toga at Glasgow University. Selecting the medical profession, with a view to entering the army, he attended the requisite classes at Edinburgh University, and obtained the license of the Royal College of Surgeons and the degree of M.D. before he had quite attained the age of 21. He recalls, with some pride, that his graduation thesis, on being examined by Sir Charles Bell, was by him placed among those recommended for honourable mention. Getting his name placed on the list of candidates for the Army—it was long before the days of competitive examination, and interest was required to gain admission to the services—the young Doctor utilised the time previous to examination by making a voyage to Madras as surgeon of an India merchant ship. Soon after his return he passed examination, and was sent to Chatham, where, before the establishment of Netley Hospital, Fort Pitt was the rendezvous for young army doctors. After a short probation he was gazetted to the staff, and thereafter as assistant-surgeon of the 99th Regiment, then under orders for Sydney, New South Wales. As was the custom at that period, the Regiment was sent out in small parties as guards on board convict ships. Dr. Galbraith sailed in one of these, carrying 200 convicts, who were landed at Hobart Town, Tasmania, at that time the only colony to which criminals were transported. The ship proceeded with the detachment to Sydney, encountering on the way the most severe storm the Doctor in his many voyages ever experienced, the sea spray during its continuance being carried over the top of Sydney Lighthouse, a height of 270 feet.

In 1843 occurred, in New Zealand, what is known as the Massacre of the Wairau, the first collision between the white settlers and the Maories. The "North Star" frigate, Captain Sir Everard Home, then lying in Port Jackson, Sydney, was ordered to New Zealand with a company of the 80th Regiment,

in medical charge of which Assistant-Surgeon Galbraith was sent at very short notice. The "North Star" visited various settlements in the young colony, returning to Sydney after a very pleasant cruise of four months' duration.

In 1845, the Maories having broken into active rebellion, and attacked and destroyed the town of Kororareka, in the Bay of Islands, it was considered necessary to undertake military operations for its suppression. Colonel Despard, commanding the 99th Regiment, was selected to conduct these, and the two flank companies of the Regiment were sent to reinforce the small garrison already in New Zealand. At the special request of the Colonel, Dr. Galbraith was sent as medical officer, although he was the junior assistant-surgeon, and, according to usual routine, the senior assistant should have gone on active service. He thus went through what is known as the First Maori War, which lasted, in a more or less desultory way, for about two years, and saw much rough and hazardous service, being always to the front when fighting was going on, and having repeatedly to attend the wounded under sharp fire. As a sample of the courage and tenacity of the Maories may be mentioned the first serious attempt to capture one of their pas, or stockades. The force, consisting of regulars, militia, and volunteers, numbered about 450, and of these about 200 advanced to the assault. Owing to the ineffective fire of the four small guns used, there was no practicable breach, and the assault was a failure. In about a quarter of an hour the attacking party sustained a loss of 30—including 3 officers—killed or mortally wounded, and 80 wounded, to attend to whom there were available two medical officers—the Surgeon of the 58th and Assistant-Surgeon Galbraith. When, a number of years afterwards, a medal was given for more extensive operations in New Zealand, those who had been concerned in the first Maori War were included, and Dr. Galbraith received the medal.

Returning to New South Wales, he accompanied the Regiment to Hobart Town. Thence he was sent on detachment to Western Australia, or Swan River, as it was commonly called, a colony then little known, even in Australia, except

by those who had visited it, but now become famous since the discovery of its extensive goldfields. While there, convicts were introduced by desire of the colonists for the sake of their labour and the Government expenditure, and for some years he acted as principal medical officer of both the military and convict services. At length, his health being considerably impaired by upwards of 16 years' service in these colonies, with their fiery, arid summers, he was invalided, and returned to England, thereafter being stationed at Buttevant, County Cork, in medical charge of a depot battalion for eighteen months.

Towards the end of 1859 he was ordered to China to join Sir Hope Grant's expedition, undertaken in consequence of the repulse of a naval force at the Taku Forts. The British force assembled at Talienwan Bay, better known now, by name at least, since the Russian occupation, a French force of equal strength being collected at Chefoo. When the army advanced to Taku, Dr. Galbraith was left, as senior medical officer, in charge of 600 sick British, Indian, and Chinese. The whole fleet was ultimately assembled at the Pei-ho preparatory to the forces returning to the south, the object of the expedition having been attained by the capture of Peking. Dr. Galbraith was sent up that river to Tien-tsin to act as senior medical officer with the force of 3000 men left there until he should be relieved by a superior officer from Hong Kong. Just when that officer arrived communication by sea became impracticable, owing to the severity of the winter, the Gulf of Pe-chi-Li being frozen over for ten miles from the shore. The Doctor took advantage of his detention at Tien-tsin for the winter to make a visit to Peking, not then such a commonplace experience as it has now become. The Doctor received the China War medal, and just missed getting the distinction of C.B., Sir William (then Dr.) Muir, principal medical officer of the expedition, excusing himself for not recommending him for it on the score that there were two senior medical officers whom he could not pass over, and that he was unwilling to submit too many names for the honour. The interview with Dr. Muir was a very hurried

one, as he was hastening on his way to Hong Kong, otherwise Dr. Galbraith should have urged the strong claim he had as having been in such responsible positions, and done far harder work than any other medical officer of the expedition, and, after all, a recommendation could only have been refused.

Proceeding to Hong Kong when the ice broke up, Dr. Galbraith returned to England. He was first stationed at Maidstone with a cavalry depot, and some time after was appointed Surgeon-Major of the 53rd Regiment, with which he was quartered at Aldershot and Portsmouth. A year afterwards, exchanging again to the staff, he was sent to the recruiting depot at Liverpool, and, a year later, was ordered to Bombay, but, being in indifferent health, a medical board pronounced him unfit for service in India, and he was accordingly placed on half-pay for a year. On returning to full pay he was gazetted to the 71st, Highland Light Infantry. With that distinguished regiment he served at Edinburgh and Aldershot, and at Fermoy during the Fenian outbreak in Ireland in 1867. On the regiment, in May, 1868, moving to Dublin, to be quartered in Richmond Barracks, where the Doctor first saw the light, thinking that, during his military service of nearly 27 years, he had now had enough of soldiering, he made application to be allowed to retire, which was granted, along with the rank of Depute-Inspector-General of Hospitals.

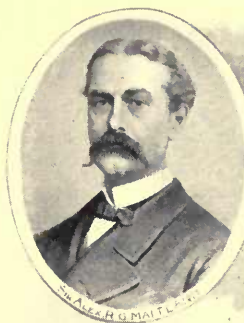
Soon after settling down in Stirling, Dr. Galbraith began to take interest in the public work and institutions of the burgh. He was elected a member of the second School Board, and, being re-elected three times, served for a period of twelve years. He was a Director of the Royal Infirmary and Convener of the Finance Committee, and for a long term of years was chairman of the Acting Committee of the Industrial School, in which useful institution he has always taken warm, practical interest. He was mainly instrumental in getting the new Girls' School in Spittal Street built. For over 20 years he acted as Clerk of the Vestry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Being assumed a trustee of the Macfarlane Trust, Bridge of Allan, he, on the death of Sir James

Alexander, became chairman of the Trust, and took an active part in promoting the erection of the new Museum and Public Hall. For 30 years he was on the directorate of the Stirling Gas Company, and several times was chairman of the directors. In 1881, on the death of ex-Provost Murrie, he was in his room appointed an Honorary Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Stirling. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution found in him a warm friend, and, as chairman of the Stirling Auxiliary Branch, he manifested no little interest in the noble work done by the Institution on behalf of seamen and shipping.

Sir Alex. R. G. Maitland, Bart., M.P.

Died 16th May, 1876.

Sir Alexander, the representative of a junior branch of the Lauderdale family (the first baronet being the son of the Honourable Alexander Maitland, fifth son of the sixth Earl of Lauderdale), was born in Edinburgh on 7th January, 1820, his father being Mr. Alexander Gibson Maitland, son of the second baronet, and his mother, Susan, eldest daughter of Mr. George Ramsay of Barnton. Educated at Edinburgh Academy and subsequently at Weimar College, he early showed a predilection for military pursuits, and, accordingly, joined the 79th Highlanders, in which regiment he served for several years, holding the rank of lieutenant. In 1848 he succeeded his grandfather in the baronetcy and the estate of Cliftonhall, his father having died while he was a child. The family property was largely increased in 1865, when, on the death, without issue, of his cousin, Mr. Charles Ramsay, Sir Alexander succeeded to the extensive estates of Barnton in Mid-Lothian, and Sauchie in Stirlingshire, assuming the surname of Ramsay before that of Gibson. After leaving the army, the young baronet was enabled to follow his military bent by obtaining a commission in the Mid-Lothian Yeomanry Cavalry, and, subsequently, he became



Colonel of the 90th Highland Borderers (Stirlingshire) Militia, which regiment, with the help of Captain and Adjutant Kenny, he succeeded in making one of the finest in the service. He continued with that regiment till about a year and a half before his death, when he retired in consequence of failing health. Sir Alexander was also for many years connected with the Royal Company of Archers, Her Majesty's Body Guard for Scotland, in which honourable corps he latterly held the rank of Brigadier-General.

As a county gentleman he was known as a kind and liberal landlord, and bore his full share in the general business of Mid-Lothian and Stirlingshire, of both which counties he was a Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant. In matters relating to agriculture he took a warm interest, being an office-bearer of the Highland and Agricultural Society. He was also much interested in educational affairs, and for some time was a member of St. Ninians School Board. Sir Alexander at one time acted as a Director of the Scottish Central Railway, and during the latter years of his life was an ordinary director of the Royal Bank of Scotland. At the general election in 1868 he came forward as a Liberal, to contest the representation of Mid-Lothian against the Earl of Dalkeith, and, after a keen contest, succeeded in securing the seat, which he held till 1874.

Sir Alexander, on 3rd February, 1841, married Thomasina Agnes, daughter of Mr. James Hunt of Pittencrieff, Fife, and at his death, at Cliftonhall, in the 56th year of his age, left two sons and three daughters. He was succeeded by the late Sir James Ramsay Gibson Maitland, who was born in 1848, educated at St. Andrews and Sandhurst, and entered the 4th Dragoon Guards as Cornet in 1867.

✓ Captain and Adjutant Kenny.

Died 8th April, 1867.

Captain Stephen Kenny, the much esteemed Adjutant of the 90th Highland Borderers Light Infantry (Stirlingshire)

Militia, who died at Mar Lodge, Stirling, was a native of Derby, and joined the army in 1827, being then but seventeen years of age. From that time until 1854 he served in the 60th Royal Rifles in various parts of the globe, and was at the Cape during the Kaffir War, where he received a medal for gallant conduct in the field. He was known at headquarters as a brave, reliable, and judicious officer; indeed, so excellent were his qualifications as adjutant, that, at the outbreak of the Russian War, in 1854, Captain Kenny, on the recommendation of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, was appointed by His Grace the Duke of Montrose to the office of Adjutant of the Highland Borderers Light Infantry Militia, at which time this regiment was embodied. His unwearied labours to bring the regiment to the highest state of efficiency were such that the Borderers speedily gained the reputation of being equal, in point of drill and general appearance, to "crack" regiments of the line. From 1857 to 1866 the regiment was successively stationed at Stirling, Perth, Fort George, Aldershot, Shorncliffe, and Chester, during which period it was frequently brought under the inspection of Her Majesty the Queen and the late Prince Consort, and was repeatedly complimented by Royalty on its fine appearance. This result was mainly owing to Captain Kenny, who so thoroughly identified himself with everything pertaining to the regiment that it became associated more with his name than that of any other officer, and was familiarly spoken of as "Captain Kenny's Canaries," in allusion to the yellow facings on the uniform. The Captain was much loved by his brother officers, and no military man in Stirling has at any time been more widely or more warmly respected by the citizens. He had a good word to say to everyone, and everyone had a good word to say to him. His jovial figure and cheery laugh were greatly missed from the streets, but his memory is still lovingly cherished by all who knew him. His remains were laid to rest in presence of one of the largest gatherings, military and civilian, ever seen in Stirling.

Sergeant-Major Mason.

Died 12th September, 1895.

Sergeant-Major Norman Mason died at Edinburgh in September, 1895. Born in that city in August, 1815, he had thus completed his 80th year. Entering the army when a mere boy, he continued his career as a soldier during the greater part of his life, his heart and soul being in his profession. He served in India, and afterwards in Africa, going through the whole of the Kaffir War. On the return of his regiment (the 48th Foot) he joined the 90th Highland Borderers Light Infantry (Stirlingshire) Militia, now the 3rd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which, in conjunction with the late Lieut.-Colonel Sir Alexander Ramsay Gibson Maitland, Bart., and Captain and Adjutant Kenny, he made second to none in the service. After serving twenty years as Sergeant-Major, he retired to Edinburgh, where he passed the remainder of his life. The Sergeant-Major was a strict disciplinarian, but was greatly respected by both officers and men. No one could deceive him as to duty, and woe betide any one whom he caught misbehaving. The whisper that "Joe"—a name he was generally known by—was in sight put an end to the fiercest fight. After his retiral from service, his commanding figure was well known even on the streets of Edinburgh. He was buried in Stirling Cemetery, under the shadow of the Castle he loved so well, and his officers marked their respect for him by erecting a memorial stone.

Colonel A. C. Nightingale.

Died 10th January, 1899.

Colonel Arthur Collett Nightingale, late of the 93rd (Sutherland) Highlanders, died at his residence, Snowdown House, Stirling. He was a grandson of Sir Edward Nightingale, 6th baronet, of Kneesworth, Cambridgeshire, and was born in 1837.

Gazetted to the 93rd Highlanders as ensign in 1854, he joined the regiment in the Crimea, where he served at the siege of Sebastopol, receiving the Crimean medal and clasp, and the Turkish medal. In 1857 he accompanied his regiment to India, and served with it during the Mutiny campaign; was present at the relief of Lucknow under Sir Colin Campbell, at the defeat of the Gwalior contingent at Cawnpore, and at the battle of Kalanndee, for which he obtained medal and clasp. When in India he had the misfortune to lose his right hand and part of the arm, by the discharge of his gun when in the hands of a native to whom he had given it to carry, and was invalided home. He returned to India before long, and got his company in 1860. He was present with his regiment in the Umbeyla campaign of 1863, receiving medal and clasp. He became Brevet-Major in 1873, Regimental Major in 1878, and in 1884 he succeeded to the command of his regiment—now the 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—which he held till 1887, when he was appointed to the command of the 91st Regimental District (Stirling), holding this for five years. On coming to Stirling, Colonel Nightingale purchased Snowdown House, and continued to reside there after the expiry of his command. He was a Justice of the Peace for the county of Stirling.

The Colonel was a thoroughly good soldier, and much beloved by all who served with him, although he was very strict and exact in the performance of duties, and insisted on smartness and efficiency on the part of all those under his command. In private life it is not too much to say that he was a favourite with all who knew him, and that when he died he left no enemy behind him. He was constantly doing some kind and charitable deed, and most of his acts of generosity were known only to those who benefitted by them. The secret of his popularity and of the universal affection with which he was regarded, was his absolute want of selfishness and his great consideration for the feelings of others. He was greatly beloved by the poor, and more especially old soldiers who had fallen into poverty. Many were the demands on his charity, and they were seldom made in vain. He took interest in

various organisations for the good of Stirling, but that in which he evinced greatest zeal was the local section of the Caledonian Railway Ambulance Corps, of which he was vice-president, and for competition amongst the members of which he gifted a massive silver cup. A keen sportsman, in spite of his having only one hand, he was an excellent shot, both with rifle and smooth-bore, his performances with the rifle in the Himalayas and on the plains of India being noteworthy. He was also a devoted and successful angler, and at one time hunted the regimental foxhounds. He was no mean performer in the racquet court, on the bowling green and golf links, and, in fact, seemed to be very little handicapped by the loss of his arm. Passionately fond of music, and possessed of a good voice, his singing was in much request. He used to play his own accompaniments on the pianoforte, and his friends cannot readily forget his rendering of "The Boar," and "The Plains of the Deccan." In his earlier days he was frequently to be seen on the stage at private theatricals, when his acting was much appreciated.

The esteem in which he was held by the inhabitants of Stirling was shewn by the attitude of the town on the day of his funeral. The shops along the route of the cortege were closed and the streets were lined with a respectful and sympathetic crowd, while the coffin with his remains was conveyed with military honours from Snowdown House to the East Church, and from there to the Railway Station, en route for Glasgow, where, by direction of the Colonel, his remains were cremated. Permission was granted for his ashes being deposited in a cavity in the wall of the West Parish Church, Stirling, and a memorial tablet being affixed. On the occasion a number of veterans of the old 93rd—many of whom had served with him in the Crimea and in India—assembled to pay their respect to the memory of their friend and comrade, who had always been ready to help and to sympathise with them.

An Englishman by birth, Colonel Nightingale was a Highlander by profession and by inclination, and no man was ever more sincerely attached to his regiment than he was to the 93rd.

Mr. Wm. Edmondston of Cambuswallace,

Contriver of the Back Walk.

This somewhat remarkable gentleman, having no taste for sports or carousing, delighted himself in rural occupations. Early in life he planted trees on the hill behind his house—now Doune Lodge, the seat of the Earl of Moray—which in time formed a beautiful amphitheatre of wood; he also similarly enclosed some fields below the mansion, at that time a very unusual practice. He was a very early riser, and it was long believed by the country people that “Cambuswallace’s wraith” was sometimes seen in the summer mornings before sunrise. This originated from his getting up before break of day in order to see that no cattle had got into his plantations; and having on one occasion found a fellow breaking down his fences, he thrashed him soundly, and then returned to bed without being seen by the servants. He left Cambuswallace about 1723, having surrendered it to his son upon his marriage. He lived afterwards in Stirling, where, while walking on the Castlehill, he used to cast wistful looks towards his beloved plantations. It was at this time that he projected the delightful “Back Walk,” as well as the plantation below. On the walk, which was one of the first of its kind in the country, a stone seat has been placed, with the following inscription:—“Erected in honour of W. Edmondston, Esq. of Cambuswallace, contriver of this Walk, 1724. Renewed 1833.” In 1723, at Cambuswallace, he cut down a tree of his own planting, which he intended for his coffin, but was laughed out of the idea. He died in 1748, aged 89.

Miss Burd of Seafield.

This lady died at her residence, Forthside House, Forth Place, on the 7th October, 1854, in her 94th year. Miss Burd was the last of a race which, for 200 years, held a prominent

place in Stirling, and exercised considerable influence both in its municipal and ecclesiastical affairs. Miss Burd strikingly exemplified, in habits, manners, and conversation, the thorough Scotch lady of the end of last century. Her knowledge of Divine truth was extensive and correct, and her devotedness to the cause of religion sincere. The great ecclesiastical questions of the day she studied and discussed with great animation till the last, her naturally acute mind losing none of its power under the pressure of years—disease she scarcely ever knew. She firmly held the great principles of Presbyterianism, having a strong conception of their importance, and when, in 1843, the Disruption from the Scottish Church took place, she was found amongst those who felt constrained to sever their connection with the State, that they might preserve for future generations the religious privileges which their fathers had purchased by the sacrifice of their lives. Till her death she was an intelligent advocate of the principles of the Free Church, and a generous contributor to its various schemes.

Sir James Anderson, Knt., M.P.

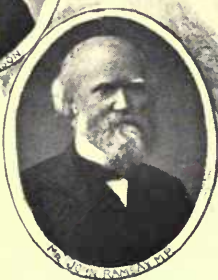
Died 8th May, 1864.

Sir James Anderson died at his residence at Blairvadick, Row. Born in 1800, he was thus at his death 64 years of age. A native of Stirling, he went to Glasgow when a young man, and became foreman to Messrs William Snell & Co., a famed gingham manufacturing firm in Candleriggs. After some time he married the only daughter of Bailie Robert Hood, and began, upon his own account, the manufacture of gingham. By his industry, excellent business habits, and upright bearing, matters went well with him, and eventually the firm which bore his name took a prominent place amongst the manufacturers of Glasgow. In 1841 he was elected a member of the Town Council, and so well did he discharge his duties that in 1842 he was chosen as a Magistrate. This office he filled with

so much acceptance that the highest honour his fellow citizens could confer was, in 1848, bestowed upon him—that of the Lord Provostship. During his municipal reign (in 1849) the Queen visited Glasgow, and, on going on board the Royal yacht, he was invested with the dignity of knighthood. After the term of his Provostship expired, Sir James remained in the Council till 1854, when he retired. His friends, thinking his experience of public business might be useful in the great Council of the nation, urged him to endeavour to obtain a seat in the House of Commons. He accordingly offered himself, in 1852, as a candidate, in the Liberal interest, for the Stirling District of Burghs, and was, owing, probably, to the fact of his being a native of Stirling, and also to his reputation as Chief Magistrate of Glasgow, successful in his appeal to the constituency. He continued to represent the Burghs till 1859, when, finding the labour of a Member of Parliament too arduous for his failing health, he retired, and ceased from that time to take active part in public affairs. He was a liberal supporter of many of the public institutions of Glasgow, and few, indeed, were the public appeals made to him to contribute to the cause of suffering, or promote human welfare, to which his name as a contributor was not appended.

Mr. John Ramsay of Kildalton, M.P.

Mr. Ramsay was born at Stirling in 1814. Some of his relatives were well-to-do, his father being a saddler, whose shop, reached by several steps, was situated in the middle of King Street, where now stands the Royal Restaurant. He owed his success, however, in the main to his own energy and good sense. He received his early education at Allan's School, Stirling, being an Hospital boy, and at Glasgow, where he was employed as a youth, he attended the University for a time. Practically his start in life was about the year 1835, when he took over the distillery at Port Ellen, Islay, which had been unsuccessful in the hands of the former



proprietors, but in his became the large concern it now is. Once established in Islay, Mr. Ramsay, with characteristic energy, turned his attention to various public measures for the comfort of the islanders. There being no regular means of communication with the mainland, he set about establishing a steamer service, which plied twice a week between Islay and Glasgow. Later he was joined in this enterprise by others, but he continued the principal upholder of the service till it was taken over by David Hutchison & Co. He was also instrumental in establishing improved postal communication with and throughout the island, and, later still, in having the telegraph service introduced. When Mr. Ramsay arrived on the island the Islay estates—then the property of the Campbells—were heavily burdened. His tact and business capacity commended him to the proprietor, who secured his aid in the attempt to disencumber them. The attempt was not successful, however, as the property had to be sold in 1848. A portion was purchased by a Mr. Morrison, and from him some years later Mr. Ramsay bought the Kildalton estate. He was a model proprietor, and lived continually on his estate when not engaged in public business, spending large sums on its improvement. Land was reclaimed, roads were made, and steadings built, and this improvement was carried on to an extent which gave employment to a large number of work people. His desire for the well-being of the islanders led him to induce a number of them to emigrate to Canada, and even then he did not lose sight of them, his interest in their welfare leading him in 1870 to visit Canada to inquire personally into their condition. He found them prosperous and contented, and an interesting account of his tour was printed for private circulation. The energy Mr. Ramsay showed in the affairs of his own district he carried into the business of the county also. He was fully conversant with all its details, trusted by all the county people, and for many years was Convener of the Finance Committee. His business connection with Glasgow led him to take active interest in the affairs of that city. He was for a time Dean of Guild, was connected with

the Clyde Navigation Trust, and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. In the latter capacity he represented the Chamber at the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, and wrote an account of his trip.

On the fall of the Disraeli Ministry in 1868, Mr. Ramsay stood for the Parliamentary representation of the Stirling Burghs, and was elected, but at the next election, which took place shortly after, he was defeated by Mr. Henry Campbell, now the Right Honourable Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. In 1874 he was returned for the Falkirk Burghs, which he represented till his retiral in 1885. His practical good sense and business abilities secured for him a position of much influence among his Parliamentary colleagues. He was a distinct personality in "The House:" not like some of the Scottish members—a silent and scarcely recognised entity. Although a keen Liberal, his career in Parliament was a very independent one, his independence winning for him the respect of both sides of the House. He never hesitated to oppose or criticise measures he did not agree with; and, in particular, he stood out firmly against Mr. Gladstone's crofter legislation.

Undoubtedly, however, the subject which engaged most of his attention through life, and in connection with which his best work was done, was that of education, especially in the Highlands and Islands. About the year 1862, he made a tour of the schools in the Hebrides, and as a result of his visit he addressed to Lord Moncrieff a letter "On the State of Education in the Outer Hebrides." This letter, besides influencing the Education Bill, brought Mr. Ramsay's name so much under notice as an educationist, that when, in 1864, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the state of education in Scotland, he was appointed a member. His connection with educational matters from that time may be said to have been continuous. He was a member of the Educational Endowments Commission for Scotland. His interest was not merely confined to providing efficient elementary education: he was a warm advocate of secondary education, earnest in his desire to raise the standard of the

ordinary Scottish school; and his influence was always used in favour of extending and liberalising the benefits of endowments. In the last few years of his life he had retired from active public life, and for some time before his death had been in indifferent health.

Mr. Ramsay, in his business relations, showed himself through life a clear-headed and sagacious man, one who had the courage of his opinions, which, when once formed, he adhered to with great tenacity of purpose. But withal he was a kind-hearted gentleman, universally respected and affectionately regarded by a large circle of friends.

The clock in the tower of the High School was presented by him; he also presented the Incorporation of Hammermen of Stirling with one thousand pounds to provide bursaries for furthering the education of children of parties connected therewith.

Mr. John Macfarlane of Coneyhill.

Died 28th August, 1863.

Mr. Macfarlane was a "Son of the Rock," and, leaving his native town, he embarked in commercial pursuits in Glasgow and Manchester. He was very prosperous in business, and, while in Manchester, endeavoured, by every means in his power, to promote the welfare of his native place. At one time he attempted to establish a school of design in Stirling, and for that purpose sent a variety of models and casts, for the housing of which he rented the room known as the Odd-fellows' Hall, at the head of St. Mary's Wynd. His scheme, however, did not meet with the encouragement it deserved, and was consequently abandoned. To Mr. Macfarlane might be given the credit of having been the first to institute Free Libraries in Scotland. He was the founder of the Macfarlane Free Library, Museum, and Reading-room in Stirling, which he established, at considerable outlay, about 1854. He also

founded an extensive museum of natural history at Bridge of Allan, and claimed to be the originator of the Wallace Monument scheme. Mr. Wilson—the celebrated Scottish vocalist—when on one of his tours through Scotland in the forties, announced to an Edinburgh audience—at the request of Mr. Macfarlane—that it had been suggested to him by a gentleman that a monument should be raised to the memory of Wallace, and that the most suitable site for it would be the Abbey Craig. This suggestion was followed up by an offer of £50 as a subscription, which Mr. Wilson volunteered to supplement with the proceeds of an entertainment. The gentleman alluded to afterwards turned out to be Mr. Macfarlane himself, who, although it was many years ere the scheme was matured, came handsomely forward with his £50. He took a lively interest in aquatic sports, and was one of the original promoters of the Stirling Rowing Club, presenting the club with a very handsome and valuable silver challenge cup, which was annually competed for by the members. Mr. Macfarlane also made an unsuccessful attempt to establish pleasure “gondolas” on the Forth. Further, he devised various schemes for the adornment and amenity of the neighbourhood in which he lived. One of his favourite schemes was the enlargement of the harbour of Stirling; another was for connecting the rivers Forth and Clyde, by means of a tidal canal from the Forth, near Dunmore below Alloa, and a ship canal westward, to be connected with Loch Lomond, and from that loch at Balloch, through the valley of the Leven, to the river Clyde at Dumbarton, a distance in all of about forty miles. From the greater part of the ground being level, he calculated that it could be effected at one-half the cost of the Caledonian Canal, and would, if carried out, form a highway for shipping from the west to the German Ocean. Mr. Macfarlane had lithographed designs and maps prepared, with the details, which he brought under the notice of influential parties; but the project, from its magnitude, was not destined to be realised, although he considered that in a national point of view, as well as commercially, it would be of great advantage. In fact, so anxious was Mr. Macfarlane to promote every good

work connected with the town, that, in 1853, when the early closing movement was effected, he intimated, through Provost Sawers, at a public meeting in town, that he would give £50 towards the purchasing of books, and the procuring of a place for them being read, so that the leisure hours of the shopmen and clerks might be profitably spent. After a long illness Mr. Macfarlane died at his residence in Bridge of Allan, and was interred in Stirling Cemetery.

Mr. John Fraser, Teacher.

Died 5th March, 1839.

An interesting personality of a bygone generation was Mr. John Fraser, as was also his father before him. With a view to the ministry, the latter, when a youth, was sent to Edinburgh University, where he was fairly successful in his passes. He was a good linguist, speaking four, if not five, languages. About this time his health failed him, and, without communicating with his relatives as to his altered intentions, he acquired the art of making wigs, so commonly worn at the period, and, to the surprise of his parents, came home a barber, an occupation which he followed in Stirling until his death. It was curious to hear a conversation going on in Latin or Greek between the barber and some of his learned customers, or in Gaelic with the Highlanders.

His son was apprenticed to Mr. Randal, bookbinder, printer and publisher, and after a time began business on his own account. In 1816 he printed the first volume of Charles's "History of the Transactions in Scotland," and, in the following year, in two volumes, Nimmo's "History of Stirlingshire." Having got into trouble with the authorities during the Chartist rising in 1820, he had to leave Stirling. Commencing business in Paisley, he came to grief there also, on account of his Radical writings and publications, his types and press being confiscated. Returning to Stirling, he took to teaching, in

which he was ably assisted by his wife, Jean Dick, who taught the infant department. She also taught the girls sewing, and many an accomplished needlewoman did she send out. So successful were they in their enterprise, and so highly was Mr. Fraser respected, not only as a teacher, but as an individual, that, on 24th April, 1837, he was the recipient, from the parents and guardians of the pupils attending his school, of an elegant silver snuffbox, having the following inscription:—“Presented to Mr. John Fraser, teacher, Stirling, by the parents and friends of the pupils attending his classes, as a mark of gratitude for his assiduous attention to the young under his tuition. Stirling, 1837.” Mrs. Fraser was at the same time presented with a gold ring, which also bore an inscription. The following obituary notice appeared in “The Stirling Observer” at the time of Mr. Fraser’s death:—

“There is no man in town who will be more deeply regretted, or whose loss will be more permanently felt. His school was very large, consisting for years of fully 200 scholars upon the average, varying in age from 4 to 20. To the duties required by this large establishment he devoted himself with zeal, assiduity, and indefatigable industry, greatly disproportioned to the physical powers of any ordinary man, so that there can be no question that he fell a victim to his zeal for the public service.”

His school was in the Guild Hall. Notwithstanding that the streets were covered with snow and slush, a large company attended the funeral of Mr. Fraser, the Masonic brethren carrying the coffin shoulder-high from the Athenæum (of which he was librarian) in King Street all the way up hill to the churchyard at the High Kirk. It may be interesting to state, as showing how a trade clings to families, or they to the trade, that two nephews of Mr. Fraser, the late Mr. George Duncan and Mr. John Jamieson, proprietors of “The Stirling Observer,” and now a grand-nephew, Mr. John Jamieson Munro, also of “The Stirling Observer,” have continued printers.

Mr. William Graham.

Mr. William Graham, one of our oldest and best known townsmen, was born at the farm of Queenshaugh. After receiving his education and serving his apprenticeship as an ironmonger in Stirling, he commenced business in the year 1830, while quite a lad, in that shop at the foot of Bank Street then No. 28, now No. 57, Baker Street. Though young his business habits were so well formed that his trade increased rapidly, and necessitated his removing to the handsome buildings in King Street (then newly built), where, thirty years after starting business, he assumed Mr. David Morton as a partner, thus forming the firm of Graham & Morton, known far and wide for their extensive dealing. Ten years after Mr. Morton joined the firm Mr. Graham retired to enjoy a well-earned rest.

Mr. Graham was also agent for the Royal Bank of Scotland for the long period of twenty-seven years, and did much to increase the prosperity of that bank in this quarter.

Mr. Graham served twelve years in the Town Council, and was for three years Dean of the Guildry. As the youngest member of the Guildry, he carried the flag of the Incorporation at the laying of the foundation-stone of the New Bridge in the year 1831.

Mr. Graham was one of the first to introduce plate-glass windows into Stirling, each pane in his premises being reported at the time to have cost £35.

Mr. William Hunter.

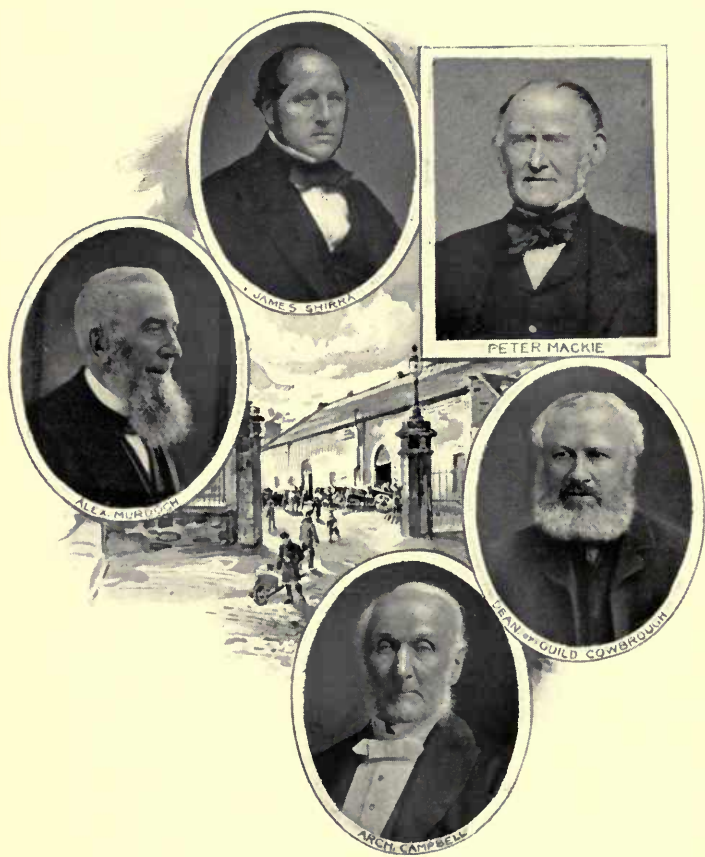
The subject of this brief sketch, Mr. William Hunter—one of the very few nonogenarians amongst the inhabitants of Stirling—is a native of the adjoining county of Clackmannan, having been born on the farm of Sheriffyards, near Alloa, in the year 1809, which Professor Blackie was wont to speak of as “the most remarkable year in the century,” as it gave

birth to three great men, William Ewart Gladstone, Alfred Tennyson, and John Stuart Blackie. At the close of his schoolboy days, Mr. Hunter directed his attention to the wool trade, which business he carried on in Alloa until the year 1857, when he removed to Stirling, where he still resides. Although now in the ninety-first year of his age, Mr. Hunter continues in the enjoyment of good health, and, with faculties quite unimpaired, still continues the active transaction of business from day to day. As may readily be imagined, Mr. Hunter has a great fund of old stories and reminiscences to relate, his keenness of intellect, even at his advanced age, serving him admirably, and not a few of his recollections are such as to be almost inconceivable, so marked is the contrast between the circumstances and manner of life which obtained during the earlier years of his manhood and what is now transpiring around him. One of the earliest events he remembers—and it was certainly one which would vividly impress itself upon the memory—is the celebration of the victory at Waterloo, in 1815, when a bonfire was lit on the top of Demyat, and an effigy of Napoleon was publicly burnt.

✓ Mr. James Cowbrough.

Died 13th February, 1885.

Mr Cowbrough, who was the second son of Mr. Henry Cowbrough, Dykes Farm, was born 31st December, 1816, and, after leaving school, served apprenticeship as a grocer with Messrs D. & J. MacEwen & Co., Port Street, continuing in their employment until 1839, when, along with Mr. D. M'Nab, he commenced business in a small way in a part of the premises in the same street now occupied by the firm of Cowbrough & Mercer. The business rapidly became a prosperous one, and by and bye branches were opened in Baker Street and Wallace Street, as well as in Bridge of Allan and Callander, Mr. Cowbrough devoting himself most assiduously to its interests for the long period of forty-five years, until failing



health compelled him, about a year before his death, to retire from active participation in its affairs.

Notwithstanding the claims of his extensive and, at the time, steadily growing business, Mr. Cowbrough found opportunity to devote himself to public affairs, in 1855 being Dean of the Guildry, and from the same year until 1858 occupying the position of Dean of Guild in the Town Council. He also devoted not a little attention to educational matters, and from the passing of the Education Act until his death was a member of both the Burgh and Landward School Boards, although for some little time previous to his decease he was unable to attend the meetings. Another educational agency which received attention and support from Mr. Cowbrough, as well as other leading merchants, was what was known as the Boys' Charity Evening School, by means of which not a few lads were enabled to better equip themselves for the battle of life.

Being a man of probity and acknowledged business ability, Mr. Cowbrough's services were frequently requisitioned as a testamentary trustee, these being given most ungrudgingly, and with considerable benefit to the interests concerned.

A devoted adherent of the Free Church, Mr. Cowbrough for many years held office in the Free North as an elder, and was also treasurer to the congregation, both during the ministry of the late Dr. Beith and the Rev. Mr. Chalmers. The religious welfare of the youth of Cambuskenneth had also in him an ardent friend, his interest therein being manifested by his bequest of the sum of £100, the annual proceeds from which were to be expended in the purchase of gift-books for the children attending the Sabbath School there, "of which," he stated, "I have had the honour and privilege of being superintendent for twenty-three years;" this bequest to continue to be paid "so long as the school shall continue under the care of the Free North Church."

Mr. Cowbrough was a genial friend, ever ready to serve his fellows, and very general regret was expressed at his demise, his funeral being attended with every mark of public respect, the shops on the route of the cortege to Stirling Cemetery being closed.

✓ **Mr. George Thomson.**

Died 8th February, 1867.

George Thomson, born at Stirling in 1811, was the second son of John Thomson, coachbuilder, and Isabella Burns. His father was a member of the Town Council, held the office of Convener of the Seven Incorporated Trades, and took active interest in municipal affairs generally. His mother was remarkable for her strength of character, her industry, and enlightened piety. Through her energy two of her sons got a University education, and one of them became the Rev. Dr. John Thomson, of Free St. George's, Paisley.

He was trained with a view to business, went to Edinburgh when a youth, and there obtained a sound commercial training. On the death of his father, circumstances caused him to give up his appointment in Edinburgh, and take control of the coachbuilding business in Stirling. This he did with characteristic energy and enterprise, developing a business of comparatively small dimensions into a large and widely known one, and sending his manufactures not only to different parts of Great Britain but also to most of the British Colonies. He invented and designed a number of carriages, and his success was recognised by high awards, such as those of the London Exhibition of 1851, and the Dublin Exhibitions of 1854 and 1865. He was energetic and progressive in his ideas, and was ready to employ steam and machinery as aids in his business, and, being of sterling integrity, he well deserved the success which attended him.

When railways were first introduced, George Thomson was amongst those who built railway carriages, and from his factory in the Craigs numbers of these were supplied for the Scottish Central and other railway companies. The premises in the Craigs becoming too small for his extensive business, he acquired new ground in Orchard Place, where he erected a large factory and carriage show-rooms.

His active energies were largely employed in his Carriage

Works, and he was unable to bestow the time on public affairs for which, from his business qualities, he was well fitted. He held the office of Councillor for three years, and was for many years Deacon of the Hammermen Incorporation and Convener of the Seven Incorporated Trades.

He was a member of the Free North Church, and a great admirer of the late Rev. Dr. Beith. He was Clerk to the Deacons' Court of that congregation, and latterly an elder. With all the history of the Free North Church George Thomson is intimately associated. In its successful endeavours in building the present fine church, in obtaining the manse, and in the development of its congregational and mission work he was one of a band of helpful and enthusiastic workers.

In his private life he was genial, courteous, and full of humour, and, being given to hospitality, he had hosts of friends. His death, at the age of 56, removed one who seemed still in the prime of life, and apparently able for many years of active and useful service.

Mr. Robert Hill of Springbank.

Mr. Hill was born on 7th April, 1790, and died on 10th May, 1846. He began practice as a lawyer in Stirling early in the century, succeeding to the business of Mr. Colin Dawson, writer, his uncle, and enjoyed for many years an extensive practice, particularly in family and estate work. He was agent for a number of landed proprietors in the county, and held several appointments. He owned the properties of Dundaff, Foresthill, and Rashiedrum, in the county of Stirling, and resided at Springbank, Stirling, which also belonged to him. A leading elder in the North Church of Stirling, he took a prominent part in the Disruption movement in 1843, and, along with the celebrated Dr. Guthrie and others, collected a large sum for the building of churches and manses for the Free Church. Our portrait is from an oil painting by the late Sir George Harvey, P.R.S.A., which is in the possession of Mr. R. A. Hill, S.S.C., Stirling, his grandson.

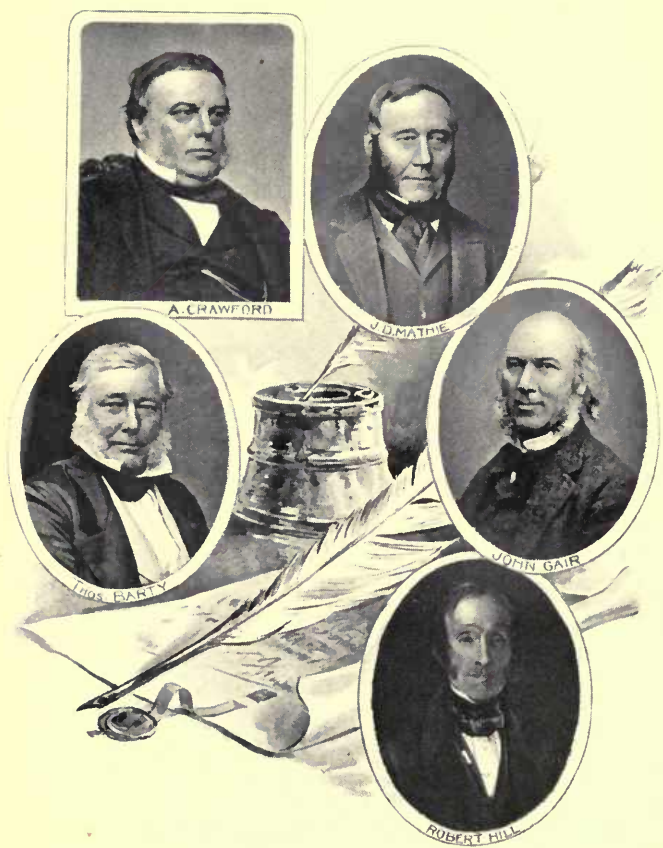
Robert Gillies, Esq. of Gormyre,

Provost and High Sheriff of Stirling. Our portrait is also from a painting in the possession of Mr. R. A. Hill, S.S.C. Mr Gillies was elected Provost of Stirling in September, 1823, and again in September, 1824. Thereafter he was twice returned to the Council, on each occasion occupying the position of Treasurer.

Mr. Andrew Crawford, Writer.

Died 8th March, 1875.

Mr. Crawford died very suddenly while engaged in the transaction of business. Born at Crook of Devon, in the parish of Fossoway, Kinross-shire, in 1808, he had reached his 67th year. After being educated at the parish school, Mr. Crawford removed to Stirling, where he served apprenticeship in the law office of Mr. Haldane, son-in-law to Mr. Burden, rector of the Grammar School. He devoted himself with so much zeal to his profession that, at the age of twenty-five, he was admitted a member of the Faculty of Procurators in town, and practised as a solicitor for the long period of forty-two years. On his admission to the Faculty he speedily took a high position as a member of the local bar, and although not what might be called an eloquent speaker, his argument was always ingenuous, evincing much legal acumen and careful study. He was long connected with the firm of Nimmo & Crawford, and, on the death of Mr. Nimmo, assumed Mr. Charles Wingate (now ex-Bailie) as partner, but after a time the partnership was dissolved, and he continued the business alone. Mr. Crawford was for many years Procurator-Fiscal to the Faculty of Writers in Stirling, and at his death had only two seniors at the bar. In society he was what may be aptly described as a silent man, but was by no means morose. Although he rarely started a subject, if asked his opinion he was always ready to give it



with a fulness and extent which surprised those who did not know him. In his long professional career he sustained a character of unimpeachable integrity; was keenly alive to humour, and affectation in man or woman he hated implacably. Anything more abhorrent to his mind was to hear of or see the poor and defenceless being down-trodden by the remorseless magic of the "almighty dollar." Mr. Crawford, in his leisure hours, occasionally gave himself up to the cultivation of the Muse, the following being from his pen, and published in 1873:—

A CHILD SMILED IN SLEEP.

What hope or joy steals o'er thy soul
When slumbering on thy bed?
Do heavenly accents, whispering love,
Float round thy little head?

Do seraphs' voices—mute to us—
Thy listening ear command?
Are forms angelic seen by thee
From Glory's happy land?

What causes, mantling on thy cheek,
That dimpled, lovely smile,
Which, as it lightens up thy face,
Both shines and fades the while?

Are little cherubs, decked with gold
And glittering pearls, seen
Beckoning on thee to roam with them
Through beauteous bowers of green?—

Where innocence and love, combined,
Attend the happy train,
And music, with its soothing charms,
Lends its melodious strain.

Sleep—safe from noxious shades of night
And sultry scorching sun;
Sweetly they sleep whose guardian watch
Is Israel's Sleepless One.

Mr. Alexander Murdoch.

Died 4th March, 1885.

Alexander Murdoch, of Pitfar—better known among his intimates as “Sandy Murdoch, the saddler”—was a well-known citizen, born in 1797 in St. Mary’s Wynd, where his father carried on the trade of candle-making, and was known by the name of “Tallow Tam.” With him the late Bailie “Tam” Steel, frequently mentioned in the First Series of this work, served apprenticeship. Mr. Murdoch, electing to become a saddler, served apprenticeship with a tradesman of the name of Stewart, whose premises were in King Street, and with whom he continued thereafter, in the capacity of foreman, ultimately succeeding, at the death of his employer, to the business, which he conducted for upwards of fifty years. Considerable success attended Mr. Murdoch’s prosecution of business, his name, as well as the quality of the workmanship he employed, being favourably known and highly appreciated, not only in and around Stirling, but throughout Central Scotland and elsewhere. In 1842, on the occasion of the first visit of Her Majesty Queen Victoria to Scotland, he came more prominently into notice through being employed to execute some saddlery work for the Royal equipage, and was thereafter appointed as one of Her Majesty’s Saddlers for Scotland, an honour which, needless to say, was very highly appreciated by Mr. Murdoch. It may be of interest to note that the business is one of the oldest in Stirling, having been carried on uninterruptedly now for one hundred and ten years, and is at present represented by Mr. Duncan Macdonald.

Mr. Murdoch’s business premises—which were situated at the head of King Street, on the site of the block of buildings recently erected by Messrs M’Aree Brothers, drapers—formed a very frequent meeting-place for a number of merchants and leisured men about town, who discussed with great gusto the latest developments in municipal life, and not a few practical

jokes were initiated amongst the coterie who frequented "Sandy Murdoch's." When the Stirling Races were in their palmy days, naturally, from business and other associations, his shop was a rendezvous for jockeys and local gentlemen connected with the turf, the all-absorbing topic for the time being keenly discussed, and the merits and demerits of the various entrants for the offered stakes dilated on.

Mr. Murdoch had retired from business for a few years before his death, which took place on 4th March, 1885, at the age of 88.

Mr. Archibald Campbell, "The Royal."

Died 15th May, 1894.

Archibald Campbell, better known as "The Royal," was born at Marygowan, Killin, in 1803. He came to Stirling in the "thirties," and, after being for some time tenant of the old Royal Hotel, at the foot of Queen Street, in 1840 he became lessee, and afterwards proprietor, of the Royal Hotel, in Friars Street. He also for some years rented the Union Hotel, in Port Street, which he carried on in connection with the Royal. Mr. Campbell continued all his life a Highlander in sympathy, and to a considerable extent in speech also. He never forgot his native mountains, and his last wish was that he should be laid beside his forefathers in their quiet resting-place in the Highlands.

Before the construction of the railway between Stirling and Callander, and for some time thereafter, Mr. Campbell ran a service of coaches between these places, and was the first to arrange a coaching service to Loch Katrine. In June, 1885, he was, by his townsmen and numerous friends throughout the country, entertained to a complimentary dinner, when he was presented with a handsome silver tray as a mark of sincere respect and esteem, both for his private character and his service to the public during the long period of forty-nine years.

He took but little part in public affairs, his extensive business engrossing his whole time.

Mr. Campbell's kindness of heart was abundantly shown by his liberality to the poor of both Stirling and Killin, who had reason to regret the demise of "The Royal." On each New Year's Day morning for a very long period, it was pleasing, in one sense, to see the crowd which assembled at the hotel to receive, irrespective of creed or other distinction, their "New Year," which—always substantial—was handed to them personally by Mr. Campbell in his accustomed nervous style. His personal appearance as he left the hotel in the morning to do his shopping or other business was, as the saying goes, "as if he had come out of a bandbox," so spruce and neat did he appear.

Mr. Campbell was, indeed, one of nature's gentlemen, never known to speak an unkind word or do an unkind action, but who wore, all through his long span of fourscore and ten years, "the white flower of a blameless life." He was never married, and died at Woodcliffe, Upper Bridge Street, where, after he had retired from business, he spent the later years of his life. At his death he was the oldest elder in the North Parish Church, having officiated in that capacity for thirty-four years.

✓ Mr. James Shirra.

Died 2nd April, 1888.

Mr. James Shirra was born in the village of St. Ninians in 1812. After serving his apprenticeship as a draper in Stirling, he went to Glasgow for a year or two, but soon returned to Stirling, beginning business on his own account in the shop in Port Street now occupied by Mr. William Christie, watch-maker.

Mr. Shirra was a devoted and enthusiastic antiquary, with a special affection for anything that would throw light on the past history of our good old town. When the late Mr. John

Macfarlane of Coneyhill established his museum in Stirling, Mr. Shirra undertook, in conjunction with Provost Rankin, the most of the work of arranging and labelling the various exhibits, and he was instrumental in securing for that museum many of the interesting articles now displayed in the Smith Institute. But the bent of his mind lay towards "Old faces and old places" rather than to old things. His acquaintance with the Stirling of past generations was, like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, extensive and peculiar. He had gathered together a large and extremely varied fund of information regarding the doings of local public bodies, civic and ecclesiastical, during the last two hundred years, more particularly those portions of their history the records of which do not appear in the pages of their minute-books, and there were few indeed of the men whose names are prominent in our burgh annals regarding whom he had not some interesting story to tell. Many of his reminiscences were from time to time given to the public in the local newspapers, and he was also a frequent contributor to the columns of the Glasgow "Reformers' Gazette."

As he had begun business in the days of exclusive trading he was, of course, a member of the Merchant Guild. He took a lively interest in its affairs, and was ever a staunch defender of its rights and privileges. Mr. Shirra's knowledge of the history of the ancient Incorporation in its minutest details was something remarkable, and had been acquired by years of patient and laborious research in the old records of the Guildry, which extended over a period of three hundred years. A little book which he issued, giving an account of the origin of the Stirling Guild and a short history of Cowane's Hospital from its foundation down to his own day, aroused a good deal of interest at the time it was published, as it was the first attempt to preserve in a popular form full information relating to that old and beneficent institution.

Mr. Shirra died in 1888, in his seventy-sixth year.

Mr. Peter Mackie.

Died 10th January, 1868.

Peter Mackie—or “The Laird,” as he was known to his intimates—was born in 1784, and succeeded his father, in 1817, in the small property of Dunmore Park, near Airth, which has been in the family since 1680. He also tenanted (under three landlords) the farm of Bandedeath, on Polmaise estate, and took a leading part in agricultural matters in the Stirling district. He was the means of instituting, in 1818, the October hiring market for farm servants, which was known long after as “Peter Mackie’s Fair,” and which he attended without a break up till his death. In 1854 he was presented with a gold watch, etc., at a public dinner in Stirling, as a mark of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow agriculturists. When a young man he was a member of the Stirlingshire Yeomanry, and was at the apprehension of Baird and Hardie at Bonnymuir. He used to tell that when the call to arms came, many of the brave yeomen found excuses to prevent them riding their horses. He was a kindly old man, and much respected, and died, at the age of 84, on 10th January, 1868. He was peculiarly the friend of the agricultural labourer, and was universally esteemed for his personal worth, as well as for his efforts after the betterment of that class of the community.

From a cutting from an Edinburgh newspaper we cite a curious coincidence. When taking down the North Bridge in 1896, a handsome tombstone, in a good state of preservation, was found, bearing the name of William Mackie, who died in the year 1685, and who first owned the family property of Dunmore Park, above referred to. It had been removed from Holyrood Churchyard when desecrated by the mob in 1688, and stored in some ecclesiastical building, on the demolition of which it had been used to build the bridge.

The interest of the family in Stirling is being maintained by Mr. Peter Mackie’s grandson, Mr. Peter J. Mackie, of Auchlochan, Coalburn, Lanarkshire, the donor of “The

Mackie Prize" of five guineas annually for proficiency in art in the High School. Another grandson is Mr. John Mackie, who is favourably known to the reading public as the author of several volumes dealing with Colonial life.

Mr. John Gair.

Died 13th April, 1891.

Mr. John Gair, Procurator-Fiscal at Falkirk, a once well-known figure on the streets of Stirling, was born at Inverkeithing in the year 1815, thus being in his seventy-seventh year at the time of his death, in April, 1891. Mr. Gair received his education at the Grammar School of Stirling, and served his apprenticeship with Messrs Sawers & Sconce, Fiscals here. After a short time in the Sheriff Clerk's office, Glasgow, he went to the office of the late Mr. Barty, Dunblane, Procurator-Fiscal for the Western Division of Perthshire, several years thereafter being chosen by the late Lord Handyside, then Sheriff of Stirlingshire, to fill the important position of Procurator-Fiscal for the Eastern District of the county. When it is noted that this appointment was made in 1843, and that Mr. Gair was then only 29 years of age, it is manifest that those high legal qualities which marked his mature years must have early given signs of development, and have recommended him to favourable notice. It is not often that one so young receives such an important appointment, but Mr. Gair had ability which proved that the trust reposed in him was not misplaced. His duties were discharged with faithfulness and intelligence, and to the complete satisfaction of the authorities.

Mr. Gair also received the appointment of agent of the Royal Bank when a branch was first established in Falkirk, and the ultimate success of the branch proved the wisdom of the selection.

Mr. Gair was a regular attender at the Justiciary Court in

Stirling, and his stalwart form was always recognised with a pleasant smile by those townsmen who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and many a nod of recognition was given by him to rich and poor alike, as he passed up or down, to or from, the Court-House in Broad Street.

Although mainly devoted to business pursuits, Mr. Gair found time to interest himself in public affairs. He had a hearty and sympathetic feeling for measures promoted for the welfare of the community, and his opinion was always looked upon with the highest respect: indeed it may be said that for many years no one in Falkirk had greater influence than he had. Mr. Gair was an ardent horticulturist, and the gardens of the mansion house of Kilns had more than local reputation. His collection of orchids was one of the finest and largest to be met with, and attracted visitors from distant parts of the country.

Mr. Gair at his death left a widow, a son, Mr. W. K. Gair (the present Procurator-Fiscal, Falkirk); and four daughters.

TO JOHN GAIR, ESQ., ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS
PROCURATOR-FISCAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT
OF STIRLINGSHIRE.

Hail ! Johnny Gair !—no doubt but you feel garish ;
O'er six competitors the lucky lad :—
Tho' malice dubs Fa'kirk "The Devil's Parish,"
You'll only find it "Fa'kirk wi' a dad."*
Peace to the manes of Clark—we ever found him
To do his duty, able, willing, glad ;
A hundred cases daily might surround him—
He warsled through, and dealt each rogue a dad !

* The slogan of "the Bairns o' Fa'kirk" has ever been, "Fa'kirk wi' a dad," i.e., a blow.

Some lame limbs o' the law, that limp on crutches,

Would dirtily disparage dear Dunblane:—

Let disappointed dogs hie to their hutches,

“Banks o' the Gairry” they'd best let alane!

You are no Proc'u'tor!—and ne'er should be—

What are they all?—alas, the answer's sad;

Just for a moment list to humble me,

And Fa'kirk Bairns will back you wi' a dad!

I'm no' sae auld, altho' my hair be grey;

But mony a change have seen in Fa'kirk toun,

I just was cracking wi' Jen Dotts* the day,

Wha swears in a'thing there's a sad come doon,

She croon'd a sang, that showed the ancient spirit

That bound in fighting friendship a' the squad;

It might nae be amiss that ye should hear it—

The o'ercome aye was, “Fa'kirk wi' a dad”:—

“But only think upo' the time, when riding o' the fairs,

The sony lasses, dainted fine, clad a' the outside stairs;

Earl James he curvetted sae grand, nane were to bind or haud,

The ladies kiss'd their milk-white hands—“Fa'kirk wi' a dad!”

“When our guid Prince stood on his hill† and soopit Fa'kirk moor,

He cam' at night and took his yill on Johnston's noble floor;‡

But we'll no' greet about him now, we fought for him, puir lad,

And ran the red coats through an' through—‘Fa'kirk wi' a dad!’”

“O! were there ane, as there is nane, still to keep up our pride,

We'd ding them a', the devil's kain, and rule the kintra side;

Hard-hearted law has chas'd them a', and left us mourning sad—

O! for the days that ance I saw—‘Fa'kirk wi' a dad!’”

* This worthy of the olden time used to exclaim, shortly before she died, “Wae's me, Fa'kirk, its twal' o'clock in a May fair, an' there's no' a stick lifted!”

† Prince Charlie's Hill, on which he was posted at the battle of Falkirk, situated between the field and the fatal Bonnymuir.

‡ Johnstone's land, opposite the Steeple, where the Prince slept, and showed himself from a balcony.

"There durstna, then, a broken loon, that steek'd his blinds ere
 long,
 Nor filthy blackguard i' the toun, but we would ride the stang !
 There's naething now but beck and bow—they're a' gane to
 the bad—
 A roaring toast gang round, lip fou'—'Fa'kirk wi' a dad !' "
 'Tis strange how towns, like friends of yours and mine,
 Have got the character they least deserve ;
 And how a hell-hound pack will hot combine
 To slander what ne'er from the right did swerve ?
 Look round us now, what place meets virtue's view,
 Where crowded industry more peace doth add ?—
 To weed each alien wretch we look to you ;
 God speed you, Gair, and "Fa'kirk wi' a dad !"

Mr. Thomas Barty.

Died 15th November, 1867.

Mr. Barty, who was born at the Manse of Newtyle, Forfarshire, on 10th March, 1802, was the third son of the Rev. Thomas Barty, who was successively minister of the parishes of Monzie, Newtyle, and Bendochy, near Coupar-Angus. After distinguishing himself as a scholar, Mr. Barty commenced the practice of law at Perth in 1827. The then Sheriff M. M'Neil, afterwards Lord Colonsay, discovering the high qualifications of Mr. Barty, offered him the position of Procurator-Fiscal for the Western District of Perthshire, which he accepted. He was sworn into office on the same day, in October, 1829, as the late Sheriff Barclay entered on the duties of Sheriff-Substitute at Dunblane, and for the long period of nearly forty years performed the duties of his office with singular judgment and ability. Besides his official duties—which he ever held paramount—he was extensively entrusted with the business affairs of county gentlemen. Though a decided Conservative in politics, he never obtruded his views in public, or ever made them the vehicle of disturbing his widely-extended circle of friendship. Dur-

ing the violent agitations of the early elections under the Reform Act of 1832, he had a very delicate duty to perform, which he executed with calm firmness, much discretion, and leniency, and, accordingly, with great success.

Mr. Barty took much delight in all associations and amusements for the good of the people. He was the life of the social circle; where he was present there was no lack of animation, but never any breach of the strictest decorum. No one had a higher standard of what was right, and which he inculcated more by his example than by injunction.

A good many years before his death Mr. Barty, who was a keen sportsman, accidentally received a gun-shot wound in the upper left arm, which necessitated amputation, but, recovering from the effects of his severe injury, he enjoyed for many subsequent years his wonted vigorous health with his usual elasticity of spirits. His death, which took place at his residence, Anchorfield, Dunblane, on 15th November, 1867, was greatly regretted by the general public, and his well-known figure was a much missed one from the streets of the old Cathedral City. It can be said of him that his life was a lesson which could be read and profitably studied by all classes.

Dr. J. W. Barty, the genial President of the Incorporated Law Society of Scotland, now occupies the position at Dunblane so worthily held by his uncle, whose business partner he became, and thus for seventy years this Procurator-Fiscalship has been held by uncle and nephew.

Mr. James Brown, Burgh Chamberlain.

Mr. Brown was born at Garden Lodge, parish of Kippen, Perthshire, in 1845. He attended the side schools at Claymires, Buchlyvie, and Arnprior, and afterwards the High School of Stirling. In 1860 he was apprenticed to the firm of Messrs J. & J. Mathie, writers in Stirling, and after completing his apprenticeship, went to Glasgow in 1864, where he was principal clerk with Mr Jas. Hutton Watkins, writer. When

in Glasgow he attended the University classes (then held in the old buildings in High Street) for two sessions. Returning to Stirling in 1866 as managing clerk to his old masters, he remained with them until commencing business for himself as a solicitor in 1890. He was admitted a Law Agent in 1873, a Notary Public in 1889, and was recently elected to the office of Dean of the Faculty of Solicitors and Procurators of Stirling.

Mr. Brown enrolled as a Volunteer in 1862, and received the Volunteer officers' decoration for long service in the first award, made in 1892. At present he holds the rank of Quartermaster and Honorary Captain in the 4th (Stirlingshire) Volunteer Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was elected Provincial Grand Clerk of the Freemasons of the Province of Stirling in 1872, and received his commission as Provincial Grand Secretary in 1880. On the death of the Town Chamberlain, Mr. James Mathie, in 1881, he was appointed Town Chamberlain of the Burgh and Treasurer to the Police Commissioners. In 1890 he was appointed Clerk and Treasurer to the School Board of the Burgh of Stirling. He is also Session Clerk of the Parish of Stirling.

Deacon James Chalmers.

Died 21st January, 1884.

Deacon Chalmers, as he was familiarly named, being a very widely-known citizen, was born in Baker Street in 1801. For many years he carried on the business of tailor at No. 76 in that street, in the house at one time occupied as watch-making premises by the late Sir George Harvey's father, and many will readily remember the Deacon as he stood, snuff-box in hand—a favourite attitude—at the foot of the stair leading up to his house, ready for “a crack” with any acquaintance who might chance to be passing up or down the street, never failing to offer “a pinch” from his box on beginning conversation.

Previous to the passing of the Reform Bill, Mr. Chalmers



was Trades Deacon in the Town Council, and took a keen interest in all matters concerning the Hospitals and Mortifications. He held the post of Visiting Master to the Hospital boys for a long period, and delighted greatly to be amongst the lads, who looked up to him with something akin to veneration. On the occasion of their annual "trips," the boys were always under his especial care, and he made it his duty to see to their comfort and enjoyment.

Needless to say, the Deacon was somewhat of a politician, national as well as local affairs receiving attention, and not a few "gey sair tussles" he had with opponents, although he was ever ready to accord all such full credit for purity of motive in holding to the opinions they did. At times, however, he could say a smart—and frequently a sharp—thing, as may be instanced by the following. During the progress of the contest between Mr. Ramsay of Kildalton and Mr. Henry Campbell (now the Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman) for the representation of the Stirling District of Burghs, one of Mr. Ramsay's agents was on his way down Baker Street when he chanced to meet an ardent supporter of Mr. Campbell. Whilst the two were in conversation on the all-engrossing topic of the election, the Deacon was seen approaching, when the agent remarked, "Here, at any rate, is a supporter of Mr. Ramsay." The other, feeling somewhat nettled, pointed to a man who passed by at the moment somewhat under the influence of liquor, and said (in allusion to Mr. Ramsay's connection with whisky distilling), "There goes another." The Deacon, laying his hand familiarly on the speaker's shoulder, quietly remarked, "John, fine I mind when baith your faither and grandfaither were put in the jail for smuggling."

✓ Mr. James Dick, Burgh Officer.

Died 25th May, 1882.

A notably familiar face and figure was removed from the streets of Stirling in May, 1882, by the death of James Dick,

burgh officer. Born in Perthshire in the beginning of the century, James was in his youth an active ploughman, and carried off numerous prizes at matches, both in his native place and in Clackmannanshire, to which he removed in 1830. His official connection with Stirling did not begin till twenty years later, when he was appointed one of the burgh officers who at that time had charge of the town guard. When the Police Act was adopted, James retained his position as Burgh Officer, although he had no connection with the police, and continued to discharge the duties of that post up till a few months prior to his death. Of a cheerful and obliging disposition, James was a general favourite, and the handsome figure he presented in his best days, when, fully attired in the quaint costume of office, he pioneered excursionists—as was the custom—in and about the town, will be in the memory of many. Warmly attached to the municipal institutions he served so long and so well, he displayed a particular devotion to the provosts of the burgh, who, in return, always shewed a kindly feeling towards James. There is a story told of him, that, being in London, in attendance on the Provost of the time, and in official dress, he was mistaken for a Provost, and was addressed as “My Lord.” James, after serving the burgh for the long period of twenty-eight years, died, on 25th May, 1882, in the 81st year of his age.

The Robertsons, Guildry Officers.

Three Generations.

As a public official, next in importance to the Burgh Officer came the person who for the time being filled the post of Guildry Officer, and, up till about twenty years ago, no public event of any importance took place at which that official was not present, along with his burgh confrere, whose bright scarlet uniform shone out conspicuously alongside the sombre green of the Guildry Officer and the dark blue of the Trades’.

"Tom" Robertson, senior, in his uniform of green and gold, was a prominent figure in the Burgh during the forties, and later, having been Guildry Officer for a long number of years. There was nothing very noticeable in his life, but a unique record was made in that he was succeeded in his office by his son and grandson. He had a ready tongue, and was good at giving and taking a joke, and was declared by the women to be "the neatest wee man who had ever donned the green breeks!" He was a weaver to trade, but was also employed, on publication nights, in the "Stirling Journal and Advertiser" office, first at rolling the ink over the surface of the types, and, later, at the handpress printing the newspaper. But he gave these up when he became Guildry officer. His first wife—if not a native—was of African descent, and by the he had a son and daughter. He died, in the 70th year of his age, in "Bogle Ha'" (Bothwell House), St. John Street, in 1856, having a few years previously retired from duty.

As stated, he was succeeded by his son, who went under the sobriquet of "Black Tom," and who held the position, for twenty-nine years, until his death. He was born on 4th June, 1821, and at the age of eleven was indentured as an apprentice for six years to Mr. James Reid, ropespinner, and continued in the employment of that gentleman and his son, Mr. Robert G. Reid, until the death of the latter—the ropework being situated in Park Lane—"Tom" putting the premises in order for the closing of the work. For thirty-four years "Tom" was church officer in the East Parish Church, serving under the Rev. Drs. Wilson, Stuart, and Alexander, and the Rev. J. P. Lang. Like his father, not much can be said of him, but one notable incident which occurred in the course of his duties he used to tell with glee. There being some great affair in Glasgow, he and the then Burgh Officer (James Dick) attended the Provost, Magistrates, and Dean of Guild on the occasion in full uniform, and walked in the procession. Each had a fine presence. To their great amusement, James was mistaken for a general in the army, and "Tom" for an admiral in the navy, receiving a great ovation from the crowd of sightseers. "Tom" was wont to declare

that the "general" and the "admiral" were the most important personages in that grand procession of provosts, bailies, and deans!

At "Tom's" death, on 22nd October, 1882, in the sixty-second year of his age, he was succeeded by his son, Robert, as Guildry Officer, and also officer in the East Church, which posts he resigned in 1891, on removing to another situation in Glasgow.

Deacon Alexander Ralston.

Died 1884.

"Sandy," to give him the name by which he was best known, was a shoemaker, and resided for many years in Broad Street. He was for a long period officer to the Convener Court of the Seven Incorporated Trades, and, as such, was a familiar figure on the streets, the post being of considerably more importance during the time he held it than it is at the present day. Then the Trades' Officer was something of a burgh official, and took part in functions, along with the Burgh and Guildry Officers, both of a public and semi-public nature. Dressed in the ancient uniform pertaining to the office, "Sandy," although slightly below the average height, had a fine appearance. He died at the age of 83.

"Sandy" was also church officer in the West Parish Church during the incumbency of the Rev. William Findlay, and in the discharge of the duties of that office no one could have been more faithful or decorous. Not a few traits attaching to beadles of the old school were observable in "Sandy" as the "minister's man," and as there existed the utmost familiarity between minister and beadle when off duty, many a "passage-at-arms" took place, in which the reverend gentleman was by no means allowed to have everything his own way.



Jock Rankin, the Hangman.

Jock was a native of the "auld toon o' Ayr," where his father held a like office to that filled by his son in Stirling. He was somewhat of a character, and, apart from his official position, attracted no little attention from the inhabitants of the town, more especially the wilder and more daring spirits among the youth, who played all manner of pranks upon "the last limb of the law," as he was termed. It was said that "kail runts" were more frequently found, and that in greater number, in the neighbourhood of Jock's door than that of any other of the inhabitants, the spirit of mischief leading the young rowdies to devote more of their time and attention to him, in the hope of greater sport being obtained by reason of his eccentricity.

Jock succeeded Tam Garland, who held the office during "the '45," and had by no means a sinecure. The door of his house—a "lean-tae" or "tae-fa" at the end of the jail or tol-booth—was in St. John Street, on the site of the present Night Shelter, and Jock and his wife—both of them veritable gossips—were often to be seen leaning over the half door, eager for a "crack" with neighbours or passers-by. Indeed, it was not greatly to be wondered at that they were not more inside their own house, for it was spoken of as but a mere apology for a human habitation, many a stable in the town being said to be more comfortable; but, then, anything was believed to be good enough for the hangman. But if Jock was usually indifferent to his surroundings, when he donned his official dress he became, as it were, another person altogether. This, which was termed "pyated," consisted of yellow stockings, black plush or velvet breeches, a yellow waistcoat, and a dark green coat, the seams of which were covered with a narrow yellow worsted tape, while on his head he wore a cocked hat. When on duty he carried a large clasp-knife, attached by a hempen cord to a girdle round his waist. His duties included,

not only hanging, but also branding of culprits with hot-irons, either on the face, back or breast, administering punishment with the cat-o'-nine-tails, fixing offenders in the joughs, stocks, or branks, and seeing that they endured the pillory, both as to time and otherwise, in full gaze of the public at the tron or cross. In addition to his salary, Jock had perquisites, one of which was the privilege of visiting the weekly meal market, and from the sacks exhibited by each seller, taking a handful, or "goupin," which he put in his "haddis-cog." When this was full, he was obliged to desist till next market-day. This "haddis-cog" was a measure used at one time in Scotland for meting out the meal appropriate for supper to the servants at "farm towns." The identical "haddis-cog" used by Jock is still to be seen in the Smith Institute. Not only did this privilege exist in the meal market, but it extended also to the "tron," or butter market, as well, and when he made his appearance with his "cog," the buxom country lasses buzzed to and fro to escape the pollution of his "glaum." It is traditional of his predecessor, Tam Garland, that he exercised the prerogative of entering any hostelry where he suspected company was seated, and, presenting a small wooden quaich, or caup, the parties were bound to fill it, whether French, Flemish, or native produce they were drinking. He durst not, however, sit down in their company, but had to quaff the contents of his quaich standing, and then retire. It is said, too, that this privilege extended only to one house and one company, and only once a day.

JOCK AS THE MINISTER'S "FACTOR."

Jock's professional business was, fortunately, not heavy, and he was sometimes otherwise employed. The Rev. Mr. Turner, parish minister from 1740 to 1763, once engaged Jock to recover some arrears of stipend due him by the Laird of Loss—a property among the Ochils. Rankin, being well-known to the laird, was asked if his reverence had really employed him. Jock affirmed the fact, and produced the credentials—the account of arrears written by the clergyman's

own hand. The laird said he would pay, and wrote out a receipt for Jock to sign, which read—"I, Jock Rankin, hangman to the town of Stirling, and factor for the Rev. Mr. Turner, parish minister thereof, do hereby acknowledge the payment," etc., etc., to which receipt Jock, as "factor," duly adhibited his cross. Some time afterwards "Loss" visited the burgh, and showed the receipt to some of the witty "Sons of the Rock," amongst whom it created considerable mirth, greatly to the chagrin of the excellent pastor, who never thereafter again employed Jock.

There is a story current about Jock, from old age and infirmity, being unable to do duty at the execution of one Sarah Cameron, who had been condemned for throwing her illegitimate child over the Old Bridge into the Forth. The gallows-tree stood a little to the south of where the "Black Boy" fountain now is, and was a wooden beam fixed in a large stone, with a crossbar at its top, and a number of hooks fixed thereon. The unfortunates had to ascend one ladder, and the hangman another, and, after adjusting the rope, he pushed the culprits off to their fate, and then removed his ladder. In this instance Sarah had got hold of the ladder, and Jock was quite unable to perform his duty. Attending the sad scene were the town officers with their halberts, and one of them, Tom Bone, seeing the dilemma, went deliberately up, and gave the woman's fingers several knocks with his halbert, which caused her to let go, and Rankin succeeded in pushing her off. A good deal of sympathy was expressed for the woman, but Bone's vulgar and inhuman interference incurred the dire displeasure of the juvenile and female portion of the community, and he had to be escorted to a place of safety until the affair blew over. It is said this was the last execution on the spot indicated, the scaffold being reared, when required, in Broad Street.

JOCK'S ROMANTIC MARRIAGE.

Jock's marriage came about in this wise. There was a woman of the name of Isabella Kilconquhar, belonging to

Linlithgow, who had stolen some articles of clothing from a place on the north side of Linlithgow Bridge, and this being in the shire of Stirling, she was sent to the county town to answer for her deeds, and received some months' lodgings in the tolbooth. The hangman and Isabella scraped up acquaintance, made a bargain for life, and the day of her liberation was arranged to be the day of their espousal. Habited in his best "toggerie," Jock went to receive his blushing bride at the jail door. It was rather a proud day for the hangman, as he was accompanied by the four town-officers, in official costume, and carrying their halberts, to the hymeneal altar, the shop of Provost Jaffray, at the foot of Broad Street, where the Provost, as a Justice of the Peace, performed the ceremony. The happy couple, with their escort, repaired to the official dwelling, and when night spread her sable mantle, the hangman's door was nearly barricaded with every imaginable sort of garbage, to the great glee of the juvenile population.

"Tibbie Cauker"—by which name Mrs. Rankin was well-known—and her lordly half lived a sort of cat-and-dog life, and many were the brawls that occurred between them. One day, and that a Sabbath, a disturbance took place, and Jock, though an old man, determined to give his wife a thrashing. Tibbie had the good fortune to elude him, and sought refuge in a neighbour's house. Returning to his dwelling, he seized a basin of cold soup, which he greedily drank, but it so happened that a small bone stuck in his throat, and ultimately choked him. Tibbie, with exemplary affection and tenderness, tended him in his last moments, and did her utmost to alleviate his sufferings. Thus died, about 1794, the last official hangman of Stirling.

The Heroine of Matagorda.

A STIRLING LADY.

Mrs. Retson (Agnes Harkness) was a native of Stirling, born in the Castlehill on 1st June, 1773, the second of a family

of fifteen, whose father was in the employment of Mr. Murray of Polmaise. She played a conspicuous part, and greatly distinguished herself at Matagorda, near Cadiz, while the French were besieging the latter place in 1810. Mrs. Retson's husband was then a sergeant in the 94th Regiment, and formed one of the detachment occupying that fort when the French bombarded it with 30 pieces of cannon. It may be easily conceived what havoc would be caused by so much artillery playing upon a place not more than a hundred yards square, and it may also be imagined that few women could have maintained ordinary courage or self-possession in such a place; but from the commencement of the action Mrs. Retson is said to have behaved in a manner to which it cannot easily be in the power of any one to do justice. The bomb-proof room being too small to contain the whole garrison, some of the men had huts formed on the battery, and among these was that of Sergeant Retson. When the French opened fire Mrs. Retson was awakened by a 24-pound shot striking the fascine where her head lay, but, nothing daunted, she got up, and, removing her child, a boy of four years old, down to the bomb-proof, set herself to assist the surgeon in dressing the wounded men, who were fast increasing on his hands, for which purpose she tore up her own linen and that of her husband. Water being needed, one of the drummer-boys was desired to draw some from the well in the centre of the battery, but he did not seem much inclined for the task, and was lingering at the door, with the bucket dangling in his hand. "Why don't you go for the water?" said the surgeon. "The poor thing is frightened," said Mrs. Retson, "and no wonder; give it to me, and I'll go for it." So saying, she relieved the drummer from the perilous duty, and, amidst the dreadful discharge of artillery playing on the battery, let down the vessel to fill it with water. Scarcely had she done so than the rope was cut by a shot; but she determined to get the object of her message with her, and, begging the assistance of a sailor, she recovered the bucket, and brought it filled with water down to the bomb-proof, where her attention to the wounded soldiers was beyond all praise. At intervals she carried sand-bags to the battery,

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handed along ammunition, and supplied the men at the guns with wine and water, and when the two other women (who had been in hysterics in the bomb-proof from the time the action commenced) were leaving the battery, she refused to go. Next morning, the ammunition being expended, the firing ceased, and the French, seeing the dilapidated state of the fort, sent down a strong force to take possession of the place. The men were mustered for their reception, and Mrs. Retson was at her post with the others, determined to share in the danger. Owing to the ruinous state of the fort, three guns—all that could bear on the enemy—were crammed with grape, ball cartridge, etc., to the muzzle, ready for a farewell shot, and when the enemy came within a few hundred yards of the fort the contents were poured into the heart of the column, laying half of them prostrate on the earth, those who survived taking to flight. The batteries were again opened on the fort, but as a fresh supply of ammunition had arrived, the salute was returned.

Mrs. Retson's husband retired on a pension, but died soon thereafter, and she was obliged to go into the Glasgow City Hospital, where some casual visitors found her, set on foot by subscription a fund, by which they were enabled to give her one shilling and sixpence a day while she lived. Among the subscribers were the Queen, the Queen Dowager, and Prince Albert. The town of Stirling also subscribed a respectable sum.

Mrs. Retson visited Stirling in 1849, and stayed some time. She was greatly delighted when she found her name in the parish register, as she was not sure whether her father had entered her name, not very common at the time of her birth. Nothing would satisfy her until she went to hear a sermon in the church in which she was baptized, and in which, during her long lifetime, she had only been twice before, having been removed in her infancy. She left half-a-sovereign for the boys belonging to the Stirling and Bannockburn Caledonian Society, and gave a donation of £2 to the funds. She was at the time of her visit to Stirling 74 years of age.

The following lines on the heroic act of Mrs. Retson at

Matagorda are from the pen of Thos. C. Latto, Esq., published in Major De Renzy's "Poetical Illustrations of the Achievements of Wellington and his Companion in Arms."

"Help! water! help!" those feeble cries,
They cannot pass unheeded;
But ah! the scanty store is gone,
And water still is needed.

"Here, boy—fly with this pitcher, quick,
To yonder open well without,
And bring me here a fresh supply,
For they are parched with drought."

So spoke the matron, doubting not,
As in her simple words was shown
That every heart was strung and braced
With courage like her own.

The little drummer's cheek flushed red,
As sudden changed to deadly pale;
But off he marched without a word,
And faced the iron hail.

He staggered on with trembling limbs!
But few steps had the urchin taken,
When nature, all too strong, prevailed—
His very soul was shaken,

And back he crept with ashy cheek,
And told he durst not, could not dare
To try the well, and how the balls
Were hurtling thro' the air.

The matron calmly took the cup,
And swiftly, noiseless, sped along,
Until she reached the draw-well's brink,
And seized the leathern thong,

And swung the bucket—lo! how strange,
Indeed how wondrous strange to view—
A bullet from the foeman's gun
Has cut the thong in two,

And left the fragment in her hand,
Amazed and struck, but not with fear.
O God! Thy ways are wonderful,
Surely Thy hand was here.

Surely Thy spirit nerved her soul,
When, standing in the bullets' track,
She tied the fragments of the thong,
And brought the water back.

Bauldy M'Farlane.

Archibald M'Farlane, better known through the country as "Bauldy M'Farlane," died on 23rd March, 1838. He was a native of Stirling, and received as good an education—and it was not a trifling one in the days of Dr. Doig—as the town could afford. He afterwards went to Glasgow University to complete his studies for the ministry. During his attendance, however, at the Divinity Hall, his mental constitution received a shock from which it never recovered, and poor "Bauldy" carried this melancholy affliction with him throughout his whole life. It seemed chiefly to affect his judgment and powers of ratiocination, and did not at all affect his memory or trench on his affections. At an advanced age, and when he could get spectacles to suit him, "Bauldy" read and translated Latin or Greek with great ease, and love of reading, from which he derived much enjoyment, remained a ruling passion with him to the very end of his life. Upon one occasion he happened to come into possession of an old folio volume upon divinity, which he devoured with such avidity as to overpower the sense of hunger itself, and the equally painful want of snuff, to the use of which he was very much addicted. During this high intellectual treat he would sit reading until, both his stomach and his nose being neglected, he would become feeble, and then in despair would snatch the readiest morsel that any one would give him, pounce upon the first person he met for a penny to buy snuff, and, this obtained, he would

instantly return to his delightful task, continuing until again compelled to a repetition of the same exertions. His affections were equally acute and sensitive, and he frequently took long pedestrian excursions to visit his old friends. He was a quiet, inoffensive man, much attached to the ordinances of religion, and he was never known to have any vicious habits. He was much respected, and long remembered in St. Ninians, where he died through a severe accident received during a storm.

Sandy M'Nellan.

Few among the old residents of Stirling can readily forget Sandy M'Nellan, the rough-spoken yet kindly old steamboat porter, always ready to do his work, take a dram with a friend, or crack a joke in passing. On those days when the steamboat could come no further than the jetty at the back of the Abbey, Sandy and Archie M'Intyre, his fellow-porter, had a great job getting passengers and luggage arranged in the large boat in which they were conveyed from the pier at the Shore to the steamer. What joking and fun were carried on during the passage, and then the struggling and pushing to get the people safely put into the steamer! Sandy was very careful about his passengers, and had always a joke (sometimes a "gey rough ane") to suit his customer. In those days the steamers were owned by local gentlemen (merchants and others), and were largely patronised by the people of Stirling, the majority of whom indulged in a trip or two down to Granton during the season, with an occasional sail round the Bass Rock. The steamers were generally pretty crowded, and the utmost hilarity prevailed, a certain blind fiddler usually being a passenger, and providing music which set the young people dancing. Now, however, steamers sail at irregular intervals, the withdrawal of water from the feeders of the river for the purposes of the Glasgow Waterworks accounting to some extent for this; but the deepening of the river is looked for, and light draught passenger steamers may yet sail daily during the summer and autumn.

Jock Maclean.

"Puir auld Jock Maclean," as the once well-known old man was wont to describe himself, was born in the Castlehill, and was gathered to his fathers in 1855, his death taking place in the pauper hospital in St. Ninians. Jock was a character, and, although willing enough to let his wants be known, his importunity never got the length of making him disagreeable. At the time when the American Revolution broke out, Jock was a herd-laddie on the Gowan Hills, subsequently taking to the sea, and serving for twelve or fourteen years on board a man-of-war, but whether he got or took his discharge he was never willing to say.

One day, according to an account of his own, he called at a gentleman's house for alms; the owner, who happened to be an old ship captain, casting his eye on the vagrant, surprised Jock with the question, "Well, my man, how long is it since you left the sea?" Jock protested that he had never seen the sea in his life. "Ah! could you tell me what's the opposite point to nor'-nor'-west?" "Sou'-sou'-east," was the too ready reply. But the old skipper gave him his dinner and a shilling. He afterwards became a collier, and, although he soon returned to his wandering life, always took kindly to a coal-pit. For several years he frequented Stirling during the day, but went at night to sleep in an engine-house at the mouth of an old pit near Bannockburn. Jock was a great patron of the turf, and discovering, like Sir Walter Scott, at a somewhat late period of life, that he had a genius for poetry, became the laureate of Stirling races. This introduced him to the notice of the sporting gentry, and he looked on Mr. Ramsay of Barnton as his special patron, who, as well as Noble—his then favourite jockey—was sure to come in for honourable mention in the annual poem by "Jock Maclean, collier." On one occasion Jock was on his way to Sauchie House when he met its generous proprietor and got his half-crown; but, true to the maxim that the desire for wealth increases with its

possession, no sooner had he obtained this handsome *douceur*, than he resolved, "Now, I'll gang on to the house, and do Mrs. Ramsay out of a sark." Accordingly off goes his under garment, and this having been carefully secreted, he appeared before the lady in a too obvious state of privation. Having got his dinner and a very respectable shirt, he came home quite a gentleman.

Jock was one of the unlearned poets: his verses, indeed, were such as neither he himself nor any other person could read; but, remarked he quite philosophically, "Things'll sing when they winna read." There was one word in the English language which he knew intimately, that word being "whisky." At an early age Jock ceased being a teetotaller, and rapidly degenerated from a moderate drinker also. He was at times known to receive six or seven shillings in a day in pence while singing at the starting-places of the coaches, omnibuses, and boats; but, as the Yankees say, Jock speedily "liquidated" his cash. The formation of the Scottish Central Railway he regarded with no favour, threatening, as it did, the "vested interest" he possessed in the coaches. One of his most doleful ditties began—

We'll a' be ruined noo,
We'll a' be ruined noo,
The railroad it has commenced,
It's comin' through and through.

On the other hand he set himself manfully to uphold the steamboats, and some may remember his spirited song in which the following lines occurred:—

"Hurra for the boat that sails so fine,
That beats the railway on the line!
Hurra for the Queen and the Prince also,
She rules in bowld Britannio."

For some time Jock was public crier at Bridge of Allan, and, next to the Lord of the Manor, was the most noted person about the place. Here he attracted the attention of

the editor of the "Gateshead Observer," who was struck with his description of his gong as having been "captured from the Indians in Egypt by Sir Ralph Abercromby," and who made Jock known to his readers.

Jamie Wotherspoon

Was a poor body, well known about the streets of Stirling, who died in March, 1844. Jamie, who was bred a mason, was of hardy constitution, but, by reason of his almost continual intoxication, and going without a proper supply of food, this entirely broke down. At the time of "the Resurrectionists," when so many graves were being opened, and bodies carried away for purposes of dissection, the body of Jamie's mother—to whom he was ardently attached—was removed from its resting-place, and this event unhinged his mind, and drove him from his usual working habits to those of constant drinking. He continued at intervals to apply for work, which he readily procured, but a week or two of steady application generally sufficed, and then he was off to a long spell of drinking, going errands for a dram. For several years he maintained he had a claim upon the medical profession for the means wherewith to purchase drink, and very great was the annoyance and even the expense to which some of the most respectable members submitted with cheerfulness, rather than drive him into any violent paroxysm. During his later years he had no lodging, but slept in the lime-kilns at the Shore, where he frequently received severe burns. He was quite harmless, the greatest mischief he indulged in being that of throwing himself into a fighting attitude before those he met on the streets, who, if females, would run and scream, which afforded him great amusement, while the bystanders declared, "It was only a woman running from Jamie Wotherspoon." Like an old hunted fox, he got to cover before he died, and finally closed his eyes in a bed—a luxury to which he had been quite unaccustomed for many years.

“Jakie Monteith.”

Another notable died about the close of the fifties in the person of Jakie Monteith. He was about 50 years of age at



the time of his death; in his younger days had been employed as an indoor servant, and but few “flunkies” presented so

smart an appearance as "Jakie" when dressed in livery. After leaving service he wrought as a strapper about the local hotel stables, but getting into loose habits he became careless about himself, and frequently slept at the lime-kilns at the Shore. He was several times severely burned, and doubtless the effects of exposure and accident tended to shorten his days. He was made the butt of the boys in town, and was well-known as an eccentric character. Nothing enraged him more than being dubbed, "The False Monteith."

Widow Belcher,

An old woman who was born in St. Mary's Wynd in 1758, died in Spittal Street in December, 1856. She had thus attained the age of 98. During her lifetime no fewer than seventeen ministers held office as incumbents in the East Church of Stirling. She was blind for twenty years.

Tam Burd, Sweep and Hero.

Who among the townspeople in the early fifties did not know Tam? An obliging body he was, at the service of anyone; always ready either for work, play, or, occasionally, a stand-up fight. Tam's speaking acquaintances could be counted amongst the best in the town. His place of abode was that shop No. 100 Baker Street, at the foot of the Bishop's Close, and next door to another well-known person, Granny Hill, poulterer. Tam was a member of the local fire brigade, and when he died, about the beginning of 1855, that force lost a valuable member. Intrepid and daring, he was invariably the foremost in perilous situations, or where life or property was at stake. His daily avocation of chimney-sweeper rendered the passing along house-tops a matter of indifference to him, and from his long acquaintance with the town—nearly

thirty years—the vents, situation, and even the apartments of the buildings were all familiar to him. The knowledge of these things on the occasion of a fire breaking out is, we need scarcely say, of the first consequence.

As an example of Burd's intrepidity and fearlessness, we shall mention two circumstances—one of which occurred in Edinburgh, the other in Stirling. About the year 1822 Burd used occasionally to go to Edinburgh and the East Lothians in search of work, and happened to be in the capital when a great fire took place in the High Street, and a vast quantity of property was burned down. The buildings were of great height, and, while the fire was raging, Burd had, along with another man, ascended to the fourth storey, and was busily engaged breaking some of the partition work when he observed a peculiar shaking or sinking of the floor, and called to the man beside him to save himself by taking refuge on the window-sill. The man answered him with a sneer, but at that instant the floor fell, and Burd, holding on by the window, seized his companion by the hair of the head, and actually held him for a second or two in that position, when the handful of long hair which he firmly grasped came out by the roots, and the unfortunate man fell among the burning mass below. Burd thereafter saved himself by fastening his ropes to the window-frame, and swinging himself down to the street. The other courageous act occurred in Stirling, at a fire which took place at the head of St. Mary's Wynd. When Burd came on the spot a considerable crowd had collected, and a boy was soliciting help from one of the windows, from which smoke was issuing. The crowd called for a ladder in order to rescue the boy, but Burd, leaping on the shoulders of one of the tallest among the spectators, managed to get his arm on the window-sill, and, scrambling up, swung the boy down among the crowd. Immediately thereafter a cry was raised that two children were being suffocated in an upper room. Burd at once rushed upstairs, and crept on his hands and knees, through dense smoke, into one of the rooms, where he felt the bed and all around with his hands, but no children were there. In coming out of the apartment he was met by a cloud or blast of

thick, suffocating smoke, and felt that, for his own safety, it would be necessary for him to hasten down. Before doing so, however, he rushed into the other room, where he found the two children in bed, took one under each arm, and in this manner, blinded and half choked, he descended the stairs. In the passage he met a man, to whom he gave one of the children, and made his way with the other to the street, where, such was his condition by reason of his exertions, that he vomited a quantity of blood. Had the children been allowed to remain longer where they were, doubtless both would have been suffocated. One turns with a feeling of surprise from the recital of such an act of truly heroic humanity, when it is added that the town of Stirling never rewarded Burd for thus risking his own life, and successfully saving those of others.

It was said that Burd was born in 1802, under better circumstances than those of the humble condition he occupied. His birthplace was Turriff, but from the circumstance of his relations being displeased at the marriage of his father with a servant, and the subsequent death of his father, Burd, when a boy, ran away from home, with the intention of seeking out a brother who was a sailor at Shields. On the way he met, near the Borders, some sweeps named Williamson, who, taking a fancy to the boy, were very kind to him, kept him for several years, and brought him up to their own business. He travelled with them in different parts of Scotland, and while at Peterhead on one occasion, and in search of lodgings, he applied to a Magistrate. In the course of conversation the Magistrate discovered that Burd was the grandson of a late townsman who had possessed a great amount of property in that town. The Bailie, who was a trustee on the estate, gave him lodgings, remarking it was a pity that such a one's grandson should have to seek lodgings for the night. Strict investigation made afterwards satisfied those engaged in connection with the trust that he was the presumptive heir to the property, amounting in value to several thousand pounds. Up to his death "Tam" had not succeeded to the estate, but his widow and children put the matter into the hands of a legal gentleman, but with what result we do not know.

“Hawkie.”

William Cameron, “Hawkie,” for many years the most noted and wittiest beggar in Glasgow, may almost be claimed by Stirling, having been born at Chartershall about the end of the last century. His parents, though poor, contrived to give him an education superior to their station. Having in childhood received an injury to one of his legs through the carelessness of a girl, his parents thought the trade of a tailor the most suitable for him, and he was apprenticed to a Bannockburn tailor for three years, but, always intractable, as he advanced in years his temper got worse, and he soon tired using the needle. He tells, in one of his orations, that “the first job my master gied me was to make a holder (a needle cushion) for mysel’, and to it I set. I threaded the bluntest needle, waxed the twist till it was like to stick in the passage, and stour’d away, throwing my arm well out, so that my next neighbour on the brod was obliged to hirsel away to be out o’ harm’s way. I stitched it, back-stitched it, cross-stitched, and then fell’d and splayed it wi’ black, blue, and red, grey, green, and yellow, till the ae colour fairly kill’d the ither. My master looked on, gaping at me, but the answer to any complaint he made, or to every advice he offered me, was, that I kent weel enough what I was doing—did I never see my ain mither making a hussie? By the time I had finished the holder, in giving it its last stitch, my master plainly hinted that it was no’ very likely that I would e’er mak’ saut tae my kail southering claiith thegither, and that though the big shears were run through every stitch of my indenture, it wadna—after what he had seen—break his heart. Thinks I to mysel,’ there’s a pair o’ us, maister, as the cow said to the cuddie, and my crutch can settle the indenture as well as your shears, so I lifted my stilt and took my way hame.”

After trying teaching the A B C at Plean Colliery, Cameron fell in with a company of strolling players, and

starred through Fife, the part he took being the priest in the play of George Barnwell; the long robe concealing the defects in his limbs. The company having come to grief, he tried



other jobs, until he finally fell into "speech crying," which he continued till his death in 1851. He received the cognomen, "Hawkie," in consequence of his crying in the streets a

burlesque prediction concerning the destruction of the Bridgegate of Glasgow. An impostor, named Ross, had gulled the mob with the prediction that that street, with its inhabitants, was doomed to sudden and complete destruction, and Cameron, who had a strong turn for satirical burlesque, set up a claim for prophetic vision also, and made his seer "Hawkie, a twa year'l quey frae Aberdour, in the county of Fife, and sister-german to Ross," which also foretold the destruction of the fated Bridgegate, but from a different and more likely cause than that given out by Ross. "It is to be destroyed," said the Aberdour stirk, "by a flood o' whisky, and the wives will be ferrying washing tubs frae ae door to anither, and mony o' their lives will be lost, that itherwise micht ha'e been saved, by louting ower their tubs to try the flood whether it was sky blue or the real Ferintosh."

All his life "Hawkie" was a favourite with rich and poor, and his witty sayings are innumerable. He was always troubled with intolerable "drouth." In the winter of 1838, feeling his infirmities, he took refuge in the City Hospital, where he remained for about six months, and on leaving, Dr. Auchencloss, surgeon to the hospital, gave him some money, remarking, "Weel, Hawkie, I'll tak' ye a bet that the first place ye land in is a spirit cellar." "I'll tak' odds on your side, Doctor," replied Hawkie. Though miserably dejected at times, he had a high regard for the marriage state, and made himself rather popular by vending the following lines, addressed to young ladies and gentlemen:—

ON THE CHOICE OF A WIFE.

Enough of beauty to secure affection,
Enough of sprightliness to cure dejection,
Of modest diffidence to claim protection,
A docile mind, subservient to correction,
Yet stored with sense, with reason and reflection,
And every passion held in due subjection,
Just faults enough to keep her from perfection:
When such you find, do make her your selection.

ON THE CHOICE OF A HUSBAND.

Of beauty, just enough to bear inspection,
Of candour, sense, and wit, a good collection,
Enough of love for one who needs protection,
To scorn the words, "I'll keep her in subjection,"
Wisdom to keep her right in each direction,
Nor claim a weaker vessel's imperfection:
Should ye e'er meet with such in your connection,
Let her prepare, and offer no objection.

"You may all wish, my lads," said Hawkie, by way of parenthesis, "You may all wish to get a wife without a failing, but what if the lady, after ye get her, happens to be in want of a husband of the same character?"

Although he loved the gill-stoup and the whisky bottle in his own person to excess, he had an unconquerable aversion to see the liquid used beyond the smallest quantity by any female, a drunken woman on the street being to him an abomination, and he harangued tremendously against it. One day he was surrounded by a number of females at the head of the Stockwell, telling this story:—"You a' said ye ken Mrs. Betty Buttersoles, in the Auld Wynd o' this city." "We ken her brawly," said one of the hearers. "She has a trick," said Hawkie, "very common, I fear, in mae Wynds than the Auld ane." "What's the trick?" enquired his interrogator. Smiling, and looking her in the face, "She has the trick of turning up her hand, I mean her wee finger, at the whisky glass as often as she can get it; and her decent husband canna trust her wi' a penny to buy a saut herring for his dinner, so he gets her to keep a pass-book wi' her grocer, where he marks down everything till the pay-day comes." Here one of the audience, understanding pretty well what Hawkie meant about "the wee finger" and the glass, took the hint to herself, and became perfectly enraged at him. "How daur ye, ye auld sinner, ye auld rickle o' banes and rags, misca' ony decent woman on the public street in that

way? If I had my will o' ye," she added in a voice of thunder, "I wad gi'e ye another lame shank to prop up, or kick the legs frae ye a' thegither." Here Hawkie clutched his stilt, as if preparing to defend himself, drew breath, and then proceeded, "Friends," said he, "do ye see her storming in that gait? She's just possessed of an evil conscience speaking out. I dinna ken the other woman ava'. I was just telling you about her, for I never saw the real character in my life; but I am as sure as the cow is of her cluits, that that's now her nainsel', and, if you ripe her pooches, you'll find the veritable pass-book, for I declare I see the very corner o't sticking out." At this sally a loud roar was raised at the dame in question, and she sneaked away. Seeing this, Hawkie bawled out, brandishing his stilt, "See, my friends, she has ta'en leg bail for her honesty."

At last, worn out with sickness and the dram, Hawkie had again to seek shelter in the old Town's Hospital, in Clyde Street, where he remained till his death. He conducted the Psalmody there with the greatest decorum and edification of the inmates. One who visited him on his deathbed found him with his thoughts directed to the future. The Bible was near his pillow, and the poems of Cowper not far from it. The following lines were read by him on that occasion with great sensibility, and in a tone almost equal to that of Mr. Sheridan Knowles, who was one of his best friends in Glasgow:—

THE TROUBLES OF LIFE.

The troubles of life—they come with their thrall,
And tell us that sorrow's the portion of all;
With clouds they o'ershadow our sunlight of joy,
And in every pleasure they mix an alloy.
And o'er skill of the hand and toil of the brain,
And impulse and effort, triumphant they reign:
Like waves in the ocean, for ever in strife,
On every hand are the troubles of life.

P

The troubles of life—how soon they begin,
To show us that all have a sorrow within !
Ere childhood can wake to its knowledge of right,
It takes up the burden (not then even light) ;
And when the first dawns of beauty appear,
Their lustre is ever bedimmed with a tear ;
And every stage has its share in the strife
That comes to our lot with the troubles of life.

The troubles of life—they seem to impress
The stamp of their presence on all we possess ;
They rise with our hopes, and sink with our fears,
Encircle our smiles, and flow with our tears.
The vision that springs from our humblest thought,
With struggle and turmoil for ever is fraught ;
And each step that we take in something is rife,
To swell up the sum of the troubles of life.

The troubles of life—they meet us at home,
And are found in the world wherever we roam ;
If wealth be our portion, they come in its snares,
If lowly our lot, in its labours and cares.
The home of the smile is the home of the tear,
And joy even whispers that sorrow is near ;
And never till nature has ended her strife,
Will any be free from the troubles of life.

Granny Duncan and Baird and Hardie.

Betty Currie, or Duncan, was a very stout woman, who resided in the lane leading from Upper Castlehill to the Esplanade, then known as "Penny Millar's Slap." She had been nurse to Lord Boyle, who was very kind and attentive to her in her later years. Granny—as she was familiarly named—earned a livelihood by keeping pigs, and also providing milk and coffee for the soldiers in the Castle—no supper being allowed them as rations at that time. She was brought into more particular notoriety through the

attention she bestowed on Baird and Hardie while in Stirling Castle awaiting execution. Amongst other services she performed on their behalf, one that was winked at was the smuggling into their cells of letters, provisions, and even candles. The way she managed the letters was, after making their porridge, and allowing them to cool, she turned them out of the dish, laid the letter in the bottom, and replaced the food.



Some time previous to execution, both Baird and Hardie expressed the wish that Granny should attend after the grim proceedings were over, dress their bodies, and place their heads in the respective coffins, and to this request Granny agreed, "if she was able." On the martyrs stepping from the hurdle on to the scaffold, Hardie looked over the rail and called out, "Are you there, Granny?" To which she at once replied,

"Aye, Andrew, my puir laddie!" "Bide to the end, then," were Andrew's last words to her, and this she did, fulfilling the task they had imposed upon her.

Granny was in the habit—on the departure of a regiment from the Castle—of standing at the head of the "slap" with a bottle of whisky and a glass, from which she treated her favourites as they passed down. She died at the age of 96.

Granny had a son, Lauchie, who had learned to be a nailer—there being a number of them at that time in the Castlehill—but had become a carter, and was particularly fond of a dram. A story was told of him that, being sent with a load of grain to Ayr, he managed to deliver the load, but "perished the pack," having drunk horse, cart, and harness. On his return some time after, on reaching the bottom of the "slap," he lay down and bellowed out that he had broken his leg. Among those who heard the cries was Granny, who came out, and, after examining him, exclaimed, "Oh, the d—— scoundrel; there's naething the maiter wi' him;" and neither there was, his action being merely a ruse to excite sympathy and get back to his home.

On another occasion Lauchie came home "fou," and his wife, as usual, rifled his pockets of what was left; but the wily Lauchie had endeavoured to make matters right for himself by "planking" a five shilling piece in a cabbage in Granny's garden, but here again he was "sold," as he had been observed, and on going next morning to secure his crown, both it and the cabbage had disappeared, and loud and deep were the mutterings heard in the Castlehill that day.



MUNICIPAL.



Etymology of Place Names

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF STIRLING.

- Airthrey—Ard-rathad,High or ascending road.
 Alloa—Aull waeg,Way to the sea, or sea-way.
 Alva, anciently Alueth, probably from Alluin, Beautiful.
 Auchentroig,Field of the dwarf.
 Ballochleam,Hollow of the leap, or precipice.
 Bankeir,Fair fort.
 Bannockburn, properly Ban Cuoc,Fair hill.
 (The syllable, burn, seems a modern addition.)
 Boquhan—Mo-cuan,Plain of the sea.
 Buchlyvie—Ball-cladh-bheth,Field of the burying-ground.
 Callander—Caldin-doir,Hazel grove.
 Calla-straid,Harbour of the street.
 (Calla, landing-place at the ferry; straid, street or avenue.)
 Cambuskenneth,Field, or crook, of Kenneth.
 Carbeth,Castle of birches.
 Carbrook,Spotted castle.
 Craigengelt,Rock of terror.
 Craigforth—Craig-gorth,Rock in the sour land.
 Craigmad,Rock of the wolf.
 Cringate—Crean-cath,Smart battle.
 Culmore and Culbeg,Great and little backs (remote lands).
 Doune—Dun,Hill, or fort.
 Drip,Difficulty.
 Dunipace—Dinn-na-bais,Hills of death.
 Fleucham—Fleuch,Wet.
 Garden—Cardum—Gart-tern,Field of fire.
 Gartincaber,Field of deer.

Gartur—Caer-tor,	Hill fort.
Gowlan Hill—Gaulann,	Shoulder.
Kames (Cambus),	Crook of the river.
Keir—Caer,	Fortified place or castle.
Kildean,	Dean's cell or church.
Leckie,	Flat.
Lecropt, Lecroch, or Let-croch,	Half of the hill.
Loch Coulter—Coutyrr—Cul-tir,	Back of the land.
Loch Lomond, named from the mountain, Lomnochd,...	Naked.
Logie, perhaps Lag,	Hollow.
Plean—Flann,	Blood.
Polmaise,	Pool of beauty.
Raploch—Raplach—Rapal-lagh,	Bustle of the archery..
Saint Ninians, anciently Ecclis (church).	
Sauchie,	Place of willows.
Skeoch—Sgeachag,	Fruit of the hawthorn.
Stirling—Stryveling,	Strife.
Strigh-lang,	Strife of the archery.
Torbrex,	Spotted eminence.

Stirling : Origin of the Name.

In the above list we have given two of the ancient renderings of the word, and while these are pretty generally accepted they are by no means held as conclusive. In our First Series we cited no fewer than sixteen variations of the word, all of which have the same derivation; but, as evidence of the difference of opinion which prevails as to the origin of the name of the town, we quote from the writings of a present-day Son of the Rock on the subject, noting, in passing, that his forebears were also natives. He says—

“In the most ancient document in the possession of the town—a charter by David II., dated Scone, 26th October, 1360—the word is spelled Striuelyn in the Latin, and in the English translation of the same document it is spelled Strivelyn. For a long period u and v were synonymous letters, carrying the same sound, oo or ve, according to circumstances, so that the above

spellings are correct, but it would seem from the English translation that the *ve* in pronunciation had the preponderance over *oo*. And this, we think, is also correct, as being in harmony with the original Gaelic word from which we believe the word *Stirling* is derived. We are inclined to the view that the spelling, *Striuelyn*, *Strivelyn*, *Strivelin*, *Stirling*, etc., came into use from the clerics who drew up the charters having no knowledge of Gaelic, and who accepted the faulty pronunciation of the strangers resident in the place. The root words of which the name is composed are evidently Gaelic. In this language—as well as in its cognates, Welsh and Irish—“*caer*” means a place, town, or city surrounded by a wall, and “*caerin*” the people living within the wall. Any one who has the least acquaintance with the manner in which the Celtic name-places and persons have changed will acknowledge the appropriateness of the compound word “*caerin*” as applied to a place situated, as *Stirling* is, on the borders of the Western Highlands, a scene, for centuries, of bloodshed and strife. It may be said with truth, that it has always been a walled fortress, in which people dwelt for safety or choice. It would seem, then, that “*Stir*” is a corruption of “*Caer*,” and “*ling*” a corruption of “*in*,” caused, not merely by a similarity in sound, but also by the peculiar writing of the period, into which, or from which, errors might creep, and have crept.”

Second Reading of the Reform Bill.

When the news of the passing of the second reading of the Reform Bill reached *Stirling*, the Magistrates ordered the bells to be rung and an illumination of the town for the next Tuesday, on which day every respectable house in the town and suburbs was lighted up. Mr. *Stirling*, saddler, exhibited in his window a crown, from which depended a hand bearing the beam of political justice. In one scale was the Reform Bill with the names, *Grey*, *Brougham*, and *Russell*, and in the other, which kicked the beam, those of *Wellington*, *Peel*, and Sir *A. Inglis*, with the motto, “*Weighed in the balance and*

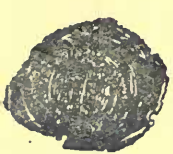
found wanting." The Town House had transparencies of the town arms and Castle, a large bonfire blazed in Broad Street, and fireworks were set off in every street. Everything passed off peaceably in Stirling, but not so in Edinburgh, where the mob broke glass to the value of £5000.

Bannockburn and Cambusbarron had each bonfires and illuminations, and Dunblane an effigy of the Hero of Waterloo, which, after being paraded through the town on an ass, was burned.

The Chartists.

Chartism was so called from a movement made to extend political power to the great body of the people, who were disappointed with the results of the Reform Bill. The middle classes having received the assistance of the people in their fight prior to 1831; they, in turn, expected those who had been enfranchised to assist them; but the middle classes, being satisfied with their own position, looked askance on any further extension of voting power. In 1835 commercial depression set in, and, combined with the failing harvests for several years, terribly increased the sufferings of the people. Food became dear, wages fell, manufactories were closed, and work became scarce. The people associated their sufferings with the want of direct influence upon the Government, and began an agitation for an extended franchise.

In 1838 a bill was prepared by six members of Parliament and six working men, embodying their views. This was the "People's Charter." It claimed (1st) The extension of the right of voting to every male native of the United Kingdom, and every naturalised foreigner resident in the kingdom for more than two years, who should be 21 years of age, of sound mind, and unconvicted of crime; (2nd) Equal electoral districts; (3rd) Vote by ballot; (4th) Annual Parliaments; (5th) No property qualifications for members; and (6th) Payment of Members of Parliament. This programme roused the people, great meetings were held, at some of which from two



Charles Prince of Wales &c. Regent
of Scotland England France and Ireland
and the Dominions therunto belonging

To the Provost Magistrates and
Council of the Town of Stirling.

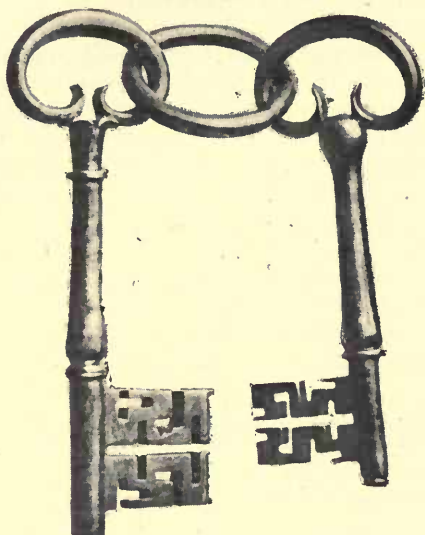
Intending to take possession of our Town of Stirling: We hereby require and command you to give our Forces peaceable entry into and possession of the said Town, and to receive us as the Representatives of our Royal Father James the eighth by the Grace of God King of Scotland England France and Ireland and the Dominions therunto belonging: And as we have a list of all the persons now in Arms in the said Town, you are expressly required to deliver up to

ing you hereby, that if you refuse or delay to answer
us, or to deliver up the Arms and Military Stores, as
aforesaid, and thereby oblige us to use that force which
Providence has put in our hands, after our discharging
of our Canon against the said Town, no Articles of
Capitulation or Protection shall be given to any of
the Inhabitants for their persons goods and effects. And
as the Town is now blockaded on all sides, if any person
herein now in Arms shall be apprehended without
the Walls of the Town they shall be carried to some
place of execution. An answer to this is to be re-
turned to our Quarter here by two o'clock afternoon
this day. Given at Warwickburg this Sixth day
of January 1786

Charles V. R.

Fac-Simile of H.R.H. Prince Charles Edward's Summons to Stirling to Surrender.

to three hundred thousand persons were present. A sitting of a body called the National Convention took place in Birmingham in May, 1839, during which the people and military came into collision. Meetings were proclaimed, and alarming excesses committed by the mob. A petition was presented to the House of Commons, signed by 1,280,000 persons in favour



STIRLING BURGH KEYS.

of the Charter. The House refused to name a day for its consideration, and the Convention, in retaliation, advised the people to cease work; this, fortunately, was not done. In November a disturbance took place at Newport, with the result that ten persons were killed and a great number wounded. Three of the leaders of the mob were condemned

to death, but their sentence was commuted to transportation. In 1842 great riots took place in the midlands, which, though not directly caused by the Chartists, received their countenance. In 1848 the Revolution in France created great excitement in Britain, and much anxiety was felt. Outbreaks took place in several places, and in London alone there were 200,000 special constables sworn in to protect the peace.

Stirling, or rather Bannockburn, also showed its connection with the movement by a demonstration on the 29th April, 1848. The authorities in Stirling were prepared for any lawlessness which might take place, the soldiers were confined to barracks, the High Constables turned out, and special constables were sworn in, who guarded, with baton in hand, all the inlets to the town; but, through the good sense and peaceable behaviour of those in the procession, all passed off without any disturbance. The Hillfoots and other districts north of the bridge, men and women, young and old, marched, with banners flying and bands playing, across the bridge, along Port Street and through St. Ninians to the Fair Green at Bannockburn, where the demonstration was held. Falkirk and other towns also sent their hundreds, with bands and banners, one of them having the following:—

“Our hearts are united, fair play is our aim;
Our guns are good metal, our men are the same;
Let all that are foes, either at home or afar,
Recollect that our badge is the symbol of war.”

The meeting was addressed by Mr James Jenkins (“Pellock”), Whins of Milton, Mr John Vance, shoemaker, Stirling, and others. A person was elected to represent the district in the Chartist Convention, and afterwards the meeting broke up and the processionists quietly marched to their several districts. After 1848 Chartism gradually died out, through the improvement in the circumstances of the people which followed the repeal of the Corn Laws.

Her Majesty's Coronation.

"A NATIONAL CALAMITY."

INDIGNANT PROTEST AGAINST "THE CORONATION GUZZLE."

Now and again there are voices raised against what are commonly designated "Free Feeds"—of course, the complainants being those who may not have been favoured with invitation to the functions, and, consequently, view the matter pretty much in the light of "sour grapes"—but whilst such people generally evince their displeasure "after" the celebration, the following shows that sixty years ago a much more decided mode of protest was adopted, and that "before" the expense was incurred. The protesters on the occasion were the Stirling Working Men's Association, which held a public meeting of the members in the Trades Hall on the 18th June, 1838, when the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to, viz.:—

I. That this meeting regards the act of the Town Council of Stirling, in granting £20 of the Town's Funds for Celebrating the Coronation of Queen Victoria, as an unjustifiable infringement on public property, and a breach of trust, inasmuch as it is squandering the public money to pamper and gourmandise, according to their version, a "few of the more respectable part of the community," and thus transferring, from its legitimate use, a sum which might be expended in improving and benefiting the Town.

II. That this meeting disapproves of the conduct of the following persons, who voted for the said grant—Bailie Dick, Messrs Aikman, Stewart, Steel, M'Gowan, Stevenson, Douglas, Mouat, Gilchrist, and M'Gregor (did not vote, Bailie Monteath and Provost Galbraith); and considers them unworthy of, and but ill qualified for, the important situation they hold; and

that it be the bounden duty of every person to use his utmost influence in order to prevent their return, or any such like, into the Council in future.

III. That this Meeting, while expressing regret in reference to the proceedings of a majority of the Town Council (inasmuch as they have agreed that there be a "Grand Procession" in the Town on that day set apart for the Coronation), feels it a duty earnestly to advise all—more especially the working classes—not only to stand aloof from, and avoid taking part in, any such public demonstration, but, on the contrary, to view the Coronation, in the depressed state of the country, in the aspect of a national calamity—as fraught with consequences pernicious in principle, immoral in their tendency, and all but beneficial to the general interests of the community at large.

IV. That this meeting publicly approves of, and thanks the following members of Council for their conduct in voting against granting £20, or any such sum, for a purpose which is so particularly characteristic of a corrupt nation and age, viz., Bailies Smith and M'Alley, Messrs Connal, Rankin, Christie, Burden, Johnstone, Lennox, and Yellowlees.

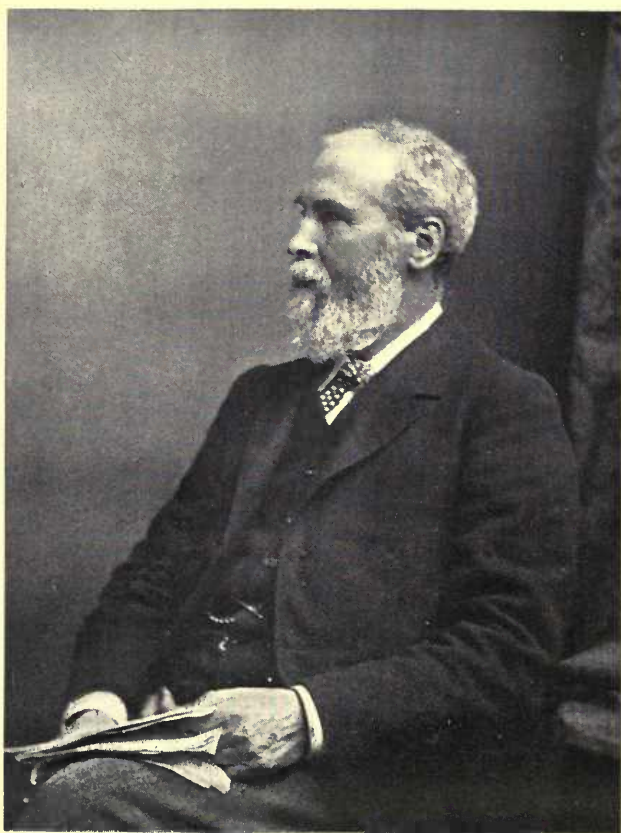
V. That means be adopted to ascertain the names of the individuals who may have the meanness to attend the Coronation Guzzle, procured by the £20 taken from the Town's Funds, with the view that their names be published and held up to the world as public paupers, who are either unable or unwilling to pay for the expression of their loyalty.

(Signed) MAURICE M'INTYRE, Preses.

The Stirling High Constables and the Writers.

THE WRITERS "WOULD BE DEGRADED."

On the occasion of the execution, in Broad Street, of Alexander Millar ("Scatters," referred to at length in our First



Series), the "Fraternity of Writers," as they were termed, refused "the lawful call of the Magistrates on being summoned to assist as special constables," maintaining that, "as they were members of the Burgh Court, and belonged to the deliberative, and not the executive, part of that court, they would be degraded were they called on to do the duties that pertain to the officers of court." It appears, however, two writers obeyed the summons, Mr. R. Thompson and Mr. Nimmo. The Society of High Constables took the matter up, and, at their meeting previous to the execution, passed the following resolution:—

Court House, Stirling, 8th April, 1837.

At a Meeting of the Society of High Constables, of the above date, called for the purpose of assisting the Magistrates in keeping the peace of the burgh at the execution of Alexander Millar for the murder of William Jarvie, it was unanimously agreed that resolutions be presented to the Magistrates, and read in the presence of the Special Constables, expressive of the opinion of the Society concerning the conduct of certain of the writers in town, refusing to act as Constables upon this and other occasions; and that the office-bearers of the Society be appointed a deputation to carry the same to the Magistrates, and beg that they may be read, which being done, they were adopted by the Special Constables as expressing their convictions on the question. Resolve,

That as the Magistrates of the Burgh are burdened with the care of the Town at all times, and the more especially upon the occasion of a public execution, it is the duty of every citizen to assist them to the utmost of his power, and this becomes the more necessary when the Town will be visited by such an immense crowd as may fairly be anticipated upon this day;

The Society of High Constables, therefore, resolve that they will do their utmost to preserve the peace of the Town upon this occasion, as they have been in the habit of doing for many years past; believing that, as heretofore, they themselves will be willingly assisted by the whole of their fellow-citizens. The Society, however, having learned that one class of men, viz.,

the Writers, have determined to resist the lawful authority of the Magistrates, expressed in the due and legal form through the Town Sergeants, having refused to compear to be sworn in as Special Constables, thus manifesting that, while they expect in their own persons the protection of the civil authorities, they are unwilling to exert themselves to protect their own and their neighbour's property; Resolve, that while they would by no means dictate to the Magistrates what line of conduct they ought to pursue upon such an occasion, they would merely state that, if the Magistrates suffer such insubordination to pass unpunished, the Society will, to a man, resign their batons, and break up the Society, in so far as the present members are concerned. But, if the Magistrates are resolved to assert their lawful authority, the Society of High Constables will yet continue their exertions in the support of the municipal authorities.

(Signed) JAMES DRUMMOND, Captain.

ROBERT REID, Secretary.

The firm attitude assumed by the High Constables commended itself to the Magistrates, who at once took steps towards raising an action to test the legality of the course adopted by the Writers, the Provost (Galbraith), at the first meeting of Town Council after the occurrence, stating that while "the Magistrates had been advised to take measures against these persons, he wished to obtain the opinion of the Council before proceeding further in the matter. The inhabitants are bound to assist the Magistrates in preserving the peace of the burgh, but if any class be exempted by Act of Parliament, the Magistrates will, of course, not call on them for assistance." The matter was then discussed by the Council, Bailie Monteath being the only supporter of the action of the Writers, and ultimately, on the motion of Mr Rankin, it was agreed "that the Council highly approve of what the Magistrates have done, and recommended them to raise only one action."

AN ACTION OF DECLARATOR AGREED ON.

The death of King William IV. and the celebrations upon the accession of Queen Victoria intervened, and procedure in the matter appears to have fallen into abeyance for a time, but, on 16th October, the minutes of Town Council bear the following:—

The Provost laid before the Council a memorial submitted by Mr. Sconce, the Procurator-Fiscal of the Burgh, to Mr. Graham Speirs, Advocate, in regard to the liability of the number of the Fraternity of Writers of Stirling to serve as Constables on the order of the Magistrates, with Mr. Speirs' opinion thereon, in which, while he holds that the Writers, more especially those who are burghers, are liable to serve, he recommends that the question should be tried by an Action of Declarator before the Court of Session; and the Council having considered the whole case, unanimously resolve to try the question by an action before the Court of Session; but, in the meantime, to offer the Writers an opportunity of entering into amicable arrangement, by which legal proceedings may be avoided. They remit to Messrs Mouat, William Christie, and Yellowlees—any two a quorum, Mr. Mouat convener—to meet with the Writers, and endeavour to come to some agreement, and to report the result to next ordinary meeting.

A COMPROMISE EFFECTED.

From the minute book of the Society of Solicitors and Procurators we learn that on 8th December, "The Fraternity appointed a Committee to meet with the Committee of the Town Council, to try to come to a compromise of the question, and to report. Robert Campbell, Robert Hill, Ebenezer Gentleman, Alexander Boyd, A. Balfour, J. D. Mathie, James Chrystal, clerk. Mr. Hill to be convener."

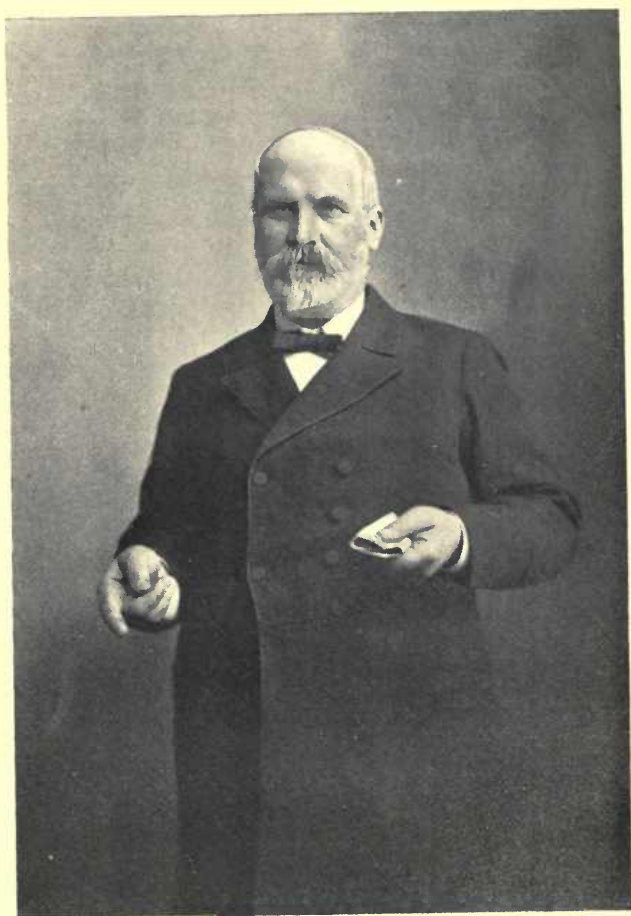
The next minute with reference to the question at issue is dated 5th January, 1838, and reads as follows:—

"Mr. Hill, Convener of the Committee, gave in the minutes of the meetings and the report of the terms after engrossed. It was then moved by Mr. Currer, and unanimously agreed to, that the report be approved of; and thereafter it was unanimously resolved, That the Fraternity, in terms of the recommendation therein contained, should waive the claim of total exemption from serving as constables, while they should be called on in future only in cases of great emergency and in a proportional number from their body, along with all the other inhabitants—excepting the clergy, who were agreed to be exempted from such duties—and that any individual member of the Fraternity should be allowed to serve by providing a proper substitute for the occasion. The Clerk was directed to transmit to the Dean a copy of this resolution, to be communicated to the Magistrates and Town Council, it being understood that the Magistrates and Town Council should accept of the concession made upon the conditions therein contained."

The Magistrates and Town Council having agreed to the compromise, the matter ended.

The Writers and the Town Guard.

On a subsequent occasion the Faculty advanced a step further, Mr. Lucas, one of their number, advising the members that they were not bound, either to serve themselves, or to provide a substitute, for the town guard, which patrolled the streets at night. A test case was sought to be made, Mr. Ebenezer Gentleman being the party singled out, and Piper Kerr—upon whom the duty devolved of warning the inhabitants when their turn for "mounting guard" came round, and who was also Sheriff Officer—returned the execution with the following endorsement:—"Mr. Eben Gentles refused to munt." We have been unable to obtain any record as to the result of the proceedings taken.



The Provost's Lamps.

At its meeting in February, 1856, the Town Council—not to be behind other burghs in upholding the dignity and official character of its Chief Magistrate—decided that two ornamental gas lamps should be procured, for erection in front of the residence of the Provost for the time being. Mr. John Sawers, banker, being the occupant of the chair during that year, was the first to receive the distinction, the lamps being placed in front of his house (the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank House—now that of the National Bank) in Murray Place.

Stirling and the Philabeg.

For some time—indeed, since the adoption of the territorial system in respect of the Foot Regiments, whereby the distinctive name by which they had severally been known was to some extent done away with—considerable agitation has taken place for the adoption of something which would specially characterise each, the agitation being more particularly directed towards the retention and exclusive use of the kilt by the Highland regiments.

An opposite feeling prevailed in 1850, when a movement was set afoot for the discontinuance of the philabeg in the Army, on account of its uncomfortable nature, especially in winter. In Stirling the subject was discussed at considerable length for several months, and as a result petitions were prepared for presentation to the War Office. Strange that Stirling—which has ever prided itself on its association with the Highlands—should be amongst the towns from whence petitions were sent, but no fewer than one hundred and twenty-seven names were secured, the first of which was that of the Provost, followed by those of three clergymen, after which came the signatures of six members of the medical profession.

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The Public and the King's Park.

Within the last few years the question of the right of the inhabitants of Stirling to the full use of the King's Park has been brought forward, although the special point at issue was the exaction, by the grazing tenant, of a charge from excursion parties from other towns for the privilege of using the Park for sports and other recreations. The exaction—which had not been made previously—was considered as detrimental to the interests of the town, in that such parties would refrain from visiting it when it became known that there was no public park to which they might resort, and negotiations were entered into, whereby the Town Council, by the payment of a small sum annually, secured freedom for such visitors.

It may be noted that the occasion referred to was not the first on which the tenant of King's Park Farm had sought to place restrictions upon those who might desire to make use of the Park—which has always been looked upon as one of the greatest boons the public of Stirling possessed. In 1841 attempt was made by the then tenant to prohibit the townspeople or others from walking or having their amusements in the Park. A public meeting of the inhabitants was held, when it was decided to present a memorial to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, which was done, with the result that the tenant had to withdraw his objections.

The Castle Esplanade.

The extent and suitability of the Esplanade as a parade-ground is frequently commented upon by visitors to Stirling Castle, and it is generally believed that it has been in a condition similar to that which it now presents for centuries, seeing the Castle was so very fully occupied, both as a Royal Palace and as a garrison. Even amongst the present inhabit-

ants of the town this idea prevails to a considerable extent. But only those who are content to accept the conclusions arrived at by others, without considering the matter for themselves, could entertain such an opinion. All old pictures of the Castle show the foreground as quite different from the appearance it now has, and when it is considered how rough and uneven the streets and roadways, even in towns of considerable importance, were until comparatively recent times, it will be conceded that Stirling was not likely to prove an exception. Nor has the Esplanade ground—as many assume it has—been included as part of the Castle for any lengthened period, and, by way of correcting a false impression which prevails on the matter, we here give a copy of a resolution and certification drawn up by the Magistrates as to the formation of the Esplanade.

Stirling, 22nd April, 1813.

We, the Magistrates of the Burgh of Stirling, subscribing, do hereby certify, that until within these few years there was no parade or drill-ground for the troops within nearly a mile of the garrison here, the ground in front of the Castle consisting of very irregular and steep rocks, being the property of the burgh. That some years ago the burgh made a grant of that ground to Government on certain conditions, which has since been extended by the purchase of some houses and gardens. That, by the intelligence, exertion, unwearied application, and attention, of D. T. French, Esq., Ordnance Store-keeper, the irregular and brittle rocks have been levelled, mostly by means of gunpowder, and now surrounded by a strong stone wall, forming a beautiful parade, containing sufficient space for manœuvring a regiment of 500 men, and universally admired by strangers from all parts of the United Kingdom who resort to this part of the country. That, although the work was of a very dangerous nature, the ground being mostly surrounded by private houses, yet, by the ability and skill of Mr. French, no person received the least injury, nor was a single complaint made by any of the adjoining proprietors or inhabitants.

That the Magistrates and inhabitants are so sensible of the advantage derived from Mr. French's exertions in conducting and completing the work, and even personal danger to which he was frequently exposed, that they have it in contemplation to affix a marble slab in a conspicuous part of the wall, with a suitable inscription, expressive of their sense of Mr. French's merit as a zealous officer of Government, and a gentleman.

JAMES FORMAN, Bailie.

D. DALGLEISH, Bailie.

JAS. HENDERSON, Bailie.

JAMES MACEWEN, D.G.

We have been unable to trace whether or not the project for the erection of a tablet ever assumed practical shape; but there is no appearance whatever of such having been affixed to the wall, as contemplated. In 1877 a colossal statue of King Robert the Bruce was erected in the north-west corner of the Esplanade; and recently a suggestion was made that the granite cross erected to the memory of the officers and men of the 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment (now the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders) who fell in the Indian Mutiny should be removed from the ornamental grounds adjoining to a more conspicuous and appropriate position on the Esplanade.

Formation of Stirling Gas-Light Company.

William Murdoch, the inventor of gas lighting—whose bust forms one of the collection in the "Hall of Heroes" in the National Wallace Monument, on the Abbey Craig, placed there, in 1892, by the North British Association of Gas Managers—had his house at Redruth, Cornwall (where he was at the time employed as manager to Messrs Boulton and (James) Watt in the erection of steam engines) lighted by gas in the year 1792, and among the simple and rather superstitious Cornish folk was, along with his contrivances, regarded as

rather "uncanny." Three places in Glasgow were lighted by gas in 1805, the first Glasgow Gas-Light Company being started in 1817, and, about the beginning of 1825 the inhabitants of Stirling, having come to understand the advantages to be derived, roused themselves, and, a number of gentlemen taking the matter in hand, a public meeting was held in June of that year, when a committee which had been previously appointed, gave in their report. Provost Gillies occupied the chair, and, after discussion, it was decided to establish a Company, with a capital of £6000, in £10 transferrable shares, no one to hold over twenty shares—unless, after the townspeople having received the offer to subscribe, there were any over, a month being allowed for the shares being subscribed. At the meeting shares to the value of £2000 were taken up, and a committee was appointed to carry out the work, the following being the members:—Provost Gillies, Provost Thomson, Captain Galbraith, Messrs Thorburn, Connal, Morrison, Balfour, Riddell, M'Vicar, and Forman.

The work was proceeded with so energetically that on 27th November, 1826, the streets were crowded with people, from all quarters around, to view the first lighting with gas, "which turned out a perfect success in every way, and rather astonished those who knew nothing about it, and quite delighted those who did."

The Stirlingshire Banking Company.

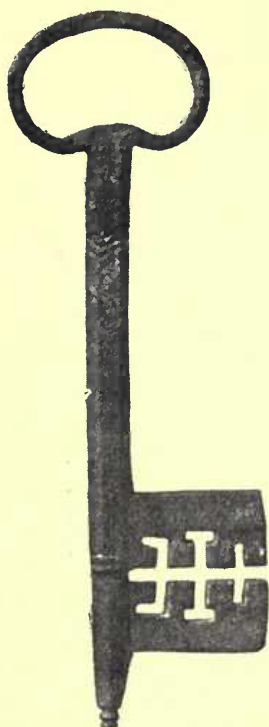
Two banks, it appears, were founded in Stirling towards the end of last century, these being what was known as "The Stirling Banking Company," begun in 1777, and having its premises at the corner of Broad Street and St. Mary's Wynd, from which circumstance it was named "The Corner Bank." (The premises are best known to present residents as "Willie Murray's.") This bank was wound up in 1826.

The other, "The Merchant Banking Company of Stirling," was established in 1784, and carried on business until 1814, not so much as a bank of deposit as a bill-discounting bank.

We have been favoured by a legal gentleman in town with a copy of the prospectus (dated 26th July, 1831) of "The Stirlingshire Banking Company" in which the following appears:—"As to the Stirling Bank, it is a well known fact that it was a more than ordinary prosperous concern down to the year 1810, and but for too great an extension of its business subsequently, on a very small advanced capital, and the limited number of its partners, it would, at the present moment, have been one of the most flourishing private banking establishments in the country. The present seems a propitious period for supplying the blank left by the dissolution of that establishment."

The capital stock of "The Stirlingshire Banking Company" was to be £400,000 sterling, divided into 4000 shares of £100 each, the first instalment not to exceed £25 per share, and partners to be allowed a cash credit to the amount of one half of their advanced stock. If found expedient, a branch was to be established in Alloa, and the following partners were appointed by the subscribers as an Interim Committee, to give information and dispose of shares, viz.:—Provost Forman, Stirling; Messrs John Wilson, junior, manufacturer, Bannockburn; Ebenezer Bow, merchant in Stirling; Alexander Munnoch, merchant there; Peter Murdoch, merchant there; William M'Alley, manufacturer there; James Henderson, ironmonger there; Christopher Cairns, road contractor there; George Christie, Stirling Shore; Daniel Macewen, merchant, Stirling; John Morrison, merchant there. Copies of the prospectus were also to be had of the following Partners:—George M'Killop, Esq., Ainslie Place, Edinburgh; Messrs Robert Henderson, W.S., Edinburgh; William Connal, merchant, Glasgow; William Key of Wrightspark; William Bow of Kernock.

The attempt to set up this bank did not, however, proceed very far, being checked by the establishment of a branch of the National Bank in March, 1832, in the premises formerly occupied by the Stirling Banking Company. Notes were, however, prepared for issue, and a number are still in the possession of local gentlemen.



KEY OF STIRLING BURGH PORT GATE,
Handed to H.R.H. Prince Charles Edward, on his Summons
to the Town to Surrender, 6th January, 1746.

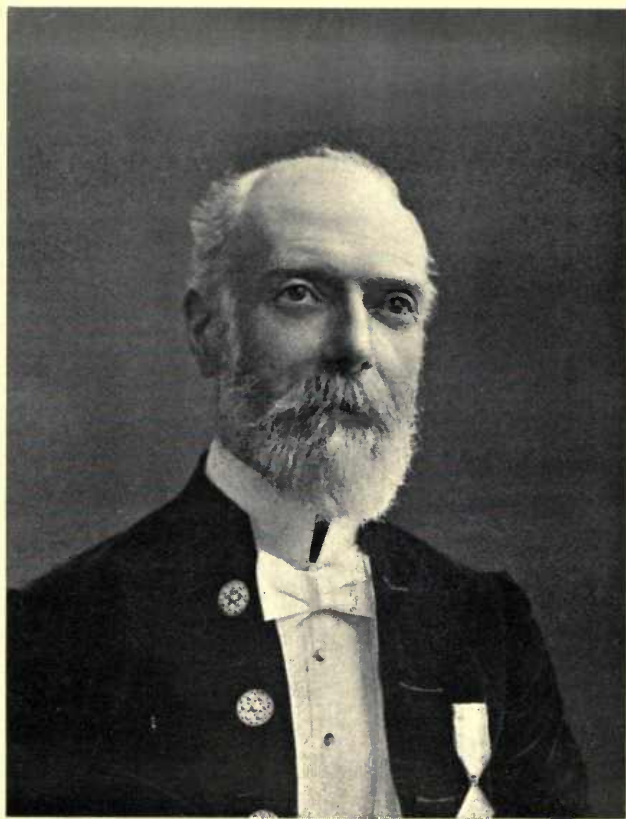
The Stirling Parish Militia Society.

CONSCRIPTION AND SUBSTITUTES.

During the stirring and troubled times which prevailed in
the opening years of the century, when army service was

being forced by means of the ballot, a society was formed in Stirling "for the express purpose of providing substitutes, or paying penalties for any of the members thereof, chosen by ballot to serve in the Militia or any other army, under whatever denomination the same shall be called, where substitutes or penalties are accepted in lieu of personal service."

We are indebted to a legal gentleman in town for a copy of the articles of this society, which was formed on 4th December, 1809, and appears to have been in existence until, at least, 1831, as in that year the articles were reprinted, by instructions of the Committee. The Society was to "continue for the space of five years and no longer," and any person residing in the parish could be entered and enrolled as a member on paying to the treasurer the fixed entry money. In order to provide and maintain a fund for the purpose of finding substitutes, or paying penalties, each member was to pay 1s. 6d. quarterly, on the first Mondays of January, April, July, and October, during the said five years, and in the event of particular exigencies, extraordinary assessments were to be made. Should any member fail to make payment, his membership was to cease, his name was to be expunged from the books, and he could have no claim on the Society. After a competent fund had been provided, "the managers may direct the payments to be stopt, and may order them to be again resumed, and that so often as they deem the same necessary." Any member removing to another parish was to "have the benefit of the Society so long as his name remains in the ballot box of this parish, . . . but whenever his name shall be put into the ballot-box of another parish, he shall cease to have any right to the benefit of this Society." Article V. reads as follows:—"Any member on whom the ballot falls, before a substitute can be provided for him, must give the Society sufficient security that he will continue to pay his proportion along with the other members during the said five years; and if the person chosen by ballot be willing to serve himself, the Society will give him a bounty equal to what they would give a substitute; and if any member shall engage as a substitute for another parish, he shall forfeit all right to the



benefit of this Society." When general meetings of the Society were to take place, the members were to be warned by the drum, twenty-four hours before the time of meeting, "the drum, in all cases where warning is required, being sufficient." At all meetings of the Society, "one member only shall speak at a time, and any member presuming to interrupt the person speaking, or shall refuse to be silent when called to order by the preses shall, for the first offence forfeit a fine of sixpence, which shall be instantly paid, and go to the Society's funds; for the second offence, one shilling; for the third offence, two shillings; and so on progressively for every subsequent offence;" and the Articles conclude with the following resolution:—"That no person will be admitted a member until he provides himself with a copy of the foregoing Articles, for which purpose the preses is authorised to get a sufficient number of copies printed."

Municipal Diversions.

RACES FOR BELLS.

"All work and no play" is said to be apt to "make Jack a dull boy," and from the Records of the Burgh it appears as if our civic dignitaries were fully alive to the danger implied in the saying, and made provision whereby the lieges were afforded entertainment and diversion. Some authorities declare that such obtained in the burgh about five hundred years ago, but the earliest authentic account is afforded by an entry, of date 18th April, 1598, as follows:—

"James Wallace band and obleist him, his airis, executouris and assigneis, to produce ane bell of fine silver wyand twa unce and ane half; and schaw the samin to the magistratis aucht dayis befor Paix, quhilk bell salbe deliverit to ony of the magistratis on Paix Tysday, and failyeing of deliverance to pay twentie pundis to the magistratis of the towne of Strivling."

The reason for this exhibition of the bell is more fully set forth in the entry of date 12th April, 1631, which is as follows:—

“In presens of [the provost and bailies] compeirit personallie maister Thomas Rollok, younger, burges of the said burgh of Sterling, and become actit and obleist, of his awen confessioun, as cawtioner and sonertie for John Drummond of Garnock, that he sall exhibit, present, and delyver to the proveist, or ony ane of the bailleis of the said burgh of Sterling, within the said burgh, upon the first day of Marche nixtocum, all and haill theis silver bellis, extending to the number of aucht bellis, weyand in the haill aucht unce and nyne drape weight, quhilk he wane this day, being Peace Tuesday, at the bell reace, to be rune againe the nixt Peace Tuesday betnix Bannokburne and Sterling, and that under the paine of fyve hundreth merks money of this realme to be payd to the thesaurer of this burgh to the tonnes wse in caise of faillye.”

RACES FOR CUPS.

The next entry has reference to a cup, and is as follows:—

“23rd February, 1665. Appoyntis the horse race of this race to be ridden, and recommendis to the magistratis to caus make a silver cup like that which was the last year.”

On 8th March, 1673, it is minuted that “The magistrats and councill hes condiscended that the horse race be run in the Brighaugh 15 dayes after Coopare race, and recommends to the magistrats, dean of gild, and conveener, to see the ground and caus provyd a silver cup as good as the former.”

Some hitch appears to have occurred the following year in regard to the race, as on 14th August, 1675, it is recorded that “Walter Patersone, theasurer, receaved twentie six rix dollors, being 76 li. 17s. for the pryce of the cupp which sould have beene rune in anno 1674, after roupeing therof.”

AN EXTENSIVE REVIVAL.—A GOOSE RACE.

If the sports were discontinued, as the foregoing seems to indicate, they were revived in 1706, and carried out on a much more extensive scale than formerly, a minute of 16th April of that year stating—

“Also the councill appointis intimation to be made the foirsaidis dayes that their is ane goose race to be ryden for by the maltmen of this burgh upon the Saturday immediatlie befor Whitsunday next, a litle without the Borrowsgate, which is to begin at nyne o'clock in the morning; as also ane horse race for ane fyne sadle and furnitur to the value of xij lib. 14 s. to be rydden for the said day at ane o'clock in the afternoon the said day, betwixt the Borrowsgate and William Shirrayes in Cambusbarron, back and foir, the value of each horse to run not to exceed 60 libs.; as also ane foot race betwixt the Borrowsgate and Whythill at three o'clock the said day for ane pair of new stockines, ane pair of new shooes, and ane blew bonnet.”

Further provision was made on 7th May, 1706, when the Council “Recomends to baillie Chrystie and baillie Gillespie to sight the hieway where the tounie race is to be run, and caus clear and dight the same and ordour the getting up of the stoupe quhair the horses are to turne, and cause helpe any ill steps in the way.”

“ANE NEW SECK FULL OF COALLS.”

The following year a still further enlargement of the scope of the sports took place, the minute, of date 21st April, 1707, stating—

“Also the counsil appoynts ane race to be run at Sterling for ane silver tanker to the value of three pound starling,—STERLING PRYSE to be drawn upon it in lairge letters,—upon the last Saturday of May nixt. Also appoynts a mans foot

race for ane pare of stockings, ane pare of shoes, and a pare of gloves, with ane bonnett. Also the council recomends to the gildrie of this burgh to make a ring race that day; and to the maltmen for a goose race, and for the omnigatherum for a load saddle race, a pare of sods, and ane new seck full of coalls; all to be run the same day, the goose race at ten a'clock, the silver plate race at one a'clock in the afternoon, the ring race at three a'clock, the lade saddle race at five a'clock afternoon; and appoynts all thir races to be putt in the Gazett for six weeks to come, to give advertisement to the leidges. Also appoynts some of the magistrates to meet with the sherifs deputs to get his concurrence for intimating our decernitur and our races through the shyre."

The goose race was a sport which had come down from very ancient times. From a beam or rope stretched across the race course a goose with well-soaped neck and head was suspended by the legs, and the riders in passing it, one after another at full gallop, strove to grasp and wrench off the head of the bird. The one who carried off the head won the race and got the goose. In the ring race each rider was provided with a pointed rod, with which he strove, when at full gallop, to prick and carry off a ring suspended at a given place on the course. The sport was something of the nature of tilting at the ring, and the prize—a gold ring with blue ribbon attached—was awarded by the hands of the more notable lady present.

THE DEAN A COMPETITOR.

10th May, 1707. "The town council having offered a purse of silver to be run for on the fair-day (in order to assert their rights), the gildrie agree to give a gold ring to be ridden for at the ring by the dean and other twelve gildbrethren and any strangers who shall think fit to ride therefor. The dean and treasurer to put what motto shall be most proper on the said ring."



THE CHAPMEN'S RING.

No further record appears until 8th September, 1733, when the Council "Appoints James Alexander, town treasurer, to furnish a gold ring to the chapmens race on Thursday next, at the rate of a guinea or thereby, but declare that the councils giving this compliment shall not infer a preparative for giving the like in time coming."

Whether or not the sports were continued regularly is not certainly attested, but when we come down to October, 1825, we find it recorded that the annual contest for the prize ring belonging to the Ancient Fraternity of Chapmen took place, when Mr. John Dick (afterwards Provost) and Mr. Thomas Steel (afterwards the noted Bailie, both of whom are spoken of in our First Series) were equal, and had to compete again for the coveted ring, Mr. Dick coming in the winner.

Elections.

Very few now-a-days realise what an amount of fun was derivable during the municipal elections of thirty or forty years ago. Theatres were not so numerous then as now, as there was no accommodation for them; but the nomination and election days made up in part for the want: old and young looking forward eagerly to the "heckling" and the appearance of those who made themselves "characters" at such times. The voting was open, and commenced at eight o'clock in the morning, finishing at four in the afternoon, a bulletin being issued every hour showing the state of the poll, and it can readily be understood what commotion was occasioned on the appearance of those papers, more especially towards the close of the poll, when they were issued more frequently. Party spirit was as strong in those days as now, but we think that any feeling caused at the election passed away sooner than it appears to do in these days of enlightenment. The nomination nights were "great;" there was no charge for admission, and the Court-House was always filled

from top to bottom. To give our younger readers an idea of the proceedings, we may adopt the following description:—"The hall door was opened about half-past seven, and, so great was the crowd assembled outside, that, in about ten minutes, galleries, area, and passages were filled to suffocation. There was a pretty large sprinkling of non-electors among those present, and ludicrous incidents were not wanting to keep the large audience in a noisy and excited state till the hour named for the commencement of the proceedings. The two galleries were greatly overcrowded, and presented a really frightful appearance, the heads of the occupants, sloping gradually up from the sides, describing to those below the form of a pyramid—the cluster of heads in the centre having considerable difficulty in maintaining their exalted position. The fun commenced by several parties descending over the gallery to the area, and this was shortly after agreeably varied by the successful attempt of one old gentleman to seat himself in the witness-box—who for a time was certainly the observed of all observers. Another object of interest, however, soon drew the attention of the audience to a different quarter of the building. From the extreme left of the area, bursts of merriment had occasionally been heard, and one louder than the rest revealed a new "butt" to the wilder spirits of the meeting. This turned out to be —, a well-known shopkeeper in town, whose 'notion' about things in general, and the object of the meeting in particular, had apparently 'been kitted up' by something stronger than soda water. His eloquence, however, was confined, and understood only by those in his immediate neighbourhood, but his gesticulations, as witnessed from the other end of the hall, were wild enough and odd enough to justify the merriment they created. The Provost having taken his seat, the stentorian cry of 'silence,' from James Dick, the town's officer, reduced the meeting to something like order. When the time for nominations came,

Mr. D. Calder proposed Bailie —

Councillor Borland proposed Mr. Wm. Campbell.

Mr. France (Archie, the Smith)—I beg to propose no

gentleman be proposed who has pocketed any of the town's funds in an illegal manner. (Roars of laughter, interruption, the shopkeeper again on his legs, shaking his fist, and fiercely gesticulating; 'Silence,' 'Put him out,' and great uproar).

The Provost—Gentlemen, I assure you you insult the chairman in doing that. (Hear, hear, and 'Order.')" And so on.

Candidates for municipal honours in those days required to have a clean sheet as to character, or a very thick hide, as any little flaw was sure to be taken notice of, and that without any delicacy. Pity any one who was not a favourite if anything was known to his detriment: out it came at the most unexpected moment, and was generally received (we are sorry to say) with roars of laughter. Then the skits and bogus lists of candidates which appeared, mostly concocted in Tam Steel's back-shop at the Bow, and generally made up of the names of bona-fide candidates, interspersed with those of persons who had no thought of "standing" as well as some of the "characters" of the town. These lists were distributed through the town, and caused more fun. "Causticus" was generally to the front with verses on the result of the election, and we present a couple of samples.

In November, 1862, the poll for Councillors stood thus, and the following "New Sang" was written on the occasion:—

James Hart (hotel-keeper),	251
Eben. Gentleman (writer),	236
James M'Alpine (brickmaker),	227
Thomas Ferguson (grocer),	223
Alex. Mackie (grain merchant),	218
Archibald Watt (baker),	216
Wm. Rankin (residenter),	177
James Alexander (cabinetmaker),	174
James Burden (brewer),	173
Andrew C. Young (residenter),	142
John M'Pherson (china merchant),	95

A NEW SANG
ANENT SEVEN FORTUNATE AND FOUR UNFORTUNATE
SINNERS.

Keep up your hearts, ye hin'most four,
An' quately tak' a dram,
There's three o' ye a hunner odds,
An' little mair is Tam.
An' Tam, ye ken, had Charlie's help,
An' Charlie—honest man—
Believes that naither man nor deil
Wi' him can mak' a plan.

An' Sandie, tae—a bargain big—
Had "sward and sermon" helpin';
An', therefore, to the Council Board
He's gane wi' Tammie skelpin!
"There's corn in Egypt," says the Book,
An' buirdly grain in Stirling;
"An' what think ye o' me an' mine?"
Is Parson Bouncer skirling.

Baith Bricks an' Baps ha'e run the coorse,
An' gained the Coouncil laurel,
An' "vrater" Ben may try his teeth
On victory's pleasant farle.
An' Jim, the vera ace o' hearts,
May crouselly tak' the causey,
An' Bailie X., an ancient gem,
May canty be an' saucy.

But, oh! and aye, alack the day
For him that brewed oor nappy,
Richt sair an' sad is he, I wat,
Wha's liquor mak's us happy.
Nae mair aboot the Coouncil room
Has he a richt tae toddle,
An' nae mair will his trusty stick
Come thump on Jamie's noddle!

The laird o' table, chair, an' stool,
 Tho' shapely made an' polish'd,
 Has had his dream o' local fame
 Richt sune and sair demolish'd.
 An' he that in a Queenly place,
 Had Coouncil dreamings nourish'd,
 Has withered doon, like Jonah's gourd,
 That for an hour had flourish'd.

There's ane that deals in ticklish ware,
 An's learned in Coouncil duty,
 That couldna get the doited loons
 To see his mental beauty.
 An' sae, just like a crackit dish
 That's left when folks are fittin',
 He bides at hame, and on a stool
 In grief an' gloom he's sittin'.

But, cheer your hearts, ye hin'most four,
 An' keep your tongues frae wailing,
 An' maybe in a year or twa
 Ye'll find it smoothen sailing.
 Ye canna gang until ye creep,
 An' luck ye canna order,
 But by an' bye, whan better kent
 Ye'll cross misfortune's border.

The result of the election in 1863 was as follows:—

John Davidson (writer and Inland Revenue collector),	319
James Monteath (banker),	317
John Christie (ironmonger),	278
Peter Ferguson (residentifier),	225
George Anderson (wool spinner),	178
Andrew C. Young (residentifier),	175
William Dow (grocer),	105
John Tait (glazier),	29

The following effusion, which most admirably hits off some

R

of the traits of character in the candidates, appeared immediately after the election :—

THE POLLING DAY.

The polling day has come an' gane,
And three recruits are finish't,
An' Johnnie in his ain esteem
Is unco sair diminish't.
He thocht tae glitter bricht as gowd,
As braw as pictur' framin',
But oh, an' aye, alas the day,
He's suffer'd painfu' maimin'.

Three hun'er votes he thocht tae poll:
He's nine and twenty gotten!
His cause—an' he the workman's frien'—
Has proven unco rotten.
His fame is like the gear he sells,
It's thin and unco brittle;
An' a' his trust on voters' votes
Has proven mair than kittle.

An' Willie Dow—a decent man—
Has ta'en a Cooncil scunner,
For, after toiling lang an' sair,
He's scrimply o'er the hun'er.
He swithered sair, but didna stand
When first his name was cited;
But this time bauldly forth he gaed,
An' noo he's sairly slighted.

An' if he's wise in time to come
His counter close he'll stick at,
And no' permit his name to gang
On Tam, the town-clerk's, ticket.
For Cooncil hunting's ticklish game,
An' hope is sometimes erring,
And wiser far will Willie be
To stick to meal an' herring.

There's him that lives in Spittal's Park,

An' twice has tried the racing,
Should learn a lesson frae defeat,

An' tak' tae cautious pacing.
In Coouncil graith he needna rin
When aulder hands are trotting ;
He's little chance the race to win
While cunning heads are plotting.

The man o' wool has got a hoist,
An' quick an' high he's lifted,
But Jamie Hogg has claimed a search,
An' Geordie may be shifted.
For Jamie's no' the lad tae wince
When he a stand has taken ;
An' Timmer James may show that some,
Like Baxter's, been mistaken.

If they bring Geordie doun a peg
We yet may ha'e a tussle,
An' ower a voting list and gill
We'll maybe weet oor whistle.
If George has slippit in beneath
Some dirty coalition,
It's shame to him and wrang to us,
An' "oust him" 's my petition.

Hey, Peter, man, ye've gotten back,
An' back wi' voters mony ;
Ye'll rest ye noo for three years' space,
An' eat your bread and honey.
Ye've shown yersel' a man o' pluck,
A man o' mighty mettle ;
Sae sit whaur men o' spirit sit—
That's near the toddy kettle.

But mind the man that faced you up,
An' steel'd ye for the battle,
And keep him clos3 beside yersel'
When ye the gill-stoup rattle.
He's sent you roaring through the poll,
An' up like ony rocket,
Sae, Peter, do the handsome thing,
An' lowse for aince your pocket !

OLD STIRLING.

Here's Castle John, the metal man,
He's gane in at the middle,
An' thinks that ither men to him
Should play the second fiddle.
He'll tak' a gowden chain to wear,
An' him it wadna hurry
Tae carry aff the gilded lamps
That licht the gates o' Murrie.

John stands weel in his ain esteem,
An' braw he thinks his speeches,
An' nearer Demosthenic fame
Than Bright or Gough he reaches.
For John, ye ken, likes bonnie words,
The bigger aye the better,
Though, slave-like, on his mither tongue
He puts the English fetter.

The man that deals in law an' cash,
An' hauds his gear thegither,
Has come richt close upon the heels
O' John, his legal brither.
He's gane to wear the Bailie's chain,
An' watch the civic glory,
Which, by and bye, he hopes to bind
Round his ain upper storey!

I wonder if he ever thinks
How much the crown may cost him,
And how "a trifle, sir, for this!"
Will almost daily roast him.
There's beggars gaun in decent garb,
That like the Provost's feeding,
And look upon a Provost's purse
As only meant for bleeding.

Noo, Jamie, speak the honest truth,
An tell us what ye're thinkin';
Are ye prepared to feed the loons,
An' help them merry drinkin'?
Wine rich an' ripe they'll guzzle up,—
An' mair's the cost the riper,—
While glowrin' o'er the waste ye'll groan,
And, groaning, pay the piper!

Noo last, though first upon the list,
Is John, the man o' taxes,
And oftentimes to misery's needs
A weel-filled fist he raxes.
We're glad to see him back again,
An' hope that at the table
He'll sit for mony a day to come,
In Cooncil wisdom able.
An' if he tak's a thocht to ha'e
The lamps put oot beside him,
He'll get the chance, though sugary John
Should laugh at and deride him.
Even pomp itsel' we'll put aside,
An' Back Walk zeal we'll fetter,
For ne'er could bonnie lights be spent
On franker man or better.

Stirling Veterans.

The county and burgh of Stirling have supplied many brave fellows to the ranks of the army, who, but for the circumstance of their humble origin and the then prevailing system of appointing only the sons of gentlemen to hold commissions, might have occupied most favourable niches in the gallery of illustrious warriors. One of these veterans was Sergeant Drummond, who died at Raploch on 25th September, 1857. He enlisted into the 79th (Cameron) Highlanders at the time of their embodiment in Stirling in 1794, and it is said that, on enlistment, he made it a condition that he was to hold the rank of sergeant, which was complied with. He was with the army in Egypt, and distinguished himself, being awarded a medal.

Drummond was a native of Airthrey, his father being a labourer on that estate. After honourably passing through many engagements, he obtained his discharge and a pension of 1s. 10½d. a day, and, returning to his native place, "fought his battles o'er again" and recounted to his numerous friends the many hairbreadth escapes he had made. Sergeant Drummond was early imbued with Liberal opinions, which he maintained

with singular consistency throughout the whole of his eventful life. As an evidence of this, it may be stated that, when he was requested, "as a particular favour," etc., to vote for a Parliamentary candidate who did not come up to his standard, the old man indignantly replied, "If I should have to crawl on my hands and knees, like a partan, I'll be at the poll and vote for Sir James Anderson;" and he kept his word.

He died at the advanced age of 96. At his death he left a sister, Mary, 80 years of age, who had been in the service of a family in town for above forty years; another sister living at Coneyhill, Bridge of Allan, 85 years; and a brother at Kerse-mill for 43 years. Drummond was a pensioner for 43 years.

Another veteran, John Brown, who died at Barn Road in March of the same year, was a private in the 83rd Regiment, and was 71 years of age at his death. He was in Picton's, or what was called "the fighting division." He enlisted on 1st April, 1807, and requested, and obtained, his discharge at the reduction in 1814. When he joined the regiment, Swinburn (who, in 1857, was general) was sergeant-major. John had a fund of anecdote regarding the battles in which he had been engaged. It was a maxim of the French, that if cavalry broke the centre of the British infantry, the day was their own. It was in an encounter of this kind, when our Highlanders presented a firm front and bristling bayonets to the advancing cavalry, that a heavy French horseman brought down his sabre with a sweep, and cut severely the hand of our veteran. John was a Guild brother, and had a small weekly allowance from Cowane's Hospital. He wore eleven clasps for his meritorious services, but no pension was conferred on him by the War Office.

John Towers, who died in 1862, was a "Son of the Rock," having been born in May, 1786, at the head of King Street, where his father kept an inn. At an early period of life he displayed a great predilection for everything pertaining to military life, a desire which increased with years, and which was fully gratified when, in 1803, he enlisted in the "Reserve," from which, in the following year, he volunteered into the 42nd, stationed on the coast of Essex, where the duty was harassing

and irksome, in consequence of the threatened invasion of England by Bonaparte. He went with the regiment to Gibraltar in 1805, and when hostilities commenced with Spain, his regiment advanced with the troops under Sir John Moore, and took part in all the operations consequent on the retreat to Corunna, and was close to that lamented general when he fell. He was with his regiment on the unfortunate and disastrous expedition to Walcheren. He served also in the campaigns of 1812-14, and at the siege and storming of Burgos was twice wounded. On the return of Bonaparte from Elba, the regiment was despatched to the Continent, where, in the engagement at Quatre Bras, John was disabled, having received a shot through the left arm, in consequence of which he received his discharge, with a pension of a shilling a day, afterwards raised to 1s. 2d. He received two medals, one for Waterloo and another for the Peninsula, having seven clasps representing the following engagements—Corunna, Salamanca, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse. By his express desire he was carried to the grave by a sergeant's party of the regiment he loved so well.

The Battle of the Alma.

HOW STIRLING GOT THE TIDINGS.

The first spot in the United Kingdom where the fact became public that a great battle had been fought by the Allies on the banks of the Alma, resulting in a triumphant victory, was, strangely enough, the town of Stirling. At midnight, after the eventful day, the Lord Mayor of London proclaimed the tidings to the metropolis, but six hours before that time the intelligence had spread over Edinburgh and Glasgow. There, indeed, it found incredulous ears, for the report, when traced to its origin, did not appear to have come from the quarter whence it was looked for, having come with a train from Stirling. A boy was the first who received the information, and did so in this way. Sitting in the telegraph office at Stirling, he observed the pointers suddenly

become alive with information, and began to read off the announcement. Finding it taking the shape of a despatch from the Foreign Secretary to the Queen at Balmoral, he read on, and learned the fact, which threw him into such excitement that, forgetting what might be the effect of this breach of faith on himself, he rushed out and proclaimed that our army had defeated the Russians in a great pitched battle fought at a place called Alma. The intelligence spread through the town with a rapidity only less than the telegraph itself could have given it. People wished to assure themselves of its authenticity; and Bailie (afterwards Provost) Rankin, accompanied by a number of other gentlemen, had an interview with the lad himself, who reluctantly showed the writing, perceiving by this time the probability of his being dismissed from his employment. The offence, however, was pardoned for the sake of its patriotism.

Russian Trophies.

On Monday, 25th May, 1857, great interest was taken in two pieces of ordnance captured at Sebastopol, which Lord Panmure had presented to Stirling. The guns were conveyed by sea to Grangemouth, and from thence on trucks. On nearing the town, a stirring scene took place. Mr. Forrester of Forthbank, whose farm was close by, made his appearance in a crimson mantle and white hat. These, together with his venerable white beard, made his appearance striking and picturesque, while in his hands he carried a fowling-piece. Waving his hands he said—"We welcome the Sebastopol trophies to Stirling! Honour to Sir Colin Campbell, the Highland Brigade, and the Guards! Had the Highlanders taken the Redan, I would have saluted the trophies in front; but, although they did not take the Redan, they did their duty nobly, and therefore we ought to give them a powder and shot welcome from the rear. God save the Queen!"

After this pithy and patriotic address, Mr. Forrester fired two shots after the trophies, amidst the applause of the



spectators. The guns were then drawn up town, to Jail Wynd, but were afterwards removed to their present position on the terrace overlooking the Guild Hall bowling-green.

Inauguration of the Market Cross.

On Saturday, 23rd May, 1891, the ceremony of inaugurating the restored Market Cross in Broad Street (of which we give an illustration from a photograph) took place before a great concourse of people, the restoration being carried out by Provost Yellowlees to signalise his occupancy of the civic chair. At 3.30 the invited guests assembled at the "Black Boy," and marched in procession, behind the famous Trades' banner, the "Blue Blanket," to Broad Street, through crowds of people and a considerable display of window decoration.

On reaching the Cross, previous to the ceremony of unveiling, Treasurer Ronald—to whom the work of sculpturing the stones of the structure had been entrusted—read, prior to handing it to the Town Clerk, the following certificate of the erection being finished:—

Stirling, May 23, 1891.

To Thomas L. Galbraith, Esq., Town Clerk, Stirling.

Sir,—I now beg to report to you that the work of erecting the Mercate Cross has been completed in accordance with the terms of the minute of Town Council, of date 28th August, 1890, and that all accounts in connection with it have been paid, so that the restored Mercate Cross is now the property of the Town Council, free of all cost to the burgh.

JAMES RONALD, Burgh Treasurer.

The Town Clerk then said—I receive this document on behalf of the Town Council, and it will be deposited among the burgh papers.

Mr. George Mouat, the oldest living merchant in Stirling at that time, and Dr. Galbraith, the oldest living descendant of a Stirling Provost, then, amid great cheering, unveiled the restored Cross.

Provost Yellowlees then said,—Fellow townsmen, I think you will agree with me that Her Most Gracious Majesty, in her Highland home at Balmoral, would like to know what her loyal subjects in Stirling have done to-day, and I beg to propose that we send to Her Majesty the following telegram :—

The Queen, Balmoral.

The burgesses of Stirling, assembled round their newly restored Mercate Cross, on reviving the ancient custom of commemorating the anniversary of their monarch's birth, greet Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria with dutiful and loyal enthusiasm, and wish for many happy returns of her natal day.

ROBERT YELLOWLEES, Provost.

Stirling, May 23rd, 1891.

This being assented to, the crowd gave three hearty cheers for Her Majesty, the band playing "God Save the Queen."

The procession thereafter proceeded to the Guild Hall, where cake and wine was served, a number of speeches made, by Provost Yellowlees, Mr. George Mouat, Dr. Galbraith, and others; a paper read by Treasurer Ronald on the Mercate Cross; an ode, written for the occasion by Mr. James Rae ("Jeems"), sung, under the leadership of Mr. J. Lascelles Graham; and the undernoted poem read.

The ode, which was sung to the air of "Jock o' Hazeldean," was as follows :—

All hail unto fair Scotland's Queen,
God bless her natal day!
Long may she rule in freedom's cause,
And firm the sceptre sway.
Long will her name and moral worth,
And every noble part,
Bear fruit for many a year to come
In every Scottish heart.
Now four-and-fifty years she's reigned,
With peace to one and all,
Secure we've lived in humble cot,
Secure in lordly hall;

She stands a Queen in Royal court,
 At home a loving mother ;
 In lowly cot a Christian friend,
 In need a silent giver.
 Our fertile plains in verdure drest,
 And every blooming tree,
 Send forth perfume of Nature's breath,
 A welcome aye to thee.
 The sun shines from its great expanse
 Of azure-vaulted screen,
 To gladden this eventful day,
 The birthday of our Queen.
 The lav'rock soars on twittering wing,
 High on the dewy morn,
 The blackbird strains his vocal note
 Upon the snow-white thorn ;
 At e'en the mavis sings his song,
 And lulls them a' to rest,
 When Phœbus sinks o'er Lomond's top
 In golden spangles drest.
 Let every man sing of the Queen,
 Let each child lisp her name,
 For all the peace and joy we've had
 Throughout her glorious reign.
 Sing out, ye bonnie birdies a',
 Frae every shaw and green,
 And let the o'ercome o' yer sang
 Be aye, "God save the Queen."

The following is the poem read during the course of the proceedings :—

Around our ancient Mercate Cross,
 Now happily renewed,
 Extend your ranks, with every heart
 By loyalty imbued.
 And as our fathers honoured
 The monarch's natal day,
 Let loyal homage just such-like
 Be paid our Queen alway.

OLD STIRLING.

Throughout her wide dominions
 May peace and plenty reign,
 And may her subjects, ruled by love,
 Their fealty aye maintain.

Let all the joyous welkin ring
 With loud resounding cheers:
 God save the Queen! Long may she reign,
 Beloved and blest her years.

Now in the Guildry's Hospice Hall,
 With zest that's rarely seen,
 Let's join with heart and soul to drink
 Our toast, "The Queen! the Queen!"

Ho! Stirling burghers, muster ye
 On this eventful day;
 Let strains of stirring music
 Lead your triumphal way.

Come, city fathers, wise and good;
 Come, men of war and might;
 Come, members of our Merchant Guild;
 Come, tradesmen just and right.

Let every ward its chairman send,
 And every bank its agent;
 Let men from boards, and schools, and press,
 All join our loyal pageant.

Now march in proud procession
 Through Stirling Southern Port,
 By King Street's gate and Baxter's Wynd,
 And reach the Broad Street Court.

The following reply to the telegram addressed to Her Majesty was received by Provost Yellowlees in the evening:—

"To the Provost of Stirling.—Her Majesty thanks you and the burgesses of Stirling for your kind and loyal telegram.—Edwards."

STIRLING AND ROUND ABOUT.



Incorporation Felo De Se.

One of the Stirling corporate bodies in 1836 made a curious attempt at yielding up their exclusive privileges, having sold the Bible and psalm-book belonging to the body, as well as divided some little money they possessed among each other, so that they had now only a name and a deacon, and claims upon Spittal's and Allan's Hospitals—not having so much as a Bible upon which to swear in a member.

A Shoemaker's Account.

The following is an exact copy of a shoemaker's account handed to a person near the town:—

To Basting the Mistres uperlather,.....	£0	0	3½
To Sundry jobbings to the strong Lady and straping to boot,.....	0	1	7½
To mending a Gallows to the Master,.....	0	0	7½
To Galashing for the Master, and mending his soul,	0	1	10
To nailing Miss Janet, etc.,.....	0	0	2½
To Stitching the made,.....	0	0	8
	<hr/>		
	£0	4	9

A Municipal Interment.

In April, 1837, the Stirling gravedigger, Andrew Malloch, was engaged to prepare the place of interment of Alexander Millar ("Scatters"), convicted at Stirling for murder, and sent in his account for the work done by him in the following terms, viz. :—

To digging grave for the Magistrates
and Town Council of Stirling,.....6s.

How to Arrive at a Decision.

During the active times when the Reform Bill was agitating the country, and while the people were straining every nerve to have it passed into law, Stirling, like other places, had frequent meetings for accomplishing this object. At one of these meetings—the chair being filled by a worthy Bailie—a particular point was in dispute, and how to arrive at a decision came to be the question. The chairman, in the dilemma, proposed that those who were for such and such a view of the measure should hold up their right hands, and at the same time the opponents should hold up their left. This proposal was received with an uncontrollable fit of laughter, in which none joined more heartily than the Bailie himself.

A Moonlight Flittin'.

For many years the premises at present occupied as the Council Chambers and Town Clerk's and Master of Works' offices at the head of King Street formed what was known as the Athenæum Library and Reading-Room, and it is recorded that, in 1825, the subscribers to the latter institution, having disagreed with the Town Council as to certain regulations which had been laid down, were warned out of the premises in the usual manner. The Town Council claimed the furniture as

belonging to the room and not to the subscribers, being, as was alleged, the fruit of a special subscription, and devised as fixtures in the Athenæum. Knowing that the "Sharpitlaw" of the town was in London, but dreading an interdict notwithstanding, certain parties were observed bustling to and fro during the small hours one morning in the neighbourhood of the building in question, accompanied by a professional locksmith, in case his services might be necessary. By and by the commotion became more noticeable and the cause apparent, as tables, chairs, and sundry other articles known to form part of the furniture in the Reading-Room were being removed therefrom in great haste, and made to disappear very speedily through the passage leading to the Cross Keys Inn, which stood on the site of what is now the ironmongery warehouse of Messrs Graham & Morton.

"Patie" Macdougall and the Evil Spirit.

An octogenarian in America, writing concerning the First Series of "Old Faces," tells the following concerning the late "Peter Macdougall, known by his scholars as 'Patie.' He was writing-master, and used a very high stool, on which he sat at a very high desk, overlooking all his pupils. On top of the desk rested the ink-bottle—a very large one with a wide mouth, and on one occasion, some of the boys caught a puddock, which they slyly slipped into the master's ink-bottle, where it remained perfectly still for a time. At length Patie, on taking a dip of ink, pricked the animal's back with the point of his pen, and on its beginning to wriggle and squirm, Patie, to the intense amusement of his pupils, became greatly alarmed, his alarm being considerably heightened when out jumped his frogship on to the desk, and Patie and his stool fell to the floor. On getting to his feet, and recovering his composure somewhat, as well as discovering the cause of his being so literally upset, he exclaimed, 'O, laddies, laddies, ye gi'ed me a fricht; for I thocht it was an evil speerit.'"

A Strolling Minstrel.

In the early fifties there appeared at intervals on the streets of Stirling a wandering musician, by the name of Crombie. The instrument he played was the flute, but by the exigencies of his mode of life he was often compelled to leave that in the keeping of his "uncle," when he would fall back on a penny whistle. One Saturday night, while playing in King Street, he was invited by Davie Taylor, the St. Ninians poet, and Sandy Maclachlan, of Bannockburn, also a poet, and some others, to join them in some refreshments in the Sun Inn. It was not long before the three just named were in a hot discussion as to who was the greatest British poet. Taylor advocated the claims of Burns; Maclachlan, of Shakespeare; and Crombie, of Byron; each clinching his arguments with a well-selected quotation from his favourite singer. Crombie, in giving his selection, rose to his feet and recited, with great energy, the "Apostrophe to a Skull." Then, with a triumphant air, issued the challenge, "beat that, if you can, frae the "Swan o' Avon," or the "Bard o' Ayrshire," and sat down. As the night advanced, and "the browst began to get abune the meal," he rose again, and, addressing himself to the younger members of the party, said, "Nae doot some day I'll dee the cadger pony's death at some dyke side, but if ony o' you lads ever ken where I am buried, I lay it on you to write the following, if only on a board, and set it up ower my grave."

"Here Crombie lies, enclosed in wood,
Full six feet one and better;
When tyrant Death grim o'er him stood,
He faced him like a hatter.

"Drink was his heart and sole desire,
Although it was his ruin,
But ere he took his last exit
He sent for Sandy Ewing.

“ ‘My freend,’ he said, ‘a last adieu !
Death’s stroke I canna parry,
But since the bottle’s empty noo,
Why should I langer tarry?’ ”

“ So here he lies without a foot,
Freed from a world of bustle ;
Silent noo is Crombie’s flute,
An’ awfu’ dry his whustle.”

The narrator never knew where, or when, Crombie “made his last exit,” and, therefore, resorts to this, an alternative mode, to the one he suggested, of putting on record his epitaph.

“Tak’ That.”

James K—r, a late well-known townsman, when a youth, decided on having a wife. Thinking his mother should do a little for him in the way of furnishing his house, he applied to the old lady—who, like most mothers, did not wish to part with her son—to see what she intended giving him. Instead of promising anything, she got into a towering passion, and ordered him from the house. As he turned to leave, she threw the tongs at him, saying, “Tak’ that.” “Weel, mither,” quoth James, “if that’s a’ I’m tae get, I’ll just ha’e tae tak’ them,” and, lifting the tongs, walked off.

Courting Made Easy.

Jock and his mother were the sole occupants of a pendicle in “The Moss.” “I want your advice, mither,” said Jock one dreary winter evening. “I’m thinkin’ o’ takin’ a wife.” The wily widow, who wished for no interloper, advised him to apply to a higher power. “Gang tae yer knees, my man; gang tae yer knees in sic a serious matter.” “O, that’s a’ peasestrae an’ chaff,” responded Jock; “I ken an easier way;

S

Od, I'm thinkin' I'll come mair speed by gaun to the Martinmas Fair o' Doune."

A Reason for Staying at Home.

A Highlander, as he passed through Stirling on his way from harvest-work in the south, was in the habit of paying an annual visit to, and making some purchases from, an iron-monger in King Street. Although unknown by name to the merchant, the young man's face became familiar, as well as his jacket—or rather the buttons with which it was ornamented, as they were of a peculiar pattern, large and round like balls. For some years his visits were discontinued, and, on his again entering the shop, remark was made as to his absence and the change in his appearance, to which the Highlander responded with the laconic sentence—"I'm marriet noo."

Practical Joking.

THE SUPPER.

Practical joking is almost a thing of the past, but sixty years ago it was in full operation in Stirling. One of the most inveterate practical jokers in town was Bailie Steel, who never seemed to miss an opportunity of putting his friends and others into a quandary. One day he invited a casual acquaintance to supper, and, as an inducement, told him he would meet at table one whom he would like, "only," said the Bailie, "he's gey deaf, and if you dinna speak out he'll no' hear ye. But for that, he's very good company." After supper, and before parting, his new friend, putting one hand on his shoulder and the other in his hand, said he was unco happy to have met him; "But, man, it's a great pity ye're sae deaf." "Deaf!" exclaimed the invited, "I'm no' deaf. It's you that's deaf!" *Tableux*. Neither of the two new cronies were deaf, and yet they had been bawling into each other's ears all the evening,

to the great amusement of their delighted entertainer. They faced round, but the Bailie had discreetly disappeared.

THE WILL.

On another occasion the Bailie sent a lawyer—the late highly-respected J—— K——, to a farm-house in the neighbourhood of Stirling, telling him the farmer was dying, and that he (the Bailie) had been asked to send out a “doer” to draw up his will. Off the young lawyer went, dressed in silk hat, swallow-tailed coat, and white choker, carrying a black bag in his hand. One saw him set off with feelings that only the real joker can understand. Arriving at the “toon,” he enquired for Mrs. —— and was at once shown into her best room, when, after the usual greetings, there was an awkward pause. The woman looked enquiringly at him, and he gazed enquiringly at her, till at last, in desperation, he said he believed she had sent for him to draw out her husband’s last testament, as he understood he was not expected to recover from his present severe illness. The gudewife was struck with amazement. “My gudeman—my gudeman—is no”——when in stepped the farmer in the best of health! Knowing Mr. K——, he shook him by the hand. The lawyer’s feelings may be better imagined than described; and, after partaking of refreshment, he was glad to make his exit, only to hear, however, the farmer’s hearty guffaw behind him.

THE DINNER.

This same farmer and his wife were very much put about on a subsequent occasion. A gentleman from Stirling drove up in his gig to their door, shook hands, and asked for Mr. —— He was shown into the room, and told he would see the gudeman in a few minutes. As the gudewife was closing the door upon her guest, another man came, also from Stirling, requesting to see her husband. Hardly had she put him into the room when another gentleman, and yet another, and still

another arrived—until a round baker's dozen had turned up, all desirous of seeing Mr. —. The bewildered woman sent for her husband, who came in from the fields. Great was the honest farmer's surprise on seeing such a company from the county town in his house. But he could not surmise what they all wanted. His debts were all paid, except the seedsman and the landlord, and they could wait. After the usual compliments had passed, a most embarrassing silence ensued, when the farmer, plucking up courage, expressed the gratification he felt at seeing so many friends honouring his humble abode with their presence that day, but for the life of him he could not make out what they all wanted! All he could do was to offer them some slight refreshment. Then it came out, bit by bit, that they had all been invited to dine with him, prompt at mid-day! Some of the guests grew very red in the face, while others tried to put it off as a very good joke; but they were all glad to leave the hospitable farmer's house behind them, to the great relief of the gudewife, who did not know, any more than did her husband, what to make of the affair. The gentlemen agreed to keep silence on how they had been hoaxed, but the affair got wind, to the great amusement of the citizens, and no one "hotched" more for a week than did Bailie Steel over the thirteen April fools.

THE GIGOT.

In the first half of the century Stirling was famed for its snug hostelries, and among the snuggest was one in Port Street, owned by Andrew Carr. Andrew was a wag in his way, and very fond of playing a practical joke. A customer from the country, having carefully seen to his horse, as carefully brought in and handed to Andrew a very nice leg of mutton he had bought at a flesher's cart near by, saying he would call on his way home and get it. "I'll tak' gude care o' your gigot, Sandy; an' you'll be sure to get it when you ca' for't." Friday was Andrew's busiest day, but, notwithstanding, word was speedily sent round to a few cronies that a gigot would be on

the table at four o'clock. At the appointed hour the company, including Sandy, sat down to an excellent repast. Andrew gave vent to his feelings by saying he had invited his friends to do honour to one belonging to an old family up the glen, one who was as good a farmer as the lave, and hoped that all present would "drink fair" to his future success in life. A most enjoyable two hours went all too quickly past, when the cronies separated. Sandy having got his horse yoked, and paid the hostler, went in to bid farewell to his host. "Weel, Andra', I'm muckle obleeged tae ye, no' only for your grand dinner, but your gude company. But I maun awa' hame, else the gudewife will be gi'en me a bit o' her mind." "Aweel, Sandy, the best o' freens maun pairt, ye ken. I hope ye'll get hame withoot any accident. Gude-by." "But, Andra, my gigot!" "Your gigot! Ye ha'e got your gigot." "Me! I ha'e got nae gigot." "Hear till him! Sandy says he hasna got his gigot, an' he sat at the table eating it for a haill oor!" Sandy glared at him, while Andrew, gently smoothing his white waistcoat, smiled pleasantly back. Sandy, perceiving he had been "sold," with a somewhat hard laugh left the hostelry. He soon let Andrew know he had become wiser through experience, for the next time he asked for a like favour it was for a sheep's skin.

TAKING A MEAN ADVANTAGE.

At the Volunteer Review in Edinburgh in 1860, the 1st Stirling Corps, under the command of Captain Sconce, passed before Her Majesty, and, after the march-past, adjourned to a hall for refreshments. One of the buglers had taken care to have a private supply in a bottle, which was placed in the breast of his tunic, and secured by his waist-belt. Having occasion to loosen the belt, and forgetting the bottle for the moment, it fell with a crash on the stone floor at the feet of another member of the Corps, who afterwards became a bailie of the burgh. Quick as thought Jamie touched the member on the shoulder, and, pointing to the wreck, remarked that he

*James
Gellon
ask
pursel
1900
the*

had dropped his bottle. The look and feelings of the member may be imagined when it is mentioned that he was an ardent teetotaler.

The Parish of St. Ninians.

A unique feature connected with the parish of St. Ninians is the number of other parishes with which it is surrounded, viz., Airth, Larbert, Dunipace, Denny, Kilsyth, Fintry, Gargunnoch, Kincardine, Lecropt, Logie, Tullibody, and Alloa, and it very nearly encloses the whole parish of Stirling.

A Drouthy Weaver's Ruse.

At New Year time on one occasion, a weaver in Newhouse, who was hard up, had recourse to a singular method of "raising the wind." His wife, who was purser, refused to open her treasury bag, but, nothing daunted, the wabster set off in high dudgeon to Stirling, declaring he would be upsides with her. In a short time he returned, saying he had enlisted, and exhibited a shilling, which he said he had received as enlisting money from the Royal Artillery. He pretended he had repented of the step, and solicited a guinea from his better half to pay the "smart." His wife, however, not to be fooled, instead of the guinea gave him a blow with a poker, which floored him, afterwards beating him most unmercifully with fists and feet. The unlucky weaver was glad to make good his retreat, and, joining one of his cronies, informed him also he had enlisted, and requested his company while he bade adieu to his numerous friends in the neighbourhood. This credulous friend related his companion's mishap in each house, and bottles were produced in abundance—and in this way they continued to keep up their debauch for three days. This "Johnny Raw" at last discovered the enlisting story to be a hoax, and quitted the company of the would-be soldier, much mortified at what had happened; while the weaver resumed

the shuttle, laughing in his sleeve at the success of his Bacchanalian campaign.

The Raploch in Byegone Days.

In a recent communication to a relative in Stirling, an octogenarian in the United States says—"When I first saw the Raploch it was a pretty place, with flower-beds in front and well-kept gardens in rear of the houses. Many of the inhabitants were weavers, and the loomshop was on one side, and the dwelling-house on the other side of the entry, some six or eight such shops being situated at the north end of the village. When next I saw it the loomshops had become bedrooms, and the beams of the looms had been turned into bed-posts, the beds being covered with "hops" stolen from the Deanston Works carts as they passed on their way to or from Glasgow. The place had become an Irish colony of the lowest cast.

"A little Highlander, a roadman, lived in a house at the side of the road near Cambusbarron, and, to eke out his earnings, reared a pig, which was usually killed in late autumn, for winter consumpt. One Saturday afternoon, piggy was killed and dressed, and left hanging in an outhouse preparatory to curing. On Sabbath the man and family attended, as usual, the Free North Church in Stirling, and next day he went to take a look at piggy—when, lo, and behold, he found nothing but the skeleton of his pig confronting him, the meat having, it was verily believed, been removed to the Raploch in the absence of the roadman and his family at church."

A Sultana of Krim Tartary a Cambusbarron Lady.

The Sultana Anne Katte Ghery Krim Ghery, who died about 1855, could claim connection with Cambusbarron, her

father being a native of that place. James Nelson, her grandfather, a manufacturer, had a family of six sons and three daughters, who were all born and brought up there. Her father, the eldest son, also named James, had, when a young man, gone to the West Indies as clerk to a Glasgow firm. Fortune smiled on him, and he returned to his native place possessed of considerable means. He built a small mansion at Newhouse, known for a time as Larkfield (now Beechwood); but, intent on more wealth, he went to London, where he engaged in the West India trade. At length, becoming weary of business, he retired to the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where he resided till his death. Andrew Nelson, who resided for some years in Melville Terrace, Stirling, was an uncle of the Sultana.

A Few Cambuskenneth Stories.

JOCK'S NOTION OF THE SABBATH.

About fifty years ago, the ferryman had a rough old fellow, who answered to the name of Jock, assisting him. One Sabbath morning, when the boat was pretty crowded with passengers on their way to church, Jock had, by reason of the strong current at the time, considerable difficulty in bringing his boat alongside the jetty. Try as he would, his efforts again and again resulted in failure, and at last, exasperated at his want of success, he gave vent to his feelings by blurting out, "It's a' nonsense this gaun tae the Kirk; it only keeps folk frae their wark."

THE VALUE OF A PRAYER.

An old fisherman in the village was on his death-bed, and a kindly-disposed neighbour woman suggested to his wife that she should send for a minister. As the couple had had no church connection for a number of years, the reply was, "O I dinna

ken onyane that wad come," upon which the neighbour said that, if no objection was made, she would ask her own minister to pay them a visit. Consent having been given, the neighbour at once set about her beneficent errand, and soon returned with her pastor, who, after some conversation, and learning that for the best part of their lives the couple had been living in neglect of Gospel ordinances, prayed earnestly on their behalf, and specially for the husband in his closing hours. When he had concluded, the dying man seemed greatly comforted, and immediately called out to his wife, "That's a grand prayer. Bring me my red pocketbook. That's sic a grand prayer that it's worth a pound note. Gi'e the minister an unchanged pound note, wife, it's sic a grand prayer he's put up."

KEEPING IN WITH BOTH SIDES.

Half a century ago the majority of the male inhabitants were either hand-loom weavers or salmon fishers, not a few of them devoting attention to both these occupations according to the season. At that period there were fewer restrictions as to the sale of spirits, and several public-houses flourished in the village. One of these houses was kept by the wife of a fisherman, who made it a special part of her duty on the Sabbath to attend church both forenoon and afternoon with commendable regularity. Hurrying home from the services of the sanctuary, she was wont to lay aside her Sunday brows very speedily, and, donning a frilled mutch and white apron, would soon be at the door cracking and joking with passers-by. A neighbour woman, whose views of the fitness of things, and especially her ideas as to the sanctity of the Sabbath, were different from those of the public-house keeper, deemed it her duty to remonstrate, and in the course of conversation said, "O woman, I wonder at ye; efter bein' at the kirk a' day, I dinna ken hoo ye can ha'e a wheen noisy men sittin' drinkin' in yer hoose;" to which the other replied, "Wheesht, wheesht, woman; I dinna want tae quarrel wi' ye; naither dae I want tae quarrel wi' Him abune or him below. I wad like tae be freens wi' baith. It's aye best tae keep doon din."

Hard on the Women.

At the first of the daylight on a New Year's morning, a Stirling shopkeeper was on his way to visit a relation, and, when walking along the public road from Dunblane to Doune, met a young countrywoman coming from the opposite direction. After making an old fashioned curtsey, she said, "O, sir, ye're my first-fit; I'm sae happy I ha'e met a man, an' a weel dressed ane. I'll ha'e a gude year this year, for I mind I had aye an ill year when my first-fit was a woman."

An Antique Cabinet and Its Contents.

In February of this year (1899), there was disposed of in an Edinburgh public sale-room—for the sum of £36 15s.—what was described in the sale catalogue as a "Rare antique cabinet, of 15 drawers, and cupboard, with lifting top, on stand." It was of black oak, inlaid, and measures 4 feet in height, 3 feet in breadth, and 20 inches in depth, and, after having been for generations in a mansion house in the western district of Perthshire, was purchased in 1820 by a party in the neighbourhood, in whose family it remained until February last. The then proprietor, on the cabinet coming into his possession, formed the idea that in such an article there was almost certain to be a secret drawer, and measurement confirming him in his surmise, after a time he touched the vulnerable spot, when there was found a document, of which the following is a copy. As may readily be imagined when the date is considered, the document—while in a good state of preservation—is in a somewhat cramped style of handwriting, not at all easily deciphered by any one not conversant with old caligraphy, and the assistance of an expert connected with the municipal affairs of Glasgow was therefore requisitioned, with the result that nearly all of

it was made out. The paper measures about five inches in length by about three in depth, and has now been carefully stretched, and mounted in a reversible frame, so that both sides of the manuscript are exposed to view. On the back, forming a docquet, is the following:—

Nott
of the golde silver
& rings left in
custodie with Ard.
Sterling
in Stirline: upon
the 28 of December
1659
Wreittine with his
owine hands

The Nott (inventory) itself is as follows:—

Sterling the 27 of Desember 1659 Left in costodie with Robert Burne, dean a gild of Sterling of 12 shilling pieces 400 hundreth punds 4 shilling Scottis money in ane bag sealed with HS

Mair, of rex dollors ane hundreth seventie sax, wthir 800 hundreth punds & aucht shilling

Mair 22 cros dollors is 60 punds Scotts and 10 shilling of gold 43 double angils; 23 tuentie shilling pices, 10 fyve shilling pices, ane 10 marke pice, ane rose noble, ane hard noble, ane French croon and ingrgars ducat

On the margin at this point there is written—

Ane ring with a tod stane
Ane ring sett with safiris
Ane emrauld sett in gold

and then follows—

Mair put within the in wretting bag, upone the 14 January

1660, 456 pund of Inglis money ; 200 lb. 2s. of rex dollors ; of sax peneis 72 lb, and 6 cros dollors 3 lib 18s. Quhilk is all left with Arch. Sterling the foresaid daite

All the money continit in this paper was delyverit back to me be Archibald and givine to Mr James Robertsowne the 12 Apr. 1660 in satisfactioun of 4000 merkis I was awing to him ; so that the golde, the thrie rings & the emralde [word here interjected but not legible] ar only remaining in Archibald Sterlings custodie at the wreittine heirop quhilk is upon the sevintine of Maiy 1660 : and wer givine be him to myselfe this 7 of Jun 1660

A reference to the Stirling Burgh Records shows that Robert Burne held office in the Town Council for nine years, having been 3rd Bailie in 1655-57, 1st Bailie 1657-58, Dean of Guild 1658-60, and again 1st Bailie 1660-64.





"Blind Alick" (Alexander Lyon)

From pen and ink sketch by the late Sir George Harvey, P.R.S.A.

See First Series, p. 140.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
TOWN AND PARISH OF STIRLING.

In response to a call from several subscribers, we have—(not without considerable reluctance, however, as we have been compelled to withhold from inclusion in this volume a goodly amount of matter of an interesting nature relative to our good old town and its immediate neighbourhood)—been prevailed upon to reprint in its entirety the Statistical Account of the Town and Parish of Stirling, which was contributed by the Rev. James Sommerville, D.D., Minister of the First Charge in the Parish (whose portrait is given, and a brief biographical sketch of whom appears at page 126 of this volume) to the eighth volume of “The Statistical Account of Scotland,” by Sir John Sinclair, Bart., and published in 1793. One reason, in particular, which has weighed with us in acceding to the request for a reprint is that the Account sets forth in a very comprehensive manner pretty nearly all that was considered of moment concerning Stirling at the period, now over a century ago, and deals very succinctly with a host of matters which cannot fail of proving of great value and interest to the present generation. The fact, also, that copies of the volume in

question have now become exceedingly scarce led us to more readily accept the suggestion, and we trust our readers, young and old, will find both pleasure and profit in the perusal. We have adhered to the text in the matter of spelling, etc., only making a few alterations in punctuation.

Town and Parish of Stirling.

(County and Presbytery of Stirling.—Synod of Perth and Stirling).

By the Rev. Mr. James Sommerville, one of the ministers of that town.

Origin of the Name.

The town and parish of Stirling have the same name. In all records of any antiquity, it is written Stryveline, or Stryveling; and it is conjectured to have derived this name from the Scotch word Stryve, because of the frequent contentions about the possession of it, which arose among the different clans, in the days of ancient feud and barbarism. This, however, is mere conjecture, as all disquisitions about the origin of names generally are. Buchanan and other Latin authors uniformly call it Sterlinum. The town's ancient seal has, on one side, a crucifix, erected on a bridge, with this inscription, *Hic armis Bruti, Scoti stant hac cruce tuti*. On the reverse is a fortalice, surrounded with trees, with the inscription, *Continet hoc nemus et castrum Strivilense*. The town has another seal, which contains the arms, viz., a wolf upon a rock, inscribed *Oppidum Sterlini*.

Extent, &c.—The parish of Stirling is chiefly confined to the town. The whole land in it does not exceed 200 acres. The castle, with the constabulary, by which is meant a small portion of land, formerly annexed to the office of constable, are not

reckoned in the parish of Stirling. As little are the Royal Domains, or King's Park. They are exempted from all parochial assessment, and are in the parish only quoad sacra, and that only since the chaplain ceased to officiate, or reside in the castle. The landward part of the parish lies between the town and the Forth. It extends along the south side of the river, from Kildean, about a mile above the bridge of Stirling, to the east of the town, with some parks on the south of it. These lands, on an average, are rented at 50s. per acre. The small village, called the Abbey, which occupies the place where the celebrated Abbey of Cambuskenneth once stood, and which is situated in a northern link of the Forth, east from Stirling, has hitherto, along with the barony of Cambuskenneth, in which it is situated, been reckoned part of the parish of Stirling. What gave rise to this arrangement is not known, unless it was, that the servants belonging to the Abbey worshipped in Stirling; or that the Canons, Monks or Friars of that monastery, performed divine service in the church of Stirling, and formed a kind of connexion which continued to subsist after the Reformation. One thing is certain, that it has subsisted; for there is actually a seat in the church of Stirling allotted for the inhabitants of that village; and it appears that an elder from it has sat in the session of Stirling, almost uniformly since the year 1559. The barony of Cambuskenneth pays a part of the stipend of the first minister of Stirling; but it is subject to poor's rates in the parish of Logie, and to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Clackmannan. The commissary of Stirling also exercises his jurisdiction over it, as a part of the parish of Stirling; and the commissary of Dunblane exercises his jurisdiction, as lying within the parish of Logie.

Climate and Longevity.—The situation of Stirling is also reckoned very healthy. The height of the rock, on which it stands, above the level of the flat carse grounds, no doubt contributes much to this effect. Epidemical diseases are scarcely known. At this very time there are four or five persons in Stirling above 90. The Croup, or Cynanche

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Trachealis,* seems to be most fatal to children; the asthma and palsy to old age.

Burgh of Stirling.—Stirling is allowed to be a place of considerable antiquity. Buchanan mentions it again and again, so early as the 9th century, but gives no description of it: and to throw any light on this subject, from the town's charters, is impossible. The most ancient of these records is granted by King Alexander I., and is dated at Kincardine, the 18th of August, in the 12th year of his reign; whereas there is reason to believe, that Stirling had been incorporated long before, as the charter of Alexander is not a charter of erection, but only confers some additional privileges on the burghers and freemen. Alexander the I., who granted this charter, ascended the throne anno 1107, and reigned 17 years. It therefore bears date 1120. About the middle of the 12th century, it would appear to have become a place of royal residence. David I. kept his court at it, probably that he might be near the Abbacy of Cambuskenneth, which he founded anno 1147, and on which he lavished many marks of his favour. He brought the canons of that monastery from the neighbourhood of Arras, in the county of Artois. In ancient charters, they subscribe themselves Abbates de Stryveling. Alexander Miln, Abbot of that place, was the first President of the Court of Session, instituted by James V. anno 1532. The Abbacy now belongs to Cowan's Hospital in Stirling, having been purchased from the predecessors of Mr. Erskine of Aloa, on whom the property of these lands was conferred at the Reformation. It is probable that Stirling grew to its present size very soon after it became the temporary residence of royalty; and, from the most accurate attention to its situation and circumstances, it may

* This is a disease of the Glottis, Larynx, or upper part of the Trachea, attended with hoarseness, and a peculiar whizzing sound in inspiration, and a shrill ringing sound in speaking and coughing, as if the noise came from a brassen tube. It seldom attacks children before they are weaned, or after 12 years of age.

be concluded to have undergone very little change, either in size or in the number of its inhabitants, for the last 600 years, till very lately. But to give an account of the antiquities of Stirling, however desirable, would only be to wander into a labyrinth of conjecture. Mr Nimmo, in his *History of Stirling-shire*, has said all upon this subject that can be stated with any degree of certainty. There is no regular annal, or register, respecting it, previous to the middle of the 15th century; and the only one that reaches back to that period, or near it, is the register of sasines, commencing in 1473. The council records commence in 1597.

Situation and Improvements.—The situation of Stirling is romantic. Raised on a rock in the middle of an extensive plain, in the near neighbourhood of a winding river, which seems unwilling to part from it; and, having the full view of finely cultivated fields, bounded on the south by rising woodlands, and on the north by the Ochil hills, it is scarcely possible to imagine any landscape more beautiful or picturesque. Added to its situation, which is singularly beautiful, it has of late received many improvements, exceedingly conducive both to the comfort and conveniency of the inhabitants. Water has been brought from a considerable distance to supply the town. Commodious school houses, in airy situations, and a spacious market place, have been erected within these few years. A noble walk along the summit of the rock, at the very root of the south wall, from the one end of the town to the other, shaded from the sun by a shelving thicket of fine thriving trees, has been lately finished at a considerable expense. This walk, which is perhaps the finest thing of the kind that any place can boast of, was begun, anno 1723, by a Mr. Edmonstoun of Cambus-Wallace, and finished only in the year 1791, under the patronage of the present magistrates. Much, however, as has been done to improve the beauty of Stirling, a great deal still remains to be done. The castle and Gowan Hills, which admit of great improvement, and which could no way hurt the fortress, though improved to the utmost, remain like all other government property, as barren, rugged, and

neglected, as if the stern Genius of the north had said, Let them never be touched by the hand of Art or Industry.

From an attentive observation of the grounds on which Stirling stands, and from the best traditional accounts, Stirling seems to have been neither much increased nor diminished for several centuries. The court raised it to its present size. When that was withdrawn, necessity stimulated to industry, and kept it up. It was erected into a royal burgh, probably as far back as the middle of the 9th century. It holds the fifth place in the rank of royal burghs, and was one of the *Curia quatuor burgorum*, a court which gave birth to the present Convention of Burghs. The jealous and contracted spirit of incorporation, ever tenacious of ancient customs, and hostile to all novelty and invention, nay, expulsive of the enterprising stranger, has kept the inhabitants of Stirling trudging on in the routine of their great-great-grandfathers, as it must ever do those of all places where improvement is not forced by peculiarly advantageous local circumstances.

Set or Constitution of the Burgh.—The town-council consists of 21 members, 14 of whom are merchants, and 7 tradesmen, viz., a provost, 4 bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, 7 merchant counsellors, and 7 deacons of trade. Besides the ordinary jurisdiction in civil causes, which is common to the magistrates of all royal boroughs, and to the sheriffs of counties, the magistrates of this town have also an extensive criminal jurisdiction, conferred upon them by their charters, equal to the power of Sheriffs within their territories. Prior to the year 1781, the old council elected the new one, 11 members at least of the old council being changed yearly. Six of the 7 trades sent a leet of 4, and the bakers a leet of 8 to the council, who had power to put a negative upon the one half of each leet. Each incorporation chose one out of the remainder, as their representative in council. The burgh having been disfranchised in 1775, by a sentence of the House of Peers, confirming the decree of the Court of Session, his Majesty was pleased, in 1781, to restore it to its privileges of election, by his poll warrant, in which he made the following

alterations on the set. The guildry company of merchants annually elect 4 members of the new council. The trades choose their 7 representatives, without sending leets: only the old counsel previously declares 4 of the old deacons incapable of being re-elected for the ensuing year. And there are still at least eleven of the old council changed yearly. By the new set, as well as the old, the provost, bailies, treasurer and convener, cannot be continued in their offices more than 2 years at a time. The dean of guild being now chosen by the company of merchants, is necessarily changed yearly. The trades incorporated by royal charter are, the bakers, weavers, hammermen, skimmers, butchers, tailors, and shoemakers. The maltmen, barbers, and other professions have no representative in council, nor any royal charter, but only acts of erection from the town-council, about the year 1720, or betwixt 1720 and 1730. Each person, upon entering, pays 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. to the funds of the burgh, besides what he pays to those of his own society or incorporation.

Peculiar Law.—There is a remarkable bye-law of this community, made in 1695, which the members of council must annually take an oath to observe. By it they bind themselves to take no lease of any part of the public property under their management, nor to purchase any part of it; neither to receive any gratification out of the public funds, under pretence of a reward for their trouble in going about the affairs of the borough or of the hospitals founded in it. By this bye-law, also, a board of auditors is elected annually, for inspecting the public accounts, consisting of 2 members chosen by the merchants at large, and 2 chosen in like manner by the seven royal incorporations.

Castle, &c.—None can tell, when the castle was built, any more than the town. Even the bridge, which is doubtless a work of much later date, has no memorial of the date of its erection. The whole town stands upon a rock, stretching from N.E. to S.W.; and, with the castle, situated on the utmost prominence of the rock, towards the north, very much resembles the ridge on which the high street and castle of

Edinburgh are situated. Several of the houses in Stirling, now standing, are doubtless of very ancient date. In one, which was lately taken down, on the south side of the broad street, there was a stone marked IIII.—Mar's Work, a large and awkward edifice, was begun by the Earl of that name, anno 1570, while he was regent of Scotland, but never finished. The tenement, called Argyll's Lodging, was built partly in the year 1637, by Alexander, Viscount of Stirling.

Churches, &c.—The west church and tower were, it is said, erected in the time of Alexander III, or at least not later than the year 1494, when probably James V. caused it to be built, for the accommodation of some Franciscan Friars whom he had brought into this country, and settled in a convent almost contiguous to this church. It has no date upon it, and though of very beautiful architecture, it is now so much under ground, and so low roofed, that no reparation can ever render it a comfortable place of worship. Indeed, it has been very little employed for that purpose since the Reformation, unless during the few years that Mr. Ebenezer Erskine preached in it, when the people of Stirling chose to have a third minister. The east church, the present place of worship, was erected by Cardinal Beaton, and is a more splendid and magnificent fabric, but is very little accommodated to the purposes of Presbyterian worship. It would need to be almost totally altered and repaired, to render it either elegant or convenient. The absurd pretence of its area being private property, held on no better security than the gift or conveyance of the kirk-session, (some of the possessors, indeed, found upon grants from the town-council, for some trifling consideration) is the great hindrance to this most necessary reparation. The area of the churches ought never to be the property of any but the community at large. Common sense, as well as religion, dictates that the poor should have an opportunity of hearing the gospel as well as the rich.

Ecclesiastical History.—The charge of Stirling was made collegiate in the year 1651. Previous to that period, we find

a Mr. Robert Montgomery, a Mr. Patrick Simpson, and a Mr. Henry Guthrie ministers of Stirling. Montgomery was deposed by the Assembly, for a simoniacal compact with the Duke of Lennox, about the bishoprick of Glasgow. Mr. Henry Guthrie was afterwards bishop of Dunkeld, and wrote "Memoirs of Scottish affairs, from 1627 to the death of Charles I." It appears from the council records, that this Mr. Guthrie, after his removal from Stirling, resided at Kilspindie. There he probably wrote his memoirs. In 1661, after the death of James Guthrie, the council sent several deputations to invite him back to his charge in Stirling; but he declined it, on account of bad health. Mr. Nimmo mentions another Mr. Henry Guthrie, who was executed in the beginning of the reign of Charles II. on account of his activity in opposing the measures of the court. But this certainly was the celebrated Mr. James, who was beheaded in the year 1661, and who was minister of Stirling at that period, along with a Mr. David Bennet. There are some of the said James's books, with the chair in which he sat, still in the manse of Stirling. In the council records, a Mr. John Allan is mentioned as prior to Mr. Bennet.*

Mr. Ebenezer Erskine was settled 3d minister in 1731, where he continued till he was deposed by the General Assembly in 1738. Upon this, Mr. Erskine, and three of his brethren, Mr. Wilson of Perth, Mr. Alexander Moncrieff of Abernethy, and Mr. James Fisher of Kinclaven, seceded from the church of Scotland, and stiled themselves the Associated Brethren. About the year 1744, some scruples were suggested to these

* By act of council 2. February 1663, Mr. Andrew Kynnier, minister of East Calder, was called and collated by the bishop of Edinburgh as minister, along with Mr. Matthias Simpson, who succeeded Mr. Bennet. In 1665, Mr. James Forsyth was first minister. In 1668, Mr. Patrick Murray was made 2d minister, in the room of Mr. Kynnier who had died in 1664. But from the public confusion of that period, the vacancy was not sooner supplied. An act of 22d January 1676, appoints a commissioner to go to Edinburgh or St. Andrews, to speak to the archbishop of St.

brethren, then formed into a synod, with others who had acceded to them, about the Burgess Oath, by Mr. Moncrieff, which, in 1748, produced a schism among them.

At the head of the Associate Synod remained Mr. Ebenezer Erskine, and at the head of the other party, who called themselves Antiburghers, appeared Mr. Adam Gibb. Mr. Gibb excommunicated Mr Erskine and his associates. The exceptionable clause in the burgess oath runs thus: "Here I profess, before God and your Lordships, that I profess and allow with my heart the true religion presently professed within this realm, and authorised by the laws thereof; I shall abide thereat and defend the same to my life's end, renouncing the Roman religion, called Papistry."

The Antiburghers decreed that it was inconsistent with the principles of the Secession, to swear an attachment to the established religion after having deserted it on account of its corruptions. The above burgess oath was used at Perth. In Stirling there never was a word about religion in it until some few years ago, the following clause was introduced, at the desire of some of the Antiburghers, to screen them from the censure of their minister and session. "I swear to be a faithful burgess to the burgh of Stirling, to obey the magistrates thereof, and town officers having their lawful commands." The additional clause follows: "In matters purely civil, so far as agreeable to the word of God."

Andrews, and offer to him the person whom the council has chosen to be first minister of this burgh; and to deal with his Grace effectually thereanent. The minister's name is not mentioned.

An Act is recorded 9th August 1679, anent supplying the vacancy of the 1st charge, by the death of Dr. William Pearsons.

28th August 1679, Mr. John Munro is presented by the Council.

On the 10th June 1682, Mr. James Hunter minister at Donying, is chosen 2d minister, in room of Mr Patrick Murray deceased.

From this period, to the 1694, there is no mention of the ministers of Stirling in the records. From the 1694, we have Messrs Robert Rule, John Forrester, James Brisbane, Archibald M'Aulay, Charles Muir, and Alexander Hamilton.

Since the deposition of Mr. Erskine, the third charge of Stirling has never been filled.* It was allowed to fall into disuse by the presbytery. Whether the assembly gave their sanction to this, is uncertain. A manse was bequeathed to the minister of the first charge, during the last century, by a Colonel Edmond, who was a native of Stirling, and who, after rising to rank and affluence, as a soldier of fortune, gave this testimony of respect to the place of his nativity. The 2nd minister has no manse. They have each of them 110 l. of stipend. The stipend of the 1st minister is paid out of the tiends, and collected by the town, in consequence of an agreement betwixt the minister and town to that effect. The stipend of the 2d is paid by the town, from an impost on the malt ground at the town mill. The chaplainry of the castle, procured through the interest of the town, is vested in the first minister only, during life.

Schools.—At the grammar school, which has two teachers, a rector and usher, 70 boys, on an average, are educated annually. The present rector, Dr. Doig, a man of distinguished eminence in his profession, is growing up in years, and declines the trouble of boarders, otherwise the school might be more numerous. At the writing school, the number of scholars is annually about 100. There are two established English teachers, and a teacher in Allan's hospital, permitted by the town, to receive English scholars, who may have under their care annually, about 200 children. The salary of the rector is 40 l. yearly, and a house. The other teachers have from 20 l. to 30 l. Sterling annual salary.

Population.—About 40 years ago, it is said, scarcely any house was repaired till it fell. Even then, it was often allowed to lie for several years in ruins. Now, houses are

* From the 1738, Mr. Thomas Turner, Mr. Daniel Macqueen, and Mr. John Muschet, in the first charge. Thomas Cleland, Thomas Randal, Walter Buchanan, and James Sommerville in the second, have successively filled the cure of Stirling.

rebuilt before they are totally decayed, and within the last 20 years more houses have been built and repaired than was done before in the course of half a century. Though more than 30 new houses have been built lately in the town and environs, some will not admit that the population is increased. The inhabitants, it is said, now choose to occupy more room.—That may be the case; but by the return made to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, the souls of the parish of Stirling amounted only to 3951; whereas, by a pretty accurate survey, made in the year 1790, there were 1188 heads of families, and 4483 souls.—Besides, in this list, there are above 30 families in the environs of the town, not included. As the inrolment of the year 1790 was deemed incomplete, a new one was made this year, (1792,) and the number of souls in the parish was found to be 4698. Since the commencement of the summer 1792, they are probably augmented to 5000, by the increase of hands employed in the Cotton manufactory.

	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>People.</i>
Of these 4698, there are belonging to the Estab-		
lished Church,	2	2795
——— The Burgher Secession,	2	1415*
——— The Antiburgher ditto,	1	172
——— Cameronians,	1	120
——— Episcopalians, chiefly Nonjurants,	2	89
——— The Presbytery of Relief,		74
——— Bereans, or the disciples of Mr. Barclay,		33
		<hr/> 4698

* It will not appear surprising, that there are so many Burgher Seceders in Stirling, when it is recollected, that the Secession was begun in this place, by Mr. Ebenezer Erskine, who, by his highly popular talents, drew such numbers after him. This spirit, also, when once it is introduced, uniformly becomes hereditary. Besides, from the scantiness of room in the church, that many take seats in that meeting, who are never in actual communion with them. Perhaps, through length of time, necessity, more than anything else, oblige many to connect themselves with those, with whom, for a long time, they only seemed to associate.

Of the different professions there are,

Clergymen,	8	Weavers,	68
Physicians,	3	Hammermen,	13
Surgeons,	3	Skinners,	2
Writers,	18	Butchers,	2
Merchants,	30	Tailors,	14
Bakers,	12	Shoemakers,	18

List of Births, Deaths, etc., for three years preceding 1792.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Baptisms.*</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1788.	82	43	50
1789.	75	51	4
1790.	67	52	68

Manufactures.—As far back as the end of the 16th century, shalloons, manufactured in Stirling to a considerable extent, were sent over to the Low Countries. Bruges was then the staple port for Scotch commodities. The manufacturers mistaking their own interest, and debasing the quality of their shalloons, soon lost, however, the advantages of that gainful branch of trade, and the town became miserably poor. Though the manufacture was greatly hurt by such conduct, yet it was never entirely dropt. Coarse shalloons continued to be manufactured in Stirling; and at present this branch is considerably revived. For several years past, perhaps not less than 200,000 yards of this commodity have been annually manufactured in Stirling, and its neighbourhood. Towards the beginning of this century, and during the decay of the shalloon manufactory, that of the Tartan started up in its place. It continued to flourish till about the year 1760, but is now almost dwindled away. At present, the carpet manufacture flourishes. For several years, one company has employed 12 looms in that work, and produced carpets of very fine colour, and the very best quality. Another company

* The list of baptisms is by no means complete.

employs about 8 looms: and this year a third company has begun work, and mean to employ not less than 12 looms. There are in all betwixt 30 and 40 looms constantly employed. The dyers are reckoned eminently skilled in their profession, and the colouring of the Stirling carpets is allowed to be very fine.

The cotton manufacture also begins to take place here. Three companies from Glasgow give out cotton yarn to be woven, and one of them have about 40 little girls engaged at the tambour. Another company have this year got jennies; and though erected only at Whitsunday last, are just now employing 50 looms to spin their own yarn. Near 100 persons, young and old, are already employed by this new company. There may be in all 260 looms employed in weaving coarse muslin. Wool spinning is likewise carried on to a considerable extent. There are above 100 employed by one master in this work, in teasing, scouring, and combing the wool, and making it ready for the wheel.

The river Forth runs so level in the neighbourhood of Stirling, that mills cannot be erected for the purpose of manufactures. In every other respect, Stirling is favourable for them. Coals are plentiful; the rents of houses are low, and wages very moderate.*

Banks.—There are three banks in Stirling. The Bank of Stirling; that of Campbell and Thomson; and that of Belch and Company; besides a branch of the Old Bank of Scotland. The last, and two first, do business to a considerable extent.

Fishery.—The salmon fishery belonging to the town, which,

* The wages of a mason per day, are 1 s. 8 d. ; of a labourer from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. ; Wrights get 1 s. 6 d. ; Taylors 1 s. Shoemakers are paid by the piece. A man servant gets, per annum, from 4 l. to 5 l. ; a maid servant about 1 l. 10 s. per half year, or from 50 s. to 3 l. per annum. The average price of butcher meat is 4 d. per lb. throughout the year. The beer and bread in Stirling are allowed to be of the best quality.

but a few years ago, brought a revenue of 30 l., now brings 405 l. It is let to a company, who send the fish chiefly to the London and Edinburgh markets. There was, in the late lease, no reservation in favour of the inhabitants, which sometimes occasions murmuring, as the salmon is often higher priced in the Stirling market than even in that of Edinburgh.

Hospitals, &c.—There are three hospitals. The first is that endowed by Robert Spittal, taylor to King James V. The date of the mortification is not on record. It is supposed to have been about 1530. The original sum is not known. It was mortified for the support and relief of poor tradesmen. There was a house built for their reception, at the foot of Mary's Wynd; but it is probable they never occupied it, as there is not so much as a single tradition where it stood. The funds were laid out on lands in the neighbourhood of Stirling. The present yearly rent of these lands is 221 l. Mr. Nimmo, who speaks from report only, makes it 300 l.; and from the same source, makes the yearly income of Allan's Hospital also 100 l. more than it really is. At present, there are 44 pensioners on Spittal's Hospital, 16 of whom, who were deacons of trade, receive per week 1 s. 4 d.:—the rest have weekly 1 s. 2 d. The annual expenditure, for the support of the poor on this foundation, is about 172 l. Sterling. The managers of this hospital are at present increasing the funds. The charter being lost, the patrons have no rule for distributing the funds but custom. There is no provision from this hospital for the widows of decayed tradesmen. There have been instances of this, however, though they are never admitted on the pension list. This had been a much better charity; but was unhappily overlooked by the founder. A poor widow, stripped of charitable supply at the same time that she loses her husband, must be poor indeed.

Cowan's Hospital comes next in order. It was founded and endowed by John Cowan, merchant in Stirling, anno 1639, for the support of 12 decayed guild brethren. The original mortification was 2222 l. Sterling. There was a neat genteel house erected by the patrons, after Cowan's death,

for the reception of the brethren on whom he had entailed his charity. The situation of this house is most beautiful and romantic. But what is surprising, there were scarcely any to be found who would accept the benefit of charity, according to the appointment of the founder. The pride of the decayed brethren made them spurn at the idea of leaving their own houses, and retiring into a hospital, to be supported on public charity. For upwards of 90 years the funds were allowed to accumulate. The house stood empty for nearly the whole of that period, nor was it ever completely occupied. With the accumulated funds, lands were purchased. Among others, those of the old Abbey of Cambuskenneth. The managers appointed by the founder were the town council, together with the first minister of Stirling. They knew not what to do with the revenue of the hospital. At length it was resolved to alter the mode of dispensing the charity, still following out the spirit of the institution. Not only decayed guild-brethren, but their widows and daughters are admitted to a share in these funds. The present income of the lands belonging to Cowan's Hospital is 1158 l. Sterling. There are above an hundred pensioners on this charity. They receive weekly from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. each, which amounts annually to about 658 l. Sterling. The surplus is expended in incidental charities, paying public burdens, and the interest of money lately borrowed to make an additional and advantageous purchase of lands. The funds are carefully managed, and, notwithstanding the above large expenditures, must increase.

John Allan, writer in Stirling, in emulation, very probably, of the benevolent example of the above mentioned gentleman, would also engage in the establishment of an hospital. He had more experience, and was determined to render his bounty more extensively useful and beneficial. About the year 1725, therefore, he mortified a sum of money, not for the support of the indigent squanderer, the negligent, and the unindustrious, but for the maintenance and education of the children of decayed tradesmen. The sum mortified was 30,000 merks. The managers are, the town council, and the second minister. They laid out the money on lands. The yearly rental of these

lands, at present, is 298 l. Sterling. There are now 14 boys, maintained, clothed and educated on these funds. The master of the hospital receives at the rate of 11 l. Sterling annually for each of them. They are admitted at 7 years of age, and kept in the house till they are 14. At leaving the hospital, they are allowed 100 merks to put them to a trade. The annual expenditure upon the maintenance, clothing, and education of these boys, is about 164 l. Sterling. According to a clause in Mr. Allan's will, ordering supply to be given from these funds to any of his poor relations who may be in indigent circumstances, there is at present about 37 l. Sterling yearly, paid to eight of his relations, at the rate of 1 s. 9 d. per week. The surplus funds, after paying public burdens, etc., go to accumulation.

Besides these charitable foundations, the funds of the guildry, or merchant company, defray the expence of educating the poor guild brethren's children, assist them in purchasing clothes, and paying their apprentice fees. The Kirk-Session pays to 56 paupers annually about 73 l. Stirling, at the rate of 6 d. per week to each. From the town's funds there are six who receive about 16 l. Sterling annually, at the rate of 1 s. per week. They also pay for teaching 24 or 30 poor children to read English.

To prevent the nuisance of begging poor, a scheme, by annual voluntary subscription, was set on foot some years ago, from which about 80 paupers receive annually 156 l. Sterling, at the rate of 9 d. each per week. Besides all these charities, the Kirk-Session distributes betwixt 40 l. and 50 l. Sterling a-year to incidental poor. Nearly the same sum, or more, is distributed annually by the Burgher Secession; and the boxes of the different incorporations also give charity to a considerable extent. It is supposed that every 12th person in Stirling receives charity.

This may seem surprising; and it will be necessary to mention some of the more obvious causes why there are so many poor, and so great consumption of charitable funds, in such a small place as Stirling. It is generally said, that Stirling being so near the Highlands, and known to be rich in

funds, a number of indigent people, while they are still capable of labour, but have little or no prospect of support at home, should infirmity or old age come on, emigrate annually into Stirling, and take up their residence there, till three years are elapsed, when they give in their claim for support, and are of course admitted as necessitous poor. It cannot be denied but there may be some truth in the allegation, because the greater number of poor on the Stirling pension lists are obviously of Gaelic extraction. Their names are almost all Gaelic names. Besides, there can be no doubt that the report of rich funds has a strong attraction. This circumstance, of itself, chiefly multiplies the poor. Increase the means of dependence, and the effect is unavoidably increased. This is more especially the case, if the funds are legally established, and if a certain age and description entitles to a participation of these funds. It is more than presumable, that all charitable supply, except in cases of absolute incapacity of labour, should be casual, exactly proportioned to the deficiency of active power, and dependent on the most accurate investigation of the present circumstances of the pauper. If this is not the case, it uniformly cuts the nerves of industry, and is a nuisance to society, rather than an advantage. The indolent and the clamorous, looking forward with solicitude to that period when they shall undoubtedly be entitled to support by certain statute, remit every exertion, consume like drones any little property that may remain to them, and fall at length, with eagerness, into the arms of provided and secured support, with a haughty contempt to this sacred dictate of common sense, "That he who will not work, should not eat."

The managers of the established charitable funds in Stirling are perhaps as accurate, attentive, and impartial, as any such body of men can be; but they must walk by statute, and are often obliged to admit upon the funds those who both can and ought to labour for their bread. This circumstance has an influence extensively pernicious. Indolence is contagious. They who are capable of labour, being rendered indolent and inactive, through dependence on secured support, gave a tincture to all their immediate connections. They are ever

found among the sauntering and the idle, and consequently increase the number of the poor.

Nor can the ordinary managers of the poor's funds, however attentive, always exclude the undeserving.—They meet too seldom.—They have too little time.—They cannot be at the pains to give incidental aid, the most useful and necessary of all charity. It is easier for them and for their treasures, to admit persons to regular and stated pensions. Stated pensions, except to the blind, the lame or the diseased, are always productive of dependence. They continue the demand on the poor's fund; they increase the number of the poor. This cause indeed is not peculiar to Stirling. It operates in every place where the administration is not in the hands of the Session, who, from the frequency of their meetings, and their thorough acquaintance with the circumstances of the poor, must ever be the most natural and judicious dispensers of public charity; and there can be no doubt, but the gentlemen of landed property, who, in many places of Scotland, have contributed to annihilate the Sessions, will soon find the punishment of their folly, in the enormous weight of assessment which they must lay upon their land, for the support of the daily increasing poor.

The great number of low houses in Stirling augments the list of the poor. The proprietors of such houses, unable or unwilling to repair them, can let them only to the poor, the sluggish, or the depraved. None else will take them. In such uncomfortable habitations, the spirits of men are broken, or their health impaired; and they soon fall unavoidably on the funds of the poor.

The low rate of female labour in Stirling is another source of poverty. The utmost a woman can earn by spinning wool, is 3 d. a-day. With this they cannot maintain themselves, pay the rent of a house, and get other necessaries. Such small encouragement destroys industry. A female having so little prospect of advantage from her labour, is at no pains to be expert in it. Many of them will rather be idle altogether than turn a wheel. When necessity urges, they are incapable of proficiency, and must either starve or beg. There are,

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perhaps, few places in Scotland, where the quantum of female labour is less, because it is so unproductive. Manufacturers should consider themselves as obliged to increase the price of female labour.

But perhaps the chief cause of the numerous poor in Stirling is the castle. This may seem a paradox, but it is easy to be explained. The sole use of this fortress, at present, is to be an asylum to invalids. About 100 of these are generally stationed in it. These men, who probably enlisted at first from dislike to labour and regularity, do not find, in the army, much opportunity of becoming attached either to industry or sobriety. Having generally contracted habits of thoughtlessness and dissipation, they retire into the castle, very little qualified to enjoy the advantages of that situation. Secured in 6 d. a-day, or looking forward to the Chelsea pension, the low women in Stirling aspire at a connection with them, and think, that when they are wives of castle soldiers, they shall never want. When these invalids and pensioned soldiers are sober and industrious, they are very able, with their pay, to provide a decent support for their families; but few of them are of this character. Being generally ignorant, vicious and debauched, they get wives like themselves, or make them so. All their income is usually spent with the day. They never get their houses furnished. They live amidst meanness and rags. Their minds are debased. Their children are trained up under the very worst example. The fathers soon die, worn out with intemperance. They leave their families beggared, unprincipled and debauched. These families are the nurseries of beggars. Nearly one half of the paupers in Stirling spring from these nurseries.

Where there is so much poverty, there will of course be much baseness and degeneracy of mind. True religion only can tame the heart, and sweeten the manners of the poor. On them, however, this is generally found to have little influence. The strong cravings of nature lead them another way. These, being but ill supplied, produce violence, chagrin, jealousy, and every ill passion. Give them, and they are tolerably quiet and orderly; but withhold or constrain,

(both of which are often absolutely necessary,) and they are clamorous, surly, invidious, and bent on every practice within their reach, however criminal it may be, to obtain what they need. The manners of the inferior ranks in Stirling must therefore be necessarily rough, petulant and disagreeable. Harrassed with perpetual anxieties about daily bread, they have little or no time to think of superior objects; and either will not, or cannot come within the reach of those important lessons of divine truth which support the mind of man, and render him calm, patient, and composed, even although the field should yield no corn.

But what still farther induces this unwilling complaint against the manners of the poor, is a circumstance not peculiar to Stirling, though it takes place there. It is found in almost every town, city, and borough throughout Great Britain, and is singularly disgraceful to a great and enlightened nation. There is generally no room in churches for the accommodation of the poor. They must either loiter away the days of public solemnity, in sloth and vicious indulgence at home, which they will very soon be inclined to do, or they must stand at an awful distance, in some cold unoccupied area, which very soon becomes irksome and intolerable. Besides, in such situations, it is scarcely possible they can receive much advantage from public instruction. Let a remedy be provided for this evil: Let churches be built, or decent places provided for the accommodation of the poor, and their manners would soon be corrected, at much less expense and much more effectually than by thousands expended on the building of bridewells and correction houses. Charity employed in preventing vice is charity indeed. That which is employed in correcting it is often mere selfishness.

The manners of the inferior ranks are also much hurt and debased every where by the great number of tippling houses, and the low price of ardent spirits. Of these, the number in Stirling has been considerably diminished for some years past, but ought to be still more so. In 1782, there were 94 licensed ale houses in Stirling. In 1790, there were only 68. The difference has arisen probably from the additional tax. In

1782, a licence cost 1 l. 1 s. In 1790, a licence cost 1 l. 11 s. 6 d. If the legislature would increase the tax upon the retail of ardent spirits, it is probable such a step would contribute much to prevent the growing depravity of the people. It would diminish the number of those nests of vitiation. It would lessen their accessibility, especially to the weaker sex, who, from many circumstances, are too easily led to haunt them. One of these must be particularly mentioned, though not peculiar to Stirling. While females are servants in families of superior rank, or even in the houses of the better kind of tradesmen, instead of receiving abundance of plain and wholesome food, which is their due, they are foolishly indulged with luxuries, which they can taste no more the moment they become the wives of honest labourers. Feeling this change of situation, which occasions disagreeable reflections, and subjected to the uneasiness unavoidably connected with their change of state, they betake themselves to ardent spirits to kill their griefs, and are thus insensibly led into habits of intoxication, which ruin themselves, their interests, and their families in every respect. There is no cause of increasing immorality, among the lower ranks of the people, more abundant than this. There is none, which the care of magistrates and rulers ought to be more employed to prevent. If the mothers of families are corrupted, virtue must be gone. Masters should have regard to the future interests of their servants, more than to their present indulgence. Magistrates and rulers should render the venom, which poisons the morals of the people, as inaccessible as possible.

This is more in their power, and vastly more practicable, as well as likely to be more efficient in remedying material evils, than the system so much in vogue among our present sciolists in government, who are for pulling down every thing, in order, as they pretend, to build up a more perfect and beautiful edifice. Let the revenue laws be reviewed.* By them, the people have been in a manner compelled to use

* *Sanabilibus ægotamus malis.*

spiritous liquors, for want of wholesome beer. The present mode of gauging the brewer, and of farming the duties to the distiller, has the unavoidable effect of ruining the former, and encouraging the latter. The consequence is, that the brewery, in most parts of Scotland, produces a thin vapid sour stuff, under the name of small beer, which is all that the common people can possibly get for their money, unless they go to the expense of English porter, now become the beverage of the more opulent. The poor labourer, finding that the beer he purchases neither warms nor nourishes him, flies unavoidably to ardent spirits, now selling at a very reduced price.

Besides, the distiller works, as it is called, against time, i. e. he pays so much annually per gallon, for the contents of his still, and works without controul. It is said, that a distiller can now charge his still no less than 25 times in 24 hours, instead of once or twice as formerly, when he was regularly surveyed. This pours in so great a quantity of the commodity to the market, that it cannot miss being cheap. Hence the labourers take whisky, with a little bread, to their breakfast. It inebriates and subverts the minds of men, women and children, emaciates their bodies, renders them unfit for labour, ruins their persons, corrupts their hearts, and leads them to think of plots, rebellion and every evil work. Take the tax off the brewery, and lay it on the distillery, and it is impossible to say how much the virtue and morals of the people would be improved. This is an object surely worthy of a wise and virtuous administration. These observations were unavoidable, from an attentive survey of the manners of many among the lower ranks of the people.

Character.—With respect to the manners of the inhabitants in general, there is a sobriety, order, and decency among them, scarcely to be expected. The great body of the people, in Stirling, even of the principal people, do not yet think it below them to attend religious ordinances; and, there are few who allow themselves in the practice of jaunting,

or making excursions on the Lord's day, for the sake either of business or pleasure. Hence, there is among them an external decorum and soberness of mind, a freedom from giddiness, extravagance, and dissipation, which respect for religious institutions alone can produce. Urbanity and social intercourse are not unfrequent among them. The only thing which interrupts this is political jealousy,—a dæmon, which, at certain seasons, unhappily rages too much in almost every little burgh throughout Scotland. Would magistracy uniformly maintain the dignity of that situation, and exert itself with spirit or boldness solely for the public good, without any regard to the prolongation of their honour, but just as it results from public suffrage and opinion, this evil would nearly expire. So far as this evil results from dissentient principles in religion, it is less susceptible of cure. For this, no remedy can be found, but the restoration of religion itself, which always renders men forgiving, affectionate and gentle, and uniformly unites them into one.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Stirling being situated on the isthmus betwixt the Forth and Clyde, is, by means of its bridge, the great thorough-fare of the north of Scotland. There are only two inns in it which deserve the name. These are spacious and good.—The county meetings are usually held in Stirling. There is no public room, or hall for this purpose.—Stirling is one of the seats of the Circuit Court.—The only jail in the county is here. The number of prisoners is generally not great. For these three last years, there have been only two criminal trials. Petty thefts and debt are the ordinary cause of imprisonment.—The Falkirk district of the county, being the most populous, and no public magistrate residing there, it uniformly furnishes the greatest number of prisoners.—The banditti always crowd to a populous place, where there is no established authority. There should be, in every county, a public work-house, for the confinement of the pilferers and sorners, who are found to be of that county. Banishment only increases their necessity of stealing.

In the council house of Stirling is the Jugg, appointed by

law to be the standard of dry measure in Scotland. It is statted and ordained, that the wheat firloth shall contain the full of this jugg twenty one times and one fourth; and that the firloth for barley, malt and oats, shall contain it 31 times. The great number of public transactions which have taken place in Stirling, and in the castle, would, of themselves, fill a volume; and, if deemed necessary to the Statistical account, can be found in Nimmo's History, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica, under the article Stirling.



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