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GLASGOW

PAST AND PRESENT

ILLUSTRATED IN

DEAN OF GUILD COURT REPORTS
AND IN THE REMINISCENCES AND COMMUNICATIONS
OF SENEX, ALIQUIS, J. B., ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME I.

GLASGOW
DAVID ROBERTSON AND CO.

MDCCCLXXXIV

WORLD

1880-1881

1880-1881

1880-1881

1880-1881

1880-1881

PREFACE.

THE present edition of *Glasgow, Past and Present* and *Old Glasgow and its Environs* comprises the contents of the original volumes, with important additions.

The Text has been collated with "Senex's" own copy, and effect has been given to his annotations, while valuable original notes have been contributed by trustworthy correspondents.

This edition is enriched by a retrospect of the municipal, railway, and social changes which have occurred in Glasgow during the last fifty years, by Mr. John Carrick. He also follows up the proceedings of the Dean of Guild Court, showing the ultimate fate of many of the buildings affected by the decisions of that Court referred to in the text. The value of his contributions, to future historians of Glasgow, will be apparent.

Glasgow, Past and Present originally appeared in two thin octavo volumes in 1851, followed in 1856 by a third volume, as thick as the other two together. *Old Glasgow and its Environs* was published as a separate book in 1864. In the present edition the whole has been rearranged to make a uniform work. Volumes I. and II. of the original now form Volume I., Volume III. is now Volume II., and *Old Glasgow and its Environs* becomes Volume III.

After careful consideration it was decided to reproduce in appropriate size M'Arthur's well-known Map, dated 1778, as being the most accurate map of the City then in existence; and Richardson's rare and interesting Map of Glasgow and the country seven miles round it in 1795 has been given in reduced facsimile. These two maps, illustrating the topography of Glasgow and its neighbourhood at the time treated of, appear for the first time in this edition.

The autobiography of "Senex" and biographical notices of the principal writers in these volumes are appended.

A copious Index has been compiled, by which ready access can be had to the persons, places, and events noticed. This is probably the first comprehensive list as yet drawn up, of Glasgow people and occurrences, in alphabetical order. In this view it may be found useful for general reference.

These volumes form undoubtedly a most valuable repertory of local history and tradition, and to them future chroniclers must often turn for veritable pictures of Glasgow of the olden time. The Publishers have spared neither labour nor expense to produce them in worthy form, and they trust that the result will be found satisfactory. They take this opportunity of heartily acknowledging the valuable assistance which they have received from friends interested in the work.

D. R.

February 1884.

ORIGINAL PREFACE.

THE great majority of the papers inserted in this work appeared originally in the columns of the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper, at intervals between November 1848 and May 1851. They were written without any idea of their being reprinted. It would appear, however, that the reports of the Dean of Guild Court—the proceedings of which, about this time, were more than usually important—and the letters by “Senex” and “Aliquis” excited much interest, as containing valuable matter regarding the state of Glasgow in times long gone by, as well as furnishing a record of its everyday changes. It was accordingly deemed desirable that the reports and letters should be collected and printed in a more enduring and accessible form than that afforded by the pages of a newspaper. This object has been realised principally by the kindly exertions of James Bogle, Esq., one of the Magistrates of the City, and formerly Lord Dean of Guild—ably seconded by A. Galbraith, Esq., the late, and William Connal, Esq., the present Lord Dean. By their means a fund has been created from which a limited number of copies has been printed for private circulation.

In discharging the duty which was entrusted to me, of seeing the book through the press, I am aware that many will be im-

pressed with the notion that the pruning-knife might have been applied to the Dean of Guild reports, in the first volume, with much advantage. I have allowed them to appear in their present shape, however, from the idea that details which seem trifling and unimportant at the present day may possibly supply data worth the acceptance of some future historian of Glasgow.

The racy writings of "Senex" and "Aliquis" speak for themselves; but while hearty thanks are due to these gentlemen, I must also express my gratitude to the able writer who, under the signature of "J. B.," has furnished details regarding Banking in Glasgow, and the Glasgow Mansions, drawn from sources of information which were peculiarly his own.

The only aim of those connected with this publication has been that of preserving some interesting facts, the recollection of which was likely soon to pass away; and of producing, at the same time, a readable Scrap-Book from Glasgow materials. If they have succeeded in realising this object, they will be well pleased.

JAMES PAGAN.

GLASGOW, *June* 1851.

PREFATORY NOTE TO SECOND VOLUME OF THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

THE following interesting papers, regarding incidents in Glasgow in bygone times, were communicated to, and published in, the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper at various dates, in the years 1849, 1850, and 1851, by a correspondent who writes under the name of "Senex." To many the identity of "Senex" may be no secret; but the venerable gentleman declines openly to put his name to the papers, from a lack of confidence as to their merits, which the public is not likely to share with him. In communicating with me on the subject, he states:—"To tell you the truth, I do not consider them worth anything. I wrote them merely for the purpose of passing an idle hour; and I must confess that nothing gave me more surprise than to find that the public felt an interest in the articles in question."

This I may state, however, that the writer of the papers is a gentleman now verging close upon fourscore years of age, the whole term of which he has spent in the city of Glasgow; that his ancestors, for centuries back, both by the male and female side, were born and brought up in Glasgow, and that many of them are taken notice of by M'Ure, in his *History of Glasgow*,

and by Dr. Cleland, in his *Annals*. I have also authority to state, that part of the information contained in some of the articles was personally communicated to the writer by his grandmother, who was born in 1715, when Glasgow contained only 14,000 inhabitants, and when Candleriggs was a corn-field, and the sites of King Street and Princes Street were grass-parks, or kail-yards. I may make the pleasing addition, that "Senex" himself, notwithstanding his advanced age, is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and is still vigorous in body; as to the sound and healthy frame of his mind, no certificate is necessary from me.

In the following pages a few notes have been added, to explain the text; but very little has been altered or omitted from the version which originally appeared in the *Herald* newspaper.

J. P.

GLASGOW, *May* 1851.

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER ON THE PROGRESS OF GLASGOW.

By JOHN CARRICK.

THIRTY-FIVE years have elapsed since there appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* a report of the proceedings of the Dean of Guild Court, headed "Old Houses—Irish Wakes." The thought of this awakens memories, not only of the Glasgow of that period, as regards its external aspect, but of many of its inhabitants who occupied prominent positions among their fellow-citizens. Well do we remember the somewhat curious and remarkable picture of social life which was brought to light in connection with the business before the Court in question, the report of which was written by our friend James Pagan, being the first of his series of interesting articles in connection with the Dean of Guild Court, which resulted ultimately in his authorship of *Glasgow, Past and Present*. Previous to this, the proceedings of the Court were only reported occasionally, and that in a formal manner. The incident, however, of the Irish wake in the "old Community Land of Gorbals," and the action of the Court in reference to many of the structures which formed the Glasgow of the past, awakened the interest of the public; and so the report of the Dean of Guild Court in the *Herald* was viewed, by the older citizens especially, with deep interest. The effects of this were important in many ways, calling forth as they did the Reminiscences of the late Robert Reid, under the name of "Senex;" of Dr. Mathie Hamilton as "Aliquis;" and of the late John Buchanan, whose well-known talents in that department of literature are familiar to every lover of antiquarian lore.

The evils of an overcrowded city were being felt, and these reports forced the subject on the attention of the citizens. The result was also beneficial to the Court itself. For many years it had been looked upon as one of the ancient institutions, whose days in the so-called age of progress were numbered. Once more, it became a Court in which the public took an interest. A seat on the bench as one of the "Lyners," or Brethren in Council, was deemed not unworthy of the most influential members of the Merchants' and Trades' Houses; and now the Court discharges functions of a most important nature: for, in addition to its original jurisdiction and powers, regulating the construction of buildings, and all questions affecting heritable rights between conterminous proprietors, the Legislature has, by subsequent local Acts, extended its supervision and jurisdiction as regards the sanitary regulation of buildings, the width of streets, and all that concerns the health and comfort of the inhabitants.

It looks just like yesterday since the events chronicled took place, and yet what changes have occurred, not only as regards the several districts of the city to which reference is made, but among the persons who constituted the Court itself! With the exception of the venerable and much respected ex-Lord Provost Andrew Galbraith, who at that time filled the office of Lord Dean of Guild, and William Brown, late of Kilmardinny, all the others have gone from the scene of earthly labour. They were all citizens of note and eminence in their several spheres, who in their day and generation did good service to the city.

It may not be deemed out of place here to note the names of the Deans of Guild who have held office since 1851.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1850-52. William Connal. | 1868-70. William M'Ewen. |
| 1852-54. James Hannan. | 1870-72. Alexander Ewing. |
| 1854-56. Robert Baird. | 1872-74. Patrick Playfair. |
| 1856-58. John Jamieson. | 1874-76. James King. |
| 1858-60. Thomas Buchanan. | 1876-78. Sir James Watson. |
| 1860-62. James Lumsden. | Nov. 1878. James Stevenson. |
| 1862-64. Alexander Ronaldson. | Nov. 1878-79. Patrick Playfair. |
| 1864-66. Archibald Orr Ewing. | 1879-81. James Buchanan Mirrlees. |
| 1866 to June 1868. John Ramsay. | 1881-83. Alexander Stephen. |
| June to Oct. 1868. Arch. Orr Ewing. | 1883. William M'Ewen. |

To the late James Bogle, a former Dean of Guild, is due the credit of inducing Mr. Pagan to undertake the authorship of *Glasgow, Past and Present*. To that esteemed citizen, and worthy representative of the Glasgow merchants, the admirers of the Glasgow of the olden time owe much, not only as regards the initiating of Mr. Pagan's work, but for his encouragement of our local artist Fairbairn, in his well-known water-colour paintings of old Glasgow.

Before noting the localities referred to in the articles on which *Glasgow, Past and Present* was based, we cannot help recalling in a general way some of the more active measures which have resulted in the changes within the city.

Until within the last few years, Glasgow enjoyed a most unenviable reputation among the cities of the empire,—its wynds, vennels, and closes having become a perfect byword,—the moral and physical condition of the population earnestly engaging the attention of the social and sanitary reformer.

To the question—How was it that such a state of matters arose within a city famous for its prosperity and enterprise, and not behind other communities in intelligence or philanthropy? various causes can be assigned. Primarily, the rapid growth of the city, and its almost unprecedented increase in population, may, with other circumstances, be set down among the factors which exercised important influence on the moral and physical condition of its “hewers of wood and drawers of water,” a large portion of whom had been attracted to the growing city from the rural hamlets of Scotland and the Sister Isle, and whose habits were not at all adapted to the restraints and surroundings of town dwellings.

The widening and deepening of the Clyde had transformed the ancient harbour of the Broomielaw into one of the principal commercial ports of the Island, and this had given a great impetus to the trade, manufactures, and commerce of the city. The result was a demand for improved places of business, both for the merchant and manufacturer. This accommodation was difficult to obtain in the older parts of the city, owing to the subdivision of property,—almost every shop and flat belong-

ing to different proprietors, thus preventing extension and adaptation to modern requirements ; and the citizen of enterprise was thus compelled to remove from the old haunts of commerce and go elsewhere. The erection of the Royal Exchange, and the ultimate abandonment of the Tontine Coffee-Room, where the Virginian merchants of the olden time were wont to congregate, changed the whole aspect of the then central portion of the city. While this change was going on in the business occupancies of the city, the upper and middle classes, many of whom lived in close proximity to the working classes, not only in the front streets but in the wynds and closes, abandoned their old residences for more fashionable localities, leaving their houses to be filled almost exclusively by a working-class population, who in this way became housed in dwellings not at all adapted to their wants ; a house of five, or six apartments, as the case might be, formerly occupied by one family, being made to accommodate a number of families equivalent to the number of apartments, and this without any change of structure to secure isolation. It is impossible to overestimate the evils consequent on such a state of matters,—the criminal followers attendant on all centres of large and dense population being mixed up with families of the decent working classes, and in many cases actually living, it may be truly said, within the same house.

Another cause, which has happily, it is hoped, ceased for ever, was the general apathy which pervaded society with reference to the condition of the labouring classes, especially in regard to their dwellings. Very few seemed to care how the poor were housed, nearly every one by conduct, if not by language, exclaiming, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” and so for many years the population in the older parts of the city became more and more densely packed. As a result, sickness and fever were never absent from these localities. Epidemic disease, however, knows no boundary, and self-preservation at length compelled attention to the subject.

On the south side of the river, the Barony of Gorbals had shared in the general progress of the city, and the formation of the districts of Tradeston, Laurieston, and Hutchesontown had

the effect of withdrawing the respectable inhabitants from Main Street, Kirk Street, Buchan Street, Malta Street, and Rutherglen Loan, which formed the old Gorbals ; leaving their houses to be subdivided and occupied by the lower classes. The land tenure of the old Gorbals, and its limited area for parochial management, necessitating high poor-rates, had the effect of hindering the transfer and improvement of heritage, and the result was general dilapidation of property, crowded by the labouring classes, a large proportion of whom were paupers.

In Calton, the close proximity to the city, and the demand for small houses, led to overcrowding and its concomitant evils.

It is but right to state here that the municipal and police authorities of Glasgow and its suburbs were fully alive to the importance of the subject, and the various Police Acts of Glasgow, Gorbals, Calton, and Anderston testify a strong desire on their part to mitigate the evils referred to.

Prior to 1846, the municipal and police government of Glasgow was vested in several local authorities, embracing the Town Council and Board of Police of Glasgow, and the Magistrates and Police Commissioners of Gorbals, of Calton, and of Anderston, respectively. In that year the Municipal and Police Extension Act received the sanction of Parliament. This Act, which was obtained through the indomitable energy of Lord Provost Lumsden of Yoker Lodge, the father of the late Sir James Lumsden, abolished the several jurisdictions within the Parliamentary boundary of the city, and constituted the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council the governing body for the administration of its corporate estates, and for the direction and management of its municipal and police affairs. There can be no doubt that the passing of this Act marked a new era in the history of Glasgow, and that those interested in its government had opened up to them opportunities for improvements which, owing to limited jurisdiction, had not been enjoyed by their predecessors. We cannot help regretting that, owing to some defect in the Act, obligations undertaken by the Heritors and Magistrates of Gorbals, and questions of pecuniary liability on their part, while acting for the public interest, have given rise to litigation and consequent

bad feeling on the part of several of our citizens. It is to be hoped that some means may yet be found which will satisfy those parties' claims, on the score of equity as apart from questions of legal right.

The citizens of Glasgow, whatever the superficial critic may say, have good reason to prize highly the municipal government, not only since the passing of the Act of 1846, but long previous to that date,

“ In the good old days,
When George the Third was king.”

The Acts passed during that monarch's reign bear evidence of the forethought of our municipal rulers in everything which involved the comfort and prosperity of the inhabitants. Their early improvements of the navigation of the Clyde ; the bridges which span our noble river ; and the arrangement of our streets, many of which were formed by the Town Council of those days, under Parliamentary sanction, show that they looked beyond the then present, and recognised that the good government of a great and growing city demanded consideration of the future.

The Town Council appointed under the Municipal Act of 1846, was not long in giving proof of its earnest desire to grapple with the evils which had grown up, and to deal with the wants and interests of the vast and growing population under its control. Thirty-seven years have elapsed since the Act came into operation, and in looking back it is almost impossible to describe the Glasgow of that day as compared with the Glasgow of the present. During that period, which is but a short one in the history of a great city, important schemes have been carried out for the benefit of the citizens, as well as for the improvement of the external appearance of the city, and these are mainly attributable to the administration of the Town Council.

Without going into detail, we may enumerate the following :—
The extensive improvements on the Clyde, in which our municipal representatives have taken an active part ; the erection of new bridges ; the construction of the Loch Katrine Water-works, which, in combination with the Gorbals Water-works, supply not only the citizens within the Parliamentary boundary, but a large

population in the valley of the Clyde ; the formation of the Kelvingrove, Queen's, and Alexandra Parks, which afford recreation ground and breathing spaces for the increasing population ; the extension of the Cattle Market and Slaughter Houses ; numerous street improvements in all districts of the city, embracing the extensive paving operations which have conduced so much to the economy of the commercial traffic of our streets, and the comfort of the inhabitants ; the purchase of the Gasworks ; the opening of Museums and Fine Art Galleries ; the direction of the police and sanitary affairs ; the formation of an extensive system of tramways ; and lastly, the City Improvement Scheme, followed by the Streets Improvement Scheme. Any one of these schemes is in itself of sufficient magnitude to give importance to the labours of a representative body, but when taken together they present results unparalleled in the administration of any city.

It may not be out of place to trace the circumstances which preceded the introduction of the City Improvement Scheme, the carrying out of which has so transformed what may be termed Ancient Glasgow.

Soon after 1846, the Town Council resolved to set aside the sum of £30,000 for acquiring property in the districts known as the Wynds, and in the closes abutting on the High Street, the Saltmarket, and in the Gorbals. A large amount of property was in this way acquired, but ere long it was felt that although the Council was rooting out wynds and vennels in the older parts of the city, the builders were just as busy constructing new ones equally objectionable in the modern parts. This led the authorities to consider the whole question of sanitary legislation and regulation of new buildings. After deliberation, a committee was appointed to inquire into and report as to the sanitary laws and arrangements of the large cities and towns of the kingdom. This committee made a report of date 25th October 1859, and the following extract best conveys their views on the subject :—

* * * * *

“After terminating the inspection of cities and towns throughout the Kingdom, the deputation conceived it to be their duty to

visit some of the districts in Glasgow whose sanitary condition was represented to be unsatisfactory. The deputation accordingly inspected some of the more densely-populated parts of the Old and of the New Town. Originally the closes and lanes of the city were not at all objectionable. The houses were of moderate height, and unbuilt spaces were attached to many of the dwellings, which promoted ventilation; now, however, in these localities almost every spare inch of ground has been built upon, until room cannot be found to lay down an ash-pit. Houses, too, which were only intended to accommodate single families have been increased in height, and are found tenanted by separate families in every apartment, until they appear to teem with inhabitants. The ash-pit and other conveniences are altogether insufficient for the wants of such a population; the water-supply is very defective, and in many cases none is provided. The evils to which such a state of matters gives rise are great indeed, and call loudly for improvement.

“But bad as is the condition of the older districts of the city, a worse state of matters was disclosed by an inspection of some of the more recently-erected houses for the working-classes. The meuse lanes of Anderston, Cowcaddens, and Blythswood Holm furnish examples of the wretched character of the modern class of dwellings for the poorer order.

“Tenements of great height are ranged on either side of narrow lanes with no back-yard space, and are divided from top to bottom into numberless small dwellings all crowded with occupants. The atmosphere of such houses is, to a stranger, oftentimes unbearable, and is rendered more pestilential by the presence of water-closets in the ill-ventilated lobbies or staircases of the building. Such houses as these are not confined to particular localities, but are found spread over the city. The necessity for some restriction upon the building of dwelling-houses which in their arrangement outrage all sanitary laws is most urgent. The occupation of cellars and sunk flats as dwelling-houses is largely on the increase in the city, and must also be checked. . . .

“In contrasting the sanitary condition of Glasgow with that of the cities and towns in the Kingdom visited by the deputation, it must be admitted that, while that of Glasgow may not be ex-

celled in Scotland or Ireland, it is greatly surpassed in England. This may be accounted for to some extent by the more cleanly habits of the English working-classes, and by the tidy cottage form of dwelling which they generally occupy ; but it is undoubtedly also attributable to the extensive powers possessed by the local authorities, the thorough organisation of their sanitary departments, and the enforcement of their sanitary regulations. . . .

“ It may be deemed advisable, before the introduction of any change in the arrangements of the city, that the powers of the local authority be extended by legislative enactment, in order that the success of any attempt which may be made to improve the sanitary condition of the city, by whatever agency it may be undertaken, may be relied upon with some degree of certainty. But the adoption of some improvement upon the system now in operation should not be long delayed. . . .

“ Impressed with the importance of having some control over house building, they would recommend—

“ That power be obtained to regulate the erection of new buildings, in order that the height of such buildings may be preserved proportionate to the width of the streets, lanes, courts, and closes in which they may be built. That the dimensions of the apartments be not too small, and that, in the arrangement of area and back-yard spaces, due regard be paid to light and ventilation.

“ That it be rendered compulsory that such buildings have ample ash-pit and water-closet or privy accommodation, the position of such conveniences being made subject to the approval of the local authority ; and further, that all existing houses and public works be provided with the conveniences most suitable to each ; and that provision be made in the construction of dwelling-houses, halls, churches, schools, workshops, and other buildings, to secure internal ventilation.

“ That owners of houses be obliged to provide a sufficient water-supply to their tenements, to the satisfaction of the authorities.

“ They would further suggest that the powers conferred in a general way upon the local authority by the Nuisance Removal (Scotland) Act, 1856, should in more complete detail—with modifications adapted to the special wants of the city—be embodied in the new Local Act, and in addition thereto power be taken.

“ To appoint a competent Medical Officer and staff of Nuisance Inspectors, should it be considered desirable so to do.

“ To prevent the overcrowding of dwelling-houses, regulating their maximum number of inmates by the superficial area of the apartments.

- “To prevent the occupation of sunk floors as separate dwellings, unless possessed of certain favourable qualifications.
 - “To prevent the occupation of houses, workshops, or other places which may be certified by the Medical Officer as unfit for human occupation.
 - “To compel owners of property to whitewash the outside of their houses, when the authorities consider it needful for the comfort of the inhabitants.
 - “To render it compulsory that the interior of dwellings occupied by the working classes, together with the lobbies and staircases leading thereto, be regularly and periodically whitewashed, the first by the occupier, and the two last by the owner or factor for the property; and of houses or dwellings let for a shorter period than twelve months, or whose annual rental shall not exceed £6, the owner or factor be regarded as the occupier, and be held subject to the regulations applicable to such occupier.
 - “To prevent drainage from chemical works, distilleries, gasworks, etc., from entering the sewers or drains of the city.
- “They further recommend—
- “That the soil and ashes of the city, with the exception of horse and cow dung, be made the property of the authorities, who may be required to remove the same.
 - “That the Smoke Act be incorporated with the new Act to be obtained.
 - “That proceedings under the Act be taken in a summary manner before the Magistrates; and
 - “That power be taken to acquire property for the purposes of sanitary improvement, on giving the proprietor such compensation as may be agreed on, or, in the event of difference, as may be determined on by a competent tribunal.

“The deputation regard it as most desirable that baths and wash-houses for the use of the working-classes should be erected throughout the city, and that powers be taken to erect the same. By the existing Police Act the authorities are at liberty to erect baths on the Public Green, but the power has not been exercised.”

The report was signed by John Ure, James Moir, John Carrick, James Smart.

Following on this report, a committee was appointed for the purpose of preparing a new Police Act, embodying clauses for controlling the construction of new buildings, and enforcing proper sanitary regulations, including the appointment of a medical officer of health. After considerable difficulty, the Act of 1862

received the sanction of Parliament. At that time its provisions were deemed so exceptional, both as regards its police and sanitary clauses, that it was granted for only five years, necessitating renewed application to Parliament in 1866, and then it was confirmed with several modifications and amendments. This was really the first attempt to deal with the erection of new buildings, as regards sanitary requirements, involving as it did regulations for securing free space in front of sleeping apartments, regulating the width of streets, and limiting the number of the inmates with the view of preventing overcrowding.

Though the provisions of this Act have been much commented upon, and thought quite insufficient for the purpose of perfect sanitary administration, it must be borne in mind that they were, when sanctioned by Parliament, far in advance of the age; and for this the citizens owe a tribute of gratitude to Lord Provost Clouston, to whose labours and painstaking perseverance they are mainly indebted for this important measure. Since 1862, the Health Committee, presided over by Mr. Ure, now Lord Provost, has been of incalculable benefit. In initiating and carrying into effect the objects aimed at by the Committee, the services of Professor Gairdner, who first held the appointment of Medical Officer, were of the highest value. His labours and reports tended in a great measure to awaken the interest of all classes in sanitary affairs. The hospital at Belvidere may be pointed to as an evidence of the well-directed efforts of the municipal authorities to grapple with epidemic disease; while the comprehensive scheme for providing baths and washing-houses in various districts of the city, undertaken by the Police Committee, affords the means of personal cleanliness to our toiling citizens in a manner so liberal and complete as to excite the attention of civic administrations in every part of the kingdom.

The reports of its medical officers and sanitary staff, embracing observations and experience regarding the foul condition of the dwellings of the lower classes, thoroughly aroused the authorities; and the necessity for action was hastened by the promotion, in the sessions of 1864, 1865, and 1866, of various railway schemes having for their object the formation of passenger stations within the city,

with junctions connecting the existing railway systems on the north and south banks of the river. These schemes included not only the Union Railway system, as carried out, but also the formation of a railway station in Gorbals, and of railways running east and west between Stobcross and the College: indeed, it may be said that these projects traversed the city in all directions. It was then felt that unless the municipal authorities were prepared to promote some scheme for the improvement of the existing thoroughfares, and the formation of new lines of communication, the object could never again be so cheaply attained. This, along with the reports of the Health Committee, before alluded to, as to the insanitary state of the older parts of the city, compelled immediate action, and the result was that the Town Council, on 19th October 1865, unanimously resolved to apply to Parliament for the City Improvement Act, which had for its object the improvement of the city of Glasgow, "the construction of new, and the widening, altering, and diverting of existing streets of the said city, and for other purposes." The scheme, as laid before Parliament, embraced an area of the city extending to about eighty-eight acres, containing a population of 51,294. It appeared from returns by the Health Committee, that the average rate of mortality within the whole area proposed to be dealt with amounted to 38·64 per thousand, ranging from 17·98 to 48·81 per thousand, the deaths from epidemic disease forming 36 per cent of the mortality. The average density of population over the whole scheme was 583 per acre, but in many localities the inhabitants were huddled together at the rate of 1000 per acre, presenting an example of overcrowding unequalled in any city in the world. This low physical condition was aggravated by the presence of hordes of the criminal classes, who, under the shelter of the dens and caverns of dwelling-houses in the narrow lanes and dark closes which abutted on Trongate, Saltmarket, Gallowgate, and High Street, had rendered these localities notorious in the annals of robbery and murder. This state of matters had already engaged the anxious attention of many of our leading citizens, and it is but due to them to state that, after the Town Council had discontinued the acquiring of property in the densely-populated

parts of the old town, for the purposes of sanitary improvement, they formed a combination for the purpose of removing some of these plague-spots, and acquired on favourable terms a large amount of unsanitary property in the closes adjoining the Tontine Buildings, which they subsequently handed over to the Improvement Trustees at the original cost. In a sense they were pioneers in City Improvements, and it may be of interest to our readers to know that among the philanthropic citizens who addressed themselves to this enlightened work were the late Mr. John Henderson of Park, Sir Andrew Orr, ex-Provost Blackie, and among the survivors, Sir James Watson, Dr. James A. Campbell, and Mr. Archibald Orr Ewing.

Although the Improvement Scheme was of a comprehensive description, it dealt only with a small area of the city. The total population within the municipal and police limits was 423,723, spread over a superficial extent of 5063 acres, being an average of eighty-three inhabitants per acre as contrasted with the 583 per acre within the eighty-eight acres of the Improvement area.

The districts of the city dealt with comprised portions of what may be termed Ancient Glasgow, extending from the Clyde along the valley of the Molendinar to the Cathedral; involving the demolition and reconstruction of nearly all the properties on both sides of Saltmarket and High Street, including the Bell of the Brae, and Kirk Street; the western portions of the Gallowgate, and the eastern part of Trongate; the older portions of the Calton, and the old village of Gorbals, as well as some other isolated areas of property of bad sanitary repute.

The amount of property dealt with in the Parliamentary Estimate was £1,443,335.

The realisation of the available building ground showed a deficit amounting to £146,521
 which was to be met by the assessment imposed under the powers contained in the Act.

Carried forward £146,521

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------|
| | Brought forward | £146,521 |
| In addition to this a sum of | | 65,000 |
| was required for paving and sewerage, etc. ; | | |
| and there was also the cost of the Alexandra | | |
| Park | | 40,000 |

Making altogether £251,521

to be defrayed by the citizens, in addition to the Parliamentary expenses, the cost of management, and the loss of interest.

For this outlay, the public were to obtain the advantage of an ameliorated condition of health, the improvement of the external appearance of the city, and additional street accommodation, extending to three and a quarter miles, opening up the most densely-built districts of the city, and so contrived as to afford convenience to public traffic, and the ventilation of large areas of property. The reconstitution of these districts necessitated forty-five street improvements. Of these, sixteen were extensions and alterations of existing thoroughfares, and twenty-nine were new streets. The total superficial extent of ground which was intended to be converted into streets was 64,670 square yards or thereby.

The City of Glasgow Improvement Act (29 Victoria, cap. lxxxv.) received the royal assent on 11th June 1866, and subsequent amendments and extensions of the statute were obtained in 1871 and 1880.

The intentions of the promoters have been considerably amplified by the committee of the Town Council under whose direction the provisions of the Act have been carried out. These extensions included :—

The purchase of the estates of Overnewton and Oatlands, and laying them out in streets and squares for the erection of workmen's dwellings.

The purchase of the old gasworks at Townhead, and adjoining properties, for the completion of the rearrangement of the district in connection with the formation of Cathedral Square.

The purchase of the Subdean Mill and the rights pertaining thereto, to enable the removal of the mill dam at the Bridge of Sighs, and the formation of a street along the old course of the

Molendinar Burn ; and the erection of lodging-houses in different districts of the city to meet the wants of that section of the population who do not become householders.

The Scheme, when completed in accordance with the amended plans, will give 92,722 square yards of street ground, instead of 64,760, as provided in the original estimates, besides the large open spaces of Cathedral Square, the squares on the lands of Oatlands and Overnewton, the ornamental ground on the river bank opposite the Fleshers' Haugh at the Green, the *place* at Calton Mouth, the improvements adjoining the Cathedral, seven model lodging-houses, costing £90,000, and an amount of feuing ground at the Alexandra Park, the annual value of which will not merely maintain the Park, but realise a surplus to the Parks and Galleries Trust.

The rates authorised by the Act, if levied, would have amounted to £561,747:17:6, but the actual assessment has been restricted to £419,141:1:5, and for this cost the citizens have secured a much larger extent of improvements than was promised by the promoters of the Scheme.

Looking back on all that has happened, there can be no doubt that many of these objects might have been accomplished at less cost had circumstances not controlled the action of the Trustees. The outcry against the tax, when first levied, made the committee hesitate in acquiring property, when it could have been purchased at the parliamentary estimate. The Gorbals, Calton, and Townhead improvements, especially, were deferred for some years, and at one time all but abandoned. After this, the impatience of the public to see some of the improvements carried out, led to their execution, and the consequent disposal of ground at reconstruction value, before all the property needed for the scheme had been acquired ; and this led to additional prices being paid, notably in the case of Calton, where values were increased by the prices obtained by the Improvement Trustees for the building sites at Bridgeton Cross.

Such, in brief outline, are the leading incidents of the City Improvement Scheme. Like all human schemes it has had its drawbacks, but these are not attributable to inherent defects, so

much as to the circumstance that it has been carried out under conditions unfavourable to its sound development, arising in the main from a general inflation of property over the whole kingdom, and a consequent rush of ignorant building speculators into operations in heritable securities: the injudicious facilities which they obtained from building societies and others, giving a fictitious value to property, resulting, as was to have been expected, in great loss to many indiscreet lenders, and absolute ruin to the speculators. From the inception of the scheme, the great question was how to get rid of the mass of unhealthy dwellings, which by the neglect of generations had grown up within the city; and it was clearly made known by the Town Council, who were the promoters, that the objects contemplated by the Act could not be attained without a large expenditure, which must be met by the citizens, who willingly undertook the responsibility; not a single voice being raised in Parliament against the Bill, which became the Act of 1866.

In striking contrast was the change of public opinion which followed within a few months, when Lord Provost Blackie, to whom is due the sole credit of maturing the scheme, was rejected by the municipal ward which he represented, on the ground of burdening the citizens with an exorbitant tax for an object which they now deemed unworthy. It cannot be forgotten that there were other minor influences at work, difference of opinion regarding his administration of the Water Trust in connection with the removal of the Weir, and questions arising from the erection of the Cholera Hospital on the Green, but the taxation imposed under the powers of the Improvement Act was the war-cry of his opponents on the election day.

Without disparagement to the able men who, in good report and bad report, have carried out the provisions of this Act, we must ever regard as a great loss to the community Provost Blackie's non-return to the Town Council. During the term of his occupancy of the civic chair many great and important measures affecting Glasgow were brought under the consideration of the Legislature, including numerous railway schemes, the Police Act, the Markets Trust, and the renewal of Hutchesontown Bridge, and the removal of the Weir.

Only those who were associated with him, knew the amount of time, talent, and labour he bestowed in every department of the public service. Possessing a perfect mastery of detail, combined with an intimate knowledge, derived from extensive observation at home and abroad, of the general principles which ought to regulate the government of large cities, few men were better qualified for the task which devolved on him. It was a poor reward for his labours to be so treated by those whom he so faithfully served. Let us hope that ere long some formal recognition of his services will be made. Such a desire we know to exist among many of our leading citizens, notably some of those who have been his predecessors and successors in the civic chair.

While the City Improvement Scheme originated as a sanitary measure, devised for the removal of large masses of unhealthy dwellings, and the repression of the dense overcrowding that prevailed in the centre of the city, the development of the enterprise involved the reconstruction of considerable districts adjoining leading thoroughfares, and the Town Council had the opportunity of considering how the rearrangements might best harmonise with improved means of street communication, with the result that many changes of great importance have been made on the streets in the neighbourhood of the Cross, in Gorbals, Saltmarket, King Street, High Street, Bell Street, Ingram Street, in the district adjoining the Cathedral, and in Calton. The operations of the Trustees, however, being concentrated in the more densely-built parts of the city, it was left to the Board of Police, as the Road Authority within the municipal boundary, to deal with outlying districts; and regard to the rapid growth of the city, and the absolute necessity of anticipating the increase of street traffic which was certain to arise, led the Board in 1871 and 1872 to take up the question.

By the Police Act, the Board possessed the authority to expend the rates in widening and improving any of the public streets, but they had no compulsory powers for the acquisition of property; and all such improvements, accordingly, required the consent of the proprietors interested. Under the discretionary

powers referred to, the Board of Police have, ever since the passing of the Municipal Act of 1846, been enabled in all quarters of the city to effect important street improvements, involving large expenditure. The widening of Trongate at the Tron Steeple; the improvements at the Cross; the widening of Stirling's Road and the approaches to the Cathedral; the alterations at East Russell Street; the widening of North Street; and the widening and improvement of Sauchiehall Street, are examples of what has been done in this direction.

The limited powers referred to having long been felt insufficient, it was resolved to make application to Parliament for an Act to enable the authorities to effect certain important and extensive street improvements in different parts of the city. In the western district, the extension of the harbour on the north bank of the Clyde as far as the Kelvin, and the formation of the Queen's Dock, and railway depots on the lands of Stobcross, necessitated the widening of Stobcross Street, and the improvement of the Ferry Road leading from Dumbarton Old Road to Pointhouse.

In the north-western district, the streets adjoining the northern boundary of Kelvingrove Park, forming the approach to the University and the rapidly-increasing suburbs of Hillhead and Partick, required to be dealt with.

In the north-eastern district, it was essential to make arrangements for improved access to the Alexandra Park from Castle Street; powers also were required for completing the improvements of Stirling's Road, and effecting alterations on Dobbie's Loan, and the approach to St. George's Road from the Possil Road at the Round Toll.

The Bill for carrying out these various objects was passed in 1873, authorising the Board to raise the sum of £250,000 for the purchase of property. No additional power of taxation was asked, the police assessment being deemed sufficient to meet the charge of interest and the cost of works.

In 1877 circumstances rendered it necessary for the authorities to apply for a supplementary Act, the improvements under which embraced the widening of St. George's Road at its junction

with Sauchiehall Street ; the widening of Bell Street between Albion Street and the Candleriggs ; and the widening of Ruther-glen Loan opposite the Gorbals Burying-ground.

This Act authorised the increase of borrowing powers to £370,000, and the imposition of a special assessment of 1d. per £1 to meet the interest of the moneys borrowed, and as security therefor. Since the passing of these Acts the Streets Improvement Committee have acquired the whole properties necessary for carrying out the contemplated works, and the public are already experiencing the benefit of the improvements authorised, which, with the exception of the widening of Bell Street and St. George's Road, have been almost entirely completed. The ultimate cost of the scheme cannot yet be arrived at, as the greater part of the realisable building ground still remains in the possession of the Town Council. The comparatively limited extent of property purchased, on account of the opposition of proprietors, and the large proportion surrendered for street purposes, diminishes the financial advantage arising from the anticipated increased value of the available residuc, and the cost of the scheme may thus appear somewhat disproportionate to the capital sum. Upwards of 16,000 square yards of ground will on the completion of the improvements be added to the former street space, all applied in the widening of leading thoroughfares of the city, and absorbed from property ranging in value from £20 per square yard in Stobcross Street, to 25 shillings per square yard in Townmill Road. The scheme was entered on in recognition of the actual necessities of proper street communication between growing districts of the city, and there can be no question that, had it been dealt with in a less comprehensive manner, or delayed to some future period, the cost would have been greatly exceeded.

Second only in importance to the Improvement Schemes, the operations conducted under the authority of the Glasgow Parks and Galleries Acts have exercised potent influence on the external aspect of the city.

For generations prior to 1846, Glasgow Green was the only open space available for the recreation of the inhabitants ; and a grand park it was, alike as regards situation and extent. Al-

though nearly surrounded by a growing city, the smoke demon had, fifty years ago, exercised little or no destructive influence on the wooded avenues with which it was adorned. The river, then comparatively pure, and the distant landscape of wood and dale—including the Cathkin Braes—lent their charm to this favourite resort of all classes of the citizens.

But the rapid extension of the city in all directions, especially westward, rendered it imperative on the municipal rulers to consider, as an important sanitary adjunct of a growing community, the provision of adequate and suitable space for recreation, and this they did, although burdened with the onerous duty of dealing with the question of water-supply.

The project of a West End Park was first presented in the form of a feuing speculation, which the Corporation were asked to support. A sum of £10,000 was voted for this purpose; but in 1852 the matter was taken in hand by the Town Council, who acquired the whole property, including the lands known as Woodlands and Kelvingrove, with portions of adjoining ground belonging to the trustees of the late John Fleming of Claremont, Mr. James M'Hardy, Mr. Archibald Campbell of Blythswood, Mr. David Smith, and others. Those parts of the lands of Gilmorehill, Clayslaps, and Kelvinbank, which now form part of the park, were not comprehended in the original scheme, and have been grafted on to it as a consequence of the erection of the University and the Western Infirmary.

It is impossible to overestimate the influence which the action of the Town Council in this important matter exercised upon the whole city, both within and beyond the boundaries. The opposition of certain districts of the city, which were said to have no interest in what was termed a park mainly for the rich, led to an understanding that the southern and northern quarters should also be considered; and the result was the acquiring of the lands of Pathhead which now form the Queen's Park, and, under the powers of the City Improvement Act, the purchase of the lands of Wester Kennyhill, on the north-east boundary of the city, and the formation of the Alexandra Park.

It was intended at first that the Corporation should form the

Kelvingrove Park without the aid of any assessment, but the resolution to provide parks in other parts of the city involved an increased annual charge for interest which was found to be greater than the funds of the Corporation could sustain, and application was accordingly made to Parliament for an Act authorising an assessment for the formation and maintenance of public parks and galleries of art. It may be mentioned, as showing how impressed the citizens were with the necessity of this undertaking, that the application was unopposed, and the measure received the royal assent on 19th April 1859.

The parks now form one of the striking features of the city, but few of the present generation can realise the amount of time and thought which were expended by our municipal rulers before such a result was attained. The first inspiration was an article in the *Herald* by the late James Pagan, followed up by hearty action on the part of a few energetic citizens, prominently the late Alexander Rowand of Linthouse, Robert Lindsay and William Broom, builders, all of them deeply interested in the progress of the west end of Glasgow. On Mr. J. Wyllie Guild was laid the onerous duty of guiding the scheme, not merely when it first assumed form as a feuing speculation, but in the subsequent arrangements which led to the Corporation undertaking the sole management within the Town Council. As was to be expected, great diversity of opinion prevailed regarding the purchase of the property and the best means of developing it for recreation ground and feuing purposes; but by mutual forbearance on the part of the members, and the assistance of Sir Joseph Paxton, whose professional aid was obtained in designing Kelvingrove as well as Queen's Park, all difficulties were removed, and Glasgow now rejoices in the possession of three beautiful parks, in addition to the Green, every one of which will doubtless provide for the healthful enjoyment of succeeding generations. While it may seem invidious to mention names, among the town councillors of that day, James Scott may be looked upon as one whose judgment influenced the deliberations of the Town Council in this matter.

The name of the late Charles Wilson, one of Glasgow's most

eminent architects, must not be forgotten in connection with the creation, so to speak, of Kelvingrove Park and its surroundings. His happy adaptation of architectural style in the elevation of Park Terrace, and Park Circus, and the Grand stair adjoining Park Gardens, are fair examples of his great ability.

It may interest some readers to know that the property of Woodlands, which for many years was the residence of James Buchanan of James Finlay and Company, was acquired from the Monklands Junction Railway Company, an ally of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, who had purchased it from Mr. Buchanan, with the view of transferring the University from High Street, and forming a railway terminus on the old site. Parliamentary authority to do so was obtained under the Company's Act in 1846, but the undertaking was subsequently abandoned.

Of all the various projects affecting the character and external appearance of Glasgow, undertaken by our municipal rulers, the works in connection with the improvement of the River Clyde must rank as by far the most important ; and it cannot be deemed out of place to note briefly a few of the more striking changes brought about by the action of the Clyde Trustees in the development of the Clyde navigation.

Before adverting to the more recent operations of the Trustees within and around the city, the following extract from an exhaustive paper read by Mr. James Deas, the present able engineer of the Clyde Navigation, before the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, on 6th May 1873, may be presented. It cannot fail to be of interest to many of our citizens, who, looking at the Clyde of the present day, realise with difficulty the progressive stages by which it has been converted "from a shallow stream, fordable at many points between Glasgow and the sea, into a noble river, capable of bearing on its waters the commerce and ships of all nations."

"In 1566 the first crude attempt was made to improve the river by detachments of the inhabitants of Glasgow, Renfrew, and Dumbarton endeavouring to open up a formidable sandbank at Dumbuck, above Dumbarton, at which they laboured for several weeks, residing during the time in temporary huts, built on the river-banks near the scene of their operations. It is pre-

sumed that similar attempts were made for a series of years, but apparently without much success, as for several years prior to 1658 the shipping-port of Glasgow was in Ayrshire. As the passage of lighters from that distant place was tedious, and land carriage expensive, the Magistrates of Glasgow in that year made overtures to the Magistrates of Dumbarton for the purchase of ground for an extensive harbour there, which the latter declined to entertain on the ground—'that the great influx of mariners and others would raise the price of provisions to the inhabitants.' Disappointed in this project, the Magistrates of Glasgow turned their attention to the opposite side of the river, and in 1662 purchased 13 acres of ground, on which they laid out the town of Port-Glasgow, built harbours, and constructed the first graving-dock in Scotland. Still desirous to have accommodation at Glasgow, they, in 1688, built a quay at the Broomielaw, at the cost of £1666 : 13 : 4; but even in 1740 little had been done in deepening the river, as the following Minute of Council, dated 8th May 1740, will show:—'Which day, etc., the Council agree that a tryal be made this season of deepening the River below the Broomielaw, and remit to the Magistrates to cause do the same, and go the length of £100 sterling of charge thereupon, and to cause build a flatt-bottomed boat, to carry off the sand and chingle from the banks.'

"The conviction seems to have grown stronger year after year in the minds of the Magistrates that the progress and prosperity of the city depended very much on the improvement of the river; and in 1755 they set about it in earnest by employing Smeaton, followed in 1768 by Golborne, and in 1769 by James Watt, to report to them on the subject; and they showed a determination to secure the best possible advice by employing Rennie in 1799, in 1807, and in 1809; and Telford in 1806, in 1819, in 1821, and in 1826. Since then engineers of the highest eminence have been consulted as to the further improvement of the river."

Imagination fails to grasp the wonderful change of circumstances which has taken place since the formation of "a quay at the Broomielaw, in 1688, at the cost of £1666 : 13 : 4," twenty-six years after the Magistrates had "purchased 13 acres of ground, on which they laid out the town of Port-Glasgow, built harbours, and constructed the first graving-dock in Scotland." Our municipal governors and merchants of that day must have had strong faith and hope in the future of Glasgow. To their courage and forethought we owe our present eminence among the commercial cities of the world, for, without an ocean highway, the mineral resources and manufacturing industries of the valley of the Clyde could never have been successfully developed.

During the last fifty years the extension of harbour works within the city has been on a large scale. Without taxing the

reader's patience, it may be mentioned that even so lately as 1840 the quays of the harbour on the north bank of the river only reached Hyde Park Street, and on the south side terminated at Springfield Lane. The sheds ended at West Street.

Since that period, the progress has been increasingly rapid. Mile after mile has been added to the wharfrage, which may now be said to extend from the Victoria Bridge at Stockwell Street to the Kelvin, with the additional accommodation provided in Kingston Dock and in the Queen's Dock on the lands of Stobcross, one of the largest docks in the kingdom. All that has been done, however, has barely kept pace with the growing requirements of the shipping trade, and the Clyde Trustees were in the last session of Parliament compelled to seek additional powers for the formation of docks within the burgh of Govan, to meet the ever-increasing demand for extended accommodation.

While we cannot but feel gratified at the prosperity of the Clyde Navigation Trust, as the great factor in the onward progress of the city, we confess a lingering regret for the "banks of the Clyde" as enjoyed on summer days and moonlight nights of bygone years, and sympathise in some degree with our good friends of Govan, who thought that the Clyde Trustees should provide some equivalent in the form of a park for the people, as compensation for infringing on their old common, and on their river-bank privileges. In striking proof of the magnitude of the operations of the Clyde Trustees, both as regards expenditure for works and financial responsibility, it may be noted that the total cost of the Clyde improvements up to 30th June 1882 amounts to no less than £9,569,038 : 15s. ; the debt is £4,058,965 : 18 : 8 ; while the revenue, which amounted in 1771 to £1034 : 10s., and in 1833 to £21,578 : 5 : 2, has gone on steadily increasing till it reached last year the sum of £264,549 : 8 : 3. Great as this increase has been, there is every prospect of still further progress. The formation of existing and projected railways in connection with the harbour will place the mineral-fields of the Clyde valley in direct communication with all the centres of industry and commerce in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the various undertakings promoted by the

municipality, it may be interesting to refer briefly to the striking changes brought about by the introduction and development of the railway systems.

Previous to the opening of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, the South-Western, and the Greenock Railways, about forty-five years ago, Trongate, between Candleriggs and the Cross, was the great coaching centre of the city. There, from early morn till midnight, mail and stage coaches were plying between all parts of the country. The principal coaching offices were those of John Bain, at the corner of Nelson Street ; James Walker, at the Tontine ; and William Lyon, the well-known Paisley Coach Office, opposite the Tron Steeple. At all times, interested groups were accustomed to assemble to witness the departure and arrival of these conveyances ; but, in periods of excitement, such as preceded the passing of the Reform Bill, or on occasions when the result was awaited of some prize-fight, great crowds would congregate and give vent to their feelings of satisfaction or displeasure.

Many of the coachmen and guards of those days were persons of note, and are still held in remembrance by the older citizens. It is only within the last few years that George Gordon, who was for so long the driver of the Ayr coach, was called from this earthly scene. He was a well-known character, a grand-looking man, possessed of a pawky humour, of a genial disposition, and a companion with whom any one might pass a pleasant hour. Many of his sayings and doings are treasured in the recollections of those who knew him. On the introduction of railways, Mr. Gordon became a forwarding agent.

The goods traffic between Glasgow and the rest of the kingdom was conducted in those days chiefly by carriers, who had their "quarters" in various parts of the city,—King Street being the principal. The name of Wordie, the Stirling carrier, was one of high repute then, as it is now in the third generation, among contractors and forwarding agents.

The mode of transport has now been completely revolutionised, and has called into existence the railway passenger station, and goods depot, forming important centres, and covering large areas of the city. One cannot help here contrasting the present and

the past. Of a truth, the lines of the modern traveller have fallen in pleasant places. Not to speak of Pullman drawing-room cars, and saloon carriages, with all their luxurious conveniences, —the third-class carriages of the present day, with cushioned seats and backs, are great improvements on the best-appointed mail and stage coaches of less than forty years ago. A journey to London then was no trifling matter, especially on a winter or early spring night. No covered station, with fine waiting-room and orderly appointments, was provided to accommodate either the man of business or the member of a Parliamentary deputation, who were left to scramble up the steps to the roof of the coach in Trongate in all weathers, amid a crowd of onlookers. The first stage to Carlisle was ten hours, and then there was an additional stage of six or seven hours to Lancaster, from whence the railway conveyed the weary traveller to London, in something like thirty-one hours after leaving Glasgow. Fortunately, the Liverpool steamers had at that period attained a high character for speed and comfort, no fewer than three companies being engaged in the trade, viz., Messrs. J. and G. Burns, Messrs. Thomson and M'Connell, and the Messrs. M. Langlands and Son; and, when other arrangements permitted, this route was generally taken, avoiding the dreadful exposure encountered on the cold uplands of Lanark, and the fells of Cumberland. The recollection of these trips to and from Liverpool calls up many pleasant reminiscences of friends, both civic and social, who have long passed away. Another favourite route was *viâ* Fleetwood and Ardrossan, and it was thought a wonderful advance in rapid inter-communication with London, when by that route the journey from Glasgow could be accomplished in twenty-four hours.

Once in London, the duties of a Parliamentary deputation were smooth and easy compared with the experience of the present day. Then, London sights and entertainments engaged more attention than is bestowed upon them by the modern deputation, whose members seem no sooner to reach the great city than they desire to return home again.

A visit to London during the present session, in connection with the Clyde Navigation Bill, brought vividly to mind the great

changes which have taken place in all the circumstances connected with Parliamentary business, since our first appearance there in 1845. At that time the present Houses of Parliament were in course of construction, and the various committees were scattered in the adjoining buildings, courts of law, etc.,—one of the group of Glasgow bills in that year meeting in Westminster Session Court. Since then there has been an entire change of all who were engaged in Parliamentary warfare at that time,—members of Parliament, counsel, Parliamentary agents, all have passed away; and in the Glasgow committee of this session, where the room was crowded with parties interested in our city, with the exception of Mr. Matthew Anderson, solicitor for the Clyde Trustees, there was not one who was present in 1845,—his grave demeanour contrasting strikingly with that of the active assistant and right-hand man, as he then was, of the late Andrew Bannatyne, of such high repute in connection with the railway legislation of that day.

It would fill a volume to tell of the different railway schemes which have been projected within the city during the last forty years. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company were at first content with the North Queen Street Station for both passenger and goods traffic; and the Glasgow and South Western—or “Ayr Railway,” as it was then termed—had a station in Bridge Street for passengers, and in Eglinton Street for goods. The promotion of the Caledonian Railway in 1845 caused the existing railway companies to project what was termed the West of Scotland Junction for the purpose of uniting the Edinburgh and Glasgow with the Ayr Railway. This purpose was to have been effected by a line diverging from the existing Edinburgh Railway, passing in tunnel under Blythswood Hill, passing through Blythswood Holm, and crossing the Clyde at the very point where the present Caledonian viaduct is now constructed. This proposal evoked a perfect outburst of popular indignation. Defacement of the city, the injury of the harbour, and above all the disfigurement of Glasgow Bridge—one of Telford’s latest and noblest works—were the watchwords of the opponents. A severe Parliamentary struggle ensued, resulting in the defeat of the companies; and an indication of the feeling which animated the authorities of that

day is to be found in the circumstance that Sergeant Talfourd, the celebrated tragic poet, was retained to plead the cause of the Bridge Trustees from a purely artistic point of view.

Year after year schemes were promoted for crossing the river above the bridges at different points, including a proposal to cross the Green to the west of Nelson's Monument to form a junction with the Airdrie and Monklands Railway which had power to form a station on the College lands, but all were rejected, until the project of the City Union Railway was brought under the notice of the public in 1864.

The existing stations had then become inadequate, and the municipal authorities, after careful consideration, resolved to give their adhesion to the City Union Scheme, which may be said to have been the forerunner of the City Improvement Act, and the impelling force which led to the extension of North Queen Street Station, and the formation of the Central Station in Gordon Street by the Caledonian Railway Company.

It may not be uninteresting here to state that the City Union scheme, which was designed by the late J. F. Blair, C.E., in consultation with the celebrated John Fowler, C.E., of London, had for its primary object the union of all the existing systems of railways on both sides of the river, and the formation of one central passenger station open to all the companies. When first projected, the line to effect this object was laid down almost identically with that of the West of Scotland Junction Scheme, which was promoted in the year 1845 by the then existing companies,—a central passenger station being formed on Blythswood Holm lands opposite to the end of Gordon Street. Fears of hostile opposition from the Clyde Trustees, as well as want of proper extent of ground for a convenient station, led to the abandonment of this, and the adoption by the engineers of the line now executed above the Victoria Bridge. The promoters did not at first contemplate interfering with the University; but, as the scheme was matured and developed, the views of the railway interests in 1846 were again revived, and the acquiring of the College lands, for a great goods and mineral depot, was made to form one of the principal features of the undertaking. At first the project was regarded with great dubiety

by the three great railway interests, though the formation of a line through the city uniting the North British with the Glasgow and South-Western systems found favour with these companies. The cost of forming station accommodation to satisfy the public wants seemed an insuperable obstacle. The Caledonian Company from the first opposed the City Union Scheme, as it was viewed by them as a competing interest for their traffic both south and north of the Clyde. The Town Council, who gave this subject serious consideration, tried to conciliate the conflicting railway interests by an endeavour to get the Union Scheme withdrawn, and the prosecution by the three companies of a central station on the east side of George Square. These negotiations, however, failed; and, shortly after this, the disputes on railway policy affecting the interests of the Caledonian and the other two companies, in connection with lines remote from Glasgow, led to the North British and South-Western Companies undertaking the construction of the City Union Scheme, embracing the formation of a commodious passenger station in St. Enoch's Square. Up to this period the Town Council had opposed the Union Railway as purely speculative; but, upon the existing railway companies assuming the obligation of carrying out the scheme subject to certain modifications, the deputation which was sent to London to oppose the Bill gave it their hearty support. This gave rise to grave discussions in the Town Council as to the policy of the deputation, and a vote of censure was all but moved against them for their support of the City Union Railway. In this, however, as in all the great schemes affecting Glasgow, time and experience are the great teachers. When the Loch Katrine Water Scheme was promoted, its opponents, who were both loud and numerous, within and without the Council, predicted the most disastrous consequences from its poisoned waters, and the enormous cost which, it was averred, would not be less than 2s. 6d. in the £. In the purchase of the gas undertaking, increased cost of gas was to be the result, and those in charge of the tramway schemes were held up as parties who had sold the city's birthright to a parcel of Yankee speculators, and financial failure was sure to be the result of the enormous obligations undertaken by the municipal

authorities. It is pleasing, in looking back upon all this, to see how these prophecies have all been unfulfilled, and that the various measures promoted or supported by the Corporation in Parliament have, without a single exception, been productive of beneficial results to the citizens.

Looking at the changes wrought on the aspect of the city by these great railway works, we are reminded of the old vista of North Queen Street with the genteel and somewhat classic villa residence of James Ewing of Strathleven, surrounded by its park and wooded rookery; the quiet square of St. Enoch with its ornamental garden ground, begirt with the dwellings of many well-known citizens. The Hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons on the eastern side, a structure designed, if we mistake not, by Adam, and displaying the architectural merit characteristic of all his works, formed an important feature. Alston Street, with its curious medley of dwelling-houses, stores, and sugar-houses, now entirely obliterated, and the site occupied by the Central Station and the magnificent Railway Hotel; while within the area of older Glasgow the appearance of several localities has been completely transformed. Bridgegate with its Old, New, and Back Wynds; King Street with its beef, mutton, and fish markets; the east side of High Street, where the entire parish of Blackfriars may be said to have been absorbed for railway purposes, including the time-honoured University, which has been transplanted from the banks of the Molendinar to the banks of the Kelvin; no fewer than eight churches of all denominations; the ancient churchyard of the Blackfriars, in which reposed the ashes of University professors; various schools; and the mass of wretched dwellings which composed the Havannah, the vennels, and the numerous closes abutting on the main thoroughfare.

In some respects the appearance of the city has suffered, but the railway companies have on the whole shown a disposition to mitigate the evils complained of by the public. New and widened streets compensate in some degree for the drawbacks which seem to accompany the construction of railways within all cities.

Having thus briefly described the changes in Glasgow, result-

ing from schemes and projects carried out under Parliamentary authority, let us glance for a moment at those effected by the private enterprise of the citizens in their individual or corporate capacity.

Looking back on early days, we remember when the public buildings of any pretensions to architectural style might, to use an old expression, have been counted on one's fingers. First then, as now, was our noble minster, the Cathedral; but its lot had fallen on evil days, and under the rude hands of our Presbyterian forefathers it had been sadly shorn of its ancient grandeur. The whole of the interior, including the nave, was filled with pews and huge galleries, fitted up for the use of the congregations of what were then known as the Outer and Inner High Churches, a portion of the eastern end of the nave forming a common entrance to both. The crypt, one of the most perfect and beautiful of its kind either at home or abroad, was used as a burial-ground, the soil being made up to the level of the springing of the groined arches. The southern transept, known as Blackadder's Aisle, was used for the same purpose as the crypt, and, outside the building, the surrounding graveyard had been gradually raised, until the western entrance was covered up to the height of six or seven feet above the level of the nave. Gothic architecture at that period had reached its lowest ebb in Glasgow, and no one in the present generation, looking upon the Cathedral in its restored condition, can realise the transformation which has taken place internally and externally during the last fifty years.

The Consistory House and Clock Tower, which in those days formed the two angles of the western front, were imposing features; but, in the estimation of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, as advised by their architect, they were not in harmony with the other parts of the structure, and so, without much consideration, they were removed, to the great regret of many of our local archæologists. It was then intended to erect two spires to complete what was deemed the original design, but this has not been done, and thus the western front wears its present somewhat bald appearance, instead of presenting the more picturesque, if less congruous, outlines of the dumpy Clock Tower and Consistory

House alluded to. The improvements of the Cathedral have extended over a long period. The initiatory step was the erection, by the Corporation, of St. Paul's Church in John Street, for the congregation then worshipping in the Inner High Church, under the pastorate of the late Dr. Forbes. This admitted of the restoration of the nave, and afterwards the crypt, and Blackadder's Aisle. The choir, however, was still allowed to remain disfigured by huge galleries and modern pews. The ever-to-be-remembered visit of Her Majesty in 1849, accompanied by Prince Albert and several members of the Royal Family, had an important influence on the future of the Cathedral, which, with the old College Buildings in High Street, formed special objects of their visit to Glasgow. Active measures were soon afterwards adopted for the removal of the galleries and pews in the choir, and the completion of that part of the Cathedral, including the organ-loft, the Lady Chapel, and Chapter-House. The expense of the restoration was borne by the Corporation, who also, in their capacity as Police and Statute Labour Committee, at once set about improving the surroundings by reducing the ground in front of the Royal Infirmary to its present level, and laying down a comprehensive plan of improved approaches to the Cathedral, in which, by widening Stirling's Road, and forming a new street between Taylor Street and Weaver Street, a direct communication was opened up with the western part of the city. The plan thus matured in 1849 included the formation of John Knox Street, and the covering of the Molendinar Burn. These operations, delayed for the want of means and Parliamentary authority, have, under the powers of the Improvement Acts, been effected on a more extensive scale, comprehending the formation of Cathedral Square, and the purchase of the North Quarter Washing-Green, which will be preserved as an open space in all time coming, and secure the amenity of the Cathedral, the Royal Infirmary, and the Necropolis, all of them interesting objects to strangers, and possessions of which every citizen may justly feel proud.

In connection with the Cathedral, we should not overlook the task assumed by Sir Andrew Orr, and the citizens, who filled the windows of the nave and choir with painted glass. Divergence

of opinion existed, and still obtains, regarding the merits of this art scheme; in some respects unique as an example of the Munich revival of a lost art, which has no doubt exercised an important influence in the extension of this form of ecclesiastical decoration over the whole kingdom.

To ourselves, the Cathedral and its surroundings possess an interest of no ordinary kind, originating in the childish wonder with which, in the year 1824, we gazed from the window of a humble dwelling, to the south of the Barony Church, upon the Glasgow Sharpshooters, in their dark-green uniforms, drawn up in line to take part in the masonic procession, which, emerging from the Cathedral, marched down the Bell of the Brae to lay the foundation-stone of London Street. The earlier stages of our professional training, closely associated with architectural work in the Infirmary and Necropolis, are likewise identified with the labours of George Kemp, of Scott Monument fame, for whom we held the end of the measuring-line when he made his preparatory examinations for his architectural work on the Cathedral. Later, among other duties, it fell to our lot to formulate the views of the municipal authorities in designing and carrying out the works included under the title of the North Quarter Improvements, which have wrought such a change in this historic district of St. Mungo.

Next in importance to the Cathedral came the old College Buildings. The façade to High Street, which still remains—although its days are numbered—may be regarded as a good example of the Scottish Jacobean architecture that predominated in the fifteenth century. The architect, if we mistake not, was Sir William Bruce, a famous man in his day, whose name is associated with other public buildings of the olden time. In addition to what may be considered the original parts of the University, the Hunterian Museum, erected from designs by Stark, formed an important adjunct. Its finely-proportioned Roman Doric portico was a perfect example of that style of architecture. It is unnecessary here to advert to the causes which led to the removal of the University to Gilmorehill,—the principal reason being the great change which had taken place in the character of the sur-

rounding population. Indeed the College Parish, as it was termed, had become one of the most densely-populated and wretched districts of the city, where the very poorest inhabitants, and a sprinkling of criminals, found shelter. The old class-rooms having also become totally inadequate and unsuitable, the Senatus was led to consider the revival of the proposal to purchase the College, which had failed in 1845, and the sale of the property was effected under the powers of the City Union Railway Act of 1865. The price agreed upon was £100,000, a sum which satisfied the College authorities; but the transaction was looked upon as a great bargain for the railway company.

The decadence of Gothic architecture, to which reference has been made, is shown in the preference which seems to have been given by the citizens to the classic style, as treated by the well-known brothers Adams, examples of whose works were general in all parts of the city. The Royal Infirmary, the Trades' Hall, the Assembly Rooms in Ingram Street, besides many of the residences of better-class citizens in Charlotte Street and Miller Street, and the more imposing mansions in Queen Street and Buchanan Street, were indications of the taste that prevailed in those days. The site of Kirkman Finlay's house in Queen Street is now occupied by the National Bank; and the Buchanan Street mansion of Mr. Gordon of Aikenhead has been replaced by Princes Square, built by the late Sir James Campbell. The spot is memorable in Conservative annals as the site of the pavilion erected for the great banquet given to Sir Robert Peel in 1837, when he was chosen Lord Rector of the University.

The Tontine Buildings, which included the Town Hall and the old Exchange or "Coffee-Room," as it was termed, and the Tontine Hotel, were prominent among the public institutions of the city; and although their architectural appearance was marred by the recent conversion of the piazza into shops, traces of their ancient dignity still remain. The Tontine piazza was a great resort in the olden time, and in the era preceding the Reform Bill of 1832, it was crowded by politicians of all classes discussing the important problem of the rights of man.

The Court House and Gaol, at the south end of Saltmarket, in

which the Council Chambers and municipal offices were also accommodated, formed at this period the most imposing public building in the city. The style of architecture—Grecian Doric—presents a fine example of broad and simple treatment, and none of our more modern buildings possesses higher merit. The architect—Stark—had a large professional practice in Glasgow, of which he was a native. Besides these buildings and the Hunterian Museum at the College, Mr. Stark was also the architect of the Lunatic Asylum, now the City Poorhouse, in Parliamentary Road, and St. George's Church—all designs possessed of a distinctive character, which marks their author as an architect of exceptional ability.

Hutcheson's Hospital in Ingram Street was then, as now, a prominent feature, distinguished by points of excellence, but affording little evidence of the talent of David Hamilton, the afterwards famous architect of the Royal Exchange.

The ecclesiastical buildings of this date were of a very varied description, ranging from the stately edifice of St. Andrew's (one of the city churches) to the humble "meeting-house" of the numerous Dissenting bodies, distributed over the whole city. As the reader is aware, the Corporation, in days not long past, looked on it as a duty to provide church accommodation; and the present city churches are evidences of the desire of the Town Council to meet the requirements of the time. St. Andrew's, St. Enoch's, St. George's, St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. David's indicate that our municipal rulers had regard to the architectural dignity of the city. St. David's Church, by Rickman of Birmingham, although not in accord with present taste in Gothic architecture, has merits of its own. The massive tower of St. John's presents a conspicuous feature in some views of Glasgow, although the church is not considered happy as an example of style. Apart from the city churches, the Roman Catholic pro-Cathedral, in Great Clyde Street, by Gillespie Graham, architect, is a fine type of ecclesiastical style.

The United Secession—now, in conjunction with the Relief denomination, termed the United Presbyterian Church—had, in the churches in North Albion Street and Wellington Street, mani-

fested a disposition to emulate the external appearance of the city churches. Both of these buildings were designed by the late John Baird, and afford evidence of his refined and accurate taste. Few of the other churches of the city then in existence possess much interest as architectural compositions; many of them were barnlike in their appearance, in evidence of the desire of our forefathers to divest themselves of all external similarity to Romish or Anglican forms. Herein they present a striking contrast to their successors in the present age.

Allusion has already been made to the impetus which the progress of the city received from the improvements in the Clyde navigation. As was to be expected, the development of trade and commerce soon made itself felt in the extension and improvement of the city. Beyond question, the most important event in the history of this onward movement, alike in relation to the growing prosperity of the city and the changes on its outward aspect, was the erection of the Royal Exchange, with the Royal Bank, and the surrounding buildings, forming Exchange Square and the adjacent courts. The exodus of the merchants from the old "Coffee-Room" to the new Exchange led to an all but complete desertion of the places of business in the older parts of the town; and this necessitated the erection of a class of buildings different from those which characterised ancient Glasgow, where great inconvenience had arisen from the divided ownership of the heritages,—each shop and flat being held by separate proprietors, and so precluding the extension of premises to meet the increasing requirements of trade. The Exchange, as many of our older citizens are aware, is in part a conversion of the mansion-house which latterly belonged to the old Glasgow family the Stirlings. The architectural character of the Exchange placed the late David Hamilton among the foremost British architects. The Royal Bank and Exchange Square, erected from the designs of the well-known Mr. Elliot of Edinburgh, are distinguished by the very highest characteristics of pure art.

The buildings erected by the various banking corporations have contributed in a marked degree to the improved aspect of the city. Looking on the classic temple now occupied by the Royal Bank,

and contrasting it with the old quarters in St. Andrew Square described by Pagan ; or, more recently, comparing the unpretending premises of the Union Bank in the first flat of the tenement at the west corner of Candleriggs and Trongate with the present palatial building in Ingram Street, we see unmistakable tokens of enlightened enterprise. The British Linen Company's offices displaced the old Gaelic Church, presided over by Dr. Norman Macleod, which was transferred from the corner of Ingram Street to its present site in Hope Street. The Banks in Glasgow now present noteworthy examples of architectural art, and, taken together, are compositions possessing externally and internally great merit, contrasting favourably with similar establishments in other cities of the kingdom.

The insurance companies have in several instances followed in some degree the example of the banking corporations. The offices of the North British, the Scottish Widows' Fund, the City of Glasgow, the Scottish Amicable, and the Caledonian are examples of good street architecture.

It does not fall within the scope of the present article to describe the other buildings of a semi-public character which now adorn the city ; but every street presents examples, amid the requirements of business enterprise, of the adaptation of architectural style in accordance with improved modern taste. No better example of this can be found anywhere than in George Square. The Bank of Scotland, the Merchants' House buildings, and the Post Office contrast strikingly with the dingy tenements which they displaced ; and the latter building presents in itself one of the most remarkable evidences of the rapid progress of the city, when we consider that the business of that department of the public service which now taxes the capacity of the spacious offices in George Square, was amply accommodated fifty years ago in the modest two-storey building which still stands opposite the Central Police Office.

While the external aspect of the city has been greatly improved by the architectural style of its public institutions and churches, an important influence in the same direction must be ascribed to the buildings erected for commercial purposes. The

modern warehouses and shops which front our principal streets are conspicuous and interesting features, not merely in respect of their imposing appearance, but as evidences of the increase of our trade and the rise and progress of enterprising firms, which, from small beginnings, have become establishments known over the whole world. One can scarcely realise the enormous growth of our warehouse trade since the time when the "historic house" of Messrs. J. and W. Campbell, now the well-known baronial building in Ingram Street, was located at the head of Saltmarket; or when the equally celebrated firm of Stewart and M'Donald found ample accommodation in the first flat of the tenement at the corner of Buchanan Street and Argyll Street. Similarly rapid progress is observable in the counting-houses and offices of our merchants and professional men, which now rival in appearance the banking offices of the past generation, while their increased numbers have displaced the residences in the central areas of the city and encroached on the summit of Blythwood Hill. The consequent redistribution of the population, accelerated during the last fifteen years by the operations of the City Improvement Trustees and the railway undertakings previously described, as well as the natural increase of the inhabitants (who numbered 202,426 in 1831, and 511,520 in 1881), has led to the extraordinary extension of Glasgow, both within and far beyond its municipal boundaries, and has changed the entire aspect of the city and its surroundings.

Interesting as the topography of this subject is, it is here impossible to do more than touch briefly on some of the more remarkable of the changes brought about during the last fifty years.

On the line of Argyll Street and Dumbarton Road, the built part of the city terminated at Elderslie Street. From that point outward to the Kelvin there were only a few isolated residences. On the one hand, were the mansion-houses of Cranstonhill, the residence of the Houldsworths; Stobcross; Overnewton; and Yorkhill, where John Graham Gilbert passed the last years of his life; while on the north side of the road were the Botanic Gardens, on the west side of what is now Claremont Street, and

Dr. Rae Wilson's mansion-house of Kelvinbank, with its wooded lawn sloping towards the Kelvin.

In Sauchiehall Street, the continuous buildings reached Cambridge Street on the north, and Mains Street on the south side. Beyond these points the street, or road as it was then called, narrowed to thirty feet, and, with the exception of part of the east end of Albany Place, was fronted at intervals only by the self-contained houses of well-to-do citizens, and the summit and southern slope of Garnet Hill were also dotted over with detached self-contained residences.

On the south side of Sauchiehall Road, the lands of Willowbank, now intersected by Pitt Street, Holland Street, Elmbank Street, Elmbank Crescent, and the western continuation of Bath Street and West Regent Street, were unbuilt. Beyond North Street there were only a few villas, and an expanse of open ground extending to the Botanic Gardens, which, stretching north-eastward from the Dumbarton Road to Sauchiehall Road, included the space on which Fitzroy Place now stands.

To the west of St. George's Road, the properties then known as South Woodside, Claremont, Woodlands, Kelvingrove, and part of Blythswood, comprised the space bounded by Sauchiehall Road, St. George's Road, Woodlands Road, Eldon Street, and the Kelvin. The two first-named properties had been partly laid out in accordance with a well-considered and comprehensive feuing-plan by Messrs. Fullarton and M'Hardy of South Woodside, and Mr. John Fleming of Claremont, and building operations had commenced at what was then, and is still, called "the Crescents." As a beginning, the superiors built dwelling-houses for themselves, —Claremont House and the two central houses in Woodside Crescent being the first erected. A combination of builders, among whom James Dick was principal, set vigorously to work, and, ere long, Woodside Crescent, Woodside Terrace, Woodside Place, and Newton Place became a distinct locality beyond the city boundaries. The only access to these fine properties was by North Street and Sauchiehall Road, at that time narrow ill-paved thoroughfares; and it was not till the vacant lands of Willowbank came to be built on that the Board of Police, whose juris-

diction had been extended by the Municipal Act of 1846, undertook the widening and improvement of North Street and the now fashionable west-end promenade, Sauchiehall Street. On the northern boundary of this district there were only a few isolated residences along St. George's Road and Woodlands Road.

What are now known as Great Western Road and New City Road were then rural thoroughfares, bordered by a few scattered villas. The only building then erected which now remains, is the corner tenement at the eastern termination of New City Road. The Normal Seminary had not then been built.

The Great Western Road only extended to the Kelvin,—the mansion-house of North Park, and the surrounding residences beyond the river, being connected with the city by the Byres Road, and the wooden bridge at South Woodside, which had been erected by Mr. Gibson, proprietor of Hillhead, as an adjunct to the scheme he had devised for feuing his estate, then principally occupied by villa property.

Beyond Garscube Road and Cowcaddens, the Phoenix Foundry, and a few other public works, including cotton factories and chemical works, with one or two groups of dwellings at the Black Quarry and Springbank, occupied the whole district, bounded on the north by the canal. Port-Dundas was a comparatively remote suburb, between which and the Trongate there was omnibus accommodation for the travellers by the canal passenger boats,—at that period a most important means of communication between Glasgow and the towns situated on the line of the Forth and Clyde and Union Canals.

Parliamentary Road was still unformed, and the Lunatic Asylum, now the City Poorhouse, was situated in the country,—the only direct connection between the Townhead district and the western parts of the city being Stirling's Road, at that time a narrow way, only thirty feet in width, which terminated at the head of John Street, where the "Love Loan" branched westward to Dundas Street. The formation of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Station led to the substitution of Cathedral Street for this ancient thoroughfare, which at a more remote period must have formed, in connection with Rottenrow, the only line of com-

munication between the High Church and the western suburbs. Northward from Rottenrow there were only the houses and cottages bordering on Stirling's Road, Dobbie's Loan, and Parson Street, which impinged on the borders of the old town at Weaver Street and Castle Street. Garngad Hill was studded with the comfortable villas and trim gardens of worthy citizens; and the private asylum of Dr. Drury was a prominent feature in this neighbourhood.

Springburn, although included within the ancient royalty, was far remote; the lands of Petershill, Pinkston, Sighthill (then belonging to the town of Forres), and Cowlairs intervening between this village and the city.

The now populous suburb of Dennistoun was a rural district, occupied by the mansion-houses of Mr. Dennistoun of Golfhill; Dr. Muter of Broompark; Mr. Grahame of Whitehill, the first Lord Provost of the city after the passing of the Reform Bill; Mr. Mackenzie of Craigpark; and Mr. Charles Macintosh of Dunchattan, proprietor of the adjoining chemical works; the villa of Meadow Park, and a few isolated houses along the line of Duke Street, then called the Edinburgh Road.

In the east end, the continuity of Gallowgate ended at what is now known as Bellgrove Street, beyond which the fine old mansion of Annfield, with its imposing gateway fronting Gallowgate, the pottery at Cubie Street, and a few scattered houses, at Campbellfield and Whitevale, interrupted the expanse of the half mile of open country which separated Glasgow from the village of Camlachie. Parkhead and Westmuir were isolated and remote rural coteries, and the remainder of the eastern district of the city comprised only the Calton and the sparsely-built village of Bridgeton.

On the south side of the river was the old village of Gorbals, which had been hemmed in on the east by new streets, fronted by houses and public works, lying between Rutherglen Loan and the Clyde, and extending eastward only as far as Commercial Road; beyond which were the residences forming Wellington Place, the mansion of Stonefield, and the large nursery grounds of Messrs. Austin and M'Auslan, long since covered by a group of public

works, of which those of the Messrs. Higginbotham are the most prominent. To the south of Rutherglen Loan there were in this direction only the villas fronting South York Street, and the mansion of Oatlands at Little Govan. West of Gorbals, the lands of Laurieston, Tradeston, and Kingston had been laid out and partly built on for residences and public works, with a few isolated houses, and the works at Springfield belonging to Messrs. Todd and Higginbotham. On the south, Bedford Street was the limit of the built portion of Tradeston and Laurieston,—Port Eglinton and the group of public works surrounding it, with the Cavalry barracks beyond, being at a considerable distance. Immediately to the south of Gorbals, a little past “Puddock Row,” now known as Bedford Lane, was the open country, studded with the mansion-house of Gallowknowe, belonging to Mr. Dixon, and a few self-contained houses, including Larkfield on the Langside Road, which yet remains, and some scattered houses and thatched dwellings designated the Muirhouses.

The foregoing brief description of the area covered by the Glasgow of some fifty years ago, contrasted with its present extent will enable the reader of the present generation to realise the enormous growth of the city during the intervening period,—a progress the parallel of which is found only in those great centres of population which have been created by the vast resources of the American continent and of our Australasian colonies.

The advantage to Glasgow of the proximity of the mineral fields of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire has undoubtedly been great, and, in conjunction with the enterprise and intelligently-directed industry of the inhabitants, has brought about the great increase of the city and its population.

Space is wanting to enumerate the varied branches of our trades and manufactures, which comprehend every department of textile fabrics,—spinning, weaving, dyeing, and printing; the manipulation of our great staple iron, in its numberless forms and adaptations to the requirements of modern civilisation,—from the iron pipes and fittings supplying the capital of Russia, to the sugar-mill for the South Pacific Islands; from the tiny

sewing-machine, to the leviathan steam-ship which has bridged the ocean, and the railway locomotive which has joined together the ends of the earth. In this connection we are reminded of the first iron steamer, the *Fairy Queen*, built at the Oakbank Foundry by the well-known firm of Neilson, a name identified with the development of our mineral wealth and iron industries for four generations, and launched by the aid of the steam crane at the Broomeclaw; and the strange-looking locomotives, with their towering frame-work and high piston-rods, constructed by Messrs. Murdoch and Aitken in Hill Street, and first used on the Garnkirk Railway. It seems more like romance than reality when we contrast these beginnings of mechanical ingenuity and enterprise with the great engineering and shipbuilding establishments which line the banks of the river, and the unrivalled locomotive works at Springburn and Little Govan.

The preceding notes have awakened memories of departed citizens who were more or less interested in carrying on the municipal government of the city within its Parliamentary boundaries during the last forty years. In 1846, when the municipal and police jurisdiction of Glasgow was extended to the Parliamentary boundary, so as to include the municipalities of Anderston, Gorbals, and Calton, as well as the villages of Bridgeton, Camlachie, Parkhead, and Westmuir, we had in each locality leading citizens who deemed it not beneath them to serve the public in municipal government. The names of Houldsworth, Macnaught, Macalpine, and Taylor in Anderston; Gray, Edmiston, Mitchell, Brodie, Bunten, Binnie, Gourlay, and Gemmell in Gorbals; Bartholomew, Bankier, and Clark in Calton; and M'Phail and Hussey in Bridgeton, may be taken as fairly representing the character of the governing bodies in their respective districts; while within the city the office of Town Councillor was esteemed an honour by the highest class of the citizens.

Municipal office does not now seem to be coveted by the class on whose shoulders the burden of governing the city was at one time laid. To talk in a depreciatory manner of doings of municipal authorities is the fashion of the day. This is not the place to examine into the cause; all that is remarked is simply the

certainly that grave injury to the public service must result from the indifference of those who by their position and influence should assist the authorities in the arduous work which they undertake in administering interests so vast as are committed to their care. The ordinary income of the various trusts under the absolute control of the Town Council amounts to no less a sum than £1,055,000, without reference to other important interests, such as the Clyde Trust, Hutcheson's Hospital, etc., in which the Town Council is largely represented. The judicious expenditure of an amount so enormous, in the proper government of the city is surely a duty worthy of the ambition of every member of the community. For it should never be forgotten that the continued prosperity of Glasgow depends solely on the permanence of its varied industries. The erection of public buildings or churches, fine structures for business occupancies, or the increase of grand mansions for the better classes, may improve its external magnificence, but gives no additional stability to its material wellbeing. Of what paramount importance, then, in these days of world-wide competition, between individuals and communities, in the numberless products of iron and textile manufactures, that our artisan population should be distinguished by the high quality of their moral, intellectual, and technical education. In the attainment of these great ends our municipal rulers have much in their power. The proper administration of well-considered police and sanitary laws to secure healthy dwellings; the management of public hospitals; the proper distribution of our romantic water-supply; the means of recreation in the extension and conservation of our parks and open spaces; the development of our art galleries, Industrial Museum, and libraries, along with the other departments of the public service, afford scope for every taste and disposition. Those who live beyond the boundaries of the municipality are too apt to indulge the feeling that municipal government is no business of theirs, their sympathies seeming to lie more with the localities in which they reside than with the great city on whose prosperity they depend; and thus year after year the choice of municipal managers becomes more limited. Such ought not so to be. Neglect of the duties of citizenship

must in the end lead to local misgovernment, with all its concomitant demoralising influence among the governed.

Great as have been the schemes and undertakings promoted by the municipal authorities of Glasgow for the benefit of the city and its citizens, much still remains to be done. A drainage scheme, involving the purification of the Clyde and its tributaries, will sooner or later force upon the local authorities which comprise Glasgow and its suburbs the necessity of harmonious action with reference to sanitary measures for the prevention of epidemic disease. The question of extension of recreation ground will also arise, for it is impossible to conceive that the intelligent citizens of the present day will allow such increasing communities as Govan, Partick, and Maryhill to go on extending without acquiring some land which will be dedicated to the recreation of their inhabitants. The interests of Glasgow and its suburbs are identical, and this more so than was the case with the burghs of Gorbals, Anderston, and Calton in 1846. These localities at that time were all centres of great industries, with large resident populations having no connection with the city; and it was only when, by the extension of Glasgow, its burgesses were merged in the population of these burghs, that the evils of clashing jurisdiction were realised, and the necessity for a uniform administration forced itself upon the attention of all parties. Such a state of things was quite different from the position of the police burghs which now surround the city. Their inhabitants in the majority of cases are all citizens of Glasgow. Govan and Partick, and the large population clustering round the great shipbuilding industries which centre in these two burghs, are no doubt in a somewhat different position; but it must not be forgotten that nearly all the large industrial establishments located in these burghs were cradled within the city, and forced beyond its boundaries by the Clyde Trustees, so as to make way for the extension of the harbour. All the others are the mere outgrowth of the city population, and as such ought to form one community. This is not the place to discuss the merits of any scheme of municipal extension. The present seems an opportune period, seeing that the Lord Advocate proposed to deal with the question under his General

Police Act. It surely would be far more seemly and conducive to the interests of Glasgow and its suburbs that its various local authorities should act in concert in this matter, openly and fairly, and endeavour to adjust terms by which Glasgow might obtain the advantages of proper local government on the lines shadowed forth in Dr. Marwick's pamphlet on this subject some years ago. It is the interest of the counties of Lanark and Renfrew to keep matters as they are,—the landocracy of both the governing parties of the State being benefited by keeping the valuable properties which constitute the outgrowth of Glasgow within the area of county rating. As to the party at present in power, their political interest is also identified with the existing arrangement, the astute and suave Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Granville, having at one time, when this subject was brought under his consideration, frankly confessed that "the Liberal party had always looked to the overflowing of large towns as a great means of liberalising counties." This combination of hostile interests has hitherto acted as an insuperable barrier to a proper understanding between Glasgow and the adjoining burghs, leading to unnecessary expenditure of capital in the erection of a gaswork, and rendering the city an easy prey to the counties, in the exaction of the annual subvention of £12,000 under the Roads and Bridges Act.

In conclusion, let us indulge the hope that the day is still far distant when the New Zealander of Macaulay, standing on Glasgow Bridge, shall see any symptom of decay, and that each future edition of *Glasgow, Past and Present* may tell of the increased and increasing prosperity of that city whose motto is the prayer that it may flourish by the progress of Truth among its people.

NOTES ON DEAN OF GUILD COURT REPORTS.

By JOHN CARRICK.

NOTE A.

(*20th November 1848.* Vol. I. page 21.)

THE Community Land was the property of the heritors of Gorbals. At the period referred to it was in the possession of a bondholder,—the affairs of the community of Gorbals being in a ravelled condition, owing in a great measure to the Town Council of Glasgow ignoring all concern in the management since the passing of the Municipal Act of 1846. Ultimately the “Land” was taken down and sold by public roup. At that time the municipal authorities had in view the widening of Main Street, and it was acquired by them for that purpose, along with other properties in the Gorbals Parish, and eventually transferred to the Improvement Trustees as part of the City Improvement Scheme.

NOTE B.

(*4th December 1848.* Vol. I. page 24.)

All the houses referred to in the report of these proceedings have been removed under the powers exercised by the City Improvement Trustees or the Union Railway Company. A small portion of the Fiddlers’ Close, 75 High Street, still remains. The picturesque wooden houses, however, have all been swept away.

NOTE C.

(*15th December 1848.* Vol. I. page 25.)

The old tenements in Old Wynd were all removed, and their sites purchased by the Town Council for the purpose of opening up the district. The scheme of the City Union Railway in 1864 caused a change of policy; and, under the

Company's Act, all the property in the wynds south of the Green Market Open in King Street was taken over by the promoters, who were bound to remove the buildings and reconstitute the area according to a plan approved of by the municipal authorities. This was never done, as the Company found that the space was required for railway works. Within the area fronting King Street were the Old Mutton Market and the Fish Market, both famous in the days when King Street was the great centre for the supply of edibles.

The petition of Mr. Glover marked a new era in the theatrical history of Glasgow. The Princes' Opera House was erected on the east side of West Nile Street, on the site of what was, until recently, Hengler's Circus. Previous to Mr. Glover's lesseeship it had been a horse bazaar, the front of which still remains. The property then belonged to the well-known Provost Lumsden, who, during his whole lifetime, was a great supporter of the histrionic art. In the desire to improve the taste of his fellow-citizens, he entered on the venture with great zest. Well do we remember happy social meetings gathered by the Provost to encourage Glover, when Dr. Drury, Dr. James Hedderwick, the esteemed editor of the *Citizen*, and others, indulged the hope that a brighter day had dawned on the Shakespearian art. Memory, too, recalls the afterward famous Sam Bough, the scenic painter, a strange combination, one who, in old phrase, "could either dance or hold the candle." Subsequently Glover, by an arrangement with the celebrated John Henry Alexander, became lessee of the Theatre Royal in Dunlop Street, and retained that position till his death.

NOTE D.

(1849. Vol. I. page 27.)

The properties in the Havannah, New Vennel, and Burnside have all been removed, their sites forming part of the railway depot, which absorbs all the property on the east side of High Street between Duke Street and Graeme Street, extending eastward as far as Barrack Street. Nearly all the property in this area was acquired by the City Improvement Trustees under the powers of their Act, and transferred by them to the railway companies at cost price, with a percentage added to meet Parliamentary and other expenses.

The Whisky Close, with all its social horrors—Pagan's description being a veritable picture of the spot we knew well—is now wiped out by the operations of the Improvement Trustees,—its hitherto foul surface now forming part of a wide street leading from Great Hamilton Street to Gallowgate, named after Sir James Bain, whose father had property there.

The mansion-house of the Elphinstones, which was situated on the east side of Main Street, at the corner of the then humble-looking Rutherglen Loan, with its rows of thatched houses fronting the same, is no more,—not a single trace of the structure left. Nowhere have the operations of the City Improvement

Trustees wrought more striking change than in Gorbals. The whole district has been transformed. The narrow thoroughfares of Main Street, Rutherglen Loan, Malta Street, Kirk Street, Moncrieff Street, and Buchan Street, which traversed the ancient village of Gorbals, with their labyrinthine closes and courts, have all disappeared, giving place to wide streets with lofty buildings got up in the usual modern style of street architecture. We do not complain of the change, which necessity in a great measure compelled, but the comparatively straight new street, with its formal continuity of buildings, fine as it looks, has not the quaint and picturesque aspect of the tortuous line of Old Main Street of Gorbals, with its humble tenements—many of them thatched—relieved on the west side by the imposing height of the “land” known as the “Ark,” and on the east by the baronial tower of the mansion of the Elphinstones.

NOTE E.

(29th January 1849. Vol. I. page 30.)

Great as was the improvement caused by the extension of police jurisdiction on the external appearance of the villages of Camlachie, Parkhead, and Westmuir, the progress of these localities has been very marked since the date of this Court. All along the line of the main thoroughfares the modern tenement has replaced the one-storey thatched cottage. Numerous industries have also sprung up, and the development of Parkhead Forge to its present extent by the Messrs. Beardmore has given an especial impetus to the district, which has consequently lost its isolated village appearance, and now wears quite a city aspect, having, with its other attractions, a share of the Saltmarket shows transferred to its boundaries, and the usual adjuncts of civilisation,—a police and fire brigade establishment.

The hopes of our genial chronicler have all but been realised. The Molendinar Burn is now, with the exception of a small portion adjoining Duke Street, covered in; and a portion of the parallel sewer which he suggested for the protection of the Kelvin has been constructed, restoring, as far as the West End Park is concerned, the river to all but limpid purity.

NOTE F.

([12th April] 1849. Vol. I. page 52.)

Since the date of this Court the changes within the city have nowhere been more marked than in the north quarter. Indeed, with the exception of the Cathedral itself, and its neighbour, the bald-looking structure known as the Barony Church, and the Royal Infirmary, every vestige of this ancient part of

Glasgow has been removed. To the antiquarian this has been the subject of deep regret ; but no one can look upon the altered condition of the district without feeling that our civic rulers have acted wisely in improving the amenity of our noble Minster and Necropolis. The locality is year after year visited by thousands of strangers, who come from all parts of the world to view Glasgow Cathedral, one of the few complete structures of the kind in Scotland.

NOTE G.

(14th May 1849. Vol. I. page 66.)

Jamaica Street has continued to improve since this date ; and the Gallowgate, by the action of the Improvement Trust and the Union Railway, has been entirely changed. The Cutler's Close and the "old dial plate, near to Spoutmouth," have disappeared ; but the Saracen's Head Inn, over whose interesting associations of bygone days the genial Pagan delighted to linger, yet remains. The deserted Infantry Barracks, too, are still intact.

NOTE H.

(21st May 1849. Vol. I. page 71.)

The Partick Mills referred to at this Court still remain in the possession of the Incorporation of Bakers ; but the Clayslap Mills have since been acquired by the Corporation, along with the contiguous lands of Overnewton, formerly belonging to the Taylors, and the estate of Kelvinbank, once the property of the celebrated Syrian traveller, William Rae Wilson, LL.D., and the three properties now form part of the Kelvingrove Park.

NOTE I.

(28th May 1849. Vol. I. page 77.)

Woodlands Terrace, in the mind's eye of Pagan, was the site of future Glasgow. At that date Kelvingrove, Woodlands, Gilmourhill, and Overnewton were all held as feuing properties, and the apprehension of their being overbuilt caused him to write strongly on the subject. How little did he dream of all these properties being united as one subject, appropriated mainly as a public park and as sites for the University and the Western Infirmary.

The anticipation indulged regarding the continued progress of the city has been more than realised, although the changes which have been made on the municipal boundary prevent us laying the figures which indicate the last ascertained population of Glasgow alongside of those quoted by Pagan. The difficulty presented by this want of parallelism is increased by the rapid growth

of the industrial and residential populations immediately adjoining the city, which have erected themselves into separate jurisdictions, but which in every actual sense are citizens of Glasgow. These communities, it must be remembered, at the date of this note were still remote from the town, and as yet only partially developed; and some now populous districts calling themselves burghs had not even sprung into existence.

Dealing with existing areas, the urban and suburban population has latterly increased in the following ratio :—

| | Municipality. | Suburbs. | Total. |
|------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| 1861 . . . | 404,314 | 45,860 | 450,174 |
| 1871 . . . | 491,846 | 81,535 | 573,381 |
| 1881 . . . | 511,520 | 169,702 | 681,222 |

In other words, the increase, which in the penultimate decade was at the rate of 21·65 per cent within the city, was 77·79 per cent in the suburbs; while during the last ten years the urban increase, owing to the very extensive demolition of house property by the Improvement Trustees and the various railway companies, was only 4 per cent, and the suburban as high as 108·13 per cent, made up in great part of the overflow of the population of municipal Glasgow across its boundaries.

The haberdashery warehouse of Messrs. Mann, Simpson, and Byars, which took the place of the Black Bull Hotel, seems to have prospered, for it has since absorbed the buildings in Glassford Street formerly known as the Ship Bank, and the premises of the City of Glasgow Bank in Virginia Street, the whole forming a striking example of the altered character of the business premises of the city since the days when Robert Carrick held the purse-strings of the Ship Bank.

NOTE J.

(11th June 1849. Vol. I. page 84.)

Great extensions and alterations have taken place in the various localities mentioned in this report. In the West end all the ground south of Sauchiehall Street to the west of Blythswood Square has been built over with valuable house property, interspersed with numerous churches of every denomination. The "Old Malt Barn" in North Street still remains, the rest of the street between Sauchiehall Street and St. Vincent Street having been built on.

The Buck's Head Hotel, which had undergone some renovation, and which, according to Pagan, promised "long to remain as one of the most interesting structures in Argyll Street," has now been removed for upwards of twenty years, and replaced by a modern building for commercial purposes, interesting as having been designed by the late Alexander—better known as "Greek"—Thomson.

NOTE K.

(25th June 1849. Vol. I. pages 94, 101.)

The changes in Miller Street have gone on almost continuously since this period. All the old mansions, with one or two exceptions, have been removed, and lofty ranges of modern warehouses erected in their place. Their great height, as compared with the former buildings, imparts to the street a somewhat gloomy aspect. The architecture, however, taken as a whole is very striking,—bold projecting cornices giving quite a palatial character to the buildings.

The Bridgegate, especially where it adjoins King Street, has been widened and completely transformed by railway crossings. The old clothes trade has long since been transferred to a spacious market in Greendyke Street, erected by the Corporation; and the rental forms a not inconsiderable item in the income of the burgh.

NOTE L.

(23d July 1849. Vol. I. page 117.)

The Saltmarket of to-day bears no resemblance to the thoroughfare described in this report. The whole east side, including the back properties as far east as the Molendinar Burn, has been removed by the Improvement Trustees; and on the west side, although the front buildings remain standing, the closes have been more or less demolished. In High Street a fragment of the Fiddlers' Close remains, but the east side, including the famous No. 90 Close, has disappeared, and the North British and South-Western Railway Companies are at present erecting there a vast goods depot, with warehouses and stores, which, when completed, will cover the entire area bounded by High Street on the west, Duke Street on the north, Graeme Street on the south, and Barrack Street on the east; comprising, as mentioned in the introductory notice, the site of the ancient University, numerous churches and schools, and the Churchyard of the Blackfriars; and obliterating Blackfriars Street, the Havannah, and the Old and New Vennels, besides the labyrinth of closes, in which, for many years, thousands of the poorest and most wretched of the population were housed.

St. Andrew's Square and its fine church have not been overlooked by the authorities, who, under the powers of the City Improvement Act, have formed a new street leading from London Street to the Green, and so opened up to the numerous passers-by another view of the famous portico. The Molendinar Burn has been diverted from its former course, and converted into a regular built common sewer.

NOTE M.

(6th August 1849. Vol. I. page 123.)

As previously noted, the Buck's Head Hotel, which for so long engaged the attention of the Court, has long ago disappeared, as well as the High Street closes, the character and habits of whose denizens at that period our friend Pagan was so fond of delineating. The Anderston Free Church, however, of which the editor speaks so justly, has been deserted by the flock which used to worship there under the pastorate of Dr. Somerville, who has of late years made himself famous as the modern apostle of the Gentiles in the Churches scattered over the continents of Europe and Asia. Animated by the desire for an improved and more fashionably situated place of worship, which nowadays characterises all denominations, the congregation have erected a fine Gothic ecclesiastical structure at the Hillhead entrance to Kelvingrove Park. Like their neighbours of the University and St. Mary's, they seem not to have counted the "cost of the tower," or spire, before beginning, to build, and so the design of its able architect, Mr. Sellars, is shorn of one of its principal attractions.

NOTE N.

(4th October 1849. Vol. I. page 126.)

The High Street again occupied the attention of this Court. The hope indulged in as to keeping the College on its old site and improving its surroundings has not been realised; but the suggested continuation of Ingram Street to High Street, and the clearing away of the Broad Close and Blackfriars' Wynd have been effected under the provisions of the City Improvement Act.

St. Andrew's Square has changed little in outward appearance since this date, with the exception of the opening up of James Morrison Street from London Street to Greendyke Street, already alluded to; the erection of a modern warehouse on the south side of the Square, and a large building on the north side, erected through the instrumentality of that marvellous and successful philanthropist Mr. Quarrier, for the shelter of the poor orphan children whom he has made his especial care. The scheme for the purification of the Clyde shadowed forth in this report still remains unfulfilled, and, as far as can be judged, will so remain for many years to come. When engineers and sewage doctors differ so widely as to the best means of remedying the evil, it is not at all likely that the ratepayers will approve of the municipal authorities embarking on a project involving an assessment of 8d. or 9d. per £ of rental.

NOTE O.

(22d October 1849. Vol. I. page 134.)

The mansion-house of David Dale at the south-west corner of Charlotte Street still exists, but the garden is occupied by a large brick erection used as headquarters and drill hall of the 10th L.R.V. The Old Clothes Market, then a rickety structure, has been replaced by a substantial building erected by the Corporation, who also, in their capacity of Improvement Trustees, have taken down and rebuilt the old Model Lodging-House—now known as “Green-dyke Home”—which at this date belonged to a committee of citizens, prominent among whom were Sir James Watson and ex-Provost Blackie, and which was gifted by them to the Improvement Trust.

Calvert’s Theatre and the adjoining ground are now occupied by the Hide and Skin Market, a branch of trade which, under the fostering care of Mr. Ramsay, has of late years attained importance.

NOTE P.

(1st November 1849. Vol. I. page 139.)

The “Gorbals Improvements,” which form the heading of this report, have been carried out with an amplitude far exceeding the anticipations of the editor. The widening of Main Street, styled by Pagan “this most unseemly and unsavoury communication between the Corporation property of Coplawhill and the very heart of the business part of the city,” has been completed, and now forms a spacious thoroughfare, fronted by handsome and lofty tenements of shops and dwellings, not to speak of its theatre and music-hall, the striking Roman portico of which once formed part of the façade of the Union Bank in Ingram Street, designed by the celebrated David Hamilton, architect, in conjunction with his talented son James.

The authorities of this period were deeply impressed with the evils of the smoke nuisance. What a blessing would be secured to unborn generations if our present rulers would grapple successfully with the question!

NOTE Q.

(26th November 1849. Vol. I. page 145.)

The Wellcroft Bowling Club referred to has long been removed from its old position in Main Street, Gorbals. For some years its members were accommodated on the lands of Lilybank, belonging to the patrons of Hutche-

son's Hospital, where they formed a curling-pond in connection with the bowling-green; but the rapid transformation of that locality obliged them to seek "pastures new," which, thanks to the Town Council of Glasgow, as Parks Trustees, they found at the Queen's Park, where it is hoped they may long remain. The Wellcroft Club was one of the most famous of the day, numbering among its members many of our best-known citizens, especially those who had residences on the south or Gorbals side of the river. The game of bowls has grown rapidly in public estimation, not merely in Glasgow, but over the whole length and breadth of the island. Forty years ago the Willowbank in Elm-bank Street, the Albany in Stirling's Road, the Whitevale, and the Wellcroft, were the only clubs in and around Glasgow, and the country clubs were comparatively few. Now every town and village has its bowling-green, where the natives can enjoy themselves after the labours of the day. With all our old affection for the game, we cannot refrain from putting in our caveat here to the Bowling Tournament, which of late years has become a sort of institution. Such gatherings may be an incentive to players to perfect themselves in the "slippery game," but when to the honours of success is added the money motive, we fear that the tendency is to foster the spirit of gambling, which exercises such a demoralising influence on sport and pastime of every kind.

The accommodation bridge referred to is the one now known as Portland Street Suspension Bridge, which for many years has been of such service to the public. It was not without difficulty, however, that the present bridge was raised. Owing to insufficiency of estimates, and defects arising from bad materials and workmanship, the first towers had to be taken down and rebuilt, and for a long time grave doubts were entertained as to its stability. When the Bridge Trustees assumed the care of the city bridges, however, it underwent a thorough examination, was properly strengthened, and is now a satisfactory and substantial structure.

The tenement at the corner of Jamaica Street and Argyll Street is the one now occupied as a warehouse by Robert Simpson and Sons. Attempts were made to widen Argyll Street when the old tenement was removed, and the Statute Labour Committee of that day offered £60 per square yard, which they were advised by John Baird, architect, and Messrs. Lindsay and Broom, builders, was the fair value of the property at that date. The worthy bailie, however, while admitting that he had been offered a large price, was afraid it might injuriously affect the remainder of his subject, and so Argyll Street was limited to its present width, with every likelihood of so remaining for many long years to come.

NOTE R.

(31st December 1849. Vol. I. page 156.)

The matters referred to in this report are of varied interest and importance. The purchase by James Scott, Esq., of the Blythswood Holm property is a

starting-point from which to measure the progress of the city, and the enormous rise in the value of heritable property. In addition to this purchase, Mr. Scott also acquired the lot of ground on the west side of Wellington Street, and the ground on the east side of Bishop Street. Only a few years before, Mr. Scott's predecessor acquired the ground at 40s. per square yard. His price of 75s. per square yard was thought a good profit, for ground in Gordon Street was then only valued at £6 to £7 per square yard, and this, if our memory does not mislead us, was the price paid by Sir Andrew Orr for his corner at Union Street. It is not for us to say what the value is or has been since then. We have had "ups and downs," as will always be the case with a progressive city like ours. We are indebted to Mr. Scott's ownership of this property for the formation of Bothwell Circus from Pitt Street to St. Vincent Street. The project required Parliamentary sanction, which was obtained at Mr. Scott's expense, after a bitter opposition on the part of the Bishop Street proprietors, who saw nothing but ruin staring them in the face if that street was to be disfigured by the bridge crossing it. Mr. Scott only partially carried out the building scheme he had in view when he acquired the property, having limited his operations to building on the north side of Bothwell Street, between Hope Street and Wellington Street, a chaste and elegant range of warehouses and offices, now known as Bothwell Buildings.

Alexander Kirkland, now Chief Commissioner of Buildings in Chicago, was the architect, assisted by the late John Bryce in the details of the elevation. This building ranks as one of the highest character, alike as regards architectural interest and commercial value as a heritable subject. Of late years the rage has been for lofty structures, which, like dark clouds, shut out the sunlight from the centre of the city, piling storey above storey to multiply floor space, with dire financial results. Mr. Scott, on the other hand, took for his guidance the thoughtful policy adopted, after long experience and observation, by Sir James Campbell, and limited the height of his building to three storeys above the level of the street. Had our builders of recent years observed this rule, very different would have been the state of matters from what now exists. Mr. Scott subsequently sold the remainder of his ground adjoining Hope Street and Wellington Street to the Caledonian Railway Company, who for some years had in view the formation of what was termed a Blythswood Holm Railway Station. The adoption of the existing Central Station superseded this scheme, and the ground in the Holm has been disposed of on terms, it is understood, not unfavourable to the Company. The portion fronting Hope Street, opposite Gordon Street, was acquired by an Edinburgh Investment Company, who erected there the buildings known as the Central Arcade. According to the original intention, the upper storeys were to have been occupied as an hotel, but this purpose was departed from owing to a change of policy on the part of the Caledonian Railway Company, who adapted the station buildings originally designed for the Company's offices to the Central Station Hotel. The Central Arcade buildings form an imposing feature in the street architecture of the city, although their great height, combined with

the altitude of the adjoining railway station buildings, is a serious disadvantage to the locality as regards the essentials of light and air.

NOTE S.

(28th January 1850. Vol. I. page 162.)

The Stirling's Road improvements have been completed, and a spacious street now connects the modern west end with ancient Glasgow. The outlay for the ground required in carrying out this improvement was slight—all the proprietors contributing what was required without making any charge.

It is somewhat remarkable that at the present moment the Carron Company are again remodelling their premises in Buchanan Street by modernising the front elevation, according to designs by Mr. Boucher. When the alteration has been completed, the street architecture of this fashionable thoroughfare will be greatly improved.

NOTE T.

(4th February 1850. Vol. I. page 174.)

The "West-End Wynd," we are glad to say, was never formed, arrangements having been effected with the parties interested. The "rural loan" is now Elmbank Street.

It is with strange feelings that at this date (5th November 1883) we read the report of the Dean of Guild Court of 31st January 1850, where notice is taken of Wylie and Lochhead applying for authority to extend their premises in Argyll Street, a few yards west of Virginia Street, and reference is made to the fire which destroyed the buildings on the same site in 1810. It is further a remarkable coincidence that the same premises, after being vacated by Messrs. Wylie and Lochhead, were again burned down while they were occupied as a polytechnic institution, got up by a few public-spirited citizens for the amusement and information of the working-classes. The late Mr. James Crum of Busby, and Mr. John Henderson of Park, the present venerable bailie of Provan, Mr. Couper, Mr. Moore, and others, initiated and energetically promoted this praiseworthy undertaking.

Messrs. Wylie and Lochhead removed to spacious premises on the west side of Buchanan Street, which to-day are in ruins, the conflagration of Saturday night having entirely destroyed their warehouse and its valuable contents besides doing great damage to adjoining property.

NOTE U.

(18th February 1850. Vol. I. page 179.)

The Stockwell Bridge, now known as the Victoria Bridge, was constructed in due course, and fully warrants the encomiums and high expectations of its promoters. It may not be out of place here to note that the foundation-stone was laid, with great pomp of masonry, by the late Duke of Athole, then Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and some two thousand masons gathered from all parts of Scotland. His Grace, who was a most enthusiastic member of the craft, had about this time incurred some opprobrium by attempting to limit the right of passage through Glen Tilt. His appearance in Glasgow on this occasion gave the masons of Scotland an opportunity of testifying their regard for a nobleman who had endeared himself to the affections of his tenantry, and was held in high respect by the Crown. The Duke never forgot the reception accorded to him, and on subsequent occasions attended masonic social gatherings in the city. When the Loch Katrine works were opened by Her Majesty on 14th October 1859, the Duke and Duchess attended the ceremonial, with some two hundred Athole Highlanders and artillery, under the immediate command of the Marquess of Tullibardine, the present Duke of Athole. The municipal authorities of the day felt themselves deeply indebted to the Duke for the great trouble and expense he incurred in aiding their endeavours to receive Her Majesty with due recognition, for, strangely enough, the interposition of official red-tape prevented them obtaining the use of the Queen's ordnance to fire a royal salute on this occasion. In this emergency the Duke of Athole proffered his services; and few, except those immediately concerned, can appreciate the toil and exposure undergone by him and his men during their two nights' bivouac, amid rain and storm, on the hills adjoining the cottage at Loch Katrine. We shall never forget the day following the ceremonial of the opening of the water-works: the sail from Stronachlachar to the Trossachs; the landing at the cottage to allow the Athole men the opportunity of seeing the inlet of the tunnel and the scene of the previous day's ceremony; the march through the Pass of the Trossachs, headed by the Duke and Duchess of Athole, and led on by the stirring note of the bagpipe. The day was one of marvellous beauty, and the picturesque and romantic scene vividly recalled the *Lady of the Lake*, and the other heroic creations with which the immortal Scott has peopled this region. Arriving at the Trossachs Hotel, the Athole party was joined by the guard of honour which had attended Her Majesty, and to the strains of the fine band of the Sussex Militia, then stationed in Glasgow, under command of Lord Arthur Lennox, alternating with the pipes of the Athole Highlanders, the cavalcade marched on to Callander and joined the railway.

The Hutchesontown Bridge at the foot of the Saltmarket has also been removed, and the Albert Bridge substituted. This latest addition to our

Glasgow bridges reflects great credit on the engineers, Messrs. Bell and Miller. It differs in design and construction from the Victoria and Glasgow bridges. The arches, which are three in number, are of iron, the piers are of granite, and the whole possesses an ornamental character of the most effective description.

NOTE V.

(18th March 1850. Vol. I. page 198.)

The Palais Royal in Blythswood Holm, proposed to be erected by Mr. Scott, was, as previously noted, never proceeded with. The Central Arcade buildings occupy the portion of the site fronting Hope Street.

NOTE W.

(28th March 1850. Vol. I. page 199.)

The results of a building mania which prevailed at this time have been strikingly exhibited in our own day. It is a forcible example of the evils arising from "freedom of action" uncontrolled by the "perfect law" of common sense.

NOTE X.

(15th April 1850. Vol. I. page 203.)

The heading of this notice, "More Churches," has a peculiar significance viewed in the light of what has taken place since then. In the interval, every sect and denomination has been lengthening its cords, if not strengthening its stakes, not merely by schemes which may properly be described as church extension in new districts, but by a generally manifested desire for ecclesiastical structures of a more imposing character, placed in some instances in situations more convenient for worshippers of the "Upper," or what is wickedly termed by some the "better-paying," class.

GLASGOW, PAST AND PRESENT.

NOTES ON THE MERCHANTS' HOUSE.

AS the Merchants' House is the Corporation which returns five of the nine members who constitute the Dean of Guild Court, including the President or Lord Dean, it may not be out of place here to devote a few pages to its origin and standing in the city. It is stated by M'Ure, although he does not inform us as to his authority, that merchants, properly so called—viz., those who followed the occupation of buying and selling, as contradistinguished from the trades, who exercised mechanical employments—had obtained a status in Glasgow so early as 1420, in the reign of James I. The first "promoter and propagator" of commerce is said to have been a younger brother of the noble family of Elphinstone, who traded as a curer and exporter of salmon and herrings for the French market, for which brandy and salt were brought back in return. Subsequently, as we are informed by the same authority, an Archibald Lyon, of the noble house of Glamis, came to Glasgow in the train of Archbishop Dunbar, and, becoming a merchant, "undertook great adventures and voyages, in trading to Poland, France, and Holland." Certain it is that Glasgow was considered a place of trade in the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots; and Gibson, in his history (edition 1777), gives the following quaint reason for it:—

"Complaints having been made by Henry the Eighth, King of England, that several ships belonging to his subjects had been taken and robbed by vessels belonging to Scotland, there is an order of Council issued, discharging such captures for the future, and among other places made mention of in this order, is the city of Glasgow."

The order of Council referred to is dated at Edinburgh, August 21, 1546. At this early period, however, the foreign trade of Glasgow must have existed on a very limited scale; but from the occasional mention made in the olden Council records of merchants proceeding to the English markets, and from the convenient position of the place in reference to the western counties, it is apparent that the inhabitants carried on a very considerable amount of home and inland traffic. That the merchants were enterprising and ambitious we have good evidence; for subsequently to the expulsion of the Roman Catholic Prelates, who had officiated as Rulers or Superiors of the Burgh, the municipal authority was, to a great extent, seized and monopolised by the merchants, to the exclusion of the artificers or craftsmen, who were much the more numerous, though, perhaps, at that time, the less intelligent portion of the community.

This abnegation of the principles of "liberty and equality" led to the most serious heats and contentions, which were eventually composed by the "Letter of Guildry," agreed to in 1605, from which period the Merchants' House on the one hand and the Trades' House on the other assumed rank as recognised and legal Corporations in the city, sharing between them exclusively, until the enactment of the Burgh Reform Bill, all the political and municipal authority in the place, and exerting themselves worthily for the growth, well-being, and prosperity of the city. The circumstances which immediately led to this composing measure, the "Letter of Guildry," are thus detailed by M'Ure, writing in 1736:—

"About one hundred and thirty years ago, there was neither Dean of Guild nor Deacon Convener in this city; but only deacons of crafts, and the Magistrates thereof; but indeed the city lay under great inconveniences for want of them, who are here very useful members for deciding all pleas and controversies betwixt merchants and craftsmen; and a letter of Guildry was established for that effect in all time coming, because at that time the trades of Glasgow were far more numerous than the merchants, so they claimed as great a share and interest not only in the government of the city, but also of being equal sharers with the merchants in seafaring trade, to which the merchants were altogether averse, affirming that they were to hold every one to his trade, and not meddle with theirs: upon which there arose terrible heats, strifes, and animosities betwixt them, which was like to end with

shedding of blood; for the trades rose up in arms against the merchants, upon which the Magistrates and ministers of the city called for the leading men of the trades, and advised them to use their endeavours to settle all differences betwixt merchants and trades—whereupon several meetings were held for settling all controversies betwixt them, and accordingly all differences betwixt them were fully eradicated by a submission drawn up betwixt them.”

The submission was accordingly prepared by which the points of difference were left to the decision of Sir George Elphinstone, then Provost, the Parson of Glasgow, and two ministers of the city.¹ A decret-arbitral was given, which was ratified by the Magistrates and Council in February 1605, and was confirmed by Act of Parliament on 11th September 1672. The Letter of Guildry proceeds on the narrative

“that the burgesses and freemen, merchants as well as craftsmen, have sustained loss and damage for many years bygone from strangers usurping the privilege and ancient liberties of the burgh;” and partly by some mutual controversies and civil discords arising amongst the said freemen and burgesses, anent their privileges, places, ranks, and prerogatives—“by the which occasions not only their trade, traffic, and handling has been usurped by strangers and unfreemen, as said is, to the great depauperating of the hail inhabitants within this town; but also all policy and care of the liberties of this burgh has been overseen and neglected, to the great shame and derogation of the honour of this burgh, being one of the most renowned cities within this realm; and having found the only causes thereof to be for the want of the solid and settled order amongst themselves.”

And so forth.

It will be observed that our forefathers held up their heads manfully by declaring Glasgow “one of the most renowned cities” —a title which it must have deserved more from the antiquity and splendour of the recently abrogated Romish ecclesiastical

¹ It is curious to observe, that amongst the signatures of the parties to the submission on behalf of the craftsmen, are those of Messrs. Peter Low and Robert Hamilton, who were physicians and members of the Incorporation of Surgeons and Barbers—the latter being at the time the deacon of the trade. Low had been physician to James VI., and was the founder of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow. The Faculty, out of respect to Low's memory, have acquired, and are the owners of, his grave and monument in the High Church-yard. They have also placed the portrait of this father of the Glasgow physicians in their Faculty Hall. We observe that some of the parties sign the submission, “with our own hands at the pen, led by the Nottar, because we cannot write ourselves.”

establishment, than from its then present wealth and population: for five years after the period referred to, when the people were numbered by the Episcopal Archbishop Spottiswoode, the population only amounted to 7644. Although our present population is 359,000, in round numbers, even we ourselves may be thought to have talked magniloquently of our present importance and renown by a succeeding generation, in whose times the city may number more than a million of inhabitants.

The award referred to declared that there should be, in all time coming, a Dean of Guild and a Deacon Convener, with a Visitor of the Maltmen, "whose elections, statutes, and privileges" are all minutely set forth in the fifty-four sections of which the Letter of Guildry is composed. The functions of the Dean of Guild, in these early times, were highly important, and, if honestly discharged, the office must have been the reverse of a sinecure. We subjoin a few of these as laid down in the Letter of Guildry:—

"The dean of gild shall always be an ordinary counsellor of the great council of the town; he shall have a principal key of the town's charter-chest in keeping."

"The dean of gild and his council shall have power to judge, and give decreets, in all actions, betwixt merchant and merchant, and merchant and mariner, and other gild-brothers, in all matters of merchandise, and other such like causes; and the party refusing to submit his cause to the dean of gild and his council shall pay an unlaw of five pounds money, and the cause being submitted, the party found in the wrong shall pay an unlaw of twenty shilling; which two several unlaws, shall be paid to the dean of gild, and applied to such use as he and his council thinks good."

"The dean of gild and his council, with the master of work, shall bear the burden in decerning all questions of neighbourhood and lyming within this burgh; and no neighbour's work shall be stayed but by him, who shall cause the complainer consign, in his hand, a pledge worth twenty shillings of unlaw. The dean of gild and his council to oversee the common work of the town, above the master of work, to be yearly present at making his accounts. The treasurer to deburse no greater sum than £10 Scots, without signed warrant by baillie, dean of gild, and deacon conveener."

"The dean of gild and his council to oversee and reform the metts and measures, great and small, pint and quart, peck and firloft, and of all sorts within the ellwand, and weights of pound and stone, of all sorts, and to punish and unlaw the transgressors as they shall think expedient."

"The dean of gild and his council shall have power to raise taxation on the gild-brethren, for the welfare and maintenance of their estate, and help of

their decayed gild-brethren, their wives, children, and servants; and whoever refuses to pay the said tax shall be unawed in the sum of forty shilling, so oft as they fail; providing the same exceed not the sum of one hundred pounds money, and at once, upon the whole gild-brethren; which tax being uplifted, the same shall be distributed by the dean of gild and his council, and deacon-conveener, as they shall think expedient."

These dry and perhaps irksome functions were relieved by others of a more jolly and agreeable kind; for when anything like a "dennar" or "jubilation" was going on, the Dean was the right-hand man of the Corporation. For instance, according to the Council records, the Council, on 24th May 1656, "appoyntis the towne's dennar on the first Tysday of June next, to be made reddie in Thomas Glenis' hous, and the Dean of Gild to have an cair thereof, and of thais quha sould be invited thereto." Again, on 4th April 1663, the Council having, in all likelihood, another jollification in prospect, order the Dean of Guild and Convener to appoint some of their number, as they think convenient, "to taist the seek now celled be Mr. Campsie." Though it is no longer, however, the duty of the Dean of Guild to "have a principal key of the town's charter-chest in keeping," or "to taste the seek," these lapsed functions have been replaced by others of a vastly more important description, including the supervision of everything that relates to the external aspect of the city, and much that concerns the personal safety, and the sanitary well-being of the inhabitants, as will be amply evidenced by the reports of the fortnightly list of business presented in the following pages.

It may be interesting to give the following further quotations from the Letter of Guildry, illustrative of the functions of the Dean, and the manner of the times—premising that regulations no less quaint and curious are set down in the same document as applicable to the Deacon Convener and Trades rank:—

"It shall not be leasome to a single burges, who enters hereafter, to be burges, and becomes not a gild-brother, to tap¹ any silk, or silk-work, spices or sugars, drugs or confections, wet or dry, no lawns or cameridge, nor stuffs above twenty shilling per ell, no foreign hats, nor hats with velvet and taffety, that comes out of France, Flanders, England, or other foreign parts; nor to tapp hemp, lint, or iron, brass, copper, or asche; neither to tap wine, in pint

¹ *To tap*,—To sell by auction or outcry.—*Jamieson's Dictionary*.

or quart, great silk, wax, waid, grain, indigo, nor any other kind of litt;¹ neither to buy nor sell, in great, within the liberties of this burgh, salt beef, salmond, nor herring, nor yet to salt any of them, to sell over again, but for their own use allenary; neither to buy plaiding, or cloth, in great, to sell again, within this liberty; nor to buy tallow, above two stones together, except only candlemakers, to serve the town, or any honest man for his own use; nor to buy any sheep skins, to dry and sell over again, or hides to salt and sell again, nor any wild skins, within this liberty, as tod skins, above five together, otters, not above three together, and other wild skins, effering. And sicklike, not to sell any kind of woollen cloth, above thirty-three shilling and four pennies per ell, linen cloth, not above thirteen shilling and four pennies per ell, except such cloth as is made in their house, which they shall have liberty to sell, as they can best; neither buy wool, to sell over again, within this liberty; nor to buy any linen yarn, to sell over again, or to transport out of the town, either in great or small parcels, excepting the weavers of the burgh, who buy yarn to make cloth, and sell the same at pleasure."

"It shall not be leasome to any person, holding ane booth, at any time, to creme upon the High Street; but such as sell Scots cloth, bonnet, shoes, iron-work, and such like handy work used by craftsmen, under the penalty of twenty shillings *toties quoties*."

"It shall not be leasome to any unfreeman to hold stands upon the High-street, to sell anything pertaining to the crafts or handy work, but betwixt eight of the morning and two of the clock in the afternoon, under the penalty of forty shilling; providing that tappers of linen and woollen cloth be suffered from morning to evening, at their pleasure, to sell. All kind of vivers to be sold from morning to evening; but unfreemen, who shall sell white bread, to keep the hours appointed."

"It is agreed and concluded upon, that there shall be a common metster of woollen cloth, whom the dean of gild and his council shall have power to elect yearly, who shall be sworn to be leal and true in such things as shall be committed to his charge, and find sufficient caution; and that he shall measure all packs of beds, or loads of woollen cloth, that comes out of Galloway, Stewarton, or any other parts, to be sold within this burgh; and shall have for the measuring of every hundred ells, from the seller, two shilling; and no other but he that is to measure this sort of cloth shall measure any but himself: he shall also measure all other woollen cloth, that is either bought in small or in great, and so require the buyer or seller, upon the price foresaid; and likewise, he shall measure all sorts of plaiding, which is sold in great, viz. above twenty ells, and shall have for the measuring thereof two shilling per hundred ells, if the buyer or seller require him; and no other is to measure this sort of plaiding but he; and further, he shall measure all kind of unbleached cloth, linen, or harn, if the buyer or seller requires him; and he shall have for measuring every dozen thereof, from the seller, four pennies; and if any person, in defraud of the common metster's interest, shall measure the cloth or plaiding

¹ *Litt*,—Colour, dye, tinge, dye-stuffs.—*Ibid*.

above-mentioned, he shall try the same before the dean of gild, who, after trial, shall compell the seller or buyer, as he shall think fit, to pay to the metster double duty."

The Merchants' House acts in three capacities—as an elective body, a charitable association, and a deliberative assembly. In the first character, it elects the Dean of Guild and his council, who officiate as Directors of the House. In the second, it dispenses from its funds relief to decayed members and their families; and in the third, it meets to express its opinion on public questions, affecting the political, commercial, and civic interests of the community.

Previous to the passing of the Burgh Reform Bill a full moiety of the Town Council was returned from the "Merchant Rank." The political privileges of the House, however, are now centred in the Dean, who takes his seat in the City Council, after his election by the Merchants' House, as a member *ex officio*. It is unnecessary to detail the round-about mode of election which formerly existed. It is enough to say that the Dean and the thirty-six Directors who manage the affairs of the House are elected directly by the matriculated members; and they in turn elect four members of the Dean of Guild Court; four members are also appointed by the Trades' House; and these, including the Lord Dean, as he is gracefully designated by courtesy, gives a bench of nine members. The Dean, although elected annually, almost invariably retains office for two years.

The Merchants' House seems to have been originally a charitable institution. Previous to the date of the Letter of Guildry there was an establishment in the city which was called the "Merchants' Hospital," and in that house it is probable some of the paupers resided. The Letter of Guildry authorises the Dean of Guild to convene the members for the purpose of "ordering their hospital," and appropriates a part of the freedom fine of a merchant burgesse "to the hospital of his calling." The preamble to the first Guild-book, in 1659, narrates a meeting of the merchant rank in the Hospital, the object of which is stated to be "anent the re-edifying the fabric of the said Hospital, being for the present in ane decaying condition." The existence, therefore, of

an establishment antecedent to the building which was erected for the Merchants' House in Bridgegate, and which for nearly 200 years formed one of the principal ornaments of the town, is plainly defined. It is possible that this "Merchants' Hospital" existed even before the Letter of Guildry in 1605; but the records regarding its original establishment have disappeared.

Some particulars regarding the fine old Bridgegate Hall will be found at pages 102, 103, and 104 of this volume. We may only add, that the building which the Merchants subsequently erected for their hall and offices, in Hutcheson Street, and opened in November 1843, cost £12,300.

There is no evidence of the Merchants' House having met to deliberate on any subject, except their own immediate business, till after the Revolution in 1688. In the year 1686 it is stated on the Journals that James II. interposed his mandate for the appointment of Mr. Robert Campbell as Dean of Guild; from which it is probable that his predecessor had betrayed symptoms of the rising spirit of liberty. The first meeting that is recorded for deliberation was in 1694, to consider of a tax of 8d. per pound on seamen's wages, for the support of that class of poor. In 1699 the House was convened at the request of the Magistrates to give their advice and concurrence respecting the relief of the poor of the city, when "it was resolved unanimously that the haill poor belonging to the towne be maintained," and "it was determined by a pluralitie of votes, that a general stente thorrow the whole towne is the most effectual method of subsisting the poor." On the 9th April 1700, "six of the merchant rank, and six of the trades' rank," were appointed "for taking superintendence of the public account-books of the burgh, and how the same has been expended by the Managers of the Town's business, and others relative to the Town's haill business." In the first rebellion of 1715 the House agreed, on the motion of the Provost, that the town may borrow a sum not exceeding £500, "to draw lynds round the City for defence." In 1745, when the demand of £15,000 was made by the Pretender's secretary, and was afterwards restricted to £5500, it was resolved "to agree to the same, as necessity has no law."

A great variety of political and civic questions from that period occupied the consideration of the House. Addresses to the Throne ; petitions to the Legislature ; and resolutions of the House on various occasions, such as expressions of loyalty to the Crown, and of attachment to the Constitution ; the defence of the country, by manning the navy and raising volunteers ; the relief of the mercantile body, in cases of public grievance ; the Corn-laws ; the stoppage of the Distilleries ; the East India Monopoly ; the Trial by Jury in Civil Causes ; the Police Bill, and other questions relative to the Corporation of the City, and the local interests of the community, have formed the subject of consideration and interposition.¹

Of late years the Merchants' House—meaning thereby the general body of the matriculated members—has been rarely called together, excepting on the occasion of the annual elections. The duty of attending to political subjects, or matters of local interest, is almost exclusively left to the directors ; and in these liberal days, when all consider themselves entitled to knock at the doors of Parliament for anything and everything, it must be stated to the credit of the Lord Dean and his Council, that they have not abused their privilege of addressing the Legislature. The varied character of the “demonstrations” in the City Hall, and the multiform “notices of motion,” resolutions, and petitions which emanate from the Town Council, amply compensate, however, for the reserve now exhibited on political subjects by the Merchants' House.

Up till the year 1747, the Merchants' House was composed of all the members of the merchant rank who were burgesses. From a deficiency in the funds, however, it was resolved “to increase the stock for the maintenance of the poor,” and to create a fund “for supporting and defending the just rights and privileges of the fair trader.” With this view, an Act of the House was passed on 23d April 1747, which was ratified by the Magistrates

¹ The two preceding paragraphs are extracted from a valuable pamphlet, entitled—“View of the History, Constitution, and Funds of the Guildry and Merchants' House of Glasgow,” written by James Ewing, Esq. of Strathleven, when that gentleman filled the office of Dean of Guild, in 1817.

and Council on the 7th May, by which it was ordained that the right of membership should in future be only obtained on payment of an entry-money of five shillings sterling, and thereafter a yearly payment of four shillings sterling. This qualification was raised, on the 14th March 1773, to four pounds sterling of entry-money in full; and on the 8th March 1791 to ten guineas. According to the regulations of the same year (1747) the members were divided into two classes—foreign and home traders. This distinction ceased on the passing of the Burgh Reform Bill, and the Merchants' House now recruits its ranks from the worthy, industrious, and enterprising of all classes. Ten guineas is still the sum exigible upon admission to the Merchants' House, and though now greatly shorn of its political privileges, the corporation is still regarded by the best class of our citizens as one in which it is an honourable duty to enrol themselves. During the last two years, no fewer than 130 gentlemen have been added to the roll of matriculated members. The total number of names on the list is about two thousand; but as many of the members have removed from the city, and died in distant parts, it has not been found possible to make out an exact list. As near as can be ascertained, however, from an investigation now in progress, the number of surviving members is believed to be not less than one thousand.

We have already noticed the mode in which the Dean of Guild Court is constituted, consisting of the Dean, and four Merchant, and four Trades' Liners—a number which has remained unaltered since the institution of the corporation, nearly two hundred and fifty years since. The Dean of Guild presides, and expresses his opinion first. In his absence, the Sub-Dean takes the chair, who is also generally of the merchant rank. Formerly, according to Mr. Ewing, it was understood that the members acted merely as the Dean's advisers, and that he alone was entitled to decide; but now the Court is popular. Occasionally there is a division amongst the members on the bench, but very rarely. Mr. Ewing's first interpretation is, however, legally speaking, the correct one, we believe. It has always been considered the duty of the first Town Clerk to sit as legal assessor at this Court; but

when incapacitated from illness, one of his brethren from the Clerk's table takes the place. The Court used at one time to sit weekly; but, strange to say, notwithstanding the vast extension of the city, the proceedings have been so creditably methodised, that a sederunt on each alternate Thursday is usually found enough for the despatch of business.¹ In cases of emergency the Dean can, and does, assemble his Court whenever he finds cause. In former times, however, there were brought before the Dean many cases regarding burgess entries, questions of propinquity, infringements of the monopoly of trading, and private bickerings on these points between the citizens, which, from the altered circumstances of the times, are no longer brought before this or any other Court.

In all matters concerning the lining or relative position of houses intended to be built—repairs or alterations on houses already built—waste and ruinous tenements—encroachments and obstructions—joint property, and the reciprocal rights and interests of parties—the condition of streets, foot-pavements, and sewers, etc., the jurisdiction of the Court has always been ample, and recent Acts have also granted it authority in sanitary questions, which, all taken together, render its influence in promoting the comfort and safety of the lieges very great indeed. In reference to the form of procedure in the Court, we extract the following from Mr. Ewing's pamphlet—the system still remaining the same in all essential points:—

“By the Letter of Guildry, ‘no procurator or man of law shall be admitted to speak or procure for any person, before the Dean of Guild and his Council, but the parties allenary.’ The practice in this respect is entirely changed, and the business is now almost solely conducted by procurators. All applications to the Court must be made in the form of a petition, containing a statement of facts, and a specification of the particulars with respect to which the interposition of the Court is craved. If the petition be from a private

¹ The ancient “Burrowe Lawes” prescribe the Lyners' duty as follows:—“Of Lyners within Burrowe. The Provost, with the Counsail of the Communitie, sould elect and cheise Lyners, at the least four wise and discreite men, swa that na crye nor complainte come to the King's Chalmerlane, [this Officer was the Superintendent of the Boroughs,] and the Lyners sall swaere that they sall faithfullie lyne in lenth as in breadness, according to the richte meithe and marches within Burrowe.”—*Bur. Lawes*, c. 184, *Reg. Majestatum*.

party, it must be signed by him or his procurator; and if it contain a complaint on behalf of the public, it must be subscribed by the Procurator-Fiscal. In all cases where the public interest is concerned, the Superintendent of Public Works must be made a party. The principal part of the procedure is in writing, but after the cause has been so stated, there is generally *viva voce* discussion. In cases of lining, and whenever it is necessary to ascertain the relative situation and actual condition of the property in question, the Court assigns a visit, and proceeds on the evidence afforded by judicial inspection. Where more technical knowledge is considered requisite, the Court remits to skilled tradesmen to examine and report; and when the operation is ordained to be performed in a particular manner, the Court remits the superintendence of the execution either to one or more of its own members, or to experienced artisans."

The funds and revenue of the Merchants' House have arisen from contributions, donations, guild-book subscriptions, and entry-money from members; legacies and mortifications; sums paid for the use of mort-cloths at funerals, fines arising from the entry of burgesses, apprentice fees, bucket-money, and from the refusal of persons to serve as Magistrates and Councillors of the Merchant rank. The fine, for instance, for refusing to serve as a Magistrate was £80, and as a Councillor £40, which, when exacted, belonged to the funds of the House. Four of these sources of revenue have now disappeared. The Merchants' House will no longer profit by the refusal of any citizen to accept municipal honours; it no longer traffics in burials, excepting by the sale of tombs in its "Fir Park," now the beautiful Necropolis; apprentices are either not bound at all, or they are bound without the House interfering in the matter; and "bucket-money," of which the great majority of the present generation of citizens have never heard, has ceased to exist. This consisted of a fee of 8s. 4d., paid by every burges at entry, to assist in extinguishing fires; but the waif passed to the Treasurer of the Police Commissioners, when fire-engines were provided by them for the use of the public, and it has now altogether lapsed.

The stock of the Merchants' House is of two descriptions—the first, consisting of its own free stock, over which it has absolute disposal; and the second, of property bequeathed to the House in the form of mortifications, the proceeds of which have been left either to the discretion of the House for charitable purposes, or

destined by the donors to special objects, under particular regulations. In the last case the House are merely the Trustees or Executors of the founders. The list of these donators contains many honoured names, from that of Zachary Boyd, downwards. The latest, and not the least considerable of these mortifications, was founded last year, in terms of the dying request of the late Mrs. Speirs of Elderslie, carried out in a most generous spirit by her surviving daughters, the Misses Speirs of Polmont Park. In reference to this munificent donation we make the following—

“Extract from the Minute of the Directors of the MERCHANTS' HOUSE of GLASGOW, convened on 25th April 1850.

“Present—Andrew Galbraith, Esq., Dean of Guild, in the chair.

“The Dean of Guild intimated to the meeting that he had now the honour to announce an act of generosity which he was sure would be hailed by those present, as well as by the other Members of the Merchants' House, with feelings of gratitude and respect. He thereupon stated that the Misses Speirs of Polmont Park had, through their nephew, Captain Speirs of Culcreuch, intimated to him that their mother, the late Mrs. Mary Buchanan or Speirs of Polmont Park, relict of Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie, merchant in Glasgow, having expressed a desire that a sum of £1000 of her means should be laid aside for accumulation, till it amounted to £2000, and thereupon invested for behoof of certain decayed Members of the Merchants' House, or their widows or orphans,—the Misses Speirs, in anticipation of the contemplated accumulation, had, with most commendable generosity, expressed their readiness now to pay the full amount which their mother had desired; and the following was submitted by Captain Speirs as the terms upon which the money would be paid, and according to which the Dean of Guild and Directors of the House are to administer the same, namely—

“1st. The Misses Speirs, in pursuance of their mother's wishes, will pay to the Treasurer of the Merchants' House, in Glasgow, the sum of £2000 sterling at the term of Whitsunday next, 1850.

“2d. This sum is given to be vested in real or undoubted security, and the interest to be divided annually among four decayed Members of the Merchants' House, or widows and orphans of such Members. The annuity to be for four years, but may be continued to some parties, if judged expedient. Persons of the names of Speirs and Buchanan to have preference.

“3d. The proprietors of Elderslie, Culcreuch, and Polmont Park (being descendants of Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie and Culcreuch, and Mrs. Mary Buchanan, his wife) to have a right to nominate parties to enjoy said annuities; but should they not choose, or fail, to exercise this right, then the Dean of Guild and Directors, for the time being, shall enjoy and exercise the right of presenting.

"This gift is in perpetual remembrance of the above-named Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie, formerly merchant in Glasgow, and the principal never to be broken on.

"Whereupon the Directors unanimously and most cordially expressed, not only their feelings of respect for the memory of Mrs. Speirs, who had so generously expressed the benevolent wish to provide a sum which would in time afford relief to an extent which, as a gift, was unparalleled in the annals of the House,¹ but also their admiration of the generous feeling and filial regard which actuated the Misses Speirs in carrying out the wishes of their parent."

The Directors of the House have just adorned their small hall of assembly with copies of the portraits of Mr. Speirs and his venerable partner. They are admirably painted by M'Nee, our local Lawrence, from the originals in the possession of Captain Speirs of Culcreuch.

The revenue of the Merchants' House, apart from the proceeds of mortifications, has progressed slowly but surely. In 1661 it amounted to £371 sterling, of which no less than £153 were derived from "bucket-money;" £102 from burgess fines; and £26 from mort-cloths. In 1755 the annual revenue had increased to £967; and in 1817 to £1375.

In the year ending 31st August 1850 the receipts of the Merchants' House, exclusive of the Speirs' gift, amounted to £3152:13:2½. In the same period the sums expended in pensions was £1517:13:3; and there was this year an increase of £1824:4:11 made to the free stock of the House. Of this amount £1500 were derived from what is termed the "Necropolis Fund." This is comparatively a new item in the Merchants' House revenue. For a very long series of years the "Fir Park," or "Merchants' Park," situated on the eastern bank of the Molen-dinar, immediately opposite, and overlooking the Cathedral, was an almost unproductive possession of the House; but about nineteen years ago it was laid out as a cemetery, in the style of *Pere la Chaise*, and while it has formed an ornament of which the city may well be proud, it is at the same time the means of augmenting the funds of one of its noblest charities. As the funds of the Necropolis have been kept distinct, and allowed to accumulate, the sum of £1500, above referred to, is the first instalment which has been contributed in extension of the free stock of the House.

At 31st August 1850 the free stock of the House amounted to £38,684:8:11; but, including mortifications, the total sum is £44,020:4:9.

James Ewing (who died 29th November 1853) bequeathed £20,000 to the Merchants' House.

DEANS OF GUILD.

We append the following authentic list of Deans of Guild from the era of the "Letter of Guildry" to the present time (1851). It is copied from the MS. records of the Merchants' House:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1605-6 Matthew Turnbull. | 1653-54-55 . . James Hamilton. |
| 1607 Archibald Faulds. | 1656-57 John Bell. |
| 1608 William Sommer. | 1658-59 James Campbell. |
| 1609 George Master. | 1660 James Barns. |
| 1610-11 James Bell. | 1661-62 Frederick Hamilton. |
| 1612 William Weems. | 1663-64 John Barns. |
| 1613-14 James Bell. | 1665 Frederick Hamilton. |
| 1615-16 John Lawson. | 1666 James Pollock. |
| 1617 John Rowat. | 1667-68 John Walkinshaw. |
| 1618-19 Colin Campbell. | 1669 John Anderson. |
| 1620-21 John Rowat. | 1670 Frederick Hamilton. |
| 1622 Colin Campbell. | 1671 Robert Rae. |
| 1623-24 Mathew Turnbull. | 1672-73 John Walkinshaw. |
| 1625 Patrick Bell. | 1674 John Caldwell. |
| 1626 Mathew Turnbull. | 1675-76-77 . . Frederick Hamilton. |
| 1627-28 Colin Campbell. | 1678 Ninian Anderson. |
| 1629-30 Patrick Bell. | 1679-80-81 . . Robert Campbell. |
| 1631-32 John Barns. | 1682-83 Hugh Nisbet. |
| 1633-34 Henry Glen. | 1684 John Fleming. |
| 1635-36 John Barns. | 1685 Robert Cross. |
| 1637-38 James Hamilton. | 1686 George Johnston. |
| 1639-40 Walter Stirling. | 1687-88 Robert Campbell. |
| 1641 James Bell. | 1689-90 William Napier. |
| 1642-43 John Barns. | 1691 James Peadie. |
| 1644-45 Henry Glen. | 1692-93 John Leckie. |
| 1646 Andrew Cunningham. | 1694-95 John Cross. |
| 1647 James Hamilton. | 1696-97 John Aird. |
| 1648-49 William Dunlop. | 1698-99 Robert Rodger. |
| 1650 John Graham. | 1700-1 John Aird. |
| 1651-52 William Dunlop. | 1702-3 Robert Zuill. |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1704-5 | John Aird. | 1779-80 | Alexander M'Caul. |
| 1706-7 | John Bowman. | 1781-82 | John Campbell. |
| 1708-9 | Thomas Peeters. | 1783-84 | James Macgrigor. |
| 1710-11 | Thomas Smith. | 1785-86 | Alexander Brown. |
| 1712-13 | Robert Zuill. | 1787-88 | William Coats. |
| 1714-15 | Thomas Smith. | 1789-90 | Alexander Low. |
| 1716-17 | Adam Montgomery. | 1791-92 | Gilbert Hamilton. |
| 1718-19 | Thomas Thomson. | 1793-94 | John Dunlop. |
| 1720-21 | James Peadie. | 1795-96 | John Laurie. |
| 1722-23 | Gilbert Buchanan. | 1797-98 | Robert Findlay. |
| 1724-25 | John Stark. | 1799-1800 | Archibald Smith. |
| 1726-27 | James Peadie. | 1801-2 | John Laurie. |
| 1728 | Hugh Rodger. | 1803-4 | Robert Carrick. |
| 1729-30 | Andrew Buchanan. | 1805-6 | John Laurie. |
| 1731-32 | William Cunningham. | 1807-8 | James Black. |
| 1733-34 | Andrew Ramsay. | 1809-10 | John Hamilton. |
| 1735-36 | Arthur Tran. | 1811 | Robert M'Nair. |
| 1737-38 | John Gartshore. | 1812-13 | Daniel Mackenzie. |
| 1739-40 | James Robertson. | 1814-15 | John Guthrie. |
| 1741-42 | George Bogle. | 1816-17 | James Ewing. |
| 1743-44 | Mathew Bogle. | 1818 | Henry Monteith. |
| 1745-46 | George Bogle. | 1819-20 | Robert Findlay. |
| 1747-48 | John Brown. | 1821-22 | William Smith. |
| 1749-50 | George Bogle. | 1823-24 | Mungo N. Campbell |
| 1751-52 | George Murdoch. | 1825-26 | Robert Dalgleish. |
| 1753-54 | Robert Chrystie. | 1827-28 | Alexander Garden. |
| 1755-56 | John Bowman. | 1829-30 | Stewart Smith. |
| 1757-58 | Archibald Ingram. | 1831-32 | James Ewing. |
| 1759-60 | Colin Dunlop. | 1833-34 | James Hutchison. |
| 1761-62 | Archibald Ingram. | 1835-36 | James Martin. |
| 1763-64 | George Brown. | 1837-38 | William Brown. |
| 1765-66 | Arthur Connell. | 1839-40 | James Browne. |
| 1767-68 | John Campbell. | 1841-42 | William Gray. |
| 1769-70 | Archibald Smellie. | 1843-44 | Hugh Cogan. |
| 1771-72 | George Brown. | 1845-46 | John Leadbetter. |
| 1773-74 | James Buchanan. | 1847-48 | James Bogle. |
| 1775-76 | John Campbell. | 1849-50 | Andrew Galbraith. |
| 1777-78 | Hugh Wylie. | 1851 | William Connal. |

NOTES ON THE TRADES' HOUSE.

Much of the preceding narrative, especially that referring to the Letter of Guildry, will be found applicable to the ancient and highly respectable Corporation of the Trades' House. No records

belonging to the House are extant prior to the year 1605 ; but it is evident from the Letter of Guildry itself, as well as from the charters in favour of several of the Incorporations, that long before the date referred to the Trades of Glasgow existed in the light of a great body corporate, and had the property of a hospital belonging to them. Since an early period, therefore, the Trades have been intimately identified with the growth of the city ; contributed to its prosperity ; shared in its municipal government, and heartily supported its charitable institutions. The general body consists of fourteen distinct Incorporations, which separately manage their own affairs, and representatives from each of these Incorporations constitute "The Trades' House," or what may be termed the Upper Chamber.

Though no longer possessed of exclusive privileges of trading, and though their exclusive share in the municipal government of the city is now limited to the return of the Deacon-Convener to the City Council, and four members to the Dean of Guild Court, the separate Trades, as well as the Trades' House, maintain a healthy existence as charitable institutions, and exert a prominent influence in the city for good. In all times they have been distinguished alike for their benevolence and patriotism. It may be interesting to notice a few of their benefactions. Thus, in January 1776 they voted £50 for enlarging and widening the Old Bridge of Glasgow. In December 1777 they voted £500 to assist in raising the Glasgow Regiment. [It may be explained that Glasgow was at this time deeply interested in the Virginia trade ; and accordingly the "Revolt of the Colonists," as it was termed, was regarded with peculiar disfavour in this city, and the regiment was placed at the disposal of Government for the purpose of quelling the rebellion. This "revolt," however, resulted in the establishment of the United States of America.] In February 1794 the members of the House voted £400 towards building the Glasgow Royal Infirmary ; and in October 1815 they voted the further sum of £200 to said institution. In September 1803 they voted £500 sterling towards defraying the expenses of raising a volunteer corps of craftsmen, consisting of six hundred men. In October 1805 they voted £250 towards

building the Glasgow Lunatic Asylum. In February 1824 they voted £50 towards erecting a monument to the memory of John Knox. In December of the same year they voted £105 towards erecting a monument to Mr. Watt, the inventor of the steam-engine. In September 1827 they voted £300 towards erecting an Asylum for the Blind.

In the year ending September 1850 the revenue of the Trades' House was £2119. At the same time the value of the stock was estimated at £65,000. This includes, however, the sum of nearly £33,000 charged for the lands of Kelvinbank and Sandyford, which were purchased above five years ago. These lands are to a certain extent unproductive; but they are admirably adapted for feuing purposes, and, as the city presses westwards, they will, no doubt, become highly remunerative. Meanwhile, the best "spoke in the wheel" of the Trades' House is the share of the Gorbals Lands, which were acquired in a former age conjointly with the City Corporation and Hutcheson's Hospital. The proportion of revenue for the House in 1850 was £1140.¹ After payment of interest the funds are expended in donations to pensioners, bursars, the Trades' Free School, etc.

The funds of the Trades' House, like those of the Merchants' House, have swelled from small beginnings. From records of the House still extant they appear to have arisen from certain annual sums paid by the different Incorporations; from burgess fines of those who entered as craftsmen; from sums paid as guild brethren; from donations; from certain sums formerly paid by each new deacon of the different crafts, but which have been dis-

¹ The Trades' House may have been influenced in the making of their late purchase of feuing grounds by the fact, that the value of the Trades' proportion of the Gorbals Lands, which cost originally £1726, has now increased so amazingly as to be estimated at £124,000: or, in other words, that a share which originally cost £55:15s., is now worth £4000. These lands are held by the House and eleven of the Incorporations in the following proportions, as valued at twenty-five years' purchase:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|
| Trades' House | £32,000 | Skinners | £8,000 |
| Hammermen | 8,000 | Wrights | 4,000 |
| Tailors | 24,000 | Coopers | 4,000 |
| Cordiners | 8,000 | Fleshers | 4,000 |
| Maltmen | 24,000 | Masons | 2,000 |
| Weavers | 4,000 | | |
| Bakers | 2,000 | | |
| | | | £124,000 |

continued since the year 1742, and from sums mortified to the House.

Irrespective of the Trades' House, each of the Incorporations has a fund of its own, the aggregate capital value of which is estimated at about £200,000, returning an annual revenue of nearly £8500, of which a full moiety is dispensed in charity to decayed members, or widows and children connected with the several trades. The total number of names on the roll of the several Incorporations is about 3200; but as many of these are members of more than one Incorporation, the total number is proportionally reduced.

The meetings of the House, as well as those of the several Incorporations, were held from time immemorial in the Trades' Hospital, near the High Church; but on 9th September 1791 the foundation-stone of the present hall in Glassford Street was laid, and it was erected, including the site of the buildings, at a cost of £7207 sterling. This was not carried out without considerable opposition from some of the Trades, as will be seen from the following sturdy protest against ornamenting the *west* end of the town and squandering the funds of the poor, which we insert as a curiosity, by way of closing this brief chapter:—

*“Reasons of Protest by John Herbertson against a New Trades’
Hall and Steeple.*

“1st. The present Hall is fully sufficient for the accommodation of this trade. It served our forefathers, and if we were inheritors of their wisdom and humility, it would satisfy us.

“2d. The folly of this measure will appear, if it is considered that this Incorporation, not many weeks ago, made application to the Magistrates and Council, to allow them to enact that fines should be more than doubled, and this for the better support of the poor.

“3d. The sum to be advanced by this trade, if the resolutions of the Trades' House were carried into execution, in erecting a new Hall in Glassford Street, would be most unjustifiable in speculating with the funds of the trade, which are chiefly, if not wholly, for the support of poor members and their distressed families.

“The arguments used by the supporters of this Hall are mostly chimerical, such as ought not to be used by those who have given their solemn oath to act faithfully for the good of the trade and their poor.

“Their chief topic is ornamenting the west end of the town—and this,

indeed, is the only solid reason they can give, all the others are visionary—for they suppose that the four shops will let for £100 per annum, which is a chance. The large Hall may yield, for accommodation of doctors Katterfelto and Graham, dancing masters and fiddlers, balls and concerts, 5s. per week, and the four garret rooms 5s. per week, which will raise £26 per annum; but as it cannot be reasonably expected that the Collector of the Trades' House will constantly be in waiting to settle with those light-fingered and light-heeled gentry, a person must be appointed and paid, which may reduce the £26 to £13—which reduces the probable rent to £113.

“5th. It is estimated in whole at £3300, but as the expense uniformly exceeds the estimate, it may be stated at £4000, so that the poor will lose nearly one-half of the interest, or £100 per annum.

“6th. There are only *four* of the Trades who require it—viz., the Weavers, Tailors, Wrights, and Cordiners.

“7th. In all proposals of trade we ought to have constantly in view the better support of the poor. If there was an absolute necessity for a new Hall, why not build it on our own ground, which is a more healthy situation. It will cost nothing. More will be paid for the ground in Glassford Street, the steeple with bell and iron ballustrades, than will finish a plain Hall suitable for the Crafts in the north end of the town. Indeed, £1600 is too much for ornamenting any part of the town, more especially as it is to be taken from the funds of the poor.

“These are a few of the reasons against this Hall, in which the subscriber is confident he will be joined by every conscientious member of this Trade. On his reconsidering this matter, craves that this protest may be entered in the Records of the Incorporation of Maltmen.

“(Signed)

JOHN HERBERTSON.

“GLASGOW, 4th *August* 1791.”

DEAN OF GUILD COURT.

(20th November 1848.)

OLD HOUSES—IRISH WAKES.

AN important Court was held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 1848, by the Lord Dean of Guild and his Council of Glasgow; and the public will be gratified to learn that the authorities there are proceeding vigorously with the inspection of various properties in the city and suburbs which have been reported as being in a ruinous or dangerous state. These exertions, it is only fair to say, had commenced previous to the late Alston Street catastrophe;¹ but no doubt that sad occurrence has imparted renewed zeal to the officials, as well as to the Court itself, in enforcing the powers conferred upon it by the Legislature. At this day's Court, the individual and collective proprietors of no fewer than thirty distinct tenements were charged, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, with having their properties in a ruinous and dangerous state, or, at least, in such a state as to excite alarm in reference to their safety and stability. These properties are principally situated in Main Street, Rutherglen Loan, Gorbals, and on the east side of High Street, the Spoutmouth, the Old and New Wynds, and some other of the densely-populated localities in the city. Amongst the cases on the list which were disposed of, we may instance the tenement belonging to the community of the village of Gorbals, well known as the "Community's Land," and situated at the corner of Main Street and Kirk Street. It was ordered to

¹ The catastrophe here referred to was the fall of a sugar-refining house in Alston Street on the morning of Monday, October 20, 1848, by which thirteen workmen were killed in the ruins, and one afterwards died in the Infirmary.

be taken down. This case furnishes a striking instance of the frail condition of many of the dwellings occupied by not a few of the poorer classes. For the last forty years the "Community's Land" has remained in its present rickety condition—hanging together rather from old attachment than from solid cohesion; but it so happened last week that a decent Paddy had died in the premises at a green old age, and out of respect to his virtues it was resolved by his friends that he should have Christian wake and burial. Accordingly a large number of sympathisers assembled in the apartment in which the body lay, which, by the way, was so confined that a dancing-dog might have complained of want of elbow-room therein to exhibit his antics. Of course there was an unusual weight accumulated on one portion of the tenement; and, when the whisky began to speak, there was the usual amount of boisterous merriment, relieved and varied by occasional Celtic howls, in the midst of which the entire inmates were alarmed by the wall fronting Main Street suddenly becoming rent, and the whole fabric evincing symptoms of speedy dissolution. The building was immediately "shored," as it is termed, or propped up by beams, and temporarily rendered secure, in which condition it at present remains. The threatened tumble-down of the fabric did not, however, stop the old Irishman's *dredgy*; for, upon the following day, when the Inspectors from the Dean of Guild Court visited the premises they found the sympathising friends still keeping up the wake in all its glory; but they had evidently become more drunk and more tender-hearted than they had shown themselves on the night before. They were closely seated on wooden benches, smoking tobacco vigorously, drinking whisky daintily, and discussing earnestly the question of repeal, the wrongs of Ireland, and the cruel persecution of Meagher and Smith O'Brien. The defunct cause of all this tipsy gathering lay in a corner of the apartment, with a Bible and plate of salt on his breast, and a number of candles placed around the body—the living and the dead together. Now, seriously speaking, in times like these, the authorities, if they are apprised of it, should prevent these congregations, where fifteen or twenty people are assembled in a small room, for a day or two, with a dead body

amongst them, on the pretence that they are mourning for the departed, while in reality they are getting drunk as fast as possible. In the case of some of the tenements recently condemned and ordered to be taken down, we are informed, that should anything in the Donnybrook style have been got up in them, or should a powerful Irishman or two desire to take their will of the floor, in the matter of a "jig," the whole concern would, to a moral certainty, have tumbled about their ears.

The old high "land" situated on the west side of Main Street, Gorbals, and known as the "Ark," was also overhauled. This tenement obtained its singular name from the proprietor having taken twenty years to build it with his own hands, which he did with materials and stone dressings of every description, and brought from various quarters. It is at present inhabited by thirty families; and though the case is still under consideration, it is evident, from the indication of the mind of the Court, that the house will either be taken down or be thoroughly gutted and renovated.

At this Court considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by several proprietors, by reason of their being required to pay from £2 to £3, as the expense of the judicial scrutiny of their property—some of them stating that if they had been asked to take down their houses on the ground of insecurity they would have done so at once, without any preliminary expense. Now, we do trust that no such objections will prevent the effectual supervision by the authorities of every description of property in this city. It does not follow that proprietors are entitled to be informed by the public when their tenements are out of repair; for law and common sense suppose that the owner himself should be the best judge of the condition of his property; and if he has suspicions he can easily, by means of tradesmen, satisfy himself of the sufficiency or insufficiency of his houses, without any interference on the part of the Dean of Guild. This Court generally only interposes in cases of a public or clamant nature. The effect of taking down so much old property in the densely-peopled parts of the city will, no doubt, in a sanitary point of view, be highly beneficial, by temporarily scattering the crowded population over a wider surface, and making more room for those who remain.

At the Court of which we have been speaking, the members were—Andrew Galbraith, Esq., Dean of Guild ; James Black, Esq., Sub-Dean ; with their Council, composed as follows:—William Murray, Esq., Monkland Steel Works ; James Lumsden, jun., Esq. ; James Leechman, Esq., from the Merchants' House ; and Deacons Cruickshanks, M'Connechie, P. Macgregor, and Miller, from the Trades' House ; Mr. Forbes officiated as Assessor ; Mr. Burnet as Fiscal ; and Mr. Carrick for the public interest.

(*4th December 1848.*)

OLD HOUSES—NUISANCES.

The ordinary meeting of this Court was held on Thursday, November 30—A. Galbraith, Esq., the Lord Dean of Guild, presiding. At the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, many owners of houses were charged with having their properties in a ruinous and dangerous condition, and for various contraventions of the Police Act. A number of these houses, which are principally situated in the High Street, the Old Wynd, and Spoutmouth, were either ordered to be taken down, or the matter was remitted to competent tradesmen to inspect and report to next meeting of the Court. Amongst the rest, a large amount of the property, situated in Close 75, High Street, better known as the "Fiddler's Close," was under consideration, and placed in the black list. This locality presents striking remembrancers of the olden time, and it is one of the few spots in the city which still shows some remains of the semi-wooden erections of the seventeenth century—so common in Glasgow in the days of our fathers. We therefore contemplate almost with some regret the possibility of seeing it swept away. Obscure and dirty though it may be, once it was the abode of well-conditioned, church-going tradesmen and craftsmen ; but now it supplies domiciles to the very poorest and most wretched of the population. It is altogether in a very dilapidated condition—the water coming in by the roof, and finding its way through the whole building ; moreover, the level of the close is

below the street, and the floors are sunk below the close—so the glory of the Fiddler's Close hath departed, and an entire reconstruction of the spot is considered necessary before any real improvement can be effected for the residents. "It is, to be sure," as Sir Walter Scott remarks, "more picturesque to lament the desecration of towers on hills and haughs than the degradation of an Edinburgh close; but I cannot help thinking of the simple and cozy retreats where worth and talent, and eloquence to boot, were often nestled, and which now are the resort of misery, filth, poverty, and vice."

(15th December 1848.)

DRAINS—OLD HOUSES—NEW PRINCES' OPERA HOUSE.

On Thursday, December 14, the Dean of Guild Court had a sederunt of four hours—Andrew Galbraith, Esq., the Lord Dean, in the Chair—when a good deal of business, and that of an important kind, was transacted. The large square of brick building, situated in the Havannah, forming part of the subjects which fell last week, when a workman lost his life, was condemned, and ordered to be taken down forthwith. We may add that, previous to this accident, the tenants had been removed at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal.

In the "Fiddler's Close," High Street, a locality for which we have expressed a homely kindness, on account of its associations with the olden time, a large range of the rickety property was ordered to be taken down immediately. The tradesmen, in their report, stated that the remainder might be allowed to remain till Whitsunday 1849; but the premises were in such a dilapidated state, that it was impossible thoroughly to repair them. The proprietors, however, expressed a wish that the whole concern might be ordered down at once; for the portion of the "Fiddler's Close" to which a few months' respite was accorded, is principally tenanted by Irish squatters, who have brought to the meridian of Glasgow those principles of "tenant-right" and landlord-repudia-

tion, which are considered the essence of honesty and fair play in some parts of their own land. These folks, who are anything but tenants-at-will, have no kindness for the Fiddler's Close, as a spot endeared to them by the recollections of childhood; but they have nevertheless a peculiar affection for the crazy old fabrics, by reason that they have hitherto been enabled to keep possession, and allow the owner to whistle for his rent. It is scarcely possible to credit the great amount of property which is held in Glasgow under a similar incubus. Truly, the owners of such tenements are to be pitied; and it is an act of charity in the authorities to expel those unworthy occupants, who are not worth the expense attending any other legal mode of ejection save that of knocking down the house. When once these Milesians of the lower class make a settlement, we are told it is nearly as difficult to expel them as to hunt rats out of a city drain.

The "Community's Land," in Gorbals, where we lately introduced an uproarious party of Irish at a wake, was ordered to be dismantled and razed to the ground forthwith. The dancing and *deray* which was kept up on that occasion by the mourners and repealers inflicted so many rents and fractures on the old fabric, that it could not survive them. That Irish wake gave it the parting kick; and the decision of the Dean of Guild has acted like the "end of an old song" on this well-known suburban landmark. The "Community's Land" used to be regarded a something like a parochial glebe in Gorbals; and some folks seem to be afraid of the security of the minister's stipend when it is demolished. But surely when it rises from its ashes, the circumstances of the parish will be better than ever.

Several old tenements, situated in Market Street (off Bridgegate), Old Wynd, Saltmarket, Stevenson Street (Calton), etc., were ordered to be removed without delay. Amongst these was a three-storey house in Saltmarket, partly built of stone and partly of wood—one of the very few of the kind now remaining, although at one time the city was mainly composed of dwellings of this class. This house was condemned about four years ago, and the tenants removed; but as there were several proprietors interested in it, they could not agree amongst themselves as to the best mode of

“dingin’ down” the fabric. It so happened, however, that the denizens of the locality contributed materially to the settlement of the dispute ; for as no one else did it, they commenced some time since to remove the house piecemeal, for their own behoof. To save the materials, therefore, the owners joined in almost entreating the Fiscal to prosecute them in a friendly way ; and the result is, the above peremptory order for its demolition.

A petition was presented by Mr. Glover, the lessee of the new Princes’ Opera House in West Nile Street, and the transferee of the last Royal Patent, praying that the Court would appoint competent and skilled persons to examine and report as to the security and efficiency of the building for the purposes intended. The Court appointed Mr. John Baird, architect, and Messrs. Wilson and Dykes, wrights and builders, to inspect the same, and report.

(1849.)

THE WHISKY CLOSE—MANSION OF THE ELPHINSTONES.

A Court was held on Thursday, January 11, 1849, the Lord Dean of Guild presiding—at which various important matters were disposed of. The security of the new Princes’ Opera House was certified by competent tradesmen, and the place allowed to be opened to the public. The celebrated close, No. 32 New Street, Calton, known by the name of the “Whisky Close,” was under consideration, and the owners ordained to pave the same in a sufficient manner. This spot has long been known in the annals of fever and cholera, and it has, in its time, supplied some queer and degrading lodging-house statistics. It is a long, narrow close, five feet in width, with a four-storey brick tenement on the one side, and a lower house on the other. This five-foot tunnel is the only avenue by which air and light are admitted to a dense population, consisting of ragged Irish and dirty Scotch. The ash-pit is situated on the ground floor of the dwelling-house, and the whole close has long been considered, and justly felt, by the authorities in the Eastern district, as the greatest plague-spot within their

bounds. Who can tell how many valuable lives have been sacrificed by the nuisances engendered in this loathsome spot circulating to better districts? As a proof of the workings of the overcharged poisoned atmosphere here, we may mention that the first victim of cholera in this close, a robust Irishman, died, after a brief illness of seven hours.¹ The order of the Court will, to some extent at least, improve the external appearance and sanitary condition of this property.

In Gorbals, a portion of the old aristocratic property, situated in Chapel Close, Main Street, was ordered to be taken down. It was here that the great Elphinstones held state, and here in later times—though still long, long ago—Sir James Turner (the prototype of Dugald Dalgetty) solaced himself, after the wars of Gustavus Adolphus, with the study of Milton and field fortifications. And here he died. This is a fine remnant and wreck of the Scottish Urban Manor House style, with its stone oriel windows, and stout oaken staircases. But, by the Dean of Guild, this old fabric, where, in the olden time, “blythe folks kenned nae sorrow,” is now considered unworthy of the occupancy even of the Irish immigrants of 1848. The last indweller, when kicked out, may have muttered,

“No one now
Dwells in the halls of Ivor—
Men, dogs, and horses, all are dead,
And I the sole survivor.”

Several properties situated in the Havannah, New Vennel, and Burnside were ordered to be taken down as ruinous. This locality, perhaps of all others in the city, requires the most rigid supervision on the part of the local authorities. Here, in this haunt of modern blackguardism, the dislodged thousands of the condemned houses in the wynds have found a temporary resting-place, under the very walls, too, of the University of Glasgow. Within the last eight weeks, fully 1500 of the very lecs of the people have been removed from the Old Wynd, by the Dean of Guild Court, and the most of them have congregated in this spot,

¹ At this time the city was severely afflicted with the cholera visitation.

near High Street. During the prevalence of the present pestilence (the cholera), the wynds, in point of health, have been on a par with those portions of the city where the lodging is comfortable and elegant, and where the inmates fare sumptuously, and are clothed in purple and fine linen daily. May not this dispersion of the overcrowded population of the wynds so far account for their exemption from disease? A large maze or labyrinth of brick building, which was situated on the south side of the Havannah, has already been cleared away, and others of a similar character have been doomed to a similar fate. But, notwithstanding the clearance which it has undergone, here are still to be found the headquarters of the speech-criers, sweeps, and hen-stealers of the city, with their followers. In one tenement here is to be found the densest population of any within the Parliamentary boundary; and it may be mentioned, by way of specimen, that one apartment in it, 7 feet by 15, accommodates regularly nine grown individuals. Here they eat and sleep at the rate of 1s. 6d. weekly in the gross, or 2d. per head. Can the promoters of the Model Lodging-Houses enter into competition with a bivouac of this kind?

The Dean of Guild Court has been knocking down ruinous tenements right and left, and, as a consequence, the poor residents, who would have remained till the fabric fell about their ears, are sadly put to their shifts. A few days ago, one of the tradesmen appointed by the Court, on entering a house in the Vennel—which, by the way, was condemned by the Dean on Thursday—was accosted by an Irishwoman thus—“By my faith, I’m thinking poor people won’t have a house to put their head in soon, even though they condescind to pay rint for it. Ye turned us out ov a fine house in the Ould Wynd not long since, and we found an illigant place in the Havannah; but ye wheeled us out ov that too, bekase two weeks ago ye pulled down the house. And now when I sees ye’r face, I’m thinking ye’r after knocking down this one next.”

A large range of ruinous houses on the west side of Castle Street, opposite the Infirmary Fever Hospital, was condemned.

Such were the more important cases disposed of at this day’s Court, which lasted several hours.

(29th January 1849.)

RUINOUS HOUSES—THE MOLENDINAR A FISHING STREAM.

At the Court held on Thursday, January 25, a number of proprietors were summoned for having their ash-pits badly constructed, and for having their properties imperfectly drained. The Court decerned against them in every case. Some of these properties are situated in Sauchiehall Street; and it seems strange that in this modern and wealthy locality the authorities should have occasion to interfere at all. Notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject, it is a fact that in certain parts of the West End as little attention is paid to sanitary arrangements as in the wynds and vennels of the city. When we look at the filthy state of the mews lanes about Blythswood Hill, a large portion of which seems to be converted into a vast range of livery stables, surrounded on all sides by the dwellings of the rich, and with masses of decaying vegetable matter within a few yards of their houses, is it to be wondered at that, during the prevalence of the present epidemic (cholera), the malarious influence should have committed ravages in the very midst of wealth and comfort?

The proprietors of the "Whisky Close," New Street, Calton (alluded to in our last notice), having failed to comply with the order of the Court, the Fiscal was authorised to execute the necessary operations: and the sooner the better. Since our last notice of this strange, but appropriately-named locality, we have ascertained that the interior of the property is in a most wretched condition. A number of proprietors from Westmuir were charged with having their properties not sufficiently paved, etc. This locality having only been recently taken under the charge of the police, we were induced to visit it, and examine for ourselves; and we can assure our readers, who used to travel to Edinburgh or Carlisle by the old conveyance of a stage-coach, and hold their noses on passing this filthy suburban village, that it is now, in point of external appearance, equal to any street within the Parliamentary boundary. The three villages known by the

names of Camlachie, Parkhead, and Westmuir, extending about two miles beyond the Gallowgate Toll, are now numbered with the things that were; the high-sounding title of the Great Eastern Road having assumed the place of the Main Street of Camlachie, etc. The side streets are also named, but bear appropriate marks of the old locality; the titles of Vinegarhill Street, Burgher Street, the Back Causeway, the Burn Road, Elba Street, Society Street, etc., being conspicuous. The whole of the back premises have also been put in proper sanitary order. The Eastern Necropolis is situated in this neighbourhood; and we observe that the directors have staked off a portion of their ground, which is to go to the widening of the road at this point.

Two houses—one situated at the corner of Dobbie's Loan and Castle Street, and the other at the Burnside, between the Havannah and the Vennel—were ordered to be demolished forthwith. These properties are of the old school, but their present state is painful in the extreme. The floors are sunk below the surrounding surface; and the latter, which is within a few feet of the Molendinar Burn, is always damp, and often flooded. This spot, in the olden time, formed the favourite and cozy residence of many a worthy citizen; but the limpid stream which then afforded amusement to the disciples of Isaac Walton, is now so filthy and polluted, that a tinker would not condescend to wash his dog in it; and we trust the authorities will at once order it to be covered up. The title-deeds of property on the east side of the Saltmarket, written two hundred years ago, bear that the owners shall have "free ish and entry" by the closes leading to the burn, and that they shall also have the privilege of "fishing therein." Alas! how hath the glory of the classic Molendinar departed! for generations have elapsed since the mottled par was banished from its waters, and the pellucid stream gave place to an inky puddle, the repository of filth and dead cats. By the way, when we look at the rapid extension of the city westward, we are pained to contemplate the romantic Kelvin sharing the fate of the Molendinar. To avert this, we would earnestly press upon the authorities the importance of constructing parallel drains or sewers, that the stream may be preserved in its purity, free from the filth and

refuse of a westward city still to be built. Had this been done with the Molendinar Burn, we would at this moment have had the advantage of a pure stream of water, for every domestic purpose, flowing through the centre of the city from Hogganfield Loch. The property in the well-known Tannery Close, Gallowgate, was ordered to be taken down forthwith, or properly supported. The welfare of the Old Wynd and Jeffrey's Close was also looked after, and operations ordered. On one of the houses under consideration, inhabited by the lowest of the population, we observed a respectable-looking sign-board, on which is painted, in flaming letters, "Lodgings for Commercial Travellers." And many a strange traveller has been accommodated here, from the wealthy bagman of the days of other years, down to the lucifer match and shoe-tie merchants, and hawkers, pedlars, etc., of the present time. The latter are the mercantile class who now take their ease in the inn in this locality.

Another remnant of antiquity, situated on the west side of Aird's Lane, leading from Bridgegate to the Goosedubbs, was ordered to be taken down. The New Wynd, which has hitherto, in a singular manner, escaped the Argus eyes of our Fiscal, has at length been pounced upon. A rickety tenement, situated on the west side, and within a few yards of the Trongate, was reported on, and condemned. This property, which immediately adjoins the premises of Messrs. M'Ewan, was the scene of the late daring attempt at house-breaking—the burglars having got possession of the unoccupied shops and cellars in this old house, from which they had attempted to cut through the gable, with the view of getting access to Messrs. M'Ewan's warehouse. Frazer's famous lodging-house adjoins this erection, and the removal of the latter will be of considerable benefit to the ventilation of what may be termed the New Wynd Hotel. This place of Frazer's consists of two extensive flats, filled in every nook with bedsteads, the hangings of which would amuse the most curious housewife, for they are composed of shreds of every colour under the sun.

The well-known long closes on the east side of the High Street are rapidly disappearing; and we observe that several houses are now being wisely taken down by the proprietors,

without any interference from the Dean of Guild. Perhaps the best idea we can give of the value of these old buildings is to mention that one of them, situated at 94 High Street, which was sold the other day, brought the sum of 47s. 6d. for the whole fabric, exclusive of the ground-stead. Mr. M'Tear, the auctioneer, very acutely remarked that, in these halcyon times, it was almost possible for the beggar on the bridge to become the owner of fixed property in the shape of stone and lime.

The ancient residence of the Elphinstones in Chapel Close, Main Street, Gorbals, was again under consideration—the agent for the proprietor contending that the house was able to stand on its own legs yet a little longer. But the Court was inexorable. We are really grieved to part with some of these old landmarks of the city; and we cannot help urging on the proprietors of such houses as still exist to pay some little attention to them, and above all to prevent them falling a prey to the hordes of Irish immigrants, who have a fancy to burrow in these ancient spots. When once tenanted by these modern Huns, the destruction of the fabric is not far distant. The character of the Main Street of Gorbals has, like that of the Trongate, entirely changed, even during the remembrance of the present generation. But there is one gem which still stands untouched. This building is situated on the east side of the street, nearly opposite Malta Street, and presents one of the most perfect specimens in existence of the old Scottish Urban manor-house. It has the old tympany windows, and the outside oaken staircases in the inner court are still in good preservation. Here, too, is still the ring to which the horses of travellers of old used to be attached; but the “louping-on-stane,” like the Cross of Glasgow, has disappeared. Tradition tells that Prince Charles Edward was entertained in this house during his brief sojourn in Glasgow. Latterly it was used as the residence and place of business of a thriving blacksmith. We trust that, by timely care, this house may long escape the notice of the Dean of Guild Inspector.

The proposed widening of Malta Street, at the head of Buchan Street, was finally arranged—the new building being lined back to the north building-line of Norfolk Street. This will be a vast

improvement to the Gorbals, and we would urge the authorities to continue it eastward to Main Street. Previous to the feuing of Laurieston and Tradeston, this street was known by the name of the Paisley Loan, and was the only outlet from Glasgow to the west of Main Street for those passengers who came over the old Stockwell Bridge. Rutherglen Loan formed, as it still does, the connection with the east. The feuars of Laurieston and Tradeston, however, agreed to widen the loan into a street, which now bears the title of Norfolk Street. The old Paisley toll-house occupied a site within a few yards of the proposed improvement. Such are the changes which a few years bring about.

(1849.)

RUINOUS HOUSES—MIDDLEMEN—A "CITY INHERITANCE."

The usual meeting of this Court was held on Thursday, February 8—the Lord Dean of Guild presiding.

As the sailors say—"After a storm comes a calm," so the Fiscal, who for some time past, especially since the Alston Street catastrophe, has been on the alert, is now compelled, so far as ruinous and frail habitations are concerned, to call a halt. Several applications from proprietors for authority to build new, and alter old, houses were disposed of. One of the petitions, the prayer of which was granted, was from our enterprising townsmen, Messrs. Wylie & Lochhead; and their building scheme, when carried out, will be the means of effecting another great improvement in the city. The horse bazaar in Union Street, which, though modern, has presented a distinctive feature in our street architecture for many years, is to be changed. The area in front is to be removed, the pavement widened, and a range of elegant shops formed; and thus the improvement of the city to the westward goes steadily on. In the Glasgow Directory for 1783, Queen Street, then known by the primitive and appropriate name of the Cow Loan, is scarcely mentioned. Since that not very ancient date, Queen Street has seen many changes:—First, the residence of our princely mer-

chants, who, fleeing from the plebeian localities of the High Street, Saltmarket, and Gallowgate, here took up their abode; and then the commercial classes, in their eagerness to shift westward, have displaced the tenants of the dwelling-houses, who have now found a resting-place in the vicinity of Blythswood Hill or Woodside. The same may be said of Miller Street, one of the finest specimens of dwelling-house architecture in any city in Europe. Since the date above alluded to, Buchanan Street has been fully formed, and its tenantry has attained the very height of fashionable shopocracy. Now Union Street is on the wing as an elevated commercial emporium; and we hope it will also form another of those fine thoroughfares of which Glasgow has so much cause to be proud.

The lane leading from Sauchiehall Street to Elmbank Place was ordered to be formed and causewayed. The state of this locality proves the truth of the remarks in our last report, viz., that the "west end" is in as filthy a condition externally as any part of the wynds or closes in the city—the Fiscal stating in open court that this lane, connecting two fashionable localities, was one of the most abominable that had come under his notice. Our late visits to this quarter of the municipality enable us to speak in a somewhat decided manner regarding it; and we may say that if the mews lanes about Blythswood and Garnet Hills, are bad, the vacant ground in these localities is ten times worse. These valuable steadings seem to be appropriated as the receptacle of every kind of filth and rubbish. The Police and Statute Labour Committee experience, we believe, considerable difficulty in procuring sufficient depots for the city manure; but, judging from the appearance of this vacant ground, west of Blythswood Square, with its open ditches, stagnant water, and remains of defunct dogs and cats, one might suppose that the authorities would have little difficulty in renting and forming a magnificent dung-establishment in this quarter. On making inquiry, we were gratified to learn that the wealthy company (the Royal Bank) to whom this ground belongs is making arrangements for having it properly drained.

Another rickety tenement in close 94 High Street was

ordered to be taken down. This property adjoins the fabric recently sold by Mr. M'Tear for 47s. 6d. There is one worthy old residenter still remaining in this tenement ; and she can tell of the change in the character of the place which has occurred since the Irish invasion, for it has now become the very worst in the city. In her young days decent and respectable shopkeepers and tradesmen had their abode in this locality, and here some of the best of our citizens were born and bred. In these early days, too, the melody of praise and thanksgiving was heard, morning and evening, from every dwelling. Alas, how are times altered ! When we reflect on the changes incident to a great community, in the separation of class from class, we cannot help feeling that one of the curses of Glasgow, like that of Ireland, is absenteeism. The proprietor, in many instances, scarcely knows his property—far less his tenants ; and feeling the difficulty of managing a class of people sunk in ignorance and vice, he intrusts his property to the management of a functionary, who is now becoming common in Glasgow, viz., a middleman, who pays the proprietor, say 10s. in the pound of nominal rent, while he in many cases contrives to sweat 40s. out of the tenants, and thus in reality the poorest of the population pay two or three rents. Some of these middlemen manifest amazing skill in the selection of their tenants. For instance, they will let a house far more readily to a fish or apple wife who may be proprietrix of a barrow, than to any other person of a similar station ; and the reason is this, that, on Saturday morning, if the rent is not forthcoming, the barrow can be at once impounded, which is always worth a great deal more than a week's rent. The seizing of the barrow is found to be a capital plan for bringing the fishwife to reason. Between this close—viz., 94 High Street—and the one adjoining is to be seen a curiosity in the shape of what Bailie David Smith would term an old "city inheritance"—viz., a large dungstead. It appears that some thirty years ago the proprietors of this spot paid £150 for the "subject," with the right of thirlage upon the manure of the surrounding tenants ; but hundreds of pounds have been spent before the Supreme Courts in testing whether the dairy-keeper with his cow, or the Irish coal merchant with his donkey, had a right to appro-

priate the manure to their own purposes, instead of depositing it in the common dungstead, and thus defraud the proprietor of the subject in question of his thirlage. Now-a-days, however, the ownership of the dungstead is all but disowned, for, like every other kind of property in this quarter, it has fallen sadly in value.

Several houses, etc., in the Western district were complained of as ruinous and dangerous. In some cases the parties agreed to take them down; in others, the subject was remitted to competent tradesmen for inspection. These houses were principally situated in the ancient suburb of Anderston, and were composed of these old houses, which in their day had been used as weavers' shops, etc. This suburb, which derived its name from Mr. Anderson of Stobcross, who formed the design of the village in 1725, was erected into a Burgh of Barony, by Crown charter, in 1824. The village of Finnieston, lying to the westward, was laid out by the proprietor John Orr of Barrowfield in 1770, and was named in honour of his chaplain, Mr. Finnie. In Jones' Directory of 1790-1791, we find that the late Henry Monteith of Carstairs had here his abode. The Western district comprises the whole of the city westward from York Street to the Kelvin, and from the Clyde to the Forth and Clyde Canal. The district is chiefly inhabited by the wealthier classes, excepting a small portion south of Argyll Street.

The Court adjourned after a sederunt of three hours, having fixed to visit Westmuir and Parkhead on Saturday, at two o'clock. We had the pleasure of being present at this inspection which may form matter for another Court day.

(26th February 1849.)

THE CHANGES OF GLASGOW—DUKE STREET—A TRONGATE
“FREEHOLD.”

This Court held its fortnightly sitting on Thursday, the 22d February.

As usual, a great deal of what may be termed formal business was discussed, and disposed of; but matters affecting the sanitary

condition and external aspect of the city were also under consideration. Seeing, as we do, day after day, the general appearance of the city changing, and many ancient landmarks in the course of removal, we are still inclined to pay some little attention to this Court, and to chronicle what may be termed, under its operations, "The Changes of Glasgow."

A considerable number of applications were made by proprietors to have the sanction of the Court interponed to the erection of new, and to the alteration of existing, buildings. As a singular contrast in these applications, we cannot help noticing that one of the petitioners craved authority to convert a dwelling-house in St. George's Place into a warehouse; and another that the "ground floor of a tenement in Rumford Street, Bridgeton, presently occupied as three loomsteads, should be converted into dwelling-houses." Both of these cases accurately indicate how much the city is altering in its appearance. When St. George's Church was built in 1807, and the congregation removed from the Wynd Church to this then suburban locality, it was considered it would assuredly form the western terminus of Glasgow; yet already we have a magnificent city, pressing further west still. And Mr. Graham of Whitehill, in laying out Bridgeton as a suburban village, could never have contemplated the period when these loomsteads should give place to bedsteads, to be occupied by the vast population engaged in the various factories in the district—not one of which, of course, then existed. One of the largest works in that locality was founded by the late¹ Henry Monteith of Carstairs, who, about the time the village was begun, was, or had been shortly before, a humble weaver in the western suburb of Anderston. When we compare Glasgow as it now is with the "Glasgow of former times," we feel amazed at the mighty growth; but, after all, when we look at the daily changes, which are occurring almost unnoticed, there is little cause for wonder at the effect of time and circumstances during the last century. The suburb of Bridgeton is an admirable illustration of this. Modern though it be, it has not been allowed to pass scatheless—the Irish

¹ Mr. Henry Monteith was never an operative weaver, but learned weaving merely for instruction.

invaders having here also secured a refuge. A tenement of houses in Main Street was complained of as being ruinous, and in a state of disrepair; and it was remitted to competent tradesmen to inspect and report. The tenement in question is comparatively new, but, when we mention that it is known in the district by the name of the "Dublin Land," it will be easily understood how it has become necessary for the Court to bestow upon it some share of its attention. Looking at this, and a hundred other instances of the pestiferous influence of these immigrants, we cannot help exclaiming—Repeal the Union.

As we mentioned in our last report, the Court visited Westmuir, and also the locality on which Mr. Tennent of Wellpark proposes to build at the corner of Parkhouse Lane and Duke Street. We had much pleasure, notwithstanding wind, rain, and hailstones, in accompanying the Court on that inspection, and were amply repaid by seeing the great improvement which a few short years have wrought in the district. Through the enterprise of our spirited townsman Mr. John Reid of Whitehill, the old Witch Loan to the east of the Cattle Market is now, as if by magic, transformed into a beautiful street, seventy feet wide, forming a continuous line with Abercromby Street and Clyde Street, between Duke Street and Canning Street. In truth, this is one of the finest lines of street in the city; and, when we observe how much is doing for the patrician order in the west, it is pleasant to notice the excellent accommodation provided for the middle and working classes in the east in the immediate neighbourhood of their workshops. Many other new streets have been formed here, such as Market Street, Hamilton Street, etc.; and the gap which long existed between the city and Calton—like that between Edinburgh and Leith—is now unknown. The operations of Mr. Tennent will effect a considerable alteration in the aspect of Duke Street. The old change-house at the corner of the road leading to Golf-hill is removed, and the ancient smithy, with its adjunct of the iron wheel-ring in front, is also no more. About eighty years ago these houses were the first that would meet the traveller coming from Stirling, Carntyne, and all the district to the north-east; for at that time neither Duke Street nor George Street was in exist-

ence, and the only access to the city from this direction was by the Drygate, or the lane which now forms Barrack Street. It is more than probable that it was at this popular cabaret that the Glasgow volunteers drained their last bicker on marching north to fight the rebels in 1715; and here they would receive the first cup of welcome on their return. It is supposed, and with good reason, that when Glasgow was the headquarters of an archbishop, these identical premises formed the residence of one of the prebends or vicars. On the site of these old landmarks and resting-places it is proposed to erect a decent pile of square buildings. No gables with mouldings and crow steps now; no tympany windows; but all built to the square. Alas for the taste of the nineteenth century! We may give internal accommodation superior to our fathers, but how unartistic it is. Look at our Trongate, High Street, and Saltmarket, and see what modern architecture and utilitarianism has done for them. No broken outline, no variety, but the hard unpicturesque horizontal line, which pleases only by its extent, not by its beauty.

The Fiscal presented a petition regarding the late catastrophe at the Theatre Royal;¹ in consequence of which, certain alterations were ordered in the mode of hanging the doors, to facilitate the egress from the gallery.

Our old acquaintance the "Whisky Close," in New Street, Calton, was again under consideration. It appeared from the proceedings that scarcely a factor will now take charge of the property. One by one they have been driven off the field—the tenantry snapping their fingers at the ejections and threats of the poor factor. We are afraid that this possession will at last fall a prey to the *spirited* Irish, and that it will become as difficult to raise rent from it as to levy tithes in Tipperary. It may seem strange, but it is nevertheless a fact, that in the Trongate, within one hundred yards from the Cross of Glasgow, there is a tenement

¹ This catastrophe was caused by a panic which arose in the gallery of the Theatre Royal, Dunlop Street, on the night of Saturday, the 17th February 1849. Having been alarmed by a trifling fire, arising from leakage in a gas-pipe, the audience made a frantic rush towards the outlet, and, by getting thrown down and jammed together in the effort to escape, no fewer than sixty-five persons of both sexes, and various ages, were smothered on the stair.

of houses from which not one single farthing of rent has been lifted for the last twenty years. Having the responsibility of poor-rates and police assessment before his eyes, the landlord has literally disowned his own property ; and every tenant now lives in his own castle. The place is mostly inhabited by what are termed "ould people ;" and it is strange to mark the way in which a new incomer manages to secure an "inheritance." If the party in possession intends to leave the town the case is clear, as the infestment is passed by the incomer before the old one leaves. But should it happen that one of the tenants is ill, and not expected to recover, the excitement becomes tremendous. The laws of primogeniture are here set at nought, and the prize remains with him or her who first takes possession. This has even been done before the breath of the expiring tenant has passed away. For months before the demise of an old or shaky residerter every one is on the watch ; but those who live in the same close (the Bush Tavern Close) have the best chance ; and houses have even been taken by some in that lane for the very purpose of being near, and waiting the chance of obtaining a footing in, the "Freehold." It is curious to note the free-masonry which exists among the fraternity. If you ask them who is the laird or factor, they have invariably forgotten his name ; but they state that there is no earthly doubt that he will turn up, as usual, about Whitsunday or Martinmas, and screw the rent out of them. Such is house property in some parts of Glasgow.

Several closes, etc., were ordered to be repaired ; and houses were ordered to be taken down, or renovated, in Anderston, Dry-gate Street, the Vennel, etc.

The Court adjourned, after five hours' labour, during which the members visited the Theatre Royal ; and disposed of cases in Westmuir and Anderston, at the Townhead, and Paisley Canal—thus embracing every extremity of the city bounds.

(1849.)

COWCADDENS—PINKSTON BURN.

About twenty years ago the Cowcaddens was composed of a single street or road ; but now the large clay hills are formed into streets and lanes. The City, and Great Western, and St. George's Roads were then unknown—the whole district between Port-Dundas and Kelvin being purely rural. To the east of Port-Dundas Road, at that period, a great number of public works were erected ; but since then the whole district, east of Stirling Street to the Cut of Junction Canal, as it is termed (which cut, by the way, was made principally for the use of the Messrs. Tennants' works), is now covered with factories, colour works, chemical works, dye works, grinding works, mills for logwood, dye and bread stuffs, founderies, machine shops, potteries, soap works, etc.—presenting, within the area of a few acres, a view of manufacturing and curious industry unparalleled in any other city of the world. To the west of Stirling Street a large town has been formed, which is rapidly extending to the Kelvin. Maitland Street, Milton Street, Stewart Street, Queen's Crescent, Windsor Terrace, Stafford Place, Grove Street, and other streets and places, the names of which are too numerous to mention, have been formed, and are inhabited in this district.

But will our readers believe that in this modern locality there is an extent of wynds, or, as they are now termed, "lanes," equal to the wynds and vennels of our city. It is all very well to say there is nothing wrong with them just now. Our fathers said the same thing half-a-century ago ; but contemplate for a single moment what these modern wynds will become twenty or thirty years hence, when the local authorities shall have cleared away the present city plague-spots ! Why, common sense would tell us that there must be a "new town built for the Irish." Let us have a Buildings Act, at once preventing any proprietor from building without leaving a clear space, equal to the height of the house he intends to erect. Unless we have some enactment of this kind,

Bailie David Smith's excellent plan of sanitary reform will only terminate with the *finish* of the town. It really does seem strange that the respective proprietors of the Blythswood and the Milton lands should have allowed, far less laid down, feuing-plans, forming lanes or wynds from twelve to twenty feet. Verily, the children of this world are wise in their generation!

Fortunes have been made by the rise in the value of ground in this district. When the City Road was first projected, ground was readily obtained at the rate of 2s. per square yard; but now it is worth 20s. So pure was Pinkston Burn in these times, that Mr. Gillespie, the proprietor of the bleaching establishment in North Street, Anderston, laid down, at great expense, a water-course from this stream to supply his works. The tributary stream before referred to also used to run open through the Rosehall Gardens, where, on a small stone in the centre of the streamlet, stood a figure representing the "Lady of the Lake." And thus, in the brief space of twenty years, this vast city puts on a new and different aspect. Not to say a word about the great changes on Garnet Hill, which forms the Southern boundary of the district, or the streets which are rapidly rising to the west of the Kelvin, furth of the municipal limits, we are lost in amazement, and wonder what our city historians will say fifty years hence.

(12th March 1849.)

BOB DRAGON'S HOUSE—BLYTHSWOOD WYND—BELL'S WYND.

The Court held its usual fortnightly meeting on Thursday, March 8, at eleven o'clock.

Notwithstanding the late commercial and monetary pressure, a considerable number of applications were made by proprietors to build new, or alter old or existing premises. It does seem somewhat strange that in these times new shops should be opening every day over the whole length and breadth of the city, when it is a notorious fact that, excepting in a very few favourite localities, shop property is steadily on the decline. The truth is,

we have far too many shops in the city, as is too sadly indexed by the frequent failures and changes amongst this class; and the hard struggle amongst the majority to pay high rents, severe local taxes (especially the crushing poor-rate), and at the same time eke out a bare subsistence. Shopkeepers form a most useful and indispensable class of *middlemen* between the producer and consumer; but, then, their numbers are legion. Were they reduced one-half, the shopkeeper would thrive, and the public be equally well served. We would be delighted to see builders paying yet more attention to the erection of comfortable dwelling-houses for the middle and working classes. They would be subject to less fluctuation, and eventually afford a better and more stable return than shop property.

Mr. Cousin, owner of property in North Street, Anderston, proposes to build two shops in that street; but judgment was delayed, so as to allow the Police and Statute Labour Committee an opportunity of making arrangements for the widening of the street at this point. This street, which, until recently, was a simple parish road, forms now the principal approach to the crescents, and we trust the authorities will not lose the opportunity of getting it suitably improved.

A petition was presented by Mr. Thomas Smith, setting forth that, with consent of the proprietors, he proposed to erect a range of one-storey shops in Great Clyde Street, to be used as furniture warehouses, etc. This will have the effect of disfiguring another well-known spot. The ground on which this wooden erection is to be placed is in the court in front of the mansion well known as "Bob Dragon's House." It is situated at the corner of Rope Work Lane, and is a perfect representation of the style of buildings patronised by the tobacco and sugar lords, and other wealthy citizens of Glasgow, during the earlier part of the reign of George the Third. It is a fine specimen of the handsome self-contained mansions erected in Miller Street, Argyll Street, and Queen Street, about that period, and fairly casts the taste of the present day into the shade. It was erected by Allan Dreghorn, an extensive joiner (who, if we are not mistaken, built the first carriage or coach in Glasgow, by the hands of his own workmen, and for his

own use), whose father began to work the Govan Colliery in 1714. Robert Dreghorn, the last occupant, was a public character forty years ago; and it was considered that he was indebted for his notoriety to the circumstance of his being regarded as one of the ugliest men of the age, and at the same time a passionate admirer of the fair sex. After Bob's death, the house remained long unoccupied, and acquired the reputation of being haunted; but at last the "Invaders" (our readers know to whom we allude) routed every unearthly tenant from the field; and the beautiful halls of Bob Dragon are now converted into a brokery. This house, then occupied by a person of the name of Provan,¹ was the scene of a desperate riot on a Sunday, about twenty or thirty years ago; and amongst the gentlemen active for the preservation of the peace on that occasion was the late Mr. Samuel Hunter, who received a severe contusion on the head, during the riot, which did not end till the dwelling was completely gutted.

A considerable number of paving operations were also under consideration. Among the rest, two of the mews lanes on the lands of Blythswood were complained of. We are obliged to the Fiscal for bringing this matter under the consideration of the Court. These Blythswood *wynds*, for we cannot call them by any other name, are a perfect disgrace to our city. When first formed, they were merely intended for the convenience of the dwellings; but property has now become so valuable in that locality that they are changed into streets. On 6th October, 1610 the Town Council enacted that there should be "no middings on the fore street, nor in the Flesh Market, Meal Market, or in any other markets of the Burgh." We now call upon the Police and Statute Labour Committee to enact that no dunghills shall be formed on these fashionably-situated lanes or wynds. Let any of our readers walk up Renfield Street, from Gordon Street to the Garscube Road, and, glancing right and left, we venture to affirm, that he will see the livery stable-keepers actually laying their manure on these thoroughfares. The wynds of Glasgow have been its disgrace for thirty years; and it would seem that they will be the same to the end of the chapter.

¹ George Provan, who had given cause for the riot.

A labyrinth or maze of old houses in Bell Street was ordered to be taken down. M'Ure writes thus in 1736:—

“Bell's Wynd hath a noble gate, and entry of curious workmanship, that excels all others in the city. It strikes west from the Kirk Street (High-Street), and is of length two hundred and twenty ells, and ten ells wide. In it is the mutton market. This wynd has eleven new lodgings;”

and then follow the names of the proprietors. In Jones' Glasgow Directory for 1791 the late Kirkman Finlay, Esq., M.P., is found lodging with “James Finlay, Bell's Wynd.” Up till that date some of our most estimable and wealthy citizens were found here; but, alas, the change! With few exceptions, it is now all but crowded with the vilest of the vile. The market is to be sold to the Police for the purpose of adding to their establishment. It was erected in 1700, and was used by non-freemen. It was long known as the “country market,” being principally used by fleshers who brought in sheep and lambs in carcasses, and retailed them on the market days.

A range of houses in 94 close, High Street, was ordered to be taken down as ruinous. This last almost finishes these dens of wretchedness and misery in this quarter; but the degraded and banished occupants will, in due time, like their betters, find accommodation in the west end. Before leaving this spot, we may notice, that one of the old piazzas, on the east side of the High Street, in the tenement occupied by the old firm of the Macintyres and Company, is no more. When we trace the lines of these piazzas, which stretched from the Cross along the Tron-gate, High Street, Gallowgate, and Saltmarket Streets, and scan their fine old architectural features, we do not wonder at the glowing description given of Glasgow, by Defoe, in 1727.

“The four principal streets (says he) are the fairest for breadth, and the finest built that I have ever seen. The lower storeys, for the most part, stand on vast square Doric columns, with arches which open into the shops—adding to the strength, as well as the beauty, of the buildings. In a word, 'tis one of the cleanliest, most beautiful, and best built cities in Great Britain.”

Would that we could claim this eulogy in all its parts at the present day.

The "Dublin Land," in Bridgeton, was ordered to be secured, and other operations in that locality were also ordered.

(26th March 1849.)

NEW BUILDINGS—KING STREET MARKETS—GIBSON'S LAND,
SALTMARKET, ETC.

The fortnightly meeting of this Court was held on Friday, the 23d March, the authorities having kept themselves disengaged on Thursday (the usual Court-day), to attend the presentation of the freedom of the city to Mr. Macaulay, the historian.

Additional shops were authorised to be altered or formed; and Woodlands Road, leading to Hillhead, is now to be accommodated with a supply of such places of business—Mr. Murray proposing to build a tenement containing shops at the corner of Stanley Place. A few years ago this road formed a delightful rural promenade; but the glare of the shop gas will knock up the romance of a walk to the Kelvin by moonlight. There will be no more "breathing of the tender tale beneath the milk-white thorn" in this quarter. Instead of trees and a love-loan, however, we shall have lamp-posts and a modern street, and that is some consolation.

Among the applications for authority to build was one which seemed to take the Court a little by surprise. It was from a proprietor of a five-storey tenement in Holm Street, Blythswood Holm. This property, which is inhabited by the decent working classes, has an area behind of 19 feet wide. On this space, which is already too little for light and air, the proprietor rather coolly proposes to erect a back tenement of dwelling-houses, three or four storeys high—in other words, to form another plague-spot. If any proof were wanting for the necessity of a Buildings Act, here it is. At the very moment when a Sanitary Bill is in preparation for Scotland, and when our Town Council have under consideration the question of restricting the amount of buildings, a proprietor proposes the perpetuation and extension of a great evil on the

community. This whole district, known as Blythswood Holm, is verging towards a very seedy character, and it deserves it. The seeds of evil for generations yet unborn have been plentifully sown ; and unless the subject is at once met and grappled with, we look forward to the results, in a moral and sanitary point of view, with infinite pain.

A petition was presented by the Incorporation of Fleshers, praying for authority to alter the Beef Market in King Street. This property has been recently acquired from the Town Council, and now exclusively belongs to the Fleshers. It is proposed to alter the front, so as to form a range of shops facing the street, and to convert a large hall into a tap-room ; or, if this does not fit, perhaps it may degenerate into an "Irish brokery." By these operations, another distinctive feature of the city will be changed. Gibson, in his History of Glasgow, of date 1777, writes thus :—

"The markets in King Street are justly admired, as being the completest of their kind in Britain. They are placed upon both sides of the street. The one upon the east is 112 feet in length, and 67 in breadth ; in the centre of which is a very spacious gateway, decorated on each side with coupled Ionic columns, set upon their pedestals, and supporting an angular pediment. At the north end is a very neat hall belonging to the Incorporation of Butchers, the front ornamented with rustics and a pediment. This market is entirely appropriated for butcher meat. Those upon the west side of the street are divided into three different courts, set apart for a fish market, a mutton market, and a cheese market. The whole length of the front is 173 feet, the breadth 46 feet, in the centre of which, as on the opposite side, is a very spacious gateway, of the Doric order, supporting a pediment," etc.

Gibson further remarks, that "these markets are well paved with freestone—have walks all round them—and are covered over for shelter by roofs. They have, likewise, pump-wells within, for clearing away all the filth, which render the markets always sweet and agreeable."

Beyond the Fleshers' Incorporation, the existence of the hall referred to in the above description has been scarcely known to any one in Glasgow for many years. It has been a rare place in its day, however ; it was well and even beautifully painted, and, till about twenty-five or thirty years ago, formed the principal assembly and dining-room of the incorporation. The names of the various

deacons from 1770 till 1834, are inscribed in gilt tablets on the walls; and the Ten Commandments, "finely decored," occupy the alcove for the chairman's seat at the east end of the room. Many a happy meeting has taken place in its now dingy walls. Fleshers, with their wives, daughters, and sweethearts, used to enjoy here many a *gaudeamus*, and wind up a hearty dinner with a jolly dance. But silence now reigns in the Butchers' Hall; and it even has an aspect of desolation, for the five windows which look into the inner court, and the two which look upon the street, have had the glass knocked out of them, as if some one had done it in a passion. The only sign of life which we saw during our visit on Friday last was a "disjaskit"-looking black cat, nestling among a heap of dirty cotton rags. Our readers will easily see the changes which have taken place in this locality since Gibson wrote eighty-two years ago. These market fronts, or façades, are beautiful specimens of Roman architecture. But how have they been attended to by our Town Council during the last few years? They are at this moment in a rapid state of decay; and we observe even that the pretty pediment over the entrance to the mutton market has, within these last few weeks, been hewn off! Was there ever such a display of Vandalism on the part of any public body since the "dingin'-doun" of the cathedrals at the Reformation, or since pig-sties were built out of the ashlar work of Royal Lochmaben Castle? We wonder what our authorities mean in thus disfiguring an old ornamental building, and, in fact, giving the whole locality over to destruction. The time was, and that during the last few years, when the place was cared for; but in these days the councillors, town-clerks, city chamberlain, extractors, and fiscal had their headquarters at the foot of the Saltmarket, and King Street formed a kind of *vena cava* to the civic rendezvous. Since our rulers removed to their *dear* and elegant apartments in Wilson Street, however, the old honoured place has gone to the mischief. A Rag Fair has been formed alongside of the old city buildings, which would be a disgrace to any town in the Sister Isle, far less to a city which lays such claims to antiquity—which Mr. Macaulay praises for its extent, grandeur, beauty, and opulence, and designates

“our fair and majestic Glasgow.” But the real truth is—and the maxim with our civic functionaries is the same as with any other proprietor within the burgh—“Get money; let us turn the property to the best account, regardless of its appearance.” And yet all this may be done by gentlemen who, if their pure, classical, or artistic taste was challenged, would open their eyes with amazement. Utilitarianism, however, is all-potent in public as well as in private matters.

A number of paving and causewaying operations were ordered; the Blythswood wynds, noticed in our last report, receiving a due share of attention. One of the complaints for paving was against a numerous body of proprietors connected with Gibson’s Court, Saltmarket. This court has undergone great changes within the last twenty-six years. The celebrated “Gibson’s Land,” so jauntily described by M’Ure in 1736, is, with the exception of a portion fronting Princes Street, then called Gibson’s Wynd, entirely obliterated. M’Ure says—

“The great and stately tenement of land built by the deceast Walter Gibson, merchant, and late Provost of Glasgow, stands upon eighteen stately pillars or arches, and adorned with the several orders of architecture, conform to the direction of that great architect, Sir William Bruce. The entry consists of four several arches towards the court thereof. This magnificent structure is admired by foreigners and strangers.”

Early in 1823 this tenement fell; but, thanks to the Dean of Guild Court of that day, the tenants had all been warned out the evening previous. It is a curious coincidence that Mr. Burnet (the Fiscal of the Dean of Guild Court) was the agent of the tenant of the Jerusalem Tap-room there, at whose instance the parties were so removed for their own safety—the same gentleman being now the Fiscal of the Dean of Guild Court at whose instance rickety fabrics are ordered down all over the city. Dr. Cleland gives the following account of the catastrophe:—

“On the morning of Sunday, the 16th February 1823, the great tenement fronting the Saltmarket and Princes Street, known by the name of Gibson’s Land, fell into the Saltmarket and Princes Streets, with a tremendous crash, carrying part of the opposite corner tenement in Princes Street along with it. It is almost miraculous that in such a catastrophe one man only lost his life.

Mary Hamilton, servant in a house of bad fame, was on the one pair of stairs floor when the house fell. I was early on the spot, and found the woman on the street floor, standing erect in a space just large enough to contain her—the stones and timber of the four upper storeys forming an immense pile over her head. It was six hours before she could be removed from her perilous situation; and when extricated, she complained of a pain in her arm, from its being fixed in between two pieces of wood. The interposition of Divine Providence was manifested in a remarkable degree in favour of this woman."

After this accident the present plain-looking tenement was erected, and it presents a curious medley of drinking-saloons, brokeries, etc. At the same time nearly all the old houses in the Saltmarket were overhauled by the then Dean of Guild, and hence the modern appearance of this street as compared with High Street, etc. Saltmarket, more than any other spot of the olden time, has seen great and direful changes. Take the following, for instance, from Law's Memorials:—

"Nov. 3, 1677, the fire brake up in Glasgow in the heid of the Saltmercat, on the right near the cross, which was kyndled by a malicious boy, a smith's apprentice, who being thretted, or beat & smitten by his master, in revenge whereof settis his workhous on fyre in the night tyme, being in the backsides of that fore street, and flies for it. It was kyndled about one in the morning; and having brunt many in the backsyd, it breaks forth in the fore streets about three of the morning; and then it fyres the street over against it, and in a very short tyme burned down to more than the mids of the Saltmercat, on both sydes, fore and back houses were all consumed. It did burn also on that syd to the Tron Church, and two or three tenements down on the heid of the Gallowgate. The heat was so great that it fired the horologe of the tolbooth, (there being some prisoners in it at that tyme, amongst whom the laird of Carsland was one, the people brake open the tolbooth doors and sett them free;) the people made it all their work to gett out their goods out of the houses; and there was little done to save the houses till ten of the cloke, for it burned till two hours afternoon. It was a great conflagration, and nothing inferior to that which was in the yeir 1652. The wind changed several times. Great was the cry of the poor people, and lamentable to see their confusion. It was remarkable that, a little before that tyme, there was seen a great fyre pass throw these streets in the night tyme, and strange voices heard in some parts of the city."

We may add, that an external part of the fine old Gibson's Land may still be seen at the east end of Princes Street; but the arches have been taken into the shops, and the cornices have been hewn away, in the same way as the pediment of the Mutton

Market was shaven down a few weeks ago. There are some queer things to be seen in the Saltmarket yet, however, and we cannot help giving the following *verbatim et literatim* transcript of a chimney-sweep's sign, which we copied the other day when inspecting the locality. Truly, the "schoolmaster is abroad":—
 "THOMSON BLACK Chimney Sweep He does Live Here Hel Sweep your Vent and not to Dear if your Vents take on fire Hel put it out at your Desire Soot Merchant IN this Close."

The proprietors of the "Whisky Close," Calton, and of the "Dublin Land," Bridgeton, were again before the Court—the former about the expenses incurred in prosecuting the numerous factors connected with that property, which, externally speaking, is now in first-rate condition. The Dublin Land proprietor had a petition, setting forth that his tenants (although they scorn to pay any rent) would not leave the house, so as to allow him to get the property put in a safe condition; and praying the Lord Dean of Guild forcibly to eject the Milesian intruders. These are samples of the class which Mr. John O'Connell holds up to our esteem, as adding to the wealth of Glasgow. We wish him joy of his favourites. They might become eligible tenants at Derrynane, instead of pests at Glasgow.

The grain stores at the Clayslaps Mills were ordered to be supported; and various properties, in the north quarter, etc., were under consideration. The Court, at its rising, visited Gibson's Court, before referred to—an inspection at which we had the pleasure of being present.

(1849.)

THE CATHEDRAL—DUKE'S LODGING, DRYGATE—NORTH
 QUARTER IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

The Court held its usual sitting on Thursday, the 12th April. In connection with the proceedings, we have taken the opportunity of visiting the north quarter, for the purpose of noting the changes which the hand of Time, the necessities of a growing

community, and the operations of the Dean of Guild Court, have wrought on this, the site of ancient Glasgow.

In our approach to this time-honoured locality, we will pass from George Street, and ascend the well-known "Bell of the Brae"—the scene of the reputed great conflict between Wallace and Percy, when the latter, with his Englishers, was totally routed. As our authority for this battle, however, is only founded on the metrical romance of Blind Harry, written in the fifteenth century, and as it is totally unsupported by historical evidence, we are afraid we must dismiss the event as apocryphal, even although the prowess of the Scottish hero might be consoling to our national feelings. This ancient thoroughfare is now entirely altered in its appearance. In early times the ascent was so steep, that in 1783 the summit was lowered by four feet, and, about twenty-five years ago, a further alteration was made on the levels. Prior to 1783, the summit was on a level with the Rottenrow; and, at its junction with the Drygate, stood, in times long gone by, the Market Cross of the Burgh. The operations to which we have alluded caused, no doubt, the removal of the fine old picturesque semi-wooden buildings, and the more stable urban manor-houses, with their antique gables fronting the street, to which reference is so often made by our olden local chroniclers. Only one ancient landmark here is still to the fore. It is situated on the west side of High Street, a few yards above George Street, and presents, with its crow-steps, and moulded chimney-heads, a striking contrast to the square and utilitarian masses of masonry by which it is surrounded. Tradition says that this fabric was an hostelry in bygone days—that, in fact, it was the principal inn in the city in the times of the Royal Stuarts, and that it was distinguished by the meek sign of the Dove. On the back wall, fronting the inner court, there is an heraldic representation, on which a dove can be faintly traced; but it was disfigured several years ago by some Vandal, while engaged in repairing the building. On the top of one of the inner court gables, the date 1596 is boldly cut—showing that the house can lay claim to an acquaintanceship with generations which have long since passed away. The whole fabric beautifully displays the characteristics of the style of build-

ing in Glasgow two and a-half centuries ago. We sincerely hope that this remnant will be cared for; and that many a day will elapse ere the Dean of Guild is required to interfere. The back buildings, however, are in a most wretched state. The Irish Huns, with their usual attendants, the piggeries, have defiled the side of the hill on which orchards bloomed, and "laydes faire took pleasant airing;" all seems given over to destruction.

On the east side a peep is got at the "Duke's Lodging;" but this fine old specimen of a ducal home is under sentence of annihilation. This building, as most of our readers are aware, is situated on the south side of the Drygate, having a considerable frontage to that street. According to M'Ure—

"The Rector of Peebles who was Archdeacon of Glasgow, in vertue of his parsonage, had his rectoral manse in the head of the Drygate. After the Reformation, it was purchased by Sir Matthew Stuart of Minto, who rebuilt a great part of it. In the year 1605, from Sir Ludovic Stuart, his grandson, it was acquired by Dame Isabel Douglas, Dowager Marchioness of Montrose, where the family has frequently resided ever since. It has a noble commanding prospect of the whole city and adjacent country; and on the declination of the hill there is room enough for what gardens they please."

According to the same author—

"The Rector of Eaglesholm had his lodging at the head of the Drygate. Mr. Archibald Crawford, Rector of Eaglesholm, at the Reformation, conveyed it to the Laird of Crawfordland, and it came through several hands to James Corbet, merchant, who sold it to the Duke of Montrose, who has built upon the ground thereof one of his pavilions, for his palace here."

It thus appears that the dwelling-houses or manses of the Rectors of Peebles and Eaglesham occupied the site of the Duke's Lodging. The property continued in the possession of the Montrose family until 1746, when it was sold to Gavin Pettigrew. It has frequently changed proprietors since; but at last it has fallen a victim to the requirements of an increasing criminal population. The Prison Board has recently acquired the property for the purpose of extending the prison accommodation; thus the days of the "Duke's Land" are numbered. The building is extensive, and by far the finest portion of it is to be seen in the inner courts, or from the south.

An old rector's manse, a little to the east, is ordered down by the Dean of Guild Court; and in a few years the whole face of this locality will be changed. It is a curious fact that the first Bridewell in Glasgow had been originally the residence of the Prebend of Cambuslang, Sacrist of the Cathedral. After the Reformation it came to the Earl of Glencairn, who sold it in 1635 to the Magistrates, by whom it was fitted up as a house of correction for dissolute women; and such was the vigilance and vigour of the kirk-session in those days, that "they directed the women to be whipped every day during pleasure!" To a modern philanthropist this daily flagellation must form a heartbreaking contrast to the easy and comfortable prison discipline of the present day. But if it be the fact that pseudo-humanity has made the life of criminals in prison more full and favourable than that of honest workmen out of it—if it be the fact that prison discipline has as yet failed to reform the blackguard, would it not be wise to retrace our steps a bit, and take a leaf out of the book of our douce forefathers? The fact is, that a good scourging is the only argument that would seriously address itself to the *canaile* of Glasgow, and deter them from crime. The Edinburgh authorities have got power in their last bill to wallop the leather of juvenile criminals, and we suspect this system will be found more efficacious than a whole string of short periods of imprisonment.

In 1425, Dr. John Cameron, who was presented to the See, built the Palace or Castle, near the Cathedral; and he ordered each of the thirty-two parsons to build a manse or manor near the same. We give the following paragraph on the subject from old M'Ure, by way of showing that even then—a quarter of a century before Pope Nicholas V. granted his bull for Glasgow University—the place had at least some pretensions to elegance and refinement:—

"After Bishop Cameron had built his palace or castle near the High Church of Glasgow, he caused the thirty-two members, parsons or rectors of the metropolitan Church, each of them to build a manor or manse near the same, and ordain'd them all to reside here, and to cause curats to officiate in their stead through their respective parishes.

"This great prelate now being seated in his palace, and the thirty-two parsons having built their respective manses or manors on the four streets

adjacent to the great church, he made a most solemn and magnificent procession and entry to the metropolitan church, twelve persons or fectors carrying his large silver crozier, and eleven large silver maces before him, accompanied with the thirty-two parsons members of the chapter, belonging to the great church, the bells of the two steeples ringing, the organs, with the vocal and instrumental music, sung by the masters of the sacred music in the cathedral, gorgeously arrayed with costly vestments, and especially when *Te Deum* and mass were to be sung and celebrated.

“And for illustrating the city more magnificently, he procured a fair from his Majesty to be held yearly, near the High Church, the first week of January, commonly called St. Mungo’s fair; but oftner the twentieth day of Yuil, which is a great horse fair, and continues weekly till Skiers-Thursday, which is very beneficial to the inhabitants in these streets.”

Episodically, we may mention that we are also indebted to this same Bishop Cameron for our legal staff, for he created commissaries, clerks, and fiscals, to hold courts thrice a-week—viz., on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In the words of the venerable historian already quoted—

“Bishop Cameron at length fell more closely to work, in promoting the interest of the city; he created Commissaries (of old called Officials), Clerks, and Fiscals, and established the Commissariot Courts of Glasgow, Hamilton, and Campsie, to be held thrice a-week, viz., Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday weekly, in the Consistorial House, upon the west end of the High Church, of which more afterwards in its due place.”¹

¹ We are not acquainted with the regulations of the procurators in the present day; but we recommend the following extract from the case of Dinning against the Procurators (1816), if not for their advantage, at least for their amusement:—

“The origin of this Society may perhaps be traced to the institution of the Commissary Courts by Bishop Cameron. Their earliest record at present in existence commences 12th November 1668, and among other curious matter contains

Injunctions for the Prors and their men

For regulating the hous

| | |
|---|----------|
| Item that everie pror who reflectis ane against anither by word or writt and saying yea ar impertinent to pay to the box before he be heard | . 0 12 0 |
| Item that everie one who interrupts their Brither in pleading whill he have done, and the persewer to begin then the defender | . 0 6 0 |
| Item that no p ^{rs} nor servands stand at the Bar bot qn they ar pleading there actiounes under the paine of | . 0 4 0 |
| Item that nather pror nor servand be clatering wthin the bar under the paine of | . 0 2 0 |
| Item that no pror speike in any manes caus except he be employed under the paine of | . 0 6 0 |
| Item that no man swear or bane within the Court under the paine of | . 0 6 0 |
| Item that everie pror be silent after the Commissers command under the paine of | . 0 6 0 |

All these to be exactit *toties quoties* utherways non to be heard in any uther caus,” etc.

For long the archiepiscopal residence fostered all in its immediate vicinity. The inhabitants, we may assume, were fair, fat, and fashionable; but when the last Romish prelate was driven forth in the person of Archbishop Beaton, the court-end denizens fell on ruder and rougher, though purer times. Accordingly, in 1587 we find the inhabitants of the north quarter sending forth their complaints in the following doleful terms:—

“In 1587, a supplication was presented to Parliament, ‘be ye fremen and dvyeris induellaris of ye cite of glasgw abone ye gray frier wynde yrof, makand mentioun that qr yt pt of ye said cite yt afoir ye reformation of ye religioun wes intertynet and vphaldin be ye resort of ye bischop, personis, vicaris and vthers of clergie, for ye tyme; is now becum ruinous and for the maist pairt altogidder decayit, and ye heritouris and possessouris yrof greitly depauperit, wanting ye moyane not onlie to vphald the samin Bot of the intertenement of yame selfis yr wyffis bairnis & famelic.’—‘And seing yat prt of ye said cite abone the said gray frier wynde is ye onlie ornament and decoratioun yrof be ressonne of *ye grite and sumptuous buildingis of grite antiquitie*; varie proper and meit for ye ressait of his hienes and nobilitie at sic tymes as yai sall repair yrto.’ They complained of ‘ane grite confusioun and multitude of mercattis togidder in ane place about ye croce.’

“Commissioners were appointed to ‘take order for relief of ye said necessitie.’

“The Commissioners ordered the markets to be moved farther up the street for the benefit of the petitioners.”

Notwithstanding the painful changes which are going on in this locality, we are in hopes that it has seen the worst, and that every step will now be a step in advance. Thanks, in a great measure, to our talented townsman Mr. Archibald M'Lellan, public attention has been, for many years, directed to the repair and renovation of our ancient Minster, and to the general improvement of the neighbourhood. A considerable interest has thus been awakened; and the Government, with an alacrity which entitles them to the respect and gratitude of all who feel interested in the welfare and beauty of the city, have for some years been steadily engaged in carrying out this praiseworthy work of renovation. The Cathedral is now in a very different state than when we first gazed on its dilapidated beauties not many years ago. We do not enter into the controversy regarding the western tower further than stating it seems well away. The

western entrance is completely opened up, displaying the beautiful details and proportions of the building. The great western window has been finished with new mullions and tracery, in strict conformity with the style of architecture; and the magnificent nave has been cleared of its rubbish and ruins, and presents a picture unsurpassed for grandeur and sublimity. This nave is 155 feet in length by 65 feet in width; and the height about 62 feet. The Lady Chapel and Chapter House have also been thoroughly renewed. The Crypt, which is 125 feet by 62 feet, is now cleared of the iron railings, and foul compost with which the Barony heritors covered it, after they had ceased to use it as an almost underground place of worship. By a "dim religious light," it can now be seen in all its pristine beauty. The South Transept, better known as Blackadder's Aisle, is also restored, and is, to our thinking, the finest part of the structure. When Government has done so much, and so creditably, it will be a pity if the claims of the Inner High Church cannot be so accommodated as to allow the choir to be cleared of the present pews and wooden galleries; and then the Glasgow Cathedral would exceed most, and vie with all, in Her Majesty's dominions.

As we have already hinted, the dumpy Western Tower and the Consistory House have now ceased to be. We hope, therefore, that the day is not far distant when the western front will be flanked with two elegant towers in harmony with the general structure. The bell which was suspended in the old Tower was presented to the city, in 1594, by Marcus Knox, a relation of the great Reformer. The matter is thus noticed in the appendix to Mr. M'Lellan's ingenious work on the Cathedral:—

"In this steeple is placed the clock, and a very large bell, no less than 12 feet 1 inch in circumference, which acts as the curfew to the inhabitants at the hour of ten each night; and, from its grave and deeply sonorous note, is exceedingly adapted to the purpose.

Note.—In the winter of 1789, this bell having been accidentally cracked by some persons who had got admission to the steeple, it was taken down and sent to London, where, in the following year, it was refounded by *Mears*.—On the outside is the following inscription:—

" In the year of grace,
 1594,
 M A R C U S K N O X,
 A Merchant in Glasgow,
 Zealous for the interest of the Reformed Religion,
 Caused me to be fabricated in Holland,
 For the use of his fellow-citizens of Glasgow,
 And placed me with solemnity
 In the Tower of their Cathedral.
 My function
 Was announced by the impress on my bosom,
*Me audito venias Doctrinam Sanctam ut Discas.*¹
 And
 I was taught to proclaim the hours of unheeded time,
 195 years had I sounded these awful warnings,
 When I was broken
 By the hands of inconsiderate and unskilful men,
 In the year 1790
 I was cast into the furnace,
 Refounded at London
 And returned to my sacred vocation.
 Reader,
 Thou also shalt know a resurrection,
 May it be unto eternal life.
Thomas Mears, fecit, London, 1790."

We trust that, now when it is made nearly as good as new to their hands, and that the neglect of 290 years has been repaired, our authorities will make such arrangements as to ensure the Cathedral being kept in a perfect state of repair; and that, under proper superintendence, the public, especially the working-classes, will have ample opportunities of inspecting the gratifying architectural picture. If a small charge is to be made, let it be done at once, instead of "your pleasure, sir," system of gratuities. To our humble thinking, from what we have seen of the gentleman, the authorities could not do better than appoint our respected Churchwarden, Mr. Patrick, as Superintendent of the Cathedral; and, with proper assistants, we will have some security that the

¹ Come, that ye may learn holy doctrine.

whole will be kept cleanly, decently, and in order.¹ The practice of showing the kirk, as it was termed, was not very creditable in times past, whatever it may be at present. We find, for instance, on 1st July 1703—

“The Session, with consent of the Magistrates, direct a box to be placed at the Hie Kirk-yard, and a man to ring a bell at burials to raise gratuities for the poor. The beddals are all to have a share of the money given for seeing the Kirks up the way. They are only to drink a part of it—drinking the whole is *an auld gaw in their backs*.”

We have heard a good deal about the proposed improvements in this north quarter locality; and we would urge on the Magistrates the propriety of not allowing another season to pass without a commencement being made. The dam for the supply of the Sub-Dean Mill is a perfect disgrace to the city. How can proprietors of works along the Molendinar, and other burns within the city, be expected to give up the use of the filthy water for their boilers, etc., when we find the Corporation itself storing up all the abominations of the north quarter for the purpose of supplying their mill? It is rather cool in the Police and Statute Labour Committee, and their officials, prosecuting parties for having stagnant water on their premises or grounds, while this monster cesspool is winked at—receiving, as it does, the drainage of the Infirmary, and forming a convenient receptacle for the ashes of the Merchants' House Lodge at the Bridge of Sighs. It is a perfect blot to this most interesting locality.

(30th April 1849.)

RENOVATION AND CHANGES IN THE CITY—“VILLAGES” OF ANDERSTON, TRADESTON, GRAHAMSTOWN, BROWNFIELD, ETC.

At the meeting on Thursday, April 26, the business was multifarious, but was generally of an important character, as affecting

¹ It is gratifying to state that, shortly after this was written, the Magistrates, who had acquired custody and care of this venerable structure from Government, laid down a fixed table of charges for inspecting it—viz., 6d. for each individual, excepting on Saturdays, when the charge is only 2d. With this fund the Cathedral is kept comely and in order. It used formerly to be under the charge of the Beadle of the High Church, who, under the “what you please” system, received a shilling from one, and a guinea from another, to the amount, during his incumbency, it is said, of £4000.

the external appearance of the city. There were various applications for leave to erect new buildings, and to convert the lower portions of dwelling-houses into shops. The latter are generally considered too numerous already; but if landlords and tenants like to risk them, the public have no cause to interfere.

Several petitions were presented from Anderston, now known as the "Western District," for leave to alter shops and build new tenements. The case of the North Street property, alluded to in a former report, was again brought up. The Police and Statute Labour Committee, anxious to better the access from the south to the crescents in the north-western portions of the city, opposed the application to build in this street, by reason that the proposed erections, which were termed "hucksters' shops," would form a lasting, or at least an expensive barrier, to the improvement of the city in this direction. From what we could gather of the proceedings, it appeared that the proprietor proposed to erect, on a vacant space in front of an old respectable mansion, a range of one-storey shops, projecting about 15 feet beyond the building line of the street. This vacant space may be shabby enough in our day, but in times bygone it formed a beautiful flower-plot; and pity it is that these city parterres are now being so generally smothered by stone and lime. The Court sustained the objection made by Mr. Carrick, Superintendent of Streets, as representing the Statute Labour Committee and the Public; and, in terms of the Act, heard evidence as to the value of the ground necessary to be taken by the Police Committee for improving and widening the street. Many witnesses were heard on both sides. The Court, after deliberation, awarded to Mr. Cousin the sum of £125, including expenses for the ground thus to be taken. The evidence we heard was of a very curious and contradictory character. In their valuation of the compensation, the witnesses differed from 100 to 150 per cent in their estimates; and to those not interested in the case it appeared that the evidence was pretty much like the opinions of counsel—viz., "made to order." One gentleman gave a most gratifying statement regarding the value of shop property in this street. He said that he had contracted to build two shops for the sum of 100 guineas, and that he would draw for these £40 per

annum of rent. This is a rare percentage for money. It beats anything that was promised during the "daft" railway year, and might stand any amount of poor-rate taxation. If such rents were general for so little outlaid money, who would not be a shop proprietor?

We have formerly alluded to the striking changes which have taken place in this western part of the city. So lately as 1798, when James Denholm, one of the most interesting and able of our local chroniclers, penned his history, he gives the following description of this district :—

"ANDERSTON, FINNIESTON, ETC.

"These lie about a mile and a-half west from the centre of the city, and on the same side of the Clyde, and although they are of older date than the two former villages (Hutchesontown and Tradeston), and not built in such a regular order, yet they contain several very handsome and well-finished houses. In Finnieston is situated a large manufactory of crystal glass. Betwixt Anderston and Glasgow lie the villages of Grahamston and Brownfield, now connected with the city. On the north, the ground is mostly occupied by gardens, running in a direction perpendicular to the river, amongst the banks of which, in this neighbourhood, are situated many elegant and agreeable villas, the property of the manufacturer or opulent merchant."

Who will now distinguish the villages of Anderston, Finnieston, Brownfield, and Grahamston, the latter with its old toll-house and turnpike gate; and a lack-a-day, where are now the elegant and agreeable villas, and the gardens "perpendicular to the river," in which our fathers held their state, away from the din, confusion, and contamination of the neighbouring city? In this nice locality the face of nature is entirely changed. Churches, stores, school-houses, dwelling-houses, work-shops, wood-yards, smith and engineer shops, are now packed together, as though the town were a fortress, beyond whose walls not an inch of vacant space was to be found. The whole, in fact, presents a picture of city overcrowding, sad to behold, and not at all complimentary to the sanitary enlightenment of these our times. In early days, when the world prospered with a Glasgow merchant, he "brized yont," like the old Earl of Breadalbane, and built his house furth of the city bounds, with an acre or more of earth around him; but now

the wealthiest, so that they have a self-contained fabric, are satisfied with a few square yards of pavement in front, and a livery stable wynd behind. By this packing of houses, the air of heaven becomes scarce and precious, and little wonder that the dwelling-places of our aristocracy have little to boast of, in point of health, over the hovels of the meanest operative in the heart of this great city.

Applications of a similar nature were presented from proprietors in the Tradeston portion of Gorbals, now known as the “Southern District.” The building of new shops, new houses, and additions to factories was authorised. In this district the same changes are apparent as those we have already noticed on the other side of the water. Our readers are generally aware that the Trades’ House of Glasgow are the superiors of this part of the city. Hence its name of Tradeston. From one of the petitions presented, we observe that the names of the streets in this locality have of late been considerably changed; and our fathers, who knew it as a village, would find some difficulty in recognising it as the suburb of a city. When first laid out, the streets were christened in honour of the fourteen incorporations of Glasgow, but these early designations have been laid aside for titles which sound better. Our meaning will be best understood by an extract from the petition itself:—

The petition humbly sheweth,

“That the petitioner is proprietor of all and whole that piece of ground lying in the Barony of Gorbals, and on the west side of that street in Tradeston sometime called *Skinner’s* Street, now called Commerce Street, bounded by the said street on the east, and running along the same fifty feet or thereby, by the street sometime called *Convener* Street, now called Centre Street, on the west, and running along the same street fifty feet or thereby, by the street sometime called *Flesher’s* Street, now called Cook Street, on the south, and running along the same two hundred and fifty feet or thereby.”

Honour to the foresight of those who have gone before us, in acquiring this property for the holiest of all purposes. The incorporated trades draw some thousands a-year from this locality; with every improvement and extension its revenues increase, and

the widow and orphan have cause to rejoice. In 1798 James Denholm described Tradeston as follows :—

“On the same side of the river, and at the end of what is called the New Bridge, opposite the foot of Jamaica Street, another village was laid out, called

“TRADESTOWN.

“The scite of this village was feued in the year 1790, from the Trades’ House and Incorporation of Glasgow.

“The principal streets extend westward from the Bridge, and parallel with the river. Several of these are already built in a handsome style, with small courts or areas behind ; and when completed, we have no scruple in saying, that it will certainly be the finest village in Scotland, whether we regard the position of its streets, its buildings, or the very healthful and pleasant situation in which it is situated.”

Denholm, honest man, never seems to have contemplated that Tradeston would rise from its position of a village, and be embraced within the arms of the municipality ; nor could it enter into his heart to conceive that, within thirty-five years after his publication was issued, another and magnificent bridge should be built on the site of his *new* bridge, and that all his village, with its greens and crofts, should be converted into a busy hive of manufacturing and engineering industry ; that part of it should be shaven off to form an extended harbour, for the reception of ships from every clime ; and that all around the village district should be embraced in a perfect network of canals and railways ; and that one of the latter even should pierce its very heart. Any one interested in these matters would do well to spend an hour or two in the south-western district, and see the vast changes which have been wrought in the short space of only two years, by the removal, for instance, of the old Fishers’ Hut and the well-known Shield’s Bridge. Instead of these, with their little touches of rurality (which were dear and welcome, because so near a great city), we have now railway bridges, tunnels, canals, and roads, actually piled on the top of each other, as may be seen at the junction of the General Terminus with the Clydesdale Railway. Where the Fishers’ Hut stood, we have now majestic cranes, moved by steam or by water from the hills of Upper Pollok, which, by

the application of hydraulic power, lift ponderous waggon-loads of coal as if they were only a feather weight.

In our peregrinations in this district the other day we observed a fine bridge and road, which the foresight of Sir John Maxwell of Pollok has caused to be constructed over the canals and railways, and which it is proposed shall form a new street and avenue from the south-western parts of Gorbals through the lands of Shields to the neighbourhood of his fine old mansion of Pollok. This will open up feuing-ground of the most beautiful description, and which, despite the busy life around it, will preserve all the rural features of hill and dale, and the "warbling woodland" within a stone-cast of a crowded harbour and the most important railway termini of the city.

The only vacant steading of ground in Great Clyde Street is now to be built on—Mr. A. G. Kidston, one of our enterprising merchants, proposing to erect thereon an addition to his elegant iron store, and thus the street will be now continuous. This street and the adjoining buildings occupied the site of the old West Green, which is thus described in 1736:—

"The third enclosure is the Old Green, lying close to the south-west corner of the city, and is much less than any of the other two; it is only fenced round with palisades, and no stone wall, but that loss is made up by one hundred and fifty growing trees round the green, pretty large. Within this green is the rope-work, which keeps constantly twenty men at work, and the proprietors thereof can furnish as good tarr'd cable ropes, and white ropes, untarr'd, as any in Britain. On the west end of this green is the glass-work."

A century ago this old green formed a principal promenade of our citizens; and even so recently as six years bygone the ground in front, which now forms the wharves of the new harbour for the upper navigation, was a grassy lawn, pranked with daisies, fringed with fine old trees, and peopled with bleating sheep. However beautiful this may be to the eye—for, like the Temple gardens in London, fronting the Thames, it was the only extended green spot on the banks of Clyde between the bridges—the sagacity of our late respected townsman, Bailie Hood (father-in-law of our present Lord Provost, Sir James Anderson) saw that ere long the utilitarian requirements of a great and growing commercial

community would call for the re-purchase of this verdant space. Accordingly, when this river-side ground was disposed by the Corporation to the feuars, a clause was inserted in the articles of sale, at the instigation of Bailie Hood, to the effect that, when required for public purposes, the ground should be returned at the price paid for it. This, after the lapse of half-a-century, has been done ; and when the quays are extended up to Stockwell Bridge, as they will be ere long, we will have fourteen acres of a tidal basin, twenty miles from the sea, and forming the finest harbour and wharfage in the heart of any city in the world. The River Trust would have been gainers by some hundred thousand pounds had they acquired all the river-side ground on similar terms.

(14th May 1849.)

JAMAICA STREET, BUCHANAN STREET, GALLOWGATE, ETC., WITH
THEIR CHANGES.

At the Court held on May 10 the business was of a more than usually varied kind—there being no fewer than seventeen applications for authority to build and alter premises, consisting of warehouses, shops, churches, and dwelling-houses for the working classes, situated in localities scattered over every district within the Parliamentary bounds. These extensive building operations, alterations, and “dingings-down” must involve a vast sum of money to be put in circulation amongst the industrious classes during the next twelve months or thereby ; and we have even heard the total sum connected with the business of this single Court-day estimated at not less than £30,000.

From so many cases we can only select a very few. In Jamaica Street, the fine old classic mansion-house in the Roman style, and which bears so strong a resemblance to the architecture of Miller Street, without the disadvantages of its overcrowding, is now in the course of demolition. A petition was presented by Mr. Edward Buchanan, builder, craving authority to take down this comfortable-looking fabric, and erect in its stead modern

shops and counting-houses, with warehouses behind, extending to Adams's Court Lane. We may regret the disappearance of buildings of this class; but changed as Jamaica Street now is—being the great thoroughfare to the harbour and the railway termini on the south side of the river—with 100,000 pedestrians passing along daily, and innumerable carts, waggons, coaches, and cabs; with all these changes, the quiet aspect of this manor-house seemed altogether out of place amid so much commercial turmoil and activity. The new erection, therefore, will be in perfect keeping with the utilitarian character of the street. This mansion was erected before the close of the last century, by Mr. Black,¹ an eminent merchant in the city, at a time when there were *parterres*, and many green spots, stretching away between his house and the then busy parts of the city. There is one of the finest private wells in the town within the premises, and we are glad to hear that Mr. Buchanan does not intend to build it up, but will leave it open for the benefit of the immediately-adjacent inhabitants. Would that there were one of these “Blandusian fountains” in every court of the city. We need scarcely say that this building has been long known as the place of business of the great steam-shiping house Thomson and Macconnell—a firm which, with one or two others, has done so much to advance the commercial greatness of Glasgow, and whose steaming operations are by no means confined to the Clyde or our own western waters. This eminent firm has now transferred its place of business to new premises, which have been specially built on the west side of the same street by Mr. Duncan Turner, and which afford, perhaps, the most spacious mercantile counting-house accommodation in the city.

Denholm, in his edition of 1804 (for the chronicler published several editions from 1797 downwards), speaks of Jamaica Street as follows:—

“It contains some fine houses. Through this street is the principal road to the New Bridge, Broomielaw, Paisley, Greenock, etc. On the right side is a building formerly used as a circus. It is now, however, devoted to the solemn rites of religious worship, under the name of the ‘Tabernacle.’ At the Broomie-

¹ It was built by George Buchanan, and purchased by John Black, calico printer.

law, which lies at the foot of this Street, there are a considerable number of buildings in the same line with Clyde Street, which, from their situation at the quay of a navigable river, where a great number of vessels are daily loading and unloading, are very pleasantly and healthfully situated."

Where is now the Tabernacle? or who would prize a residence in this "pleasant and healthy" spot at Wood Lane, with the never-ending fizzing, snorting, and smoking of steamers, which absolutely drown the smoke from the people's own chimneys?—leaving out of the question the finely-confounded noise caused by the rattling of cabs, the grinding of cart-wheels, and the screaming, shouting, and swearing of carters, seamen, and lumpers. The old well-known bottle-work long stood at the south-east corner of Jamaica Street, upon the boundary line of the "Old Green;" and though the work has been removed years ago, we are glad to think that this trade, to which the flint-glass manufacture has recently been added by one large house, is still of growing importance amongst us, as may be witnessed at Anderston and Port-Dundas, which now form suburbs of the city, in the same relation that Jamaica Street did eighty years ago.

We may now take a spring eastward to the Gallowgate. In the Cutler's Close several old fabrics were ordered to be taken down. It was stated in Court that a small one-storey house, with attics, here, was the property of four different individuals. It is amazing how many single tenements in the old parts of the town are split up, subdivided, and parcelled out amongst several different proprietors—some of them having only a stable or pig-sty below, and others only a single attic above. This was, no doubt, caused by some decent progenitor in bygone times having acquired a cozy home for himself, upon whose decease it became the heritage of sons and daughters, and then of grand-children, with collateral connections, so long as it was possible to subdivide the old place into rooms, kitchens, garrets, cupboards, and coal-holes. Here the law of primogeniture is set at defiance with a vengeance. We have no great love for the law of entail as it exists in Scotland; but if it prevents property in the country from being fragmented as it is in many cases in town, then it may not be so pernicious after all. In France, since the first Revolution, the

estates of some of the old seigneurs are now in so many hands that the owner is half starved, although he tills his own land ; and although he may boast that he has a permanent stake in the State, it is a precious small one. Entail laws have the tendency to accumulate too much land in one man's hand ; but, *per contra*, had each man his own "Arcadian" little farm, that capital and enterprise would be lacking which are necessary for improvements on a great scale, and which in Scotland have made two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose. At the same time, we do not dispute that certain entailed estates may lie barren ; but some middle system would be best, if fallible human nature could only hit upon it.

In this street—viz., the Gallowgate—there are some good fragments of a bygone time. The Saracen's Head Inn, on the north side, at the Great Dovehill, where the Laird of M'Nab held high jinks when he visited the city—where Dr. Johnson, after his tour to the Hebrides with Boswell, thanked Providence that he at length felt himself an Englishman seated at a coal fire—where the Lords of Justiciary, after holding dread state at the Cross Court-House during the day, treated the bailies and freeholders to a "poor man," *alias* shoulder-blade of mutton, and oceans of claret at night—where the first mail-coach from London drew up on 7th July 1788—the Old Saracen's Head, we say, so celebrated as the fashionable hotel in the days of our fathers, still stands as fresh externally as ever. But internally it is now packed as full of decent people, with their shops and dwellings, as it will hold ; and, on the whole, this sort of city landmark is in fine preservation.

On the same side, near the Spoutmouth, there is a most picturesque cluster of small possessions. On one of these is still to be seen a dial plate, with the date 1708—the domicile, doubtless, of some scientific citizen who prided himself on being able to tell the hours on sunshiny days, independent of the horologes at the Cross or Laigh Kirk.

The Gallowgate, some 150 years ago, contained the principal of what would now be called the public works in Glasgow ; for

here were situated the extensive tanneries, breweries, sugar-house, etc. The breweries and sugar-house have long departed; but the Gallowgate is a headquarters of skimmers and tanners still. The "Easter Sugar-House" was a large speculation in its day, and required the joint-stock purse of five eminent merchants to set it agoing. John M'Ure thus notices it in his History:—

"About two years thereafter (viz., 1669) there were five merchants concerned in the Easter Sugar-House, viz., John Cross, James Peadie, John Luke, Geo. Bogle, and Robert Cross, who put in a joynt stock for carrying on another sugar-work, and built large buildings for boiling their sugars, and employed a German to be master-boiler, this project likewise proved effectual, so that their stock wonderfully increased; the representers of four of those partners does now (1736) enjoy the same, viz., John Graham of Dougalston, the heirs of Provost Peadie, Robert Bogle, and Robert Cross, merchants."

In connection with this subject, it may not be uninteresting to give the following tid-bit from M'Vean's notes—viz., the domestic record of the above-named Robert Cross. We suspect the tenderest-hearted head of a house is rarely so laudably minute in chronicling these important fireside matters at the present day:—

"The following extracts are from the family Bible of Robert Cross. 'Oct. 23, 1663. I was married in the Laighe Churth at on a cloke in the afternoon by Maister Edwart Wright then Principall of the Colledge of Glasgow, upon Joanet Peadie second dochter to Thomas Peadie merchant in Glasgow; shoo was baptised the 22 day of Septembar, 1643. Godfathers James Peadie and Thomas Findlay. This extracted by William Andersowne, Clark to the Seshiowne. Shoo departed this lyfe Saturday the 28. day of May, 1687. Anc dochter born Martch 3. 1670. calit Issobell, Martch 21. 1695, shoo was married to James Lowk goldsmith, son to John Lowk merchant in Glasgow, in my own hous by Maister James Widrow Professor of Divinity in the Colledge of Glasgow. Decr. 8. 1695. My son John was married to Joan Walkinshaw eldest dochter to William Walkinshaw of Scotstowne, in his owne hows by Maistar Neill Gillis on of the towne ministers. Scotstowne said shoo was 17 yeirs of age. My son was born Aug. 26. 1671.' Robert died in 1705. His son John carries down the family history. We select a short specimen. 'June 25. 1711. betwixt eight and nine in the morning, my wife brought forth a son and baptised in the Laigh Church by James Clark on of the ministers of this place, baptised on Tuesday the 10th of July, called William.' This William was afterwards Sheriff-Substitute of Lanarkshire, and Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow. In 1745 he published a

pamphlet, entitled 'A loyal address to the citizens of Glasgow.' He was with the Glasgow volunteers at Falkirk, and wrote an account of the battle. He is said to have been an eminent agriculturist, and the first who introduced the cultivation of turnips in the fields in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, in 1756. The family MS. is carried down to 1742, and has been continued to the present times by one of the descendants of the original writer."

We may only add, in reference to the Gallowgate, that at the foot of the Great Dowhill stood the old Gallowgate or East Port, which was removed exactly one hundred years ago. To those interested in antiquarian matters we need scarcely say, that the "wapon-shaws" were held at the Butts, on which the Infantry Barracks are built; and here, in Queen Mary's young days, was fought the bloody battle of the Butts, between the Regent Arran, and Lennox, and Glencairn, when three hundred fell on each side. The inhabitants of Glasgow, of whom a great number were in the battle, had the misfortune to be on the losing side. They had their "haffits clawed" for their pains; the town was given up to pillage, and harried so effectually, that it is recorded the very doors and windows of the houses were carried away.

We are pleased to observe that the wants of the working classes, in regard to household accommodation, are more generally claiming the attention of builders and others. Mr. James Wilson, builder, proposes to erect four tenements for working people, in Market Street and Young Street, off Gallowgate, in which the provision for light, ventilation, and other amenities promise to be all that can be desired.

Some interesting proceedings took place regarding the Partick Mill at this day's Court, but the narrative of these we must postpone till next week.

(21st May 1849.)

PARTICK MILLS, CLAYSLAP MILLS, BAKERS' INCORPORATION, ETC.

In our paper of Monday last we were unable, from want of space, to take up all the business which was transacted at this Court on

the preceding Thursday, and we will now endeavour to make up the leeway.

Application was made for authority to build a tenement in Sandyford Place, Sauchiehall Road. This will fill up the unseemly gap between East and West Sandyford Place, and thus complete another elegant and fashionable range of houses. Authority was also granted to Mr. Leech to build a tenement of houses at the west corner of St. Vincent Street, at its junction with the Dumbarton Road.

In the "dingings-down" which have characterised the proceedings of the Court for some time, the outskirts, as well as the centre of the city, have been cared for. Some time ago the Fiscal presented a petition, setting forth that the grain-stores connected with the Partick Mills, all belonging to the Incorporation of Bakers, were in an insecure state. Messrs. James Wilson and William York, to whom the case was remitted, gave in a report, which was read last Court-day, and from which it appeared that the old Bunhouse store was in such a rickety state that it could not stand any longer, and that the internal supports and bearings of the other stores were insufficient. The Court, on considering the report, ordered the old Bunhouse to be taken down, and all the other stores to be strengthened to the satisfaction of the reporters. Mr. William Gilmour, writer, who appeared for the Incorporation of Bakers, stated, in their name, their cordial concurrence in the report, and expressed their anxiety to have the necessary operations executed forthwith. He also stated that tradesmen had been employed, and all the stores had already been lightened. The effect, however, of these operations will be to remove one of the old landmarks of Partick Mills. As most of our readers are aware, these mills were gifted by the Regent Murray, on the well-timed solicitation of Deacon Mathew Fawside, to the Baxters of Glasgow, for services rendered to the forces of King James VI. at the battle of Langside. The original grant was the mill lying between the old and the new roads, then known as the Archbishop's Mill. Long since, however, the name was changed, by popular consent, to the "Bunhouse Mill," from its proximity to the Bun and "Yill" house, which stood at the

gate. Although there is a stone inserted in the gable of the present mill, with the inscription "M—1568—F," there is no doubt that it has been preserved from the wreck of the original gifted mill, where it had been placed in honour of Mathew Fawside; and that this public-house, which stood on the ground floor of the store now ordered down, is in reality the oldest part of the existing buildings. Above the door is the date 1695, with a representation of the implements used in the Baker's trade, such as the oven, peal, and "rumpies." It is a matter exceedingly creditable to the Bakers that in all their operations since the above date they inscribe the year in which the operations took place, along with the name of the deacon and collector of the day. Thus, each building, mill, store, granary, water-wheel, engine, and fanners tells its own history; and it would have cleared up much which is now obscure had the same system been adopted on all the public and prominent buildings of the city.

In addition to the Partick Mills, the Bakers also possess the adjoining mills at Clayslap, both admirably situated for taking advantage of the water-power of the classic Kelvin, although this is supplemented, when occasion requires, by steam-power. In this mill was fitted up a few years ago, by the St. Rollox Company, a fine engine, which has since become the model for all similar works throughout the country. The latter—namely, the Clayslap Mills—was a purchase. They are beautifully situated to the north of the Yoker Road. Tradition says the fabric was originally used as a snuff-mill, and there are some fragments existing which show it can lay claim to considerable antiquity. Above the entrance is a fine Elizabethan shield or pannel, containing the Glasgow arms and the date 1654. The Clayslap Mills, we believe, were acquired by the Bakers about the year 1771. In a curious old manuscript volume, containing historical notices, gossip, and facetiæ regarding the Baxters, from the earliest date, the work of the late Mr. James Balderston, baker, High Street, and which is carefully treasured in the archives of the Incorporation, we have the following:—

"It has been said that Mr. William Ewing, late baker in Trongate, late one of the Magistrates of Glasgow, and Deacon-Convener of the Trades' House,

purchased, on his own account, the mills at Clayslap, from the Magistrates and Council, with a view to the Incorporation of Bakers, imagining it a good bargain. As he had not consulted the deacon and trade, they refused to take it off his hand ; but shortly after they perceived that it would be advantageous to the trade, when they agreed to take it from Bailie Ewing, who, to his honour, gave it to them for the same sum he paid for it. Whether the above is true or not, it is certain that in the records of the Incorporation there is nothing said about Bailie William Ewing purchasing individually Clayslap Mills for himself ; but that the trade empowered Bailie Ewing, Bailie Scott, and Convener Lang to purchase from the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow (to whom it did belong) the said town's mill at Clayslap, which they did for the sum of with a feu-duty of £45 yearly."

Originally, the Bakers had some of their granaries, in addition to those at Partick, placed within the heart of the city. One of them was situated in Ingram Street, opposite to the site of the present Montrose Street, and was retained by them till about the year 1792, when the new store was built at Partick. They also lodged wheat in Cockburn's Kirk, which was situated on the right side of the Bell of the Brae, High Street.

The Bakers' Hall, so frequently mentioned in the minutes of the trade between 1718 and 1772, was situated in a close directly opposite to Baker's Wynd, now St. Andrew's Street, off Saltmarket Street. This wynd or street, in 1736, reached east from Saltmarket to the Molendinar Burn ; and, according to M'Ure, the hall "was in length 9 ells, and 5 ells wide." The Incorporation met to do business in this hall for many a long year ; and here was the scene of almost all their balls and other festive assemblies. In this hall, the entrance to which was by Gibson's Wynd, now called Princes Street, there were several boards containing the names of those who had left donations for the benefit of the Baxters. This was discontinued as a place of meeting shortly before the opening of the present Trades' Hall in Glassford Street, in the year 1792. The last hall which any of the individual corporations possessed was the fine Fleshers' House of Assembly in King Street, to which we alluded in a recent report. At the present moment tradesmen are defacing its old emblems, including the gilded ten commandments ; and, by the approaching Whitsunday, it will, we believe, be converted into a public place of refreshment, *alias* a tipping saloon.

In addition to the mills, water-power, and steam-engines, the Incorporation holds about twenty acres of land on the banks of the Kelvin; and so beautifully situated, that, but for the muddy appearance of this once rural stream, one might believe it fifty miles away from a vast city. The purity of the Kelvin, however, has been destroyed by the various public works along its banks, which pour into it their filthy waters, and which show the necessity for a parallel sewer to remove the drainage, and discharge it into the Clyde at the Pointhouse. We are glad to learn that there is every likelihood of this sewer being laid down before long, and that then the Kelvin will be pure and pellucid as it was when it invoked the muse of Tannahill. The value of the whole property must be upwards of £50,000, and it is likely yet to be vastly increased when converted into feuing ground. The profits from these mills are dispensed in the most excellent manner amongst the aged and impotent members of the Incorporation and their families.

There are some curious old documents in the Incorporation box, some of which we may quote for the amusement, if not for the instruction, of our readers. The following is a copy of the original Act of Council, dated 1556, in favour of the Incorporation, which is carefully preserved within an iron case, purchased and presented by Deacon James Parker in 1830:—

“Item it is statute by ye provost, bailies, and counsell, that ye baxteris of Glasgow, sall in all tymes cumming, haif three mercat dayes in ye oulk for bringing of their breid to the Croces. They are to say Moninday, Weddensday, and Fryday. And at (yat) nayne outtowneris bread be sauled at ye said mercat croce bot vpon ye samyn three dayes. And it sall not be lesum to nayne trawellor that brings breid to the mercat to sell ye samyn to nayne outtowneris man in laides, crieles, nor half-crieles jungit ye gedder quhile the Inhabitants of the towne be first servit, and xii houris struken, and that na man of man sell the breid that is brocht to the towne bot the bringar of the same allanerlic, and that (yat) na traweller bring breid to the (ye) towne to sell bot iiiid. breid and twa-penny breid, and that this be observit in all poyntis under the pane of escheting of the breid to ye seller that sellis outtowneris breid befoir xii houris, and viiid. to the trone. And that the Dekin of the baxteris under ye bailies serk (search), seek, and cause ye samyn to be observit.

“(Signed) ANDW. HOGAN.”

We also quote the following:—

“It shall be leasum to any unfreeman to hold stands upon the high street, to sell anything pertaining to the crafts or handy work, but betwixt eight in the morning and two of the clock in the afternoon, under the penalty of forty shilling providing that tappers of linnen and woolen cloth be suffered from morning to evening, at their pleasure to sell all kinds of livers to be sold from morning to evening, but unfreemen who sell *white bread* to keep the hours appointed.”

The following is an assize of bread fixed by the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow, on 30th September 1560:—

“And ordainit, be ye provost, baillies, and hail counsil yat ye four-penny laif [supposed to be Scots money] wee thretty-twa ounces; and ye twa-penny laif saxteen ounces, and yat the samyn be gud and sufficient stuffe.”

Under the head of great dearth in 1563, Mr. Balderston quotes the following:—

“There was a grit dearth approaching to a famine; ye bow of quhiet gave sax punds; ye bow of meill four merks; ye bow of aits fifty shillings; an ox to draw in the pleuche twenty merks; a wedder thretty shillings; so yat all things, appertaining to the sustentatione of man in tripel and more, excedit yair accustomed prices.”

In sterling money these prices would be as follows:—

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| The boll of wheat . . . | 10 shillings. |
| The boll of bere . . . | 7 shillings and sixpence and half a plack. |
| The boll of meal . . . | 4 do. and eightpence. |
| The boll of oats . . . | 4 do. and twopence. |
| Price of an ox . . . | 23 do. and fourpence. |
| Do. of a wedder . . . | 2 do. and sixpence. |

Mr. Balderston adds—

“What would our forefathers have thought if they had lived in April 1801, when the boll of wheat was *seventy-five shillings sterling* and eighty shillings, and three shillings and elevenpence sterling for a peck of oatmeal? The quartern fine loaf, weighing 4 lb. 5 oz. 8 dr., *twenty-one pence sterling*. The twopenny by the bakers was weighed at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ounces in dough. The halfpenny loaf or roll was that small that they gave up the making of them. And an Act of Parliament was passed, and acted upon, that no baker under a penalty durst sell the bread baken till it was twenty-four hours old!!! And there was also an Act of Parliament that only a small quantity of bran was to be taken

out of the grist, and baken in a rough meal state, that is, the remainder of the grist was baken in the rough meal state. But this only continued for a few weeks or months."

Although the Bakers, like the other incorporations, are sadly shorn of their political privileges, they, nevertheless, keep up the Incorporation as a great charitable trust and corporate commercial community. Its affairs are most ably managed by Deacon Bain, Mr. Councillor Forrester, Mr. Gilmour, the assiduous clerk, and other spirited members of this important and homely craft.

(28th May 1849.)

WOODLANDS TERRACE — SAUCHIEHALL STREET — BLACK BULL HOTEL — GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETY — ASPHALTE PAVEMENT, ETC.

The Court held its usual fortnightly sitting on Thursday, May 24.

A petition was presented by Messrs. Robert Lindsay and William Broom, craving authority to build another elegant terrace of self-contained houses on the lands of Claremont, behind Claremont Terrace, and immediately adjoining the lands of Woodlands, which latter, it will be remembered, were acquired in the daft year, 1845, to accommodate the new buildings of our University. By that arrangement the time-honoured edifices in Hie Kirk Street were to be knocked down, and the site, which was bequeathed in 1460 by the good James, first Lord Hamilton, was to be converted into a terminus of the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monklands Junction Railway. Doubtless, Woodlands would make a healthy and splendid academic site; but the substitution of a railway station for our classic halls, and groves beyond, is repulsive to olden association. The change is not begun yet, however, and we are informed that the question between the College on the one hand, and the Railway on the other, is now before the Law Courts. Certain it is that these time-honoured buildings are not to be removed at this time.

The application of Messrs. Lindsay and Broom was granted

by the Court. We understand that the name of this new range is to be "Woodlands Terrace;" and here we may express our satisfaction that the owners of all the new ranges of building to the west have hit upon such euphonious and respectable titles for their streets, squares, terraces, and crescents. Winter puddles are not wanting on the vacant fashionable localities to the west; but only think of the barbarity of the man who, by reason thereof, would christen the adjoining erections "Goosedubs Square," or "Puddock Crescent." This new terrace will be situated on the ridge of the Woodside and Claremont Lands, and will consist of twenty-two elegant lodgings, planned according to a new style by Mr. John Baird, architect. These new erections, as will be seen from our description, are situated at a high elevation, and will even overlook the present beautiful residences of Claremont and Woodside Terrace, etc. The carriage entrance to the new terrace will be from India Street on the east, and on the west it will be approached by a wide and spacious flight of steps, not unlike those leading from St. James' Park in London to the Duke of York's Column in Carlton Gardens.

Speaking of the Duke's Column reminds us that on the occasion of our first visit to London, some dozen years ago, workmen were engaged in making one of the first experiments with asphalt pavement round its base. Cockneys, as well as strangers, flocked to it as a great curiosity, unable to decide whether it was a new piece of quackery, or a new invention by which in truth society would be advantaged. Since then miles on miles of foot-paths, squares, courts, etc., have been laid with it; but, according to the experience of this city, we should say that its character is scarcely tested yet. Some of the asphalt first laid down here stands like adamant. Other parts, of much more recent date, have become so frush and rugged that they almost seem to deserve the title given by one of our citizens—viz., a "conglomeration of chuckey stanes and tar." We wonder if it is because of the troubles on the Continent that the dealers are debarred importing the real article from Seyssell in Switzerland, where we believe it is only to be had. How many sins are committed in the name of coal tar!

To return to Woodlands Terrace, we may state that hereabouts we are on the site of future Glasgow, and we cannot refrain from giving some sketch of the past operations in this fashionable and flourishing quarter of the city. In passing through the ancient suburb of Anderston, we find ourselves at the summit of Cranstonhill, or, as it used to be termed in days long gone by, "Drumover-hill," from the fact that all the vagabonds who were banished furth the city were accompanied to the spot by the town's drummer, playing the "Rogue's March," and this official saw them fairly beyond the bounds. The appearance of the city from this point is beautiful. The stately and princely mansions of Blythswood Square, and Woodside and Claremont grounds, and the lofty tenements on Garnethill, are here seen to great advantage; and to the north-west and west the landscape is varied by richly-wooded hill and dale—Cranstonhill, Woodlands, Gilmorehill, Kelvingrove, Kelvinbank, Overnewtown, Yorkhill, and Stobcross presenting altogether a picture unsurpassed by any city in the empire. Away beyond the Kelvin are to be seen the Partick hills, whose once rural, and still smiling slopes are now literally covered with villas. Little more than twenty years ago, with the exception of a few villas, straggling here and there, Blythswood Square was the westernmost part of the New Town. At that time Messrs. M'Hardy, Fullarton, and Fleming, the proprietors of Woodside and Claremont grounds, commenced feuing, and, to their credit be it said, there was no overcrowding. In fact, it is the only part of the city that has been laid out with any regard to appearance. In our mind, Claremont Terrace, recently erected by Messrs. Lindsay and Broom, is the most striking—its elevated situation (commanding an extensive view of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, if not from Arran to Tinto), and the beautiful sloping gardens in front, give it a character rarely met with in city architecture. Sauchiehall Street, which was so well improved and widened by the Police and Statute Labour Committee, is now rapidly filling up on the south side with high and uncomely-looking piles of masonry. The public in reality have derived no benefit, either in appearance or in healthfulness, from the change of a rural road into a paved

promenade and market-place. They planned these things better in 1820, as we have already said ; and we repeat our prediction, that ere another twenty years pass away it will be found that it would have been alike more profitable to the proprietor, and more pleasant to the public, had these cotton-mill-looking edifices been *minus* at least one storey. We trust the owners of the vast vacant space still in this locality will eschew the modern plan of piling lodging upon lodging, in the vain effort to mount "laverock high." Model dwelling-houses for the working classes, forsooth ! They are as much wanted for those who hold their heads a hundred degrees higher than the decent man whose only capital is health and his ten fingers. Before leaving this subject, we cannot help expressing regret that the whole of Blythswood and Garnet Hills were not laid out in a more ornamental manner, instead of the hard straight lines, with their paved streets. Had proper advantage been taken of situation, the New Town of Glasgow might have been one of the most picturesque and beautiful in Europe.

There is an old prophecy that the Cross of Glasgow would yet stand on Cranstonhill ; which means that this spot would in future years occupy the centre of the city. This has generally been considered an idle freit ; but a thousand things more unlikely have come to pass than that it should be realised after all, and that even in the time of the children of those still living. At the death of Charles II., in 1685, the population of London was, according to the best authorities, about half-a-million. It is now two millions, having quadrupled itself in 164 years. Now the population of Glasgow has more than quadrupled itself in 48 years. At the Revolution of 1688 the population of St. Mungo was only 11,948 ; in 1801 it was 83,769 ; in 1811 it was 116,460 ; in 1821 it was 147,043 ; in 1831 it was 202,426 ; in 1841 it was 283,134 ; and at the present time the population is estimated in round numbers at 360,000. Now, we do not say that an increase in population will be permanent because it is rapid ; but here we have inexhaustible mines of coal and iron ; we have inland communication with the whole kingdom by railways, and with the whole world by our noble Clyde. This foundation for prosperity

and extension is, therefore, we should think, rather a permanent one; but, at all events, we hope the golden words of the great Bacon on this subject will never be forgotten. He says:—

“The population of a kingdom does not exceed the stock of the kingdom which should maintain them; neither is the population to be reckoned only by number; for a small number that spend more and earn less do wear out an estate sooner than a greater number that live lower and gather more.”

We now come to a subject possessing more than ordinary local interest. Will it be believed that “The Black Bull Hotel,” known over the whole kingdom, and far beyond it, for nearly ninety years, is, as they say of young ladies before they are married, “about to change its condition”? We alluded to the subversion of the Saracen’s Head in our last; and true it is, and of verity, that the Black Bull is now about to be converted into a large haberdashery warehouse. The public is surprised at the great changes which a quarter of a century brings about; but here is one of the most important character silently effected in a week, and by reason of which many strangers at least, who had formerly visited the city, would scarcely know Glasgow to be the same place. The Black Bull stands close upon the site of the west port, as the Saracen’s Head does upon the east port, and thus these olden hotels still distinctly mark the ancient boundaries of the city.

The “Black Bull,” as most of our readers are aware, is the patrimony of the “Glasgow Highland Society.” This corporation was instituted in the year 1727, at a friendly meeting of seventeen patriotic individuals connected with the Highlands and Isles of Scotland—the object of the Society being to give education, clothing, and trades to the children of poor Highlanders residing in Glasgow and its neighbourhood. In the year 1751 the Society was Incorporated by Seal of Cause from the Magistrates; and at this period the stock amounted to only £416 : 11 : 6½. Its affairs were managed with much energy, and in 1760 the Society made a purchase of ground in Argyll Street, upon which the Black Bull Hotel establishment was soon afterwards erected. But the first grand lift which the Highlanders received is thus described by a very venerable gentleman (Senex) still living, in a

communication which appeared in this paper on 18th October 1843 :—

“Immediately west of Stockwell Street, and nigh to the site of the present Black Bull Inn, there stood a port or gate called the West Port, beyond which there were a number of thatched houses and malt kilns ; but they were much scattered and sparsely built. Fortunately for Glasgow, these erections had been set down at a considerable distance back from the public highway, or Westergate, as it was called, each house having (*moré Scotice*) a dungstead or midden in front of the said dwelling. When the West Port was taken down, and the city began to extend westward, the Magistrates compelled all proprietors making new erections to keep the original back line of buildings, and refused to allow any houses to be put down on the sites of the dungsteads—hence came our splendid and spacious Argyll Street.

“As I have happened to mention the Black Bull Inn, it may perhaps be amusing to hear the manner in which this building came to be erected. About eighty-five years ago, a number of gentlemen in Glasgow, interested in the Highlands of Scotland, proposed to form themselves into a Society, to be called the Glasgow Highland Society ; the object being to educate, clothe, and put out to trades the children of industrious Highland parents. At this time, I think about June 1757, the celebrated George Whitefield came to Glasgow. The members of the proposed Highland Society waited on Mr. Whitefield, and, after explaining to him their object, they begged that he would preach a sermon, and then make a collection for behoof of the intended Society. Mr. Whitefield entered warmly into the measure, and readily agreed to preach a sermon (text, Mark vi. 34), and make a collection, but suggested that it ought to be done in the High Churchyard ; he further suggested the sanction of the authorities being obtained, that all the approaches to the churchyard should be put in the management of the Directors of the Highland Society. The sermon accordingly took place and the multitude of hearers was immense. Mr. Whitefield having finished his sermon, made a most splendid appeal to the assembled people in favour of the poor and uneducated children of the Highlanders ; he even went so far as personally to point to various groups of ladies and gentlemen, who were listening to him from their seats on the grave-stones, saying, that *they* thought nothing of giving half-a-crown to see a play, or go to a ball, and he told them that he could not let them off for *less* than that sum on this occasion. In the meantime all the doors of egress from the churchyard were taken possession of by the Directors of the Highland Society, who stood, hat in hand, receiving the collections. The sum collected was the largest that had ever hitherto been known to be forthcoming at any sermon in Glasgow. The money so collected, along with some other funds raised by the Highland Society, was sufficient to enable them to erect the present Black Bull buildings.”

At the centenary of the Society, held in January 1827, some details were given regarding the rise and progress of the Black

Bull property, which will be especially interesting to landlords in these bitter times of Poor-Rate Assessment. Some of these details we give :—

“After being incorporated as a regular corporate body, the Society purchased from Mr. M'Dowall of Castlesemple, in the month of May 1760, a piece of ground lying on the north side of Argyll Street, at the price of £260 : 11 : 6 ;¹ on part of which they erected the Black Bull Inn, with stables and coach-house, which were let to George Harrison, at a rent of £100 sterling per annum ; and afterwards to Mr. Herron, upon a lease of 19 years from Whitsunday 1768, at the yearly rent of £140 sterling.

“Upon expiry of Mr. Herron's lease, some little repairs were made upon the subjects, and the whole were then let in lease to Mr. Durie, at the yearly rent of £245 sterling, for 19 years. At the expiry of this lease, very considerable additions were made to the inn, while two of the front rooms were converted into shops, and the whole were let for 19 years from Whitsunday 1806, at the yearly rent of £750 sterling ; the inn and stables to Mr. Burn, at £575, and the two shops to separate tenants, one at £100, and the other £75 per annum.

“When these leases expired, other two front rooms on the ground floor of the inn were converted into shops, and the whole heritable property belonging to the Society was let upon leases for 7 years, from Whitsunday 1825, at the yearly rent of £1168, all of which are now current.

“The repairs in 1787 cost the Society £662 : 12 : 6. The additions made to the inn, with the alterations in the year 1806, cost £5770 sterling, and those in 1825 amounted to near £1000 sterling.”

From 1843 downwards, the rent of the Black Bull subjects averaged about £1270 ; but at the Whitsunday which fell last week, it had declined to £1105. The haberdashery move, however, is a good one ; for by this change, and extension of the shops, the rents at Whitsunday 1850 will be not less than £1330.

The Society also possesses small pendicles of property in Gallowgate, the wynds, etc. ; but its mainstay has all along been the hotel, and generations of unkempt young Highlanders have been made intelligent and active citizens, on the profits of hundreds of pipes of claret, port, and sherry, thousands of puncheons of whisky, and oceans of Glasgow punch. They will now teach

¹ For curiosity's sake, we should like to know the actual extent of this ground. Front ground in this locality is worth, we believe, not less than from eight to ten guineas per square yard, and we may perhaps find that the forethought of the Highlanders secured it for a shilling per do.

the "young idea how to shoot" on the profits from the dry goods line.

Before leaving this subject, we may set down, as material for future chroniclers, that the Black Bull (this day no more a place for the entertainment of man and beast) contains, or did contain on Saturday, a commercial room, a coffee-room, a ball-room, 9 parlours, 29 bed-rooms, in which 35 beds could be put up; accommodation for 40 sleepers belonging to the family and establishment generally; stabling for thirty horses, coach-houses, and sheds.

Seriously speaking, this Society is one of the most praiseworthy institutions we have. It erected those fine schools in Montrose Street in 1831, at a cost little short of £4000. The boys and girls at present attending school are 437, but frequently they are upwards of 500. We regret to learn that the members, from whose entry-money a revenue is derived, have not been keeping up as they used to do, and should do. Surely the hundreds of wealthy and well-conditioned Highlanders amongst us only require to be reminded of this. They will at all times be welcomed, with their entry-money, by Mr. Arthur Forbes, town-clerk, the zealous secretary.

Several other matters were disposed of, which we have not space to notice. After a sederunt of three and a-quarter hours, the Court adjourned in time to witness the launch of the great *Simoom* steam-frigate at Govan.

(11th June 1849.)

SAUCHIEHALL STREET—NEW CHURCHES—GALLOWGATE—CUTLER'S CLOSE—SARACEN'S HEAD—CAMLACHIE BURN, ETC.

The Court held its usual fortnightly meeting on Thursday, June 7.

The business of the Court does not slacken. The old saying, that it is "an ill wind that blaws naebody guid," is here not inapplicable, for it would appear that even the recent decision of

the House of Lords in the Glasgow *Quoad Sacra* Churches case is likely to remunerate the builders and operatives of the city better perhaps than those who gained the plea—always excepting, of course, the gentlemen of the Scottish and English bar, who, in this instance as in every other, had, no doubt, the “cream of the dairy.” To-day there were applications for new churches to replace those now in the hands of the Establishment; there were also applications for authority to build schools, both from the Establishment and the Free Church—applications for shops and dwelling-houses—sanitary questions in connection with Camlachie and other burns; and a singular application from a man, who craved redress from being overheated by his neighbour’s fire.

Beginning with the West End, we may report that authority was granted to Mr. Macpherson, builder, to erect a large range of dwelling-houses and shops at the corners of North Street and Sauchiehall Road, immediately opposite the entrance to Woodside Crescent. So recently as three years ago, as we have previously noticed in these chronicles, Sauchiehall Road, from Rose Street westward, was only twenty-eight feet in width; and the green fields on the south side contained no structures, with the exception of a small wooden booth, which did amazing duty as a huxter’s shop, as a side post-office, as a dispensing establishment for the supply of Airthrey waters, which were always kept in stock, and which were held in great repute by bilious West-enders after what they would call a “jolly night.” This was, in fact, the only place in this fashionable locality which was degraded by the every-day practice of buying and selling. This notable booth was situated on the lands of Willowbank, which, before the formation of Blythswood Square, formed the orchard and tea-gardens of Mr. Harley, the celebrated dairy-keeper; and these were, as is well remembered by middle-aged people, the rural rendezvous of thousands of our citizens, who regarded a visit to the gardens as a trip to the country; and in these days it really was so. Here we have now got a spacious sixty-feet wide street, with high piles of masonry, the lower flats of which are used as splendid places of business, consisting of music saloons, and the shops of printsellers, milliners, haberdashers, bakers, butchers,

grocers, whisky dealers, druggists, and fishmongers. The erections of Mr. Macpherson will still further extend this busy community. Already he has lifted the green sward, and is digging the foundations; and the trees which here and there dotted the surface in all their luxuriant leafiness at this season of the year, will after this week be seen no more, for at this moment the workmen are grubbing them out by the roots; but the great growth of our city seems imperiously to demand all this sacrifice. We observe that the Police and Statute Labour Committee have now commenced the widening of North Street, in connection with St. Vincent Street and Sauchiehall Road. The only obstacle apparently is the old Malt Barn (now disguised into shops, like everything else that a shop can here be made of), which is situated on the west side of the road. The malt barn is the only obstacle to the thorough widening of this now important street, and we trust there will be no difficulty in effecting a removal of it, on equitable terms to the proprietor on the one side, and the Police and Statute Labour Committee on the other. On our visit to this locality on Wednesday last we observed that Mr. York has erected a vast tenement of houses and shops at the corners of North Street and St. Vincent Street; and this, in connection with the proposed buildings of Mr. Macpherson, and those which already exist, will surely, in all conscience, supply enough of shopping convenience to the West End for a generation to come.

A little to the south, on Blythswood Holm, authority was given to build a splendid Gothic edifice for the accommodation of the numerous and respectable Free Church congregation which has recently left St. Peter's, in Oswald Street, and of which the Rev. Mr. Arnot is pastor. It is to be built on that part of the holm, at the corners of Waterloo Street and Main Street, from plans prepared by Mr. Charles Wilson, architect, and the erection will be on such a scale as to be highly creditable both to the taste and liberality of St. Peter's congregation. Blythswood Holm, like Bell's Park, which, since the Disruption, is popularly known as "Zion Hill," is singularly blessed in the way of church extension and church accommodation. On the first locality there will soon

be five churches, on an area of not more than eight acres ; and on Bell's Park, or within its immediate precincts, there are no fewer than seven churches within a similar area. Surely John Knox's great system of territorial subdivision, by which the minister knew every parishioner by head-mark, so to speak, is of small account in these times. In fact, comparatively speaking, were parishes here laid out, they would be of the size of some of those German principalities, in which it is said that his majesty by ascending to his own garret window, and putting a stone into his night-cap, could pitch it out of his dominions.

Going still farther south, we reach the west portions of Argyll Street, not long since better known as Anderston Walk. At the corner of this street and Campbell Street, Mr. John Binnie proposes to erect, on the site of the Old Marble Cutter's yard, an elegant tenement, with dwelling-houses above, and shops, in the West End style, below. This building will now fill up the only gap in this magnificent street, which, in connection with Old Trongate, all travellers admit to present the most extensive and magnificent vista of street architecture in Europe. Standing at this western spot, on an early summer morning, the prospect is alike pleasing and interesting, presenting an unbroken mile of stately tenements, in which the antique and the modern are nicely balanced—with the old steeples of the Cross and the Tron imposingly terminating the view. All is then so still and quiet, that the pigeons—meet emblems of innocence and peace—may be seen picking up their breakfast from the street, a few hours before the roar which our great Western Babel “sends through all its gates.” Much as we have said against the planting of shops in out-of-the-way places, we cannot apply these remarks to this spot. For, truly, this main thoroughfare is so close upon the harbour on the one side, and with a dense population on the other, that it must for generations present an appropriate site for such places of business. About 1794 the spot on which Mr. Binnie's buildings are to be raised was entirely in the country ; and at the east corner of Brown Street, near it, as we learn from Mr. Stuart's interesting “Views and Notices of Glasgow in Former Times,” Mr. Rae Crawford of Milton built his suburban villa, to

be far away from the din of the city. His former house, which was a very fine one, and pinnacled with vases, stood in Argyll Street, between Turner's Court and St. Enoch Square—and at one time even it was regarded as being in the suburbs; but when Mr. Crawford found the extending city gaining upon his retreat, he shifted westward, to be beyond the reach of all future intrusion. What would the honest man say now-a-days to see another city built even to the west of his last rural home?

We proceed eastward to Dunlop Street, in connection with which an application was before the Court for authority to erect an addition to the Buck's Head Hotel; but from some opposition on the part of conterminous proprietors, the case was delayed till next Court-day. The Buck's Head Hotel is now the only remaining perfect specimen in Argyll Street of the spacious city mansion-house, in which the Virginian Lords of other days delighted to preserve their household gods. It was built in 1757, by Provost John Murdoch, for his own residence; the adjoining building to the eastward was built about the same time by Mr. Colin Dunlop, who subsequently became chief magistrate of the city, and from him the street takes its name. We observe that externally the Buck's Head is now undergoing a gaudy renovation; and both from this cause, and from old associations, it will long remain as one of the most interesting structures in Argyll Street.

The close No. 66 High Street was also under consideration. This close is a great curiosity in its way. Some houses in it have been already demolished by order of the Court, and other two were complained of as fast verging towards a ruinous condition, to the risk of the lieges who reside there, whose safety must be considered, even though they pay neither rent, water-rate, nor taxes—an indifference to vested rights not at all uncommon on the part of the large colony of Irish squatters within the city. In one of them, at least, the occupants pay not a farthing of rent; but the squatters may justify themselves by the consideration that the landlord is an absentee, who spends his means and substance with the Saxon in England. These houses were ordered to be inspected and reported on. The paving and draining of the close,

which is amply dotted with dunghills and other fulzie, was also ordered to be looked after. In the ground flat, and on an earthen floor, we met here the other day with rather an interesting scene. Here an Irishman, of the name of Ned Murnion, has set up a school, and mustered about fifty scholars around him. The place is furnished with a few humble benches and a single desk; the flooring which at one time stood on the flat above is torn away, and the children have the privilege of gazing on the original roof two or three storeys above them, while on one side the academy is only separated by a thin wooden partition, pierced with many holes, from a stable, in which some cart-horses were at the time enjoying their dinner of bunch grass. To Ned's credit, be it said, the children were clean and orderly, and he was grinding reading, writing, and arithmetic into them with great devotion. Ned stated that he expects in a week to move to a more substantial apartment, where he will, at least, have a whole roof above his head.

Matters in Gallowgate were also before the Court. Another of those fragmented entailed possessions in Cutler's Close, 88 Gallowgate, was ordered to be inspected. Mean though this locality may now appear, we are informed that in the days of our fathers it contained the dwelling-houses of the best in the city; and here, between eighty and ninety years ago, the eminent Kirkman Finlay, the *beau ideal* of a Glasgow merchant, and who was known far beyond the British Isles for honour and enterprise, first saw the light. The gentlemen of the legal profession especially seem to have congregated here in considerable numbers, and to have converted the spot into something like the Lincoln's Inn of the city. Old John M'Ure thus describes it as it stood in his day, namely, in 1736:—

“The Gallowgate Street which reaches from the east side of the city to the market-place, where it meets with the north end of the Saltmarket Street, and the east end of the Trongate, and the south end of the High-kirk Street, which four streets meeting exactly together, makes a perfect cross; this Gallowgate Street is of length from east to west one thousand ells, and twenty ells in breadth, and has in it thirty-four new buildings; first, the city of Glasgow's great lodging, and next, the great lodging belonging to Baillie Hamilton, the lodging belonging to the heirs of John Luke, Thomas Calder of

Shirva's lodgings,¹ the great and stately lodging belonging to Thomas Orr, writer, being of pure ashler fine work, and new buildings on both sides of the closs, with a fine garden at the head thereof, and a well in the closs very useful to the tenants and neighbourhood, the lodging belonging to the heirs of Charles Stuart, writer, the tenement belonging to the heirs of Thomas Pollock, merchant, the lands belonging to John Luke, and the other tenement on the other side of the bridge, and the large buildings at the back thereof, the lands of Robert Wotherspoon and William Martin, cordiners, the tenement belonging to the heirs of Bailie Bryson, the lands belonging to the heirs of John Whyte, the lands of John Sim, writer, the lands belonging to the heirs of John Wardrop, late Bailie, the tenement belonging to Mr. Walter Aitchison of Roughsolloch, the lands belonging to the heirs of John Thomson, the tenement belonging to John Chapman, writer, and the tenements belonging to the persons after-named on the south side of the Gallow Street, viz., the tenement pertaining to the heirs of John Luke of Claythorn, the lands belonging to the heirs of John Donald, smith, and — Leggate, barber, the tenement belonging to Thomas Peter of Carsbasket, the lands pertaining to the heirs of Bailie Bryson, the tenement belonging to the heirs of Andrew Craig, James Hamilton of Aitkenhead's tenement, Bailie Loudon's tenement, the lands belonging to the heirs of William Bryce, writer, the tenement of Patrick Bell of Cowcaddens, the lands of James Fogo, writer, the tenement belonging to the said Patrick Bell, the tenement of the heirs of Hugh Tennant and John Finlay, merchants, the great tenement of old belonging to Mr. Archibald Lyon, merchant, and now to William Buchanan of Bankell, the great and stately tenement of land belonging to the Trades of Glasgow, of curious ashler work, standing upon eighteen arches and stately pillars, upon the south-east corner of the Gallowgate and Saltmarket Street."

The "Trades' Land" above alluded to, with its curious ashler work, and its eighteen arches and stately pillars, was taken down a few years ago, when London Street was formed, and the site is now occupied by the extensive warehouse of Messrs. William Gilmour and Co. The noted Saracen's Head Inn, now antiquated and disused, had no existence in these days. As we have said in a former report, this hotel was built in 1755, as a "great inn, all of good hewn stone." A worthy town-councillor, who was a Gallowgate boy, still remembers the Saracen's Head Inn in all its glory. On the arrival of the mail especially all the idlers of the city crowded round it, and at the door stood two waiters [who

¹ Thomas Calder of Shirva married Antonia Mure, niece of Sir Hugh Montgomerie of Skelmorly. Calder of Shirva was of the family of Inchbreck, of which latter family most of the name of Calder, in and about Glasgow, are descended. Archibald Calder, Esq., of this city, is the lineal representative of the Inchbreck family.

' I see'd a highlander, 'twas right droll,
 With a string of puddings, hung on a pole,
 Whiped o'er his shoulder, skip'd like a fole,
 Caus'd Maggy ban,
 Lap o'er the middin, and middin-hole,
 And aff he ran.

' When check'd for this they'd often tell ye,
 Indeed her nainsel's a tume belly,
 You'l no gi'et wanting bought, nor sell me
 Hersel will hact,
 Go tell king Shorge, and Shordy's Willie,
 I'll hae a meat.

' I see'd the soldiers at Linton-brig,
 Because the man was not a Whig,
 Of meat and drink leave not a skig
 Within his door,
 They burnt his very hat and wig,
 And thumpt him sore.'

"In addition to this it may be added, that Dougal was lame of one leg, and had a large hunch on his back, and another protuberance on his breast, and hence it may be supposed that if 'Johnnie Cope' had not met with more powerful opponents than our bellman, he had not taken to his 'heels in the morning.'

"The History of the Rebellion published by Dougal in 1752 differs very much from the third edition published in 1774; this last appears to have been greatly altered and enlarged, and many curious passages in the earlier edition are suppressed in this. In 1752 Dougal talks of the Rebels with a great deal of virulence; in 1774 he softens his tone, and occasionally introduces apologies for their conduct. In 1752 Dougal styles himself 'merchant in Glasgow;' a rhyming merchant could not expect to be rich, and he says:—

' You papists are a cursed race,
 And this I tell you to your face,
 And your images of gold so fine
 Their curses come on me and mine,
 Likewise themselves at any rate,
 For money now is ill to get;
 I have run my money to an en',
 And have nouthar paper nor pen,
 To write thir lines the way you see me,
 And there's none for to supplie me.'

"After this he became a printer, and it is said that he would compose his own verses, and set them up at the case, without committing them to writing. The time when he was appointed bellman is not known; but it could not have

been earlier than 1770, as an old gentleman remembers other four bellmen, who held the office before Dougal, and after the year 1764.

“Dougal died in 1779; an elegy of considerable merit was published on the occasion of his death.”

In Young Street, off Gallowgate, the congregation of St. John's Church, emulating the spirit and liberality of their brethren of St. Andrew's parish—whose elegant schoolhouse, situated in David Dale's garden, fronting the Green, is now roofed in—have resolved also to erect a spacious schoolhouse for behoof of the lower classes in the neighbourhood. In Great Hamilton Street, at the corner of Risk Street, St. Luke's Free Church congregation obtained authority to erect a handsome church, with spire and schoolhouse, in room of the building from which they have been removed, by the recent decision in the House of Lords on the *Quoad Sacra* churches.

The covering of the Camlachie Burn, where it is open near the Barrowfield Toll, was again before the Court, the members having in the meantime made an inspection of the spot. The proceedings were advanced a stage. Truly a few short years have altered the features of this once sylvan locality. The Court, on the occasion of its visit, was accompanied by its decent old officer, William Crawford, and he informs us that in his young days, more than half-a-century ago, and before he went to fight for King George III. as a British seaman, the line of the burn from Carntyne down to the Green was entirely open, and fringed with fine ash trees, which afforded a pleasant walk, and shady retreat, to thousands of the East-enders, who resorted there for pleasure, health, and recreation. It was a beautiful pellucid stream throughout all its devious way, from its source to its junction with the Molendinar near the foot of the Saltmarket. At the spot near the toll, where the inspection took place, there was a ford at which the horses going or returning between Glasgow and Rutherglen were watered; and pure water it was in those times. The stream abounded with silver eels, and our informant remembers that when the North York and Cheshire regiments of Militia lay in Glasgow in 1798, it was one of their most pleasant occupations, in leisure moments, to promenade

along its banks, and take these eels, many a goodly basket of which the soldiers brought to their quarters. The stream, where it is now visible (for it is mostly all covered in), is darker than black-beer, and the smell of it has nothing akin to the spicy odours of "Araby the blest." The last thing which the burn produced, that we are aware of, was an enormous quantity of pike—metal pikes we mean—which the patriots of Calton and Bridgeton threw into it in the Radical year. These men found that the task of upsetting the British constitution was not to be so easily effected as they had imagined, and when their houses were about to be searched by the military, they made a present of their armour to Camlachie Burn, and went to sleep with a clear conscience. The means were sadly disproportioned to the end, and we trust they will always remain so. It reminds one of the conspirators, Thistlewood, Ings, and Co., who kept the powder with which they intended to storm the Tower of London in a stocking.

The cases of the Kinninghouse and Woodside Burns were also before the Court, and the parties were ordered to execute the operations of cleaning and covering in forthwith. Several other matters were disposed of, and the Court adjourned after a sederunt of four hours.

(25th June 1849.)

OATH OF ABJURATION—NEW CHURCHES—MILLER STREET.

At the Court held on June 21 the first business was adding Mr. Thomas Brownlie to the sederunt, who had not previously taken the oaths and his seat as a member of the Court. Here, as in the Town Council, the antiquated oath of abjuration against the Pretender must be taken before a member can legally take his seat. We have often thought that both town-clerks and town-councillors must laugh in their sleeves when this *effete* piece of formality is gone through; and as few of our readers, with the exception of public and legal men, are aware that the taking of this oath is still necessary as a test of loyalty

and qualification, we think it worth while to publish it as a curiosity :—

“ I do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare in my conscience before God and the world, that our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria is lawful and rightful Queen of the Realm, and all other her Majesty's dominions and countries thereunto belonging, and I do solemnly and sincerely declare that I do believe in my conscience that not any of the descendants of the person who pretended to be Prince of Wales during the life of the late King James the Second, and, since his decease, pretended to be, and took upon himself the style and title of King of England, by the name of James the Third, or of Scotland, by the name of James the Eighth, or the style and title of King of Great Britain, hath any right or title whatsoever to the Crown of this realm, or any other the dominions thereunto belonging; and I do renounce, refuse, and abjure any allegiance or obedience to any of them, and I do swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and her will defend to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies, and attempts whatsoever which shall be made against her person, crown, or dignity; and I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to her Majesty and her successors all traitorous conspiracies, which I shall know to be against her or any of them. And I do faithfully promise to the utmost of my power to support, maintain, and defend the succession of the crown against the descendants of the said James, and against all other persons whatsoever; which succession, by an Act entitled, ‘An Act for the further limitation of the Crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject,’ is, and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body being Protestants. And all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge, and swear according to these express words by me spoken, and according to the plain, common sense and understanding of the same words, without any equivocations, mental evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever; and I do make this recognition, acknowledgment, abjuration, renunciation, and promise heartily, willingly, and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian.”

Now, is it not a precious piece of nonsense to continue this abjuration till this time of day? and the wonder is that it exists after the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and the concession of Parliamentary and Burgh Reform. It would be much more to the purpose to abjure all aspirants to public office against any fraternisation with the principles of Ledru Rollin, or Cuffey the tailor. It is a pity to kick at the poor old Stuarts, after they are down and dead in every sense of the word. At least ninety years have passed away since there was the least danger of a rising or invasion in the interest of the Pretender; and it was

stated last week, in the House of Lords, that a dozen years after the romantic and heroic effort of Charles Edward, in 1745, the very Highlanders who had fought for him conquered for King George II., the "German Lairdie," the province of Lower Canada. The old Pretender, son of James II., died in 1766, and then his son Charles Edward laid aside the title of Prince of Wales, and took that of Count D'Albany. The Prince died at Rome on 31st January 1788, in the sixty-eighth year of his age; and the only real royal form with which the poor Chevalier was ever associated was that of being royally interred in the Cathedral Church of Frescati, of which his brother was bishop. This brother was Henry Benedict, Cardinal York, and the only thing he did to assert his claim to the English Throne was that of striking a medal with the crown, sceptre, and regalia, bearing the motto, "*Voluntate Dei, Non desiderio Populi;*" in other words, King by Divine Right, but not by the will of the people—thus, in fact, completely relinquishing his claim. This last of the Stuarts, after subsisting for the closing years of his life on a pension of £4000 per annum, from the bounty of George the Third, died at Rome in June 1807. We only mention these facts, known to almost every schoolboy, to exhibit the nonsense of still administering such an oath as this. What must Her Majesty think of it—if she is aware of its existence—after the reception she has annually met with in the Highlands, and especially in the country of Cluny Macpherson, whose ancestor was one of the most devoted adherents of bonnie Prince Charlie. The only thing akin to it, that we remember, was that of continuing to ring a bell in the mint-house, Edinburgh, at six o'clock every morning, to call the workmen to their labours, about a century after all the poor fellows were in their graves. But there was the excuse in this instance; for a man was paid for ringing the bell, and it was no concern of his whether the work-people were dead or no; but we are not aware that any one is specially paid for administering this humbug oath.

So far as old reminiscences are concerned, the business before the Court to-day was less important than usual, having more a reference to the future than the past. The building operations

authorised could not amount to less than £25,000; and they will have a silent, and it is to be hoped beneficial, effect in still further changing the character of the city's aspect.

As stated in our last notice, in reference to the recent decision in the House of Peers in the *Quoad Sacra* Churches case, "it is an ill wind that blows naebody guid;" and the proceedings at Thursday's Court have amply confirmed the remark, to the advantage of architects, builders, wrights, etc. First, the congregation of Free St. Mark's is to erect, on the south side of Main Street, Anderston, in continuation with Argyll Street, and near the summit of Cranston, *alias* Drumoverhill, a fine Gothic edifice, with a spire 170 feet high, which will contain clock and bell. The building will be from designs by Messrs. Black and Salmon, architects. This erection will be a striking feature in the picturesque appearance of our leading thoroughfare. It will relieve the monotonous line of the square masses of masonry in that direction; and moreover, if there be any dependence in the old prophecy which says that Cranstonhill will one day be the centre of the city, new St. Mark's may yet be dignified as the cross steeple of Glasgow.

The extreme eastern point of this main thoroughfare is also to have its new church; but as this is not an aspiring district like the west, the promoters of the building, instead of a steeple or tower, are to be content with a dumpy belfry. The congregation of Free Camlachie obtained permission to build a modest church on the south side of the Gallowgate, and within a few yards of the Gallowgate Toll. Plain though the edifice may be, there is no doubt, as was hinted by the learned assessor, that here the gospel will be preached as purely as in any of the West-end Cathedrals, with their spires and towers, painted windows, cushioned seats, and velvet-fringed galleries.

Gorbals is not forgotten in these revived church-building times—the congregation of Free Hutchesontown having obtained authority to build a church on the west side of Eglinton Street, at the corner of a new street called William Street. The designs are by Mr. James Brown, architect, of what has been termed the United Presbyterian Cathedral, in Renfield Street—truly a noble

structure. The architecture of the Gorbals Church is to be the early English, of a pure character. It will thus be adorned with a spire, which, in conformity with the models of the era when the style was predominant, will be placed at the corner, instead of at the front centre of the edifice. The interior will be unique. The pillars, like those in St. Andrew's Established Church, will be carried up to the roof, which is groined; and there will be a transept with clerestory windows. If the plans are carried out, Eglinton Street, which is one of our greatest thoroughfares, and the main entrance to the city from Renfrewshire and Ayrshire, will be relieved of those dull and uninteresting straight lines so characteristic of the south side of the river. In this, at least, the thousands on thousands of daily travellers will have something pleasing to rest the eye upon; and it will so far atone for the odious stone arches upon which the Glasgow and Paisley Railway sneaks its way to the bottom of the street. And yet, strange to say, these filthy arches or viaduct are the production of one (Mr. Locke) who is considered the first railway engineer of his day.

Milton Street Free Congregation obtained authority to erect a plain and becoming place of worship, at the corner of Rose and Cambridge Streets, Garnet Hill, from designs by Mr. John Burnet, architect. Like its eastern neighbour, it will be content with a belfry.

Last Court-day the congregation of Free St. Peter's got authority to erect a handsome Gothic edifice on Blythswood Holm. We were glad to see them up to-day for permission to improve their plans by the addition of a fine spire, for which authority was readily granted. All these erections will one day or other have bells, of course; and they will still enable us to pride ourselves on our distinguishing feature of former times, viz.—

“Glasgow for *bells*,
 Linlithgow for wells—
 Falkirk for beans and peas—
 Edinburgh for rakes and thieves,” etc.

It is pleasing to observe that in the ecclesiastical edifices which have recently been added to the city due respect has been paid alike to beauty without, and elegance and convenience within.

Of late years the Archæological Societies of England have infused among our Southern neighbours a taste for the noble and beautiful in their ecclesiastical erections; and the many splendid churches that now adorn the towns, and dot the surface of the country, show that this taste has taken a practical form. We are glad to see that a similar spirit is prevalent here. For how much of this spirit we are indebted to the renovation of our magnificent Minster, we know not; but sure we are that, so long as the Cathedral exists, we will always have present with us one of the most perfect models in the British Isles. The humanising and elevating effect which fine architecture, as well as painting, produces upon the population is universally admitted. And we trust that when any individual or body, religious or commercial, have a few thousand pounds to bestow on building, they will always employ an architect trained to his profession, instead of taking plans from a mason or wright, in the delusion that they thereby escape the professional man's fee. We have no longer a hybrid betwixt a barber and a surgeon; and there is just as little need for the mixing up in one of the architect and mason. "Let the shoemaker stick to his last." We have sundry buildings in our eye got up by these anomalous artists, of which it may be truly said, that the dearness of cost is only equalled by the absence of taste. From the extent and cheapness of first-rate building materials which Glasgow possesses at her own door, the city should be one of the most magnificently built in the empire, were the correct rules of architecture attended to, even on the most moderate scale.

Mr. M'Lellan proposes to erect an elegant range of counting-houses and warehouses upon the site of the one-storey buildings and shops owned by him, on the west side and near the top of Miller Street. So far as altitude is concerned, this will fill up the only gap now existing in the street. In Denholm's days—viz. 1798—we are told that the

"houses here are occupied by one family from top to bottom, as in London: they are, besides, elegant in the extreme, and flanked with wings, which add considerably to their light and villa-like appearance: unfortunately, however, the street is rather narrow."

At the present moment there is not a single self-contained dwelling-house in the street; and, if we are not mistaken, Mr. M'Lellan himself was the gentleman who lingered longest in this once happy abode of the Virginian or Tobacco Lords. There may be here and there a stray room or two occupied in the attics or cellar-floors by watchmen, or work people; but, with this exception, the only living creatures in this fashionable locality of half-a-century ago are watch-dogs and cats, and lesser vermin. Externally the street is little changed; at least one can easily see how beautiful it must have been in its hey-day; and internally we can readily fill up the grandeur of dining-room and drawing-room, even though now peopled with clerks, warehousemen, and porters, with bales of calico and muslin, instead of ladies gay with spinnet and harpsicord. Miller Street, along with others parallel to it, was formed some time after 1760, and the following account of the formation by "Senex" in his letter to us on 18th October 1843 may not be uninteresting:—

"The different stripes of back garden ground, betwixt Candleriggs and Queen Street, gradually came to be formed into streets running northward from Trongate and Argyle Streets to Ingram Street. These were opened in the following manner:—Virginia Street, Miller Street, Hutcheson Street, Glassford Street, and Brunswick Street. Virginia Street was so named by Mr. Spiers in honour of the tobacco trade; his house has just been taken down by the Glasgow and Ship Bank Company. Miller Street got its name from Mr. Miller of Westerton, through whose property it was carried. Hutcheson Street was so called because it occupies the garden of the hospital. Glassford Street received its appellation from Mr. Horn, builder, who purchased Mr. Glassford's house and back garden. About this time John Street, commencing at Ingram Street, was opened. It was so called from the circumstance of there being, at that time, a great number of gentlemen in office as magistrates and councillors, whose Christian names were John. The price of the early feus in John Street was one shilling and sixpence per square yard; and in George Square (opened by the Magistrates) two shillings and sixpence per square yard. I rather think that the west compartment of George Square was feued at one shilling and eightpence. At this time there was a waste piece of ground, forming the west corner of Queen Street (on part of which Mr. Gray the jeweller's shop stands), with a decayed malt kiln on the back portion of it. The proprietor held this ground at three guineas per square yard, which was then considered so outrageously absurd, that the price so asked became a standing joke in the city. The proprietor, however, stuck to his price for upwards of twenty years, when at last he got it from Bailie

Morrison, builder, who erected thereon the present large corner tenement. This was the commencement of high prices for building-ground in Glasgow, which probably has been brought to its grand climax by the London Street Company paying at the rate of fifty pounds per square yard for the ground which forms the west extremity of London Street."

Permission was given to erect an elegant range in Cambridge Street. The long spoken of, and important widening of Stirling's Road was before the Court, and advanced a stage. The widening of Dunlop Street was also debated; but as we learn, while extending these notes subsequent to the Court-day, that the case has turned up in the Court of Session, the less we say on this subject the better. Some improvements were ordered in Bridgegate, in connection with which locality we intended to have said a little, had space permitted; but we may possibly, by way of supplement, devote a brief chapter to it in our next paper.

The Court adjourned after a lengthened sederunt.

(1849.)

THE BRIDGEGATE—THE OLD CLOTHES OR "HAND-ME-DOWN"
TRADE—TRIPE—FLOODS, ETC.

In our notice of the proceedings before the Court on Thursday, 21st June, we had not space to add a few sentences regarding the Bridgegate, on which certain paving operations, and other improvements, were ordered. The Bridgegate is undoubtedly one of the most ancient streets in the city. In early times the High Street stretched in an irregular line downwards from the Cathedral to the Cross, from whence it was continued, though not without interruptions, to the bridge, which was built in 1340, and still exists by the name of Stockwell Bridge. Previous to this date, however, a timber bridge spanned the Clyde at the same spot, and at that time there is no doubt there were stray houses along the present line of Bridgegate. It was the great line of communication between the Cathedral and the south side of the river, before the Trongate, originally called St. Thenaw's Gate,

was opened, and formed another route by Stockwell Street to the bridge. During the whole of last century Bridgegate was principally distinguished as containing the Merchants' House, the banking offices, and the residences of many of the wealthiest of the citizens. The building of the Merchants' Hall was begun in 1651, from designs by Sir William Bruce of Kinross, afterwards architect to Charles II., and was finished about 1659; but the steeple was not completed till several years afterwards, and both the Magistrates and Merchants' House appear to have been considerably put to their shifts to raise the funds. According to the Old Council Records, the Dean of Guild and Deacon Convener were recommended in 1663 to "provyd for ane knock and ane pail of belles, to be put in the steeple now in building in the Briggate;" and, at the same time, it was ordered that "the townes armes be fixeit on the belles."

Even after the steeple was completed the authorities seem to have been sorely bothered in the matter of the clock, and we quote the following amusing particulars regarding their difficulties from the late Mr. Stuart's interesting book:—

"In their minute of December 9th, 1665, it is stated 'that the Baillies and Counsell, taking to their consideration how the toune hes been slightit be Jon. Brodbreidge in not performing his ingadgment in relatione to the perfecting the knock in Briggait, It is concluded that he be seased upon by the Magistrats, and compellit to performe theis his ingadgments; and as for the chymes he wes to mak there, for sundrie guid reasones it is concludit that the samyn chymes be maid and put up in the stiple of the tolbuith.' In the end 'Borbreidge,' as he is subsequently designated, would appear to have been concussed into the fulfilment of his contract, as, from the treasurer's accounts, we learn that in 1668, he received the sum of 312 pounds Scots 'in compleat payment of his making of the knock in Briggait, and chymes in the tolbuith, and uthir wark.' The last of these notices of the building with which we shall detain the reader is sufficiently curious from the minuteness of its details—*exempli gratia* (4th October 1736)—'ordain Robert Cross, theasaurer, to pay to Robt. Fulton, coppersmith, £2 3s. 2d. for making a new jack pinnet (pennon) and new ensign, raising the mainmast and foremast, making a new rudder, and other reparations on the ship on the Bridgegate steeple.'"

Once completed, the Merchants' Hall seems to have been the pride of the city, and old M'Ure discourseth thus eloquently regarding it:—

“This magnificent structure stands in the bridge-street, it was rebuilt in the most stately manner in the year 1659, Sir John Bell, late provost, being then dean of gild [provost]. It is of length from east to west seventy-two foot, the steeple thereof is of height one hundred and sixty-four foot, the foundation is twenty foot square, it hath three battlements of curious architecture above one another, and a curious clock of molten brass, the spire whereof is mounted with a ship of copper, finely gilded, in place of a weather-cock. The entry to the hall is very fine and splendid, above the top thereof are three old men resembling the decayed members of the merchant rank, and a ship with full sails, with the arms of the city all purely cut out of free-stone, and well illuminated with the inscription after-mentioned, finely gilded.

“ΑΙΙΟΡΕΜΗΟΡΟΔΟΧΕΙΟΝ hoc, civitatis Glasguanæ mercatorum, pia liberalitate et impensis fundatum, Æræ vulgaris cισισι. Denuo munificentia reedificatum, auctum, et ornatum est cισισιελix. [1659.]

Mutat Jehovæ, qui largitur pauperi ;
Et retributionem illius reddet ei.

“The gild-hall, which comprehends the breadth and length of the house, is beautified with the gilded broads, names, designations, and sums mortified for the use of the poor old members of the merchant rank, by such charitable persons as did mortify the same, whose number is persons, likewise a large written broad with scripture directions how to buy and sell with a safe conscience; together with the effigies in full length of the deceast John Aird late provost of Glasgow, and late dean of gild, and of Robt. Saunders of Auldhouse, printer in Glasgow, both in full length, with the effigies of the deceast James Govan, Thomas Peter and Thomas Thomson, all of them being late dean of gilds, great benefactors to the poor. The hall is illuminated with fourteen chess windows, together with the apartment for the dwellings of four poor old men. The steeple hath a stately bell, being ten foot in circumference, which rings for the behoof of the churches, meeting of the merchants' house; and hath likewise a large flower garden fenc'd about on the east, south, and west, with a strong stone wall of nine foot high, on the north side it is fenced with the house side wall, this garden is of length two hundred and one foot, and in breadth seventy-two foot.”¹

¹ The preamble to the first guild-book in 1659 narrates a meeting of the merchant rank in the hospital, the object of which is stated to be “anent the re-edifying the fabric of the said hospital, being for the present in ane decaying condition.”

“Glasgow, the last day of January 1659. The quhilk day James Campbell, dean of gild of the said burgh, with John Bell, present provost, Frederick Hamilton, and Robt. Rae, bailzies, being convenit in the merchants hospital, with the far most part of the whole merchant rank of the said city, anent the re-edifying the fabric of the said hospital, being for the present in ane decaying condition, they did all, therefore, in ane unanimous voice agree and conclude—That there be ane contribution for that end through the whole Merchandis of this Citie, for the casting down of the fore fabric, re-building thereof, and building of an Steeple, and buying into the house, Robert Wodrowe, his tenement of land, nearest to the said hospital, upon the east, for enlarging

Gibson, writing in 1777, differs with M'Ure as to the dimensions of the "Gild-hall," which, he says, "is in length 82 feet, in breadth 31 feet." He also states that the spire is 200 feet high; and adds, "the great hall, which is the whole length and breadth of the building, is so capacious, that it is better adapted for the reception of numerous assemblies than any other in the city." There are numerous records and traditions to prove that the hall for 150 years formed the principal place of meeting, not only for the merchants, but was also the scene of the gay banquets and assemblies in the days of our fathers. In the early part of last century the Duchess of Douglas did not think it beneath her dignity to lead off the ball in this old apartment, on an occasion when the youth and beauty of the city and surrounding country held high deray.

But, alas! the Irish came in upon us; the old merry hall "stank in the nostrils" of the merchants, and they became utterly sick upon it about the beginning of the present century, and in 1817 sold the hall for the consideration of £7500. It was taken down in 1818. Upon its site has been raised a building, which we can only characterise as a heavy mass of masonry; but the merchants had the good taste to preserve the effigies of the three old men, and the ship in full sail, which are now inserted in the staircase of the new Merchants' Hall in Hutcheson Street. But where is the "large flower garden fenced about with a strong stone wall of nine foot high"? Instead of a garden, we do not believe there are half-a-dozen flower-pots in the whole locality.

the fore front thereof. Providet always, that what shall be contribute, be employed upon the forewark, and it first buildit; and for that end, appointed James Barnes, Harrie Glen, William Coming, Andrew Gibson, Thomas Davidsons, Charles Gray, and John Parland, or any three of them, to join with the dean of gild, or any one of the foresaid bailzies, to go to every merchand, to the end, he may under his hand, if he can write, or if he cannot, ane notar for him, on his book subscribe what he will contribute to the re-edifying of the said fore-wark and buying the said tenement, whose names are to remain in recorde herein to future ages. That if it shall happen the contributors, or any of their relations or friends, being of the merchand rank of this Citie, to be in distress, they may be first preferrit to have supplies of the house, as their necessity shall require, and the ordour and custoume of the house shall permit; and those who shall be markit as refractor from contributing, to be debarred in all time coming therefrae. And hereby as they shall condescend to, they oblige themselves to pay their pairt upon demande, to the Collector of the said hospital," etc.—*Hist. of the Merch. Hosp.*, 1817.

Happily, the handsome steeple is still preserved to us, and is now the property of the Corporation, to whom it was presented by the Merchants' House. We observe it has been recently painted; but it was only the other day, when looking at it more closely, that we noticed that the painting honours have only been confined to the upper parts of the structure, viz. those seen from a distance; the lower part is as black as the weather and smoke of nearly 200 years can make it. This economising of the paint brush is very commendable on the part of the Council in these hard times; but still, when you look at the steeple somewhat closely, it reminds one a little of a tall boiler-maker, with a newly-washed moleskin jacket on the upper part of his person, and a pair of greasy and glazed breeches on the under.

The only other object of interest now in the Bridgegate is the respectable and remarkable-looking tenement on the south side, near the west end of the street. This was the old town residence of the Campbells of Blythswood, and occupied by them as such till the close of the last century. It was sold in 1802 by the then head of the family. From the style, it must have been built about the reign of Charles II. It still presents eleven fine tympany windows to the front, with round "tappietouries," although originally there must have been twelve; and the fourth from the west still exhibits some figures, but we could not decipher their meaning. "To what base uses may we come at last!" The ground floor of Blythswood's dwelling is now converted into four shops, occupied respectively by two spirit-dealers, an eating-house keeper, and a barber; and above there is a billiard table and a tavern. The garden behind stretched away in fine luxuriance to the banks of the river. Part of it is now thrown into the city shambles. In the court behind the house the only verdant thing we saw was a plot of grass on the level with one of the back windows, about the dimensions of a kitchen towel, and such as Tim Linkinwater delighted to gaze on in his alley. On one side of the court is a vast rag-store, and on the other the dense dwellings of the Irish, who enter by the adjoining close. Behind is the most extensive and respectable salt-fish stores in the city; and not far distant is an unsavoury establishment where the intestines of dead sheep and

bullocks are manufactured into various useful articles. Such are the uses to which the flower and vegetable garden of this old city mansion-house is now devoted.

A glance at the signs shows the entirely Milesian character of the population in the Bridgegate. We have lodging-houses kept by the O'Doughertys, the Trainers, and Widow Carroll ; there is the "Londonderry" Hotel for the Orangemen, and the "Emerald Isle" Tavern for the Papists ; spirit cellars are kept by the Kellys, the Conaghans, and the Macnamees ; washing and dressing is done by Mrs. Harkin ; and a rag-store is kept by O'Connor and Mount. At the south-eastern extremity of the street, and partly in the Saltmarket, we noticed an old house with tympany windows, which has evidently been a respectable family mansion in bygone times. The under floor is now composed of shops, one of them occupied by Mr. Arthur Finnigan, who deals in second-hand watches, jewellery, guns, and musical instruments. The upper storey is occupied by a Mr. Lynch, as an undertaker's establishment, and he at the same time lets out coaches, gigs, hearses, and harringtons. Mr. Lynch's windows are filled with miniature coffins, ornaments for coffin-lids, with a variety of gilding and decorations, etc., and altogether he has done his best to make the grim tyrant look as respectable and inviting as possible.

One of the staples of the Bridgegate is now the old clothes trade. In Scanlan's Close, on the south side of the street, and nearly opposite the foot of King Street, is held the wholesale old clothes market, for the supply of "hand-me-downs" to all Ireland—often at the cost of the garments of the West-enders. The trade is not only a home, but an export, one, for vast quantities are periodically sent to Ireland ; and it may be almost said, that for every crate of cabbage, or hamper of poultry or eggs, we receive from the sister Isle, we send in return a bale of fine old "hand-me-downs," consisting of coats, trousers, boots and shoes, hats and caps, shirts and shifts, cloaks, greatcoats, gowns and petticoats, etc., of every size, and in every shade of condition ; and these, after a slight renovation, reappear on the persons of the Milesians at chapel, fair, or market. In fact, on looking at the handsome uniform of the Glasgow Yeomanry the other day, we

could not help reflecting that part of it, when too shabby for the original wearer, is inevitably destined to deck Pat's outer man, and enable him to make a figure at Donnybrook or Balinasloe. No one can tell how many sloe-eyed Judys and Biddys may have their tender hearts rent by the fascination of a cast-off Glasgow Yeoman's jacket, with its red facings.

It will hardly be believed that sometimes £1000 a-week change hands in the old clothes trade ; but we are assured of this, on authority which we deem highly trustworthy. There are positively capitalists in the trade, to whom the minor fry, who collect the toggery in all parts of the city during the day, repair in the evening, and dispose of their armful of old coats, gowns, and breeches. These collectors consist of the honest trader, who gives crockery or cash in exchange for your cast-offs, as well as the artful dodger, who removes a silk handkerchief from your pocket without your leave. Unpretending and humble though the old clothes shops or booths may appear, the rents, in proportion, are as high as in Buchanan Street ; and yet we hear much less from this quarter of the dreadful public burdens to which both proprietor and tenant are subjected, especially in the shape of the poor-rate. Property in Bridgegate has, however, been gradually decreasing in value for the last fifteen years.

We need scarcely remind our readers that, from time immemorial, the Bridgegate has been celebrated for the quality of its tripe, potted-meat, and cow-heel. Even the most fashionable families used regularly to send to the Bridgegate for their supply of tripe ; and thousands of convivial parties have regaled themselves on this dish upon the spot, followed by libations of Glasgow punch or whisky toddy. Until within the last dozen years, when so many respectable chop-houses have sprung up, a man could not get a meal in the business part of the town unless he ordered dinner at an inn or hotel ; but he could always get a plain "check" or "snack" in the Bridgegate for something under a shilling. The institution of the chop-houses throughout all the city has destroyed the monopoly of the Bridgegate in this respect ; and though tripe is still got there in rare perfection, and in Blythwood's old house, too, it is not run upon by the citizens as it used

to be ; and, moreover, the trade is now scattered over all the city. We have warrant for saying that fortunes amounting to £30,000 have been made in this street in the tripe and spirit trade.

Old citizens still living remember the "Lazy Corner" in the Bridgegate being an important place. It is situated at that portion of the street where the Goose-dubs runs in Bridgegate ; and here we may mention that this vulgar name is quite a modern one, for the original and correct appellation of Goose-dubs is Aird's Wynd, called after the provost of that name. In days before every man was pestered to subscribe to, or buy, a newspaper, the citizens used to assemble at this spot in great numbers, and learn the news of the day—the progress of the rebels in 1715 and 1745 ; and the events of the American war some time later, in which Glasgow was deeply interested, from the extent of her Virginian trade. Now the spot is the rendezvous of all the navvies, sweeps, speech-criers, and idle vagabonds of the district ; but even they are leaving it, from the many adjacent dwellings in the wynds, where they herded together, having been dismantled by what may be termed the Dean of Guild epidemic.

The Bridgegate may still be called our local Donnybrook. A row can be got up here in almost no time, especially on Saturday night, and accordingly policemen are then stationed in it as thick as blackberries. An Irishman who feels himself "blue moulded" for want of a beating, has nothing to do but trail his coat along the street, and dare any man to tread on it, and he is soon thrashed to his heart's content. At times the district is so excitable that the appearance of an orange flower or ribbon is enough to produce something like an insurrection, which is productive of sundry black eyes and bloody noses. A few years ago a powerful individual—still living, we believe—was distinguished by a mortal hatred of the Pope and the Papists, which, whenever he got a few glasses of whisky, he could not help showing, even at the expense of a beating. Accordingly, when he had drank enough fairly to raise his "dander," he deliberately stuck an orange ribbon in his button-hole, and marched down to the Bridgegate, whistling "Boyne Water," or "Croppies lie down," varied with an occasional scream of "To the Devil with the Pope." Of course, he

was set upon immediately ; and although he might have the satisfaction of knocking down some half-a-dozen Papists in the struggle, numbers fairly floored him at last, and the matter ended by the enthusiastic Protestant being carried to the Police Office with his face so effectually battered, that his mother would not have known him.

The Bridgegate, from its low-lying position, used to suffer dreadfully from the flooding of the Clyde in those days before the dredging machine had cut out such an ample scour for the waters ; and also before the protecting parapets were built on the north side of the river. The most memorable flood is that of Tuesday, 12th March 1782, which is still remembered by some living in the light of a "judgment." After long and heavy rains, the Clyde rose on the afternoon of Monday to an alarming extent. It covered all the lower parts of the Green, stopped the communication with the country to the south by the bridges, and laid the Bridgegate under water to the depth of several feet. As the inhabitants were accustomed to floods, many of them went to bed in the hope that the waters would have subsided by the morning ; but they continued to rise during the night until the fires on the ground floors were extinguished, and then the flood entered the beds, from which the inmates hastily retreated to the upper storeys. The night was a wild, dark, and dismal one ; there were heard throughout the whole street cries of distress and despair ; and at the distance of more than half-a-century many of the Bridgegate denizens still spoke of it as the most gloomy night they had ever spent in their lives. By early daylight the inhabitants were relieved by means of boats, which sailed up and down the street, supplying the families with cordials and provisions, and removing such of them as desired to escape from their dwellings. The lower parts of Saltmarket, Stockwell, and Jamaica Streets were in the same condition ; and the then village of Gorbals was so completely surrounded that it seemed like an island rising up in the midst of an estuary. A young woman was drowned there, which was the only loss of life occasioned by the flood ; but a great many horses and cows were drowned in their stables, and the merchants suffered much from vast quan-

tities of tobacco, sugar, and other merchandise having been carried away or damaged. The flood subsided in the course of Tuesday, and on Wednesday the Clyde returned to its wonted channel, after having at one time risen no less than twenty feet above its ordinary level. The exact height to which the waters rose was marked on the walls of a house at the foot of Saltmarket, on the east side, but it has now been taken down.¹ This house, we may add, was that in which, it is said, Cromwell resided during his stay in Glasgow; and, even when it was demolished, the mouldings and carvings of the great dining-hall exceeded in beauty anything of the kind which was then in Glasgow. In a few days the sum of £500 was collected to succour the poorer classes who had suffered from the inundation.

On the 18th November 1795 the Clyde again "wide o'er the brim with many a torrent swelled;" and, as before, the lower parts of the city were completely submerged. About midday two of the arches of the bridge, then recently erected at the foot of Saltmarket, fell down with a crash, and the displacement of

¹ On looking at the house the other day where the above-named Misters Lynch and Finnigan do their trading in we observed, on the gable fronting the Saltmarket, a stone bearing the following letters, being evidently part of an inscription:—"HE RIVER 12 MA." We have no doubt that this stone refers to the great flood of 12th March 1782, but it is inserted in the building at the height of more than two storeys—in fact, in that part where the gable tapers towards the roof—and had the river at any time risen to this height it must have swept the city into perdition, and ruined the whole Vale of Clyde. We think we can explain the matter, however. Bailie D. Smith tells us that in his young days this house projected many feet beyond the Bridgegate into the Saltmarket, and formed a narrow neck or gut in the street, where "two wheel barrows trembled when they met." When some renovations were made in Saltmarket this projection was shaven off, and the present line of street thus obtained. But it would be necessary to build a new gable to the still remaining old house; and as the tenement on the opposite side of the street, which bore the original flood inscription, may have been taken down about the same time, we think it not improbable that the masons inserted the old stone in the new gable rather with the view of preserving it than of actually marking the height of the river. At least we propound this theory until some one can supply the real facts. In fact, since the above was written, we learn that the inscription stone was actually placed in this elevated position as a bit of waggery by the mason. We may add, that at the east side of the south entrance-door to the Court House, and a little above the ground, is inserted a brass plate, marking the height of this flood. So far as we could make out, for the surface is blackened and partially covered by a rail, there is the following:—"The upper edge of this represents the height of the great flood in Clyde, 12th March 1782." The present Court House was not built till upwards of thirty years after this flood, but no doubt the height was accurately measured before the plate was inserted.

water was so tremendous that the doors of the public washing-house, though situated at a great distance, were burst open, and a portion of the clothes and utensils floated away. The remaining arches fell in the course of the afternoon, and thus the edifice was entirely destroyed. During this flood a boy was drowned in attempting to reach his home at the foot of the New Wynd.

On 18th August 1808 the Bridgegate and lower parts of the town were again visited by a tremendous flood. The loss of grain and cattle along the banks was very great, and "flocks, herds, and harvests" floated past the city for several hours. A young man who sailed in a boat in the Green lost his life while attempting to secure some of the floating grain. In 1816 the Clyde rose seventeen feet, and there have been various floods since; but from the changes already noticed, they have become gradually less and less destructive, and now their coming is not looked to with apprehension.

A club of gentlemen connected with the Bridgegate (for some of the best and wealthiest in the city were "raised" there) was long since instituted, in remembrance of some of these early floods, which used to hold, and perhaps still hold, annual meetings to keep up the association of their boyish days.

(1849.)

FLOODS IN CLYDE—THE MERCHANTS' HOUSE.

Our respected friend "Senex" writes to us as follows on the above subjects, under date July 9:—In the *Herald* of to-day I observe that you make some observations regarding the height of the River Clyde at the great flood of 1782. In King Street the river reached the second shop above the mutton market; I stood upon the upper step of that shop on the 12th of March of that year, and while I was there a boat arrived close to me, having been through the Bridgegate with provisions for the inmates of houses in that quarter. Both the markets were inundated, and I remember that this flood cleared these markets of rats; for, after

the river had resumed its usual channel, there were taken up two large tubfuls of dead rats. As to the great flood of 1808, I was living at that time in a self-contained house on the south side of the city, which house stood by itself, being quite detached from any other ; but the ground on which it was built was a little higher than the surrounding grounds. At night the river had put out all the fires of our lower apartments ; and when I went to bed it stood three feet deep in our dining-room. We could not get out of the house that night except a boat had come to us, for, the adjacent grounds being lower than the house, the water all around was not only deeper than the height of a man, but it was running past us with the rapidity of a mill dam ; I do not believe that any boat could have breasted the current. I think that we were not less than 400 feet from dry land ; and, to tell the truth, I was very much afraid at one time that our house would have been swept away altogether. It was not till the evening of the next day that the river fell sufficiently low to permit me to come out ; and I was even then the only one in the family capable of venturing with safety to make the trial, for I was an excellent swimmer, and was not afraid. I put on a shirt before making the attempt (seeing a number of people viewing our proceedings), and having taken my usual dress and a spare shirt upon my head, tied up in a bundle, I commenced my escape. At the deepest part of my retreat the water was as high as my shoulders, but I kept my feet the whole way, and having safely landed, I went in to a neighbouring house, where I was obligingly received, and there I threw off my wet shirt, and dressed myself in the clothes which I had carried out with me upon my head. The rest of the family, however, could not get out till next day.

I also notice your observations regarding the Merchants' Hall in the Bridgegate. To the best of my recollection, I was at the last ball of fashion which was given in this hall. It was a dancing-school ball, and we all went to it in sedan chairs. There was no such thing as noddies or cabs in those days. Ladies, on all occasions of this kind, always took a sedan chair. On common visiting parties, ladies generally took a servant-maid with them, carrying a lantern to show the way ; for the streets

were then not well paved, and were full of holes choked up with mud. In wet weather ladies put on pattens, and covered their heads with a calash, their shoulders enveloped in a scarlet cloak.

(6th July 1849.)

DUNLOP STREET—TRONGATE—BUCHANAN'S SOCIETY—
THEATRES, ETC.

The ordinary meeting of the Court was held on Friday, July 6. A great variety of business was disposed of. The case which occupied longest time was the proposed addition to the Buck's Head Hotel in Dunlop Street, which has been previously before this Court, as well as before the Lord Ordinary in the Court of Session. The Fiscal presented a petition, praying the Court to line back the new building in a line with the front of the houses on the east side of Dunlop Street, south of Moody's Wynd, where the street is sixty feet wide. The Court delayed the case, so as to allow the Fiscal an opportunity of calling in as a party Mr. Batt, of Ireland, the proprietor of the hotel.

The applications for authority to build were few as compared with former Courts. Among these, however, was one of more than ordinary interest. The Directors of the Buchanan Society applied for leave to take down and rebuild the land of houses belonging to them, situated at the corner of King Street and Tron-gate. The new building, so far as we can judge from the plans, will be a very successful specimen of street architecture. The designs are by Mr. John Rothead, architect, and we trust that the example now to be shown by this charitable body will be extensively imitated in future erections. The building will be of the Italian character—the shop storey being formed of a rustic base-ment, with arched windows, and corners with rustics. We will be much disappointed if this building will not vary to advantage the architectural character of this fine old street, which has been considered by many of late to be lapsing into its "sear and yellow leaf." Buildings such as this, however, will bring back its first

loves ; and as it is still entirely in the heart of the city—equidistant from the extremities east, west, north, and south—it only requires suitable and elegant accommodation to make it again a favourite site for haberdashers, jewellers, etc., and others with whom show is, to a certain extent, substance. The Trongate of Glasgow, like the Saltmarket, is known over the world, and we may again draw from the stores of our old friend John M'Ure some account of its proprietary in his days, and may add that, notwithstanding all the changes it has undergone, some of the buildings alluded to are in existence still :—

“ We now come to the Tron Street, consisting of the buildings following, first, the two tenements of land belonging to John Sheils, portioner, of Partick ; the tenement pertaining to the heirs of John Bogle, surgeon ; the great tenement belonging to the heirs of Andrew Leitch, merchant ; the tenement of George Buchanan, late baillie ; the tenement belonging to the heirs of John Glen ; the tenement of John Auchincloss, baker ; the land of Robert Cross ; the tenement of the heirs of William Gemmel, writer ; the tenement of John Armour, late baillie ; the tenement of the heirs of Ninian Gilhaigy and John Mackenzie, merchants ; the tenement of James Corbet, merchant ; the tenement of David Arneil, merchant ; the great tenement of land belonging to George Gilchrist, and the heirs of Walter Blair, merchants ; the tenement of John Arneil, and the heirs of Andrew Lees and John Wales, merchants ; the large tenement belonging to Dr. Paton.

“ And on the north side of the Trongate, the great and stately lodging, orchard, and gardens, belonging to Colonel William M'Douall, of Castlesemple,¹ the great and stately lodging belonging to the heirs of John Spruel, merchant, the great tenement belonging to the heirs of Michael Coulter, late baillie, the tenement within the closs thereof belonging to William Anderson, late baillie, the tenement at the back thereof within the closs belonging to the heirs of Charles Crawford, merchant, the tenement at the back thereof belonging to the heirs of John Bryson of Craigallian, the fleshmarket² and shades within the same belonging to the city of Glasgow, the lands belonging to ———

¹ This house was built by Daniel Campbell of Shawfield in 1711. In 1725 it was attacked by the mob, and the windows and furniture demolished. When the Highland army came to Glasgow in December 1745, Charles lodged in this house—“ Where he ate in public twice a day. The table was spread in a small dining-room, at which, with a few of his officers, he sat down, without ceremony, in the Highland dress. A few Jacobite ladies waited in form on these occasions.” The house and ground, containing 15,855 square yards, were purchased in 1792 from Mr. H. Glassford for £9850. The house was taken down that same year when Glassford Street was opened.—M'VEAN'S *Notes*.

² Of this market Ray speaks in the following terms :—“ A very neat square flesh-market, scarce such an one to be seen in England or Scotland.”—RAY'S *Itinerary*.

Stuart and Peter Reid, maltman, the tenement of William Thomson, merchant, the tenement within the closs thereof belonging to Archibald Alison, merchant, the tenement, houses and gardens, at the head of the closs thereof belonging to Mr. William Brisbane, late rector of the Grammar School of Hamilton, the tenement of land belonging to Joseph Arbuckle and the before-designed John Armour, the tenement of James Lees, merchant, the great tenement of land, shops, and pertinents thereto belonging to John Graham of Dougalston, the tenement of land belonging to Robert and Mr. Henry Marshals and John Gibson of Hillhead. In this street is the main guard-house."

We cannot dismiss the Buchanan's Society without making a few remarks upon it. It is, we think, the very oldest charitable Society amongst us, established by private benevolence. It was formed, so far back as 1725, by a number of gentlemen of the name of Buchanan and of the septs or clans descended from that name, for the purpose of putting to apprenticeship and otherwise succouring poor young Buchanans, etc., and also for the purpose of assisting widows whose circumstances required it. Gibson, writing in 1777, says: "Their capital stock is so much increased, that they have it in their power to bestow £170 sterling per annum upon this truly charitable purpose." The building now to be taken down and rebuilt, seems to be the oldest heritable subject belonging to the Society. It has been in their hands for nearly 120 years, for we have M'Ure speaking thus both of the Society itself and of the property it possesses. We may premise, however, that the Society is now possessed of large house property in the same street, at the corner of Stockwell Street, and that its funds and affairs are ably managed by Mr. William Buchanan, in the Candleriggs, and other gentlemen who bear this honoured Scottish name:—

" THE ADVANCE OF STOCK IN THE SOCIETY.

"The fund of the Society is so far increased, that the managers did, with a part of it in the year 1733, purchase a tenement at the north-west corner of the King's street of Glasgow, opposite to the fleshmarket, and payment for the same 2110 merks Scots money, out of which they receive ten pounds sterling of yearly rent, and for recovering loss by accident of fire, have insured it in the fire insurance office of Glasgow."

" THE DESIGN AND REASON FOR BUILDING.

"The magistrates and town-council of Glasgow (who are ever zealous of good works) were so well satisfied with the usefulness and good management

of the project, that they inclined to favour it with all suitable encouragement ; and that very same year (1733), upon application by the managers, they granted to them in free gift, and to their successors in office, for the use of the said Society, by an act of their council, twenty foots of the town's empty ground, next to, and on the east side of the said tenement, and extending to the whole breadth of the house, from north to south, for encouraging the Society to build, and enlarging their building ; so that the managers are resolved, so soon as their fund is increased, any way suitable to such an undertaking, or shall be assisted by the generous and well-disposed persons of the name and its branches, or by others of a public spirit, to pull down the old tenement, and build a new one, which, by reason of its situation, and other advantages, may have it in a very spacious and handsome hall, (where the meetings of the Society may be kept, the broads and pictures of the benefactors hung,) and may have several shops on the ground story, besides a good dwelling-house and top-garrets ; all which, out of a moderate expense of building, will render a considerable yearly rent, much advanced by the many shops on the ground, far exceeding the annual rent of building, and of the first purchase, and will be a lasting fund for continuing, promoting, and extending the charitable ends and designs of the Society."

During the last century almost every associated body in the city had its charitable society for the relief of its aged and indigent members ; for, in addition to the semi-public associations of the Physicians and Surgeons and the Procurators, there were societies for the Tobacconists, the Horse Hirers, the Porters, the Carters, etc. etc. These were the days when the support of the poor was an easy task, and when charity was alike blessed to the giver and receiver. But alas ! from the frightful mode in which the tax is now levied, and the manner in which the fund is managed, there is deep discontent on the part of the ratepayer, and not an atom of thankfulness on the part of the recipients, with the great majority of whom pauperism, though brought on by their own vices or indolence, has long ceased to be a degradation.

Calvert, of the wooden Hibernian Theatre, obtained authority to erect a new brick edifice in Greendyke Street, immediately to the east of the Episcopal Chapel, and adjoining the Model Lodging-Houses for the working classes. Now that the Adelphi Theatre, the City Theatre, and Cook's Circus have all been swept off the Green by fire in less than four years, we have no doubt that this Hibernian will have "ample room and verge enough" for dishing up the penny drama for the delectation and improve-

ment of the *canaille* and young Red Republicans of the Bridge-gate, the Wynds, Saltmarket, High Street, the Vennels, and the Havannah. Since the house is to go up, the Court wisely resolved to look to its security by appointing Mr. Andrew Brockett, wright, to inspect it during its progress, and see to its sufficiency.

[By the way, we notice that the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court has been honoured by a notice from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech on Mr. Disraeli's motion as to the state of the nation on Monday last. He argues that as there are many more applications to build this year than last, *ergo*, Glasgow is in a palmy state. We are thankful to say we are a great deal better now than we were a year ago; but the gentleman, whoever he was, who supplied the information, would have made the thing complete had he supplemented it, to the effect, that there have been rarely more houses and shops to let in the City than at the present moment. Possibly this may have been caused, to some extent, from the many families broken up during the visitation of cholera last winter.]

(23^d July 1849.)

FREE CHURCHES—SALTMARKET—IRISH CATHOLICS—THE OLD
JAIL—FIDDLERS' CLOSE, ETC.

The Court held its fortnightly sitting on Friday, 20th July, having been postponed from the preceding day in consequence of the official inspection of the lighthouses by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and their friends.

There was an unusually large amount of business before the Court, consisting of applications for building in various parts of the city, orders for the extension of the city sewerage, paving operations, etc. The noted Buck's Head Hotel case was called, when Mr. Lamond appeared for the lessee, Mr. M'Donald for the proprietor (Mr. Batt, Ireland), and Mr. Burnet for the public. Nothing decisive was done, however, on account of the case, in another shape, being still before the Court of Session. The congregation of Free St. Stephen's obtained authority to erect a very beautiful church on the south side of the new City Road, at the corner of a proposed street. The designs are by Mr. Charles Wilson, architect, and, so far as we can judge, they do him much

credit. The probable cost is about £6000. Like other new churches, Free St. Stephen's is to be decorated with a handsome spire, 150 feet high, and it will be provided with a clock. In no part within the municipality have there been greater changes of late than in this district. Not more than sixteen years ago, and previous to the opening of the City Road, ground was readily obtained at the rate of 2s. the square yard. It is now selling at 20s. ; and the district is fast filling up with the dwelling-houses of the middle and respectable classes, who trade in the old and denser city down below. The streets are all wide, and ample space is left for light and air. Though this be the case, it has often struck us as matter of regret that no provision has been made for a West-end park, to subserve the purpose of lungs to a great population, which, in this district alone, will no doubt, in less than half a century, amount to more than 200,000 souls.

The Fiscal presented a petition, setting forth that the old tenement at the corner of the Back Wynd, Bridgegate, was in a dangerous state, and it was consequently remitted to Mr. Robert Taylor to inspect and report. This is one of the most antique-looking buildings in the city. It occupies the whole frontage between the New and Back Wynds, having four crow-step gables to the street, with moulded chimney stalks ; and from its aspect and style, it lays claim to be one of the oldest buildings in this part of the town. On the east corner, about twenty feet above the level of the street, we observed a stone bearing the inscription 1589. In bygone days it must have formed a very respectable city mansion-house ; and if the skill of the Inspector can suggest means of securing the fabric, we would be loath to part with it. It is not yet entirely taken possession of by the Irish, as is the case with most of the buildings in the neighbourhood ; for here is still one of the nice old eating-houses for which the Bridgegate was so famous in former times, kept by a Mrs. Dickson, whose surname would leave us to believe that her origin is not Milesian. While visiting this locality on Friday and Saturday last, we took a turn through the Saltmarket closes. We were gratified at the improved external appearance they present as compared with only two years ago—several large spaces having been opened up

to the light, and the portion of the Molendinar Burn, between St. Andrew's Street and Green Street, is now in course of being covered in, and formed into an ordinary common sewer. This place will in all likelihood be asphalted, and form a continuation of London Lane towards the Green.

Near to this spot three closes have their termination, and though much altered of late years, they still present a curious specimen of labyrinthine city architecture. The southmost belonged to the late Dr. Rae Wilson, the Eastern traveller, who died only a few weeks ago in London, and whose remains have since been brought down and interred in the Necropolis here. In this close, about seventy years ago, the few Roman Catholics then in Glasgow would appear to have gathered together and heard mass for the first time since their expulsion from the Cathedral more than 200 years before. They met by stealth, as if engaged in a deed of darkness; but our old chronicler, "Senex," gives us some curious information upon this subject from his own experience. He says:—

"John Wilson (generally called red-haired Wilson), Town-Clerk of Glasgow, resided in, and had his office in, that land in Saltmarket Street, directly opposite the Bridgegate. At the bottom of the Long Close there, near the Molendinar Burn, Mr. Wilson had an old property in pretty much the same condition as the houses at present condemned by the Dean of Guild Court. Up a narrow turnpike stair there, and in a small room, was the Roman Catholic Chapel of Glasgow situated in my younger days. I have sometimes stopped when the service was over, looking at the hearers returning from worship, and I never could count more than a dozen of poor people, who went in and came out as by stealth, for they seemed to be afraid of being mobbed if they attended a Roman Catholic Chapel more openly. This was in 1783. Now look at the Roman Catholic Chapel in Clyde Street (and, I believe, two others), with their Bishops and inferior Clergy, and a body of hearers (I suspect) little short of 30,000."

Our friend "Senex" has not exaggerated the number of the Roman Catholics in this city, for our own impression is, from certain inquiries we have made, that the number is nearer 50,000. At all events, there are not less than 50,000 Irish people, or of Irish descent, in the city, a very small proportion of whom, as compared with Catholics, are Orangemen or Protestants. This

will not be considered an exaggeration when we state that in 1846, according to information kindly supplied by the Bishop, no fewer than 3000 children were baptized in the various Catholic places of worship in the city. We may mention that a gentleman, still living, remembers when the first Irishman planted himself down in Gorbals, where he was almost considered as much a curiosity for a time as if he had been a tattooed New Zealander. At the present moment the principal parts of the Old Barony of Gorbals, in Main Street and its vicinity, is almost entirely in the possession of these invaders, who, however, are generally an orderly and industrious class of people, and give little trouble to the police, as compared with their countrymen in other parts of the city. Although there are still some narrow old turnpike stairs in the upper part of the close alluded to above, the "Chapel" noticed by "Senex" must have been long since removed, possibly to make way for Low Green Street, which for a space runs parallel with the Molendinar. The house near the bottom of the close is now converted into a byre, in which, on Friday last, we saw four-and-twenty gaucy cows chewing the cud. Before dismissing the Saltmarket, we may present some interesting information regarding it, which has been supplied us by a friend, who occupies a high civic station (Bailie David Smith), and who spent his early days in that locality. Our correspondent says:—

"The ancient landmarks of our city have, in few instances, been so much disturbed as in the neighbourhood of the Cross. On the north-west side stood, a few years ago, the Tolbooth, with its grim front and grated windows. Many a conversation, by signs, was carried on with parties on the streets from these windows. One fine forenoon an unfortunate prisoner, anxious to look on the busy scenes in the streets, squeezed his head through the bars of the window, but found it quite impossible to get it back again. The man's cries of distress drew attention to his ludicrous position, self-pilloried in sight of hundreds of the inhabitants. The poor man could not be extricated for some hours, till some of the gratings had been sawn through. Executions and pillories took place on a platform which projected from the steeple a few feet, filling the recess betwixt the new building and the line of the steeple facing Saltmarket, and immediately above the opening now made in the steeple. There was a small door in the side of the prison, opening out on this platform, by which the parties were ushered out. This jail has acquired historical celebrity from Rob Roy's visit, when the 'Dougal Cratur,' then employed as

an under jailer, threw the keys into the street, and allowed his kinsman and chief to escape. The south-west side was occupied by a large plain building, called the Coffee-House Land. Tradition says that Prince Charles visited the tavern which gave its name to this building. There was an exceedingly curious projecting building at the corner of the street, attached to this house, rising from the second storey, where there was a small projecting room with three windows, where a complete view was got on all sides. In 1823 this house was pulled down, being found quite ruinous. It stood originally on arches. What became in process of time high-rented shops were, we learn, formerly mere cellars. Merchants who came to attend the fairs hired the cellars to stow their goods in at night, and brought them forth during the day to be laid out on stalls in the Saltmarket. Salt was sold on these occasions—hence the name.

“The Trades’ Land formed the south-west side of Gallowgate and the north-east side of Saltmarket. It was a very lofty plain building, much resembling that at the east corner at the bottom of High Street. By the opening of London Street, both this land and other two in the Saltmarket to the south of it were swept away. There were three or four abominably dirty closes, with some very inferior old houses in the rear, utterly uninhabited, at the same time. At the bottom of one of those, up an outside stair, in an old-fashioned Flemish-looking house, lived two famous booksellers, J. and M. Robertson. Their shop was the fifth below London Street. They used to publish almanacs, sermons, primers, etc., which had a very large circulation.

“The hardware trade of the city was then entirely confined to the west side of the Saltmarket. We remember the third shop down the street was occupied for half a century by Mr. James Wright, a highly respectable citizen; the next below by Mr. M^cLellan; then Mr. M^cConnell; then a shoe-shop; then Mr. James Lockhart’s, still occupied by his successor, and where this trade has been carried on for about a century. The next below was long occupied by a worthy man, Mr. Thom, father of the Rev. Dr. Thom of Liverpool; then came Mr. Walker, Mr. Mutter, Mr. Crookshanks, and others, all in the same trade. Most of these were very successful, and some acquired very large fortunes. A few closes below Princes Street, on the west side, there long flourished a firm in the watchmaking trade—Francis Reid and Sons; they occupied one of the then existing old plastered and wooden-fronted buildings up two stairs. Three windows to the front were filled with watches. It would appear now a very dangerous experiment to keep so much valuable property in such a situation. For many years this was the favourite resort of all classes, both rich and poor, for the repair of their timekeepers. The skill and industry of Mr. Reid and his sons drew customers from all quarters of town and country. This business was removed in 1823 (when the premises were condemned) to the land at the south-east corner of Trongate, where it is still successfully carried on.”

The case of the Fiddlers’ Close in High Street was again before the Court. Our readers will remember that a few months

ago nearly the whole of the tenements in this close were ordered to be taken down. Several have accordingly been removed, and waggon loads of thatch have recently been carried from this locality to some cowfeeder's premises in the neighbourhood of the town, there to be converted into manure, after having for years protected a most degraded and wretched population from the bitterness of the weather. The application at to-day's Court was for authority to take down and sell the materials of some of these old houses, the parties having failed to implement the orders of the Court. One of the proprietors appeared, and on being asked by the Lord Dean why he had delayed so long in obtempering the interlocutor of the Court, replied that he had not the means of knocking down the property of which he was the owner. The Court seemed to feel the disagreeable duty imposed on it of ostensibly depriving a poor man of his means of support. The hardship, however, is not so great as at first sight it would appear ; for, on a question being addressed to the man by Mr. Carrick, it was ascertained that he had received no rent from the Huns for many years, though all the while he had been burdened with keeping up the property, paying poor-rates, and other imposts ; for the tenants, or rather occupants, were mostly paupers themselves, and, by their influence and example, they extended pauperism throughout the locality. The Court granted authority to the Fiscal to take down and sell the property ; and the owner will now, in all likelihood, make more of his empty ground-stead than he did when a house stood upon it. A respectable and well-known citizen (Mr. R. Lindsay, mercantile teacher) passed his early years in this close, when, as formerly stated, the voice of prayer, morning and evening, was heard from every dwelling ; but he remembers when the first Irishman wriggled himself into the locality. The man was tolerated by the Scotch inhabitants by reason of his agreeing to keep the close clean ; and, accordingly, for a small pension, Paddy did duty with his besom daily. He and his family, however, were looked on as a kind of pariahs, and had no intercourse with the rest of the neighbours. For many years, as is well known, it has been the very focus of a great Irish colony. The picturesque dwellings in this part of the city, like

the old Flemish wooden buildings on the Bell o' the Brae, are now numbered with the things that were ; but we are glad to learn that an amiable gentleman who recently filled the station of Lord Dean of Guild (James Bogle, Esq.), and whose antiquarian tastes are well known, has preserved drawings of the old houses, which have been removed from this and many other parts of the city, and we hope these will some day see the light, and thus illustrate the aspect of Glasgow in the Olden Time. In connection with this subject, we may remark, that the close opposite was recently visited by an American senator, who spent an hour in the Dean of Guild Court a few weeks ago, and was regarded by him with peculiar interest, as having been the residence of his ancestors ; and it still belongs to his relatives, though they also have long since removed from the city.

There were several disputed cases before the Court, which were not of much interest, although their consideration elicited some capital speaking from the various agents present, namely—Messrs. Lamond, Towers, D. Forbes, Burns, M'Donald, etc. The Court adjourned after a sederunt of four hours.

(6th August 1849.)

FREE CHURCHES—HIGH STREET—HUTCHESONS' HOSPITAL, ETC.

The Court held its meeting on Thursday the 2d August.

Amongst the multifarious business brought before it, the wearisome Buck's Head case was again introduced, and afforded considerable room for the forensic ability, legal acumen, and sharp temper of the Glasgow bar. This case appears to us to be of the most cameleon complexion that has ever figured before any Court. Every day it crops out under different colours, and in different places. One day we have it before the Dean of Guild Court, the next before the Lord Ordinary in Edinburgh, and the third before the Inner Division of the Court of Session, with the Lord Justice Clerk, *I.P.D.* After all this legal fuss, we are much afraid that this attempt on the part of the public to improve Dunlop Street

will end in smoke, much to the discontent of a succeeding generation, in whose times the necessity for a thoroughfare in this direction will be severely felt. The moves to-day were at the instance of Jardine, and other neighbouring proprietors, *versus* Bush, the lessee of the Buck's Head Hotel; and the Fiscal *versus* Bush the lessee, and Batt the proprietor. Jardine complained that the new building in the throat of Dunlop Street (for it is already up) had not been erected in conformity with the building plans approved of by the Dean of Guild Court; and as to the verity of this complaint a proof was allowed. Secondly, Mr. Batt's agent appeared, and stated that that gentleman was not the legal proprietor of the Buck's Head, but only held a sort of beneficial interest in it, in virtue of his better half. A rather sharp and personal discussion followed on this point between Mr. Burnet the Fiscal and Mr. M'Donald the agent, but the Court discarded the lady, and held that Mr. Batt was the only party that they had to deal with as the proprietor of the buildings in question. The building in dispute, however, is already erected, as we have said, and, judging from its appearance, it will be no ornament to the very tasteful hotel, of which it is to form an extension. It is in truth just a repetition of those utilitarian fabrics which we have often denounced as the disgrace of modern Glasgow.

Various petitions were presented for authority to erect buildings in Bridgeton, Market Street, City Road, and the upper end of Buchanan Street, which were approved of in ordinary routine. Our friend Ned Muryon's Close, 66 High Street, was again under consideration; and another rickety tenement there was reported on, to the effect that it might stand a few years longer, if the proprietor would only be at the expense of repairing it. This east side of the High Street between the Cross and Blackfriars' Street is now, comparatively speaking, almost a wilderness. Thousands of the wretched population who used to herd together in this locality have been ejected by the "dingings' down," and many of the vile and polluted High Street closes, which were pointed at with loathing, have been numbered with the things that were. We may here mention a fact regarding a part of the High Street population still existing, which came out before the

Police Magistrate the other day. Fifteen miserable-looking females, from No. 90 Close, were summoned before the Magistrate, on the charge of being in the constant practice of throwing filth over their windows; and it came out in evidence that the night watchman durst not venture up this dirty labyrinth, from fear of the "*gardes l'eau*" customs of the inhabitants, which, though long since abandoned in Edinburgh, still realise to the letter the graphic descriptions of Humphrey Clinker. Truly, these High Street folks are zealous conservators of the fine old customs of our fathers, which had the authority of general use and wont, before modern philanthropists bothered us with their sanitary nonsense. The Magistrate mulcted each of the panels in a shilling fine; but we wish he would follow up his decision by erecting lamps in this dismal locality, if for no other purpose than to allow the "Charlie" to pilot his way through it.

Anderston Free Church having now been completed, a petition was presented by the Fiscal for an inspection as to the sufficiency of this beautiful erection. Messrs. Lindsay and Wilson accordingly reported that the building was in every respect sufficient for the accommodation of the congregation, and authority was given to open it forthwith. This is truly a beautiful structure, the interior being perfectly unique. The pillars are carried up to the ceiling, which is arched, and at the intersection of the mouldings cut glass is finely introduced instead of bosses. This has the effect of brilliants during the day, and when lighted with gas at night it has a most lustrous and lightsome appearance. The building is well ventilated, and will accommodate from 1300 to 1400 people. It is erected from designs by Clark and Bell, who, like their professional brethren, are contributing much to the ecclesiastical architectural beauty of the city.

Various sanitary operations were under consideration, and among the rest a common sewer was ordered to be formed in Rose Street, Hutchesontown. We are glad of this, for in this locality, though comparatively well aired, cholera and fever committed greater ravages than in any other part of the Barony of Gorbals, not excepting the crowded Main Street itself. The necessity for this operation appears to have been forced on the

authorities by the erection of the new houses in this street to the north of Rutherglen Loan; and it came out in the discussion that beyond the present Hutchesons' Hospital Schools, and reaching up to Dixon's iron works, ground has recently been feued from the hospital, for the purpose of erecting an extensive ropework. The increase of the city in this direction has not been surpassed by any other locality within the municipal bounds. The superiors are Hutchesons' Hospital charity, and it is satisfactory that every new building feued adds to the funds of that excellent institution.

(1849.)

HIGH STREET—THE COLLEGE—ST. ANDREW'S SQUARE—MAIN
SEWER—STOBCROSS LANDS, ETC.

Since our last report of the proceedings at this Court three sederunts have taken place, two of which we have passed over, not from any inattention to the subject, but simply because the business was of such a commonplace character as not to call for specific notice. The "dingings down," however, are beginning again to come into fashion; and one reason for this is, that the operations of the Court have exposed many rickety gables and back walls which were supposed to be secure, and in for a long lease of existence.

At the Court on Thursday, the 4th October, the High Street afforded ample work for the Fiscal—several erections having been reported on, and in consequence they were ordered to be repaired or taken down. Adjoining the Fiddlers' Close (which is now formed into what may be termed a High Street Square) some repairs were ordered; and on the opposite side of the street, in No. 90 Close, so well known in police annals, a tenement was ordered to be taken down, with consent, and almost at the earnest prayer of the proprietor. In this case it seems that the factor or middle-man had bolted to the United States with the rents, such as they were, and at the same time left the property in such a

dilapidated state that the only chance of making anything of it in future is to provide new stock, lock, and barrel. It appears that the tenants in the upper flat, for the purpose of getting rid of their ashes and fulzie in the easiest manner, had cut holes or hatches in the floors, through which they shot down the rubbish on the unfortunate occupant below, and fairly drove him from the premises—the man declaring that the downfall was so terrific that he was likely to be smothered in a dunghill in his own dwelling. There was some excuse for this odious practice, however, for the stair was in such a shaky state that the inhabitants averred that they went up and down at the risk of their lives. From the bolted middle-man downwards, this squad were all of the real Milesian stock.

This portion of the city, from the Cross northward, has for a quarter of a century been notorious for its overcrowding, and it has been distinguished as being the principal rendezvous of the scum and blackguards of the city. Green spots, so to speak, are now opened up, however, and the lower part of High Street has at length, we should think, fairly passed its worst. We have already alluded to the open space near the Fiddlers' Close. Another portion has been cleared out near the Havannah; and should they be kept open, as we hope they will be, they will not only subserve the purpose of lungs to a dense population among whom fever always delights to linger, but their existence will greatly enhance the value of the property which remains. While on this subject we may repeat expression of the general belief that the transaction which was entered into during the railway *furor*, and in terms of which our venerated College was to be knocked down, and the site transformed into a station or coal-depot for the Airdrie and Monklands Junction Line, while the College itself was to reappear on the pretty grounds of Woodlands to the west, is not likely to be carried out. Funds for such a majestic demolition and reconstruction are wanting; we do not regret this, for the removal of the College would be the last kick, the finishing indignity, to the east end of the city, of which for centuries it has been the pride and ornament. But if the College is to remain, the Senate has it in its power not only to make the

academic halls and Professors' dwellings comfortable, healthful, and beautiful, but to render the eastern part of the city the respectable locality it used to be in the days of our fathers. We are delighted to think the College has the funds by which they may remove every difficulty. Let them purchase and clear out the vile old dwellings in Havannah and the New Vennel, and obtain an Act of Parliament for the purpose, if necessary. Next, let the Molendinar be covered; and they could open a spacious street connecting the Gallowgate with Duke Street on the one hand, and by opening up the Broad Close, Greyfriars Wynd, and Canon Street, they might have a free access to Ingram Street and the Exchange on the other. We do not enter into details; but we believe any architect is capable of proving that this alteration, altogether irrespective of its beneficial influence on the amenity of the eastern part of the city, would be highly remunerative as a pecuniary speculation. Thus the College would be, as it is, not only the "centre of learning," but with its fine expanse of green fields, ornamental walks, and shrubs and trees, stretching away behind, it would present all the delightful features of the "ample room and verge enough" of a rural site in the heart of a great city.

Certain repairs were ordered to be executed on the properties in St. Andrew's Square; and we were somewhat astonished to learn that this comparatively modern and once aristocratic square is in some places showing considerable symptoms of dilapidation and neglect; and if not cared for it is to be feared that, as the respectable flee away westward, the hives from Saltmarket, wynds, and Havannah may effect an entrance even here. When St. Andrew's Church was commenced in 1739 the site formed part of the Green or open country stretching away behind Saltmarket to the east. The able Mungo Naismith, who did much in his day to beautify Glasgow, was the architect of the church; but, for what reason we cannot say, he did not finish it till 1756. With the exception of the spire, it is an exact copy of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, London; and, excepting the Cathedral, is the most beautiful specimen of ecclesiastical architecture we have. A handsome square was gradually reared round the

Church, and finally completed about 1787. Here, and in Virginia Street, were domiciled the best and wealthiest in the city; and the dwellings, both for commodiousness, beauty, and ornament, were well worthy of our then city rank and fashion. Those residences on the east and south sides of the square, having their fine oriel windows looking towards the Green, were, we have been assured, in days before this quarter of the city became demoralised, perfect specimens of elegance and splendour. Liveried lackeys and gay equipages lent life and animation to the square in these days, and few could conceive that in a few short years this fashionable locality would afford accommodation, as it now does, to a lying-in hospital, along with the premises of tobacconists, leather-merchants, teachers, pawnbrokers, basket-makers, tailors, straw-hat makers, press-mangle keepers, etc. About forty years ago St. Andrew's Square was in its hey-day, both for gentility and business. The Royal Bank had then its office and manager's dwelling-house in the two tenements on the south-east corner of the square; and the two large square freestones on which were placed the sentry-boxes for the soldiers who, with loaded musket and bayonet, guarded the treasure within, still remain inserted in the pavement. In these days the late well-known Mr. John More was manager of the Bank, and, being a man of dignified presence, he represented the moneyed interest in a style which has not been equalled since. On Saturdays and holidays a splendid equipage, with a black servant in the rumble, drove up to the Bank to convey the manager to his rural home at Wellshot, which he had erected, and surrounded with vinery, flower garden, and romantic walks, and bowling-green, at an expense of £17,000. *Sic transit*, etc. Mr. More became unfortunate, and this splendid house, the grounds of which were feued at £4 per acre, long stood in the market at £2000, and was latterly sold for much less. A respectable citizen, recently in the magistracy (Mr. R. Smith), occupied Wellshot House not long since, at a rent of, we believe, £80 per annum; but it would require a man of princely fortune to occupy it as Mr. More did, the style of whose housekeeping may be learned from the fact, that he possessed upwards of 1200 ounces of silver-plate. The late Mr. James Lockhart

(father-in-law of the late Professor Jeffrey), the most successful ironmonger Glasgow ever saw, and who raised an ample fortune in a small shop in Saltmarket, had his handsome dwelling-house in St. Andrew's Square.

As we formerly stated, the Molendinar Burn, at the back of St. Andrew's Square, is now covered in, and a vile nuisance and eyesore thus abated. When the Square was founded, we have no doubt it would have been considered something little short of treason to shut in this classic burn, the then pellucid waters of which flowed through a fringe of leafiness; but when it became of an inky colour, and stank foully, it was high time to shut up the slimy stream from the light of day. Still the Molendinar may be the means of doing Glasgow incalculable service, were the following project only carried out, and we hope to see the day when it will yet be realised. Let the burn, instead of discharging its filth into the Clyde at the jail, be diverted westward in a line parallel with the river to the mouth of the Kelvin, and there discharge itself, or at least discharge all the matter that cannot be made useful to man. The Camlachie Burn is a tributary of the Molendinar; the former receives the drainage of the eastern parts of the city, and were the latter diverted into the course we have indicated, it would be perfectly adequate to take up the drainage of all the central and western portions of Glasgow. Thus the sewage manure, instead of polluting our noble river, would, by means of "eyes" or openings, be carefully collected to fertilise the adjacent country, and the Clyde would become again clear and limpid, and the haunt of "the monarch of the flood." It was well remarked, in an article quoted in our last, that, "in every well-regulated State, an effective and rapid means for carrying off the ordure of the people to a locality where it may be fruitful instead of destructive becomes an important consideration. Both the health and wealth of the nation depend upon it. If to make two blades of wheat grow where grew one before is to confer a benefit upon the world, surely to remove that which will enable us at once to do this, and to purify the very air which we breathe, as well as the water which we drink, must be a still greater boon to society. It is, in fact, to give the community not only a

double amount of food, but a double amount of health to enjoy it. We are now beginning to understand this. Up to the present time we have only thought of removing our refuse—the idea of using it never entered our minds. It was no matter to us what became of it, so long as it did not taint the atmosphere around us. This, the very instincts of our nature had made objectionable to us ; so we laid down just as many drains and sewers as would carry our night-soil to the nearest stream—and thus, instead of poisoning the air that we breathed, we poisoned the water that we drank.”

The effect of some thousands of water-closets pouring their contents into the Clyde cannot but be odious in the extreme ; and every one may have felt that in summer days, after a long drought, the river from this cause literally sweats abomination, and we have more than once seen people sickened from it on board the steamers. Now this nuisance may not only be easily abated, but the very abatement of it would be a source of great profit. We are informed by a practical gentleman that this parallel drain to the Kelvin could be effected at a cost of £40,000. Now it is estimated that no less than forty millions of tons of manure per annum find their way into the Thames from London ; on the same principle we destroy, say six or seven millions of tons at Glasgow, which, if treasured and sold, would not only soon pay the first cost of the works, but would become a permanent source of revenue to the town. We have hitherto only spoken of the north side of the city, but success in this direction would soon also call into existence a parallel drain on the south. The scheme is alike feasible and practicable. Will no clever citizen take it up and make it his hobby, and earn for himself, when the scheme is completed, a monument more enduring than brass. If a joint-stock company will not do the thing, we should scarcely think that our heavily-taxed citizens would object to another moderate impost for an object which would confer an inestimable boon on thousands yet unborn. We scatter these hints like the vernal seed, with the hope that they may not fall on stony ground.

It will be remembered that the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

in the recent debate on the state of the nation, took, as an index of the prosperity of Glasgow, the great number of new houses that were then—viz. last summer—in the course of erection. If this test be a true one, it still indicates a continuance of great comfort; since, during the last three sederunts of the Court, vast building operations and extensions have been authorised, especially in the West End. Another large block of tenements, fronting Sauchiehall Street, with shops below and dwellings above, is immediately to be commenced. Farther on, on the lands of Stobcross, a feuing company propose to erect a range of elegant and substantial dwellings for the middle classes, which, according to the plans, will form a beautiful and extensive crescent. In no case has the rise in the value of ground been more strikingly exemplified than in the case of these lands. Many of our readers are aware that they were purchased by a company, some four years ago, for the sum of about £60,000. Now, in the course of a few months afterwards one-third of the property was sold to the Clyde Trustees at a sum equal to the cost of the whole, and at present the remaining and larger portion seems in a fair way of being taken up as well-paid feus. The whole grounds in the neighbourhood, including the lands of Over-Newton, and the Trades' lands abutting on the Partick Mills, are admirably adapted for feuing purposes; and our only regret is that the proprietors, before beginning operations, did not imitate the example of Mr. M'Hardie, and the late Mr. Fleming of Claremount, by laying down a general and uniform feuing plan, the want of which may yet be severely felt in the crooked and non-symmetrical streets, squares, and crescents of this future city. The proprietors of these building sites are few in number, and it is a pity that they do not agree upon some such plan as we have indicated, before it is too late. Their children and their children's children would reap the benefit of it in the enhanced value of the property.

While in this locality lately we observed that the various buildings, including new churches, lately authorised to be erected are now fairly making their appearance above ground. The Anderston Free Church in Main Street and the Episcopal Chapel on the summit of Cranstonhill are in a state of great forwardness,

and will make a vast change for the better in the appearance of this fine avenue into Glasgow from the west. The Episcopal Chapel promises to be a very beautiful piece of architecture, from designs by Mr. Henderson of Edinburgh. Mr. M'Guffie of this city is the builder, and he may thank his stars that we live in tolerant times, otherwise he might have been excommunicated from his own Presbyterian Communion for lending a hand to the raising of a prelatie meeting-house. Such was nearly the fate of the mason who built the Episcopal Church on the Green. It appears from a minute of the Session of the Glasgow Shuttle Street Secession Congregation (now represented by Dr. King's of the Greyfriars), that, on the 26th of April 1750,

“The Session understanding, by the moderator and some members of Session, that they had conversed privately with Andrew Hunter, mason, a member of this congregation, who had engaged to build the Episcopal meeting-house in this place, and have been at great pains in convincing him of the great sin and scandal of such a practice; and the Session understanding that, notwithstanding thereof, he has actually begun the work, they therefore appoint him to be cited to the Session at their meeting on Thursday, after sermon.”

The case came before the Synod, which, in common with all good Presbyterians of that time, viewing Prelacy and Popery as nearly synonymous, considered Mr. Hunter's conduct as giving countenance to a system of superstition, and therefore highly censurable.

We also observed, in the course of a recent westward walk, that Woodlands Terrace on the lands of Claremount, in the course of erection by Messrs. Lindsay and Broom, is now ready for the roof. Since these buildings have fairly assumed shape, we find that our former anticipations as to the desirableness of the site are fully borne out. Looking from the upper storey, the ample proportions of the city are mapped at our feet, while the eye ranges over the whole vale of Clyde, presenting a *coup-d'œil* of urban bustle and activity, and rural loveliness, which is not second to the far-famed view from Richmond Hill. The enlightened builders in this case have required no building act. With ample space at their command, they have disposed of it so as to secure the highest

standard of comfort, health, and amenity. We wish the Queen, when recently amongst us, had visited *our* West End, for assuredly Glasgow would ever after it have been associated in the Royal mind with a city of palaces.

Some minor cases were disposed of, and the Court adjourned, after a long sederunt.

(*22d October 1849.*)

HIGH STREET—"GROTTO," CUMBERLAND STREET—DAVID DALE'S HOUSE—NEW "QUEEN'S" THEATRE, ETC.

The Court met on Friday, the 19th October, when the members took their seats for the first time since the recent elections. The "Merchant Lyners" present were—the Lord Dean Galbraith, W. Murray, Esq., of Monkland, John M'Ewen, Esq., and Patrick Macnaught, Esq. The two first were re-elected, and the two latter appeared for the first time. Mr. Leechman, the sub-dean, was not present. The "Trades' Lyners" present were—James Miller, Esq., late Deacon of the Wrights; Deacon Christie of the Masons; James Craig, Esq., of Middleton, from the Cordiners, and Robert Sclanders, Esq., from the Wrights. The three latter were newly elected. The usual oaths were administered, not forgetting the abjuration of the poor Pretender, and all his kith and kin.

The business was of the usual varied description, including "dingings down" and repairs, new pavements, alterations and improvements on shops all over the city, the erection of new properties and more Free Kirks. The upper portion of a high wooden tenement in High Street, which projects 4 feet 9 inches over the first floor, was reported on; but the case was delayed on account of the proprietor of the ground floor not having been cited. We are afraid it will be impossible to repair this old domicile, which is so far to be regretted, as it is the only specimen of the Flemish style of architecture now remaining in this locality, since the Fiddler's Close has been shorn of its antiquities. There will

thus be removed the last of those picturesque and primitive buildings for which High Street was so famous a quarter of a century ago. In reference to this locality, we trust that the authorities will follow the course which they have so successfully adopted in the Old Wynd, by acquiring some of the property, and cutting up those labyrinthian closes, which are the haunts of the thieves and desperadoes of the city. The structure of the buildings is such that the police cannot afford the same protection here that they give in other parts of the city. A fellow, for instance, commits a daring street robbery, and instantly plunges into one of these dark and devious closes, where it is vain for any single policeman to follow him; for the blackguards feel about as safe from intrusion in some of these horrid nooks as if in a fortified castle. The purchase would undoubtedly soon pay itself, and at the same time break up the strongholds of these wretches, who start up from their hidden retreats whenever there is any mischief going on, such as riot or plunder. At all events, we trust that the Police Committee will at once, by the erection of lamps—even though they should cost as much as a bude light—weaken the strength of these desperadoes. A gas lamp with a powerful reflector in these localities would be as good as a policeman at any time.

In Bell Street, formerly known as Bell's Wynd, a tenement with back jamb was reported on. It appeared that the back premises certainly required the interference of the Court; for the tenor of the report, which was of the most minute description, indicated that the whole fabric was in a very shaky state. The removal of one of the posts in the ground floor would, in the opinion of the reporter, bring down the whole concern about the ears of the inmates; and this, he observed, might happen without giving much warning. He was interrogated by the Court as to whether he considered the place was fit to stand the contingencies of an Irish wake; but the reporting tradesman's doubting shake of the head plainly said—"I would not even trust a monkey to dance the polka in it."

The congregation of the Martyr's Free Church obtained authority to erect a plain decent place of worship in Stanhope

Street, Villafield. The ground in this case is acquired from the Incorporation of Tailors, to whom the most of this district belongs; and we are glad to learn that the increasing value of the property of this incorporation will in due time afford them the means of still further succouring the decayed members of the trade.

The Court then took up the case of a large self-contained house at the west corner of Cumberland Street, Gorbals, which has for some years been disused as a place of residence, from the foundations having slipped and rendered it dangerous. It appears that this spacious house had recently been let to an ingenious citizen, who keeps a museum or "grotto," in Crown Street, and who intended to furbish up the house as a temple for the exhibition of wild beasts' skins and furs, sea-shells, rusty armour from the time of Bannockburn downwards, not forgetting accommodation for the sale of foreign and British spirits and pastry. The man accordingly commenced to decorate the exterior after the dictates of his own refined taste and fancy. Taking the Buck's Head Hotel, we should think, for an example, he proceeded to paint the outside in imitation of Sienna marble; but, in reality, a sketch was produced which resembled nothing which is found either in the bowels of the earth or on its surface; and the flaring Californian hue of the front, the unsteady state of the building, and the character of the company expected to patronise the temple, fairly alarmed the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who are highly genteel. The Court interfered not on account of the leopards' skins which were exhibited outside, or the stylish decoration of the exterior, but from the insecurity of the premises, and the probable danger to those who might assemble there to study natural history and drink whisky. It accordingly prohibited the occupancy, and ordered the building to be properly secured and enclosed.¹

Another portion of the Barrowfield Burn was complained of; but the case was delayed to permit of some negotiations with the Police and Statute Labour Committee. We trust the authorities will enforce the provisions of the Act, and have every noxious

¹ This spacious building, which has been rendered uninhabitable from the insecurity of the foundations, was taken down in 1850.

burn within their bounds formed into properly constructed common sewers, as is now the case with the Molendinar throughout the greater part of its course. We are glad to see that the Kinninghouse Burn is in the course of having its slimy waters shut in from the light of day—an operation which will contribute a good deal to the comeliness and healthfulness of that district.

The famous Buck's Head Case again occupied the attention of the Court, and a pretty smart discussion took place on several points between Mr. Lamond and Mr. Steel. In the course of the argument it came out that, as far as the proprietors in Dunlop Street and the lessee of the Buck's Head are concerned, it has resolved itself into the question of "Who is to pay the piper?" or, in plain English—Who is to pay the lawyers? Several pointed allusions were made to the new mode of ornamenting—or, as it was termed, disguising—a chimney stalk by means of a real buck's head placed on the summit.¹ The idea is a new one, and the artist, whoever he is, deserves credit for his bold attempt to improve the appearance of this portion of our street buildings. Our forefathers, with their quaint gables and crow steps, were, however, far ahead of many of our modern builders, who are not unfrequently their own architects. The case was again delayed.

The apportionment of the expenses incurred in paving Dale's Lane was also under consideration. This lane, which forms the north boundary of the Episcopal Chapel in Low Green Street, is so named from its being the mews leading to the stables of the late amiable and well-known David Dale. The city mansion-house of this good old Glasgow merchant was situated at the south-west corner of Charlotte Street—the garden stretching westwards till it reached the Episcopal Chapel. But David's garden and the grounds adjoining (like Blythswood's home in the Bridgegate) are sadly changed, and present, perhaps, the most striking contrast which can be adduced of the varied requirements and necessities of this modern Babel. Here are a parish school, a church, a theatre, an old-clothes market, and the "Model Lodging-Houses for the Working Classes," all set down in some acre or two of ground. Such is a strange, but at the same time

¹ This refers to the sign of the Buck's Head Hotel.

accurate, picture of our now changed city! David's house itself has also been intruded upon—the sisters of mercy, the nucleus of a Roman Catholic nunnery or convent, which is proposed to be established in Glasgow, having been temporarily lodged within its walls a few weeks ago. What would the good David—the staunch supporter of an orthodox, pure, and simple mode of worship—say, had he revisited his own home and found it tenanted by proselytising Papist ladies? Doubtless his benevolent heart would warm at the sight of the newly-erected school and lodging-houses; but we suspect he would “scunner” at the play-house and rag market, and look disapprovingly on the nuns counting their beads within his own dining-room.

Our loyal and patriotic citizens, who are desirous to commemorate the late visit of Her Majesty to the city, may keep their minds easy on that subject. A Mr. Calvert, the lessee of the wooden Hibernian Theatre on the Green at the last fair, has done the commemoration part for them already. While wiser, and it may be better, men are debating how the thing may be done, he has actually done it. He has run up a great new brick erection, with a cement front, and dubbed it the “Queen's Theatre.” The appellation has taken so well that we have heard there are thoughts of changing the name of Scanlan's Close in Bridgegate—where the great “hand-me-down” traffic for Ireland is carried on—to the “Victoria Repository of Well Proved and Tried Habiliments.” This theatre was opened on Saturday night last, although the proprietor had been refused a licence by the Justices, and, from what we have heard, the start was entirely successful—the place being crowded to the roof by the young “Red Republicans” of both sexes.

Having disposed of some unimportant matters, the Court adjourned, after a sederunt of two hours.

(1849.)

GORBALS IMPROVEMENTS—PINKSTON BURN—
CONSUMING SMOKE.

The Court held its usual fortnightly sitting on Thursday, the 1st November.

There was only one application for authority to build or alter at this Court, which certainly shows a falling off in business, as compared with the proceedings during summer and autumn ; but this is not to be wondered at, when we consider that we have now entered upon winter, and that there are already in progress as many buildings as will keep the mason's and wright's trade in active operation till they meet with renewed orders in the spring of 1850.

Mr. James Guthrie, contractor, applied for authority to erect a tenement of houses in Apsley Place, Laurieston. This is a sign of returning improvement in this locality, for several years have now elapsed since any addition was made to the fine middle-class houses which were planted there by Mr. York. We have no doubt, that ere long this fine street will be carried still farther southward, and, like its neighbour, Portland Street, and Abbotsford Place, present one of the finest vistas in the city. In fact it has surprised many that this fine locality, which is within a few minutes' walk of the heart of the city, and yet possesses all the advantages of rurality, has not been sooner built up. One reason we have heard stated is, that Mr. Dixon's ironwork has been planted in the immediate vicinity, and that consequently the continual glare of light and the endless noise of machinery would be inimical to domestic comfort. This notion is found to be quite erroneous, for we have the assurance of those who live in this locality that they consider Dixon's "fireworks" rather an advantage than otherwise. They say that they soon get used to the sound of the monotonous strokes of Condie's steam-hammer ; that the bright glare cheers the long winter night, and at the same time does the work of a score of policemen, by scaring away

the rogues and vagabonds who so plentifully infest other and darker parts of the city. One serious obstruction to the feuing in this district, however, has no doubt been the railway works—viz. the Barrhead and Caledonian Southern Termini—which, as it were, form a barrier of fortification against the advance of the Gorbals buildings to the south. But for these operations Gorbals would no doubt by this time have extended over the fine undulating grounds of Coplawhill, and presented a city to the south rivalling the beautiful first-class dwellings in the west. These Coplawhill grounds belong to the Corporation, and it was surprising to us, during the “daft year” (1845), when so many railway bills were in Parliament, affecting the locality, that the Council did not urge the great prospective value of these grounds as feuing sites, and thereby have obtained something of the “compensation” which was so lavishly bestowed on others. The lands, however, were valued merely as farms or nurseries, and their feuing advantage either unknown or neglected. We observe, from the official announcements in this day’s paper, that the Corporation funds are this year £3000 to the bad; and when we consider what others have made by their feuing grounds, we cannot help thinking that, had the Council laid out streets, and given even ordinary encouragement for building, their property in this direction might have by this time returned them as many thousand pounds to the good. Our readers are, perhaps, not aware that the finest view of Glasgow is obtained from Coplawhill or Langside; and since Mr. Houston has made such a beautiful picture of Glasgow from the Necropolis, we would advise him to try his hand at a similar work from this point of view. With all its defects and disadvantages, no part of the city has improved more rapidly than Gorbals. Up till the year 1790 the Barony consisted only of the old Main Street, and a few closes and malt barns behind it; but in that year the patrons of Hutcheson’s Hospital feued, by public roup, to Messrs. James Dunlop and Andrew Houston a part of their lands called Stirlingfold and Wellcroft, containing 29 acres, 3 roods, and 23 falls, at the annual feu-duty of £258. “At the same time” (to use the words of the report of the patrons), “they purchased from John

Lawson one acre and 20 falls of ground, at the price of £150 ; as also a house and garden in Rutherglen Loan, from James Urie, for £250 sterling. And in 1792 they purchased several houses at the south-east and south-west ends of the old bridge, at the price of £698 sterling, besides burdening themselves with the payment of two liferents of £5 each. These purchases were made for the accommodation of a town, which the patrons had resolved to lay off on their division of the Gorbals lands ; to be called *Hutchesone*, in honour of the founders of the hospital, the principal street of which was named *Adelphi Street*, for the two brothers, and the next *Hospital Street*."

In these ancient times feus were sold at from 4s. to 8s. the square yard, but few will grudge the advance in price to which they have now attained, when it is considered that the money is devoted to the maintenance of the aged and destitute, and the clothing and education of the young. By-and-by the Trades' House laid out their village or town of Tradeston, and Laurieston was taken up by the Messrs. Laurie ; and from a small and contemptible village of some 3000 inhabitants, "the Gorbells" has in half a century grown into a city of 70,000 or 80,000 people. It was thought when the accommodation bridge in a line with Portland Street was removed that property on the south side of the river would have been much deteriorated ; but on making inquiry at the surveyors, we learn that no part of the city is better let, and, if we are not mistaken, the prosperity is caused partly by the abundance and good quality of the water, but mainly by the moderate character of the poor-rates exigible in that part of Gorbals called the Govan Annexation. We happen to know, indeed, as matter of fact, that many persons whose business avocations permit it have taken houses on the south side of the river, for no other reason than to escape the grinding and inquisitorial "means and substance" system of the city. Despite the twopenny toll upon the Bridges for Carriages, Gorbals is rapidly rising in population and importance. Looking down from Gushet Faulds through the narrow Main Street, we wonder that the Corporation have not long since been tempted, by pecuniary motives, if not something better, to open up this most unseemly

and most unsavoury communication between their own fine property of Coplawhill and the very heart of the business part of Glasgow. They have already obtained an Act to build a spacious bridge of sixty feet in width; but it would almost seem an absurdity to erect it, when the passengers would be decoyed thence into the dirty funnel of the Main Street, only twenty-five feet wide; and even this space is lessened by herring barrels, apple-stands, crockery, and old iron placed before the doors, and the children of the lazy Milesians tumbling in the gutters within an inch of the coach wheels. We observe that some of the houses recently taken down by order of the Court have not been rebuilt; and were the others along one side of the street—and few of them are valuable—acquired, the locality might be made one of the most remunerative business marts of the city.

The Kinninghouse Burn was also before the Court. The Fiscal stated that he had been requested to make the line of the burn straight instead of crooked. It was remitted to Messrs. Kyle and Carrick. This is the division betwixt the shires of Renfrew and Lanark, and we believe it is arranged that, although the burn is covered in, the old landmarks dividing the counties will be retained.

The most important thing that has come before the Court for years was entertained this day. These were two petitions, at the instance of the Procurator Fiscal, complaining of the effects of the smoke, from a singeing work in High John Street, and of a calender work on the east side of George's Square. The principal complaint was from the teachers of the High School, who averred that the smoke from the singeing house emitted the reverse of

“Sabean odours from the spicy shores of Araby the blest.”

The Lord Dean of Guild, with his usual caution, ordered an inspection to be made of the complained-of premises, and by-and-by we have no doubt we will have a full report. We have long been of opinion that the smoke is one of the greatest grievances connected with our city ailments. The late amiable and excellent John Alston made a strong fight to have it removed, and cases

were brought up at the instance of the deceased Procurator Fiscal, Mr. William Haig. No result of any practicable benefit came out of these proceedings, which we may consider by-play. Mr. Burnet has taken up the subject, and we hold him committed to carry out his efforts to their legitimate conclusion. The powers of the public prosecutor have been doubted in this case; but to show what they really are, we will conclude by reciting them. They are contained in what may be considered the first Sanitary Act obtained for Scotland, viz. "An Act for forming a carriage road, or drive, round the park or public green of Glasgow; and for the better regulation of the fire-places and chimneys of steam engines, and other works, in the city and suburbs." This Act received the Royal Assent 28th May 1827. The clauses are as follows:—

"And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the proprietors or occupiers of all steam engines, or of works of which the machinery is moved by steam, erected, or to be erected, within the Royalty of Glasgow, or within two miles of the Cross of Glasgow, shall be bound to construct the engine chimneys of the said works of, at least, the following heights and dimensions: videlicet, The engine chimneys, of which the open space or inside capacity at the top does not exceed one hundred and ninety-six superficial square inches, shall not be less than fifty-five feet in height; the engine chimneys of which the open space or inside capacity at the top exceeds one hundred and ninety-six superficial square inches, and does not exceed three hundred and twenty-four superficial square inches, shall not be less than thirty-five feet in height; the engine chimneys of which the open space or inside capacity at the top exceeds three hundred and twenty-four superficial square inches, and does not exceed five hundred and seventy-six superficial square inches, shall not be less than eighty-five feet in height; the engine chimneys of which the open space or inside capacity at the top exceeds five hundred and seventy-six superficial square inches, shall not be less than ninety feet in height; and that the cones of all glass works, erected, or to be erected, within the limits aforesaid, shall not be less than one hundred feet in height from the surface on the outside; and the chimneys of all calcining works, erected, or to be erected, within the said limits, shall not be less than fifty feet in height from the outside surface; and that the chimneys of singeing works, sugar works, lime kilns, flint kilns, biscuit or glass kilns, slip pans, brass founderies, and lead smelteries; of the air furnaces of founderies; of black ash and calcar furnaces used in soap and soda works; of distilleries, breweries, public washing houses and dye works; and of all other works, the fires used in which emit or discharge large quantities of smoke or flame, erected, or to be erected, within the limits aforesaid, shall be constructed by the proprietors or occupiers of the said works of such heights, dimensions, and form, as shall be ascertained to

be necessary and proper for the purpose of preventing, as much as may be, the said works being a nuisance to the neighbourhood, by the report of at least three persons of skill in such matters, upon a remit made to them by the Dean of Guild Court of Glasgow, or by any competent court within the said limits, upon the application of the Procurator Fiscal of such court, or of five householders resident in the vicinity of the said works, in the manner and under the penalties hereinafter enacted.

“And be it further enacted, That the proprietors and occupiers of all fire engines and steam engines used in cotton mills, calender works, or in other manufactories or works, erected, or to be erected, within the city of Glasgow or Royalty thereof, or within two miles of the Cross of Glasgow, and of all calcining works, singeing works, sugar works, lime kilns, flint kilns, biscuit kilns, slip pans, brass or iron or other founderies, lead smelteries, soap works, soda works, distilleries, breweries, public washing houses, and dye works, and of all other works whatsoever, the fires used in which emit or discharge large quantities of smoke, erected, or to be erected, within the limits aforesaid, shall, from and after the passing of this Act, construct or cause to be constructed, the fire-places or furnaces and chimneys of such steam engines and other works, of such form and relative dimensions, and particularly of such proportion between the dimensions of the furnace and boiler, and of the boiler and cylinder of the engine, and, generally, in such manner as most effectually, and, as far as practicable, to burn and consume the smoke arising from the said works, agreeably to the most approved plans now in use, or which may be in use at the time, and shall cause the workmen employed in the said works, regularly, and from time to time, to supply the said furnaces with fuel, in such manner as may most completely promote and secure the burning and consumption of the said smoke, so as to prevent, as much as may be, the said works being a nuisance to the neighbourhood; all agreeably to such directions as may be given in a report by three engineers, or other persons of skill in such matters, upon a remit made to them by the Dean of Guild Court of Glasgow, or by any competent court within the said limits, upon the application of the Procurator Fiscal of such court, or of any five householders resident in the vicinity of any of the said works; and the said court is hereby empowered and required to make such remit, upon such application being made as aforesaid, after hearing parties *viva voce*; and, if desired, to allow parties to be again heard as aforesaid, after the said report by persons of skill is lodged in court, on the propriety and practicability of the directions therein contained; and thereafter either to make a further remit as aforesaid, or to approve of the said report entirely, or with such alterations as may appear reasonable and just; and, finally, to discern and ordain the parties strictly to observe the directions contained in the report so approved of, under the penalties after enacted.

“And be it further enacted, That every proprietor or occupier of such engine or other work, as aforesaid, who shall neglect or refuse to construct his chimney or chimneys, cone or cones, as aforesaid, or to construct and manage, or cause to be constructed and managed, his fire-place or fire-places, furnace

or furnaces, and others, as aforesaid, within forty days, after an order to that effect by the Dean of Guild Court of Glasgow, or by any competent court within the said limits, shall have been duly intimated to him personally, or at his dwelling-house or place of business, shall pay forty shillings for every week he shall so neglect or refuse, besides all damages and expenses of suit, the same to be recovered at the instance of the Procurator Fiscal of such court, or at the instance of any five householders resident in the vicinity of the said works, and applied, after defraying the expense of this Act, towards effectually carrying the same into execution."

The Court, after leaving the Council Buildings, retired to inspect the singeing work and other buildings complained of, and thereafter broke up.

(26th November 1849.)

LAURIESTON—ACCOMMODATION BRIDGE—ARGYLL STREET—
MOODY'S COURT—HIGH STREET, ETC.

The Court met on Thursday the 22d November.

The business was of an unusual, multifarious character. There were no fewer than nine applications for buildings and alterations, consisting of new dwelling-houses, iron warehouses, and a new West End United Presbyterian Church, alterations in shops, etc. The cases of several rickety fabrics were also under the consideration of the Court; there were draining operations, and the settlement of accounts between lawyers, proprietors, and tradesmen. It was estimated that the building operations sanctioned by the Court would involve a sum of no less than £15,000. This proves the activity and elasticity of the building interest at this wintry season of the year, and contrasts strikingly with the proceedings of last Court day, when only one new tenement was sanctioned. We must say that we do not view with satisfaction the many new tenements, especially dwelling-houses, going up at this season of the year. Under ordinary circumstances there might be little objection to these houses being built during the winter, were it not that many of them are to be forced up for occupancy at the ensuing Whitsunday term. Houses which are

only roofed in at the New Year, and the walls subsequently covered with wet plaster, cannot be fit for wholesome occupancy within a few months afterwards ; and we have been informed that many cases of disease, if not death, have resulted from parties entering and living in houses of such an unhealthy character. When the authorities exercise such a judicious control over old, insecure, and ill-drained houses, it is a pity that they have not a similar power of surveillance over new damp houses ; and, in the absence of this power, the only remedy lies in the hands of tenants themselves, namely, that of abjuring the occupancy of all such tenements until they are completely seasoned. Landlords should also remember that, by hurrying up houses at this rapid rate, they get an inferior article, and their tenements contain the germs of dry-rot, which may convert the house into a ruin years before its time. Judicious builders begin their operations in spring, have the roof on before winter, and thus at least half a year is allowed for the house to dry before it is occupied ; and in the case of houses commenced just now, none of them should be occupied before Martinmas next year.

Among others, there was an application from Mr. James Taylor for authority to build a double tenement of houses at the corner of Surrey Street and Cumberland Street, Hutchesontown, upon ground acquired from Mr. Laurie of Laurieston, being part of the large feu obtained by that gentleman from Hutcheson's Hospital. It is thus described in Mr. Taylor's petition :—

“ Which plot of ground last mentioned is part of all and whole that piece of land called Stirlingfold and Wellcroft, measuring twenty-nine acres, three roods, and five falls or thereby, and others more particularly described in a charter of resignation and confirmation by the preceptor and patrons of Hutcheson's Hospital, in favour of the said James Laurie, dated 5th day of January 1821, and which whole foresaid lands are parts and portions of the lands and barony of Gorbals, lying within the parish of Govan and shire of Lanark.”

With the term of Wellcroft we are all familiar, as it is the site and name of perhaps the most celebrated bowling-green in Scotland ; but of the lands of Stirlingfold we know little, and we would like that our venerable friend “ Senex,” or some Gorbalonian

antiquary, would enlighten us as to the origin of the title. The remarks in our last notice as to the capabilities and advantages of this district seem to be corroborated by this proposal of Mr. Taylor's; and it is satisfactory to observe that the unseemly gap which exists between Cumberland Street, Apsley Place, etc., is now about to be filled up with respectable middle-class dwellings. We have only to repeat that the City and Barony Parochial Boards, so long as they continue their present system of assessment, are the best friends of house proprietors on the south side of the river, in which there is scarcely an unoccupied house to be found. In fact, many of the tenants in the Govan Annexation may be said to sit comparatively rent free. They get off there for perhaps a guinea or two pounds of poor-rates, of which the landlord pays the half; while, had their residence been in the opposite side of the river, they might have been assessed in from £10 to £15. "Means and Substance" is beautiful in theory; but with the present law it either works oppressively, or won't work at all. While speaking of Gorbals, we may express our satisfaction that the accommodation bridge opposite South Portland Street is now likely to be proceeded with. The Parliamentary notices for a renewal of the powers which are now exhausted have been given on what must be considered fair and equitable terms. A number of leading proprietors on the south side propose to defray the whole expense, and, as a likely consequence, their tenants, by means of pass tickets, will pass the bridge gratis, while the tenants of other proprietors who have not contributed to the subscription will only be enabled to use the bridge on the payment of a small pontage. We think it is short-sighted on the part of those proprietors who do not put their hands into their pockets for a small subscription, by which the value of their property would be permanently enhanced. When we look at the crowded state of the other bridges, and consider the great relief which this new erection will afford, we trust it will meet with the hearty support of the Town Council and Bridge Trustees. It is intended to be of iron, elegant in its construction, and will cost about £6000 or £8000.

There was an application from a committee for authority to

build a new West End place of worship in connection with the denomination of United Presbyterians. Mr. John Baird is the architect; and the church is to be built in the Gothic style, somewhat after the form of the Erskine Church in Portland Street, by the same gentleman. It is to be situated in Shamrock Street, which forms the north base of Garnethill, and leads from the end of Cambridge Street to Queen's Crescent. Until within the last few years the United Presbyterians had all their places of worship confined to the eastern parts of the city; but about twelve years ago a congregation was formed in Cambridge Street, of which Professor Eadie is the pastor; and about two years ago a large body of the East Regent Street congregation, under Dr. Taylor, moved westward, and built a place of worship in Renfield Street, which, from its magnificence, has been not unappropriately termed a "cathedral." There is no pastor yet appointed for the proposed new church; but, from the zeal of the promoters, who are men of respectability and energy, there is little doubt that, under an able minister, a large congregation may be gathered in this locality; and we hope it will be formed without emptying any other of the churches belonging to the denomination. As yet there is no arrangement made for a school in connection with this church, but this is a desideratum which will likely be supplied in due time. It is not much more than a hundred years since the Fathers of the Secession in this part of the country planted their first small chapel in Shuttle Street, and there are now no fewer than twenty-one flourishing congregations connected with the United Presbyterians in the city.

A petition was presented from Mr. William Neilson, builder in Glasgow, for authority to erect three cottages on the west side of Whitevale Street; and there was also an application from Mr. Robert Thomson for liberty to erect a cottage in Bluevale Street adjoining. They are to contain each five or six apartments, and to be surrounded with a plot of garden ground, which the occupant will have the privilege of cultivating at his leisure hours. It has been so much the custom to lodge the inhabitants in immense piles of masonry, raised tier upon tier, that we are happy to see this new style introduced into the east end, where

the ground is comparatively moderate in price, and where there is still ample room for an extension of the system. We think it would be for the interests of proprietors to lay out their grounds with small self-contained dwellings in this quarter. There would be no difficulty in getting good tenants for them, for such buildings would draw, to a comparatively unfashionable locality, scores of people who are struggling with each other for inferior accommodation in the West End.

The Fiscal presented a complaint to the effect that a house in close 43 High Street was in an insecure state, and it was consequently ordered to be inspected and reported on. From the statements made in Court, it appeared that, on the preceding Tuesday evening, a beam which supports the joists had given way with a crash, and fallen on a bed on which two children were at the moment sleeping. Fortunately, from the angular position which the beam took in falling, the children were uninjured, although their escape must be considered a miraculous one. Immediately above this frail portion of the tenement a poor woman was ill, and the alarm was such as almost to endanger her life. From a personal inspection this house appears to be in a most insecure state, and, to make matters worse, it is situated in the most densely-peopled part of the city. With one or two exceptions, the character of the population is of the most repulsive description. The close is only a few feet wide, and is built on both sides with houses of three and four storeys in height, from which the light of the sun is as completely excluded as if it carried with it a pestilence. Now this close is fairly in Court, we hope that improvements will be effected on it similar to those made on the Fiddler's Close, and others which are now clean and quiet, although formerly perfect sinks of pollution. Many objections are urged by proprietors to the interference of the Court in the case of houses which, in the opinion of the inspectors, are ruinous and insecure; and the plea is often stated, that there never has been an instance in which a dwelling-house has fallen about the ears of the inmates. It is solely on account of this minute interference, however, that they are not permitted to fall; and the present case proves that a rotten beam or an Irish wake

may bring about an accident in which there may be death in the cup.

A petition was presented from the old and well-known firm of Messrs. John Stewart and Company, iron merchants, etc., Argyll Street, craving authority to take down certain buildings, situated between the head of Moody's Court and Jackson Street, and to erect thereon new tenements, to be occupied by them as an iron warehouse and counting-house. The authority was granted. This court is of very ancient date, and is mentioned by M'Ure, writing in 1736. He says:—"Moody's Wynd reacheth south from the Trongate, and is in length fifty-four ells, and three ells one foot wide." In M'Ure's time the best class of citizens resided in this locality, and it has been the birthplace of many who subsequently reached wealth and eminence; but in our own time it has been principally celebrated as containing the first chop-house or dining-room which was instituted in Glasgow after the London fashion. And though the site is rather dark as compared with the London and other crack houses, we learn that the Moody's Court house still maintains its high character for the superiority of its viviers and viands, and it is still held in great repute by the Argyll Street shopkeepers and traders, and our country friends on market-day. The house was widely known by the name of the Pope's Eye Tavern, and was long tenanted by a worthy and kind-hearted citizen (Mr. Yuille), who, along with his amiable partner, is now passing the evening days of a well-spent life on the northern shores of our noble Firth, away from the din and smoke of this Western Babel.

Our respectable citizen ex-Bailie Robertson presented a petition for authority to take down the tenement at the corner of Jamaica Street and Argyll Street presently occupied by himself and his tenants. This will remove nearly the last of the low-roofed shops once so common in the city, and in many of which princely fortunes have been made. On the site of these buildings it is proposed to erect a tenement of splendid shops and warehouses; but the case was delayed at the instance of the Superintendent of Streets for the purpose of making an effort to widen Argyll Street at this narrow gut—an improvement which, if

practicable, will be of the greatest advantage to this locality, along which such an immense torrent of population is continually passing. This is the narrowest part of perhaps the finest street in Europe. The petition describes the property in the following quaint terms, showing that in early times it was known as the Broomielaw Croft :—

“Which property consists of all and whole that tenement of land built by Adam Lindsay, plasterer in Glasgow, upon a piece of ground in Broomielaw Croft near Saint Enoch's Burn in the territory of the Burgh of Glasgow, and now called Jamaica Street, bounded by the said Broomielaw or Jamaica Street on the west, the highway and street leading to Anderston and Partick on the north.”

St. Enoch's Burn, above noticed, is now entirely covered up ; and in another generation the citizens will be unable to define its course. Old M'Ure describes it as follows :—

“There is another rivulet called St. Enoch's Burn, which hath its rise above a furlong west from the High Church, and falls close without the west-port of the city, and falls into Clyde, a little west from the great bridge of Glasgow. This rivulet had three stone bridges upon it within the town.”

This densely-built locality around Jamaica Street and westward is almost entirely modern, and it may not be uninteresting to transcribe from the late Mr. Stuart's *Views and Notices of Glasgow in Former Times*, the account of the appearances presented in this district about the middle of last century :—

“Before the removal, in the year 1751, of the West Port—one of the principal entrances to the city, which stood near the site of the present Black Bull Inn—the line of Argyll Street was a common country road, leading to the mills at Partick, and to the ancient burgh of Dumbarton. On either side, and extending westward to the large brewing establishment situated at Grahamstown, were scattered a number of humble thatched cottages, to each of which were generally attached a malt-barn and other outhouses. These cottages were chiefly occupied by malmen ; who produced upon a small scale a species of home-brewed beer, which would appear to have been a general favourite with the inhabitants. This ale—prepared the one day, and delivered next morning at the houses of the citizens—was, while tea and coffee were yet but little known, the ordinary breakfast beverage of all classes of the community, and its preparation, as may be believed, gave employment to a considerable number of hands.

“Adjoining to the gateway, the buildings were probably numerous, and

may have formed for some distance an almost continuous but mean-looking street. The minutes of the Town Council enable us, in several instances, to form an idea of what must have been the appearance of this locality a century or two ago. In 1655, for example, so great a quantity of rubbish had been accumulated by the side of the way without the West Port, that 'it had fallen in the gutter, and stoppit the current of the water, so that sundrie people on the north syde of the Trongate were forcit to mak brige stones for entrie to their housis.' Again, in 1666, the authorities were called upon to interfere in consequence of 'diver persones,' residing between Hutcheson's Hospital and 'St. Tenowe's' Burn, having taken the liberty of forming little dung-steads in front of their several holdings, by heaping up straw and other refuse in the very line of the watercourse that had then been recently 'levelled and maid straight.' From such notices, and from the circumstance that the deep dirty road—for such it must previously have been—was, in the year 1662, directed to be causewayed from the West Port to St. Enoch's Burn, we may be certain that the now leading thoroughfare formed in earlier times anything but an inviting approach to the city."

St. Enoch's Burn, we may add, crosses the road at Harley's byres, and then struggles downward, intersecting the sunk floor of the splendid shops on the west side of Buchanan Street, and forming, throughout part of its course, the northern boundary of the royalty. It crosses Argyll Street at the foot of Mitchell Street; and here was placed one of the "stone bridges" referred to by M'Ure.

The standing case of the Buck's Head came up as usual on a question of expenses, and some able sparring took place between Messrs. Lamond and Steele, the respective agents. In discussing a reclaiming petition connected with this weary case, the Court was almost brought to a stand-still by an allegation on the part of the lessee of the Buck's Head, to the effect, that the parties in whose name the action had been raised had never given their consent nor any authority for all the bother and heartburning that has come out of this contest. The case was again delayed, to allow the pursuers an opportunity of rebutting this allegation.

After disposing of some minor matters, the Court adjourned, after a sederunt of three hours.

(10th December 1849.)

NEW BUILDINGS—BUCK'S HEAD—STIRLINGFOLD.

The Court met on Thursday, December 6—the Lord Dean presiding, with a full bench.

The sederunt was one of the most laborious and lengthened which has occurred for twelve months, but it was singularly unproductive for the Chronicler; for, with the exception of some business regarding the falling of an iron store at Port Dundas, there was not a single new case before the Court. The opportunity was therefore wisely taken to clear off a number of old disputed cases.

From all we can hear, however, this paucity of cases only betokens a lull before a perfect outburst of building operations in spring. The cheapness and abundance of money is covering acres of ground, especially in the West End, with tenements, not a few of which, we are informed, are erected on speculation. Were they all of a substantial class, and laid out with a due regard to the comfort and well-being of the community, this rage for building—which has a tendency to keep rents moderate—would be less to be regretted. But we are informed, on not indifferent authority, that large sections of buildings are being run up in various parts of the city with more regard to external appearances than inward comfort. There are happily an honourable and high-minded class of builders who do not conduct their business on the principle of making Geneva watches—merely to sell; and we think it proper to give the hint, both for the sake of the public and the respectable portion of the builders to which we have alluded. At the same time, even though the above objections did not apply, when we consider the large amount of unlet property already existing, and the heavy local rates of which the landlords so much complain, it is to be regretted, for the sake of the latter, that such a vast amount of new property is to be brought into competition with that already existing, and which is generally of the most substantial character. We all know what a

railway panic is. Glasgow has in former years experienced a building panic; and in 1826, according to the common phrase, Edinburgh "built itself out of doors," to the extreme suffering of all concerned. We can only hope that, by timely warning—by the elasticity of our population on one hand, and due caution on the part of builders on the other, Glasgow will escape a recurrence of these painful panics.

Amongst the disputed cases which came up for settlement at this day's Court, last and greatest was that of the Buck's Head. It came before the Court for final judgment on two phases; first, at the instance of the proprietors in Dunlop Street against the proprietor and lessee of the Buck's Head. In this case the whole question turned as to expenses; and the Court found for the proprietors in Dunlop Street, as it was proved that the first proposed new buildings to be erected in connection with the Buck's Head did actually encroach on the narrow neck of the street. It appeared that the first wall had been run up a few feet, when it was taken down and set back; and that the proposal to erect ornamental chimney stalks fronting Dunlop Street was also found to be in contravention of the title deeds. In these circumstances the pursuers got their expenses so far as they had been successful in that part of the suit. The second part of the case—viz. the Fiscal *v.* Batt, the proprietor, and Bush, the lessee—to test the question of lining back, came up for final judgment, and was also decided. The Court found against the Fiscal, and also found him liable in expenses. The grounds of this judgment were various. The principal appeared to be that the part of the subjects proposed to be lined formed only a small portion of the premises in question, and that the actual width of 40 feet was that originally fixed when Dunlop Street was laid out and feued by the ancestors of Mr. Dunlop of Tollcross, about 1772—the present Buck's Head Hotel being then Mr. Dunlop's new spacious town mansion. The south side of the lane, behind the Buck's Head, however, became the property of Mr. Jackson, one of our early heroes of the "sock and buskin," and the owner of the then Dunlop Street Theatre. Upon receiving a consideration from the proprietors on the west side, Mr. Jackson, some time subsequent

to 1787 (we think, for we omitted to take notes of the actual dates), agreed to keep back his building on the east 20 feet behind the line at the Buck's Head. To this deed the then proprietor of the Buck's Head was no party, and this formed another element in the case. Throughout the several months during which this case has been before the Court, it has been managed with great ability and eloquence, though, perhaps, with some little temper, by Mr. Lamond, Mr. Macdonald, and Mr. Burnet, the Fiscal; and also by Mr. Steele, when he took a share in the proceedings.

In our last Dean of Guild Court notice, published in our paper of the 26th November, we expressed a desire to know something of the lands in Stirlingfold in Govan, which had been noticed in a title-deed produced in Court. This hint has brought us the following interesting tid-bits from our veteran friend "Senex," under date November 27:—

"In the *Herald* of yesterday information is requested regarding the lands of Stirlingfold. I suspect that these lands belonged to Provost John Stirling about the commencement of the last century, but I cannot speak with any certainty in this matter. I beg to refer you to the *Glasgow Herald* of the 5th *curr.*, where you will find it stated that, in 1790, the lands of Stirlingfold and Wellcroft were sold, by public roup, for an annual feu-duty of £258. The purchasers were James Dunlop, Esq. of Garnkirk (father of our late member, Colin Dunlop, Esq.), and Andrew Houston, Esq. of Jordanhill, for behoof of the Dumbarton Glass Work Company, on account of the coal on the grounds. Mr. James Laurie purchased the same grounds from the representatives of the Dumbarton Glass Work Company, and, as you stated yesterday, his title was confirmed by the Hospital in 1821.

"Mr. Dunlop purchased Mr. Spiers' house (at the north end of Virginia Street), now the Union Bank. It had an elegant iron gate, or entrance way, about fifteen feet high, and extending quite across Virginia Street, very much like the iron gateway which crossed the east end of St. Andrew Street before the square was built, and pretty similar to the cast-iron gateway which Mr. James Laurie erected at the west end of Carlton Place, but which erection was successfully opposed by the public.

"Mr. Houston's town residence was at the north-east end of Maxwell Street, now Pratt's Court. The present buildings were erected by the late Mr. John Binnie and Mr. Robert Muirhead, who, assisted by the subscriptions of Mr. James Oswald and others, widened Maxwell Street about twelve feet. When Mr. Houston's affairs became embarrassed, he applied to Government for the loan of £100,000, which was agreed to be granted upon his giving satisfactory security. Accordingly, Mr. Houston having gone to the Govern-

ment to name his security, gave in the name of 'Hamilton and Brandon,' to which the official on duty answered, 'Sir, we never take a firm for security;' on which Mr. Houston replied, that it was not a firm he offered, but 'Douglas, Duke of Hamilton,' whose security was readily accepted.

"One great cause of Mr. Houston's embarrassments was in consequence of his having, in partnership with some others, entered into an immense speculation in slaves, when the total abolition of slavery was at first seriously agitated, and seemed likely to be immediately accomplished; but as the measure was delayed, the loss occasioned by the fall of price of negroes, by the expense of keeping them, and by deaths amongst them, brought ruin to the speculators."

(31st December 1849.)

SHAMROCK STREET—SMOKE CASES—ST. GEORGE'S ROAD—NEW BUILDINGS—GORDON STREET, ETC.

The Court met on Thursday the 20th December.

The Fiscal presented two petitions against the proprietors in Shamrock Street (running in an angular direction from the edge of Cambridge Street to St. George's Road), complaining that the west-end portion of the street was not properly formed and causewayed, and asserting that a common sewer, with side drains, was necessary to improve the drainage of the street and district. Consideration of the latter part of the complaint was delayed; but as to the former, the parties were ordered forthwith to execute the necessary operations. Indeed, it appeared that the work had actually been commenced subsequent to the service of the complaint. This will be another great improvement to the north-western portion of the city. Until about twenty years ago this street was a mere by-road, not more than twenty feet in width, and rutted, torn, and filthy through all its course. In winter it had all the appearance of a canal, with the exception that the waters, instead of being clear, were slimy and feculent. Shortly, subsequent to this period, however, the authorities, through the interference of the Dean of Guild Court, got a large portion of the path or lane causewayed and opened to the full width of sixty feet, and the effect of this upon the value of the ground has been perfectly amazing. Whole ranges of tenements have been erected,

and, as we formerly noticed, an influential section of the United Presbyterians have acquired ground here, and are in the course of erecting a fine place of worship for the accommodation of their brethren in the West End. We are informed that the original feu from Blythswood, acquired some twenty years ago, was at the rate of £10 an acre. The ground is now worth twenty times that amount, being feued at the rate of from 12s. to 20s. the square yard. There is here a profit of £190 an acre; but this is not uncommon in a city of such expansive and go-ahead tendencies as Glasgow. Our every-day experience, in fact, reminds us, in a small way, of the case of the drunken pensioner, who sold a block of ground in Sydney, N. S. Wales, for a keg of rum and a roll of tobacco, which said block was afterwards disposed of for building sites to the tune of £10,000. After all, the pensioner made profit by the transaction; for, in the first instance, he had got the ground for nothing; and as he had neither put hoe nor mattock in it, it follows that the rum and tobacco were clear profit. Pity the old fellow could not have foreseen that, by "holding on" a bit, he might have had as large an interest in the solum of the capital of the "Currency" Population as the Duke of Bedford has in Covent Garden. Had the old man lived in our stock-jobbing days he would not have "realised" so foolishly.

The opening up of this street will be of great advantage to the residents in Queen's Crescent, etc. The houses in Shamrock Street are intended for the middle classes, and have been erected by Messrs. Law and Selkirk, and Mr. Macpherson. As they abut on a genteel neighbourhood, and are withal commodious and moderately rented, they are already well taken up for the approaching term of Whitsunday. It is worth while mentioning, that from the spot near which the church is now building, Mr. Gillespie, many years ago, cut a tunnel, through which he carried the then pure waters of the Pinkston Burn down to supply his bleachfield, which was situated in North Street, Anderston. The bleachfield has long since disappeared; but Gillespie's tunnel still receives the drainage of Woodside, although the waters, alas! are no longer pellucid. We have heard a great deal anent the nuisance of the Pinkston Burn, and people have imagined them-

selves poisoned by it, although they do not know the trace of its course by half a mile ; but it is only fair to mention, that for the last nine months there have been no complaints against the burn from any valid quarter. This exemption of annoyance, we understand, has been mainly caused by the operations of the Caledonian Railway Company, by which there has been cut off a portion of the Pinkston bog, containing the *débris* of the Messrs. Tennant's works ; and the Messrs. Tennant, on their part, are, at great expense, pumping up the impregnated fluid—mixing it with their refuse, which is compactly built up in the form of an immense fortress, and when the material is fairly dried, it is as hard as the outer wall of Fort George. A prejudice has long existed against this district from the nuisance of the Pinkston Burn and bog ; but as these objections are now removed, we see no occasion why property in this locality should any longer be depressed below its fair value. By the way, we have heard more than one eminent agriculturist express his surprise that the Messrs. Tennant should build up the refuse from their great chemical works in immense useless masses—seeing that it must contain a vast amount of fertilising matter. It is said, that if well mixed up with a hitherto barren soil, the *débris* would soon make it produce abundantly, and blossom as the rose. If there be any truth in this supposition, the Messrs. Tennant have only to acquire two thousand acres in the Garnkirk Moss, to become eminent alike as agriculturists and chemists.

The proprietors in, and Road Trustees of, St. George's Road, were also before the Court on a charge of the footpaths not being properly paved. It is matter of satisfaction to all in this locality that the Fiscal is now moving in this matter, and to all appearance a strong effort will be made by the proprietors on the line to hold the Road Trustees bound to pave and maintain these footpaths. It is contended, that as the Trustees draw large tolls, from their proximity to the city, they should be regarded as single proprietors, who, according to the Police Act, are bound to keep their pavements in a sufficient state of repair within the municipality. At all events, it is hard upon the residents there that they should pay toll, and at the same time be chargeable

with our municipal and police rates ; for it is alleged that the Trustees expend no more money on the footpaths of this important suburban district than they would do at Garscube or Gartnavel. As to the road-way itself of St. George's Road, no one has cause to complain. It is kept in capital order ; but as to the City Road, which is under the charge of the Garscube Trust, the complaints have been long and loud ; and it is hoped the Trustees will either do something substantial for the tolls they levy, or put the whole concern into the hands of the Statute Labour Trustees for the city. Then the inhabitants of St. George's Road will get their share of improvement along with the rest. Meanwhile the Court delayed these important cases for consideration.

Several smoke cases were under consideration. There was one complaint against the proprietors and occupiers of the foundry in Cumberland Court, Gallowgate, so long occupied by the late Mr. Moses M'Culloch ; and another against the proprietors of an engine work at Little Govan Nursery, on the Rutherglen Road. Both cases were remitted to be inspected and reported on by Messrs. Harvey, dyer (depute river bailie), Cunliffe, and M'Naught, engineers. It is earnestly to be hoped that when so much has been said about this "monster nuisance," and when there have been so many "flashes in the pan," so to speak, as to its abatement, the authorities will now really settle the matter as to whether it is to be put down or no. For years the public throat has been tickled by the actual smoke, and the public fancy has been tickled by the notion and hope of its removal. But we are still smoked as before. If there could be any plan devised and proved, by which an abatement of the nuisance would go hand in hand with economy in fuel, then we would have no mercy on the black vomit from the tall chimneys. And we trust such a plan will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, we hope the Fiscal will determine, in the course of the next few months, whether the thing can be abated or no ; and if the riddance may not be, we must just put up with it, as our fathers did with the heaps of fulzie at their doors for many generations. But to give us a decoy puff of hope every now and then, without any practical result, is, according to the old saying, only adding insult to injury.

In a late report we noticed the application of our townsman, Mr. William Robertson, for leave to take down and rebuild his property in Argyll Street, at the head of Jamaica Street. Here occurs, as we then stated, the narrowest gut in this fine line of street or streets, extending to three miles in length, and the desirableness of widening this Dardanelles has long been apparent to all. We regret to learn, from the proceedings, that the Lord Provost and other authorities have failed in their endeavours to effect this great public good, and the narrow throat is now likely to remain for centuries.¹ We have heard that the secret of the failure is, that the proprietor and those advising him were afraid that the few feet of ground to be taken into the street would injure the remainder of the tenement, which is limited in extent, more than would be counterbalanced by the widening of the street. In this conclusion, however, practical men differ. This locality has been for years our greatest thoroughfare; and, with the extension of Gorbals and the southward harbour, it is certain to increase. The fine new tenement adjoining, in Jamaica Street, which, in bygone times, was the rural residence of Lord Provost Black,² and was last occupied by the eminent firm of Thomson and Macconnell, has already, we are informed, found a tenant for the whole fabric. It has been leased by a haberdashery company—viz. Arnot, Cannock, and Co., of Dublin—at the immense rent (so far as our information goes) of £1300 per annum. The Company will occupy the premises back and front, and report says it will be one of the most extensive concerns of the kind in the kingdom. Thirteen hundred pounds per annum for a pendicle of stone and lime in a corner of Glasgow! Not the best chief who brought his hundreds to place the crown “aboon the yellow locks o’ Charlie,” had a rent-roll anything like it. Truly we are an advancing people.

Chronicling as we do, in these reports, the progress of the city, in its building departments especially, it may not be considered out of place to mention that, during the last week, our townsman,

¹ Mr. Robertson has, gratuitously, cut off the sharp corner abutting on Argyll and Jamaica Streets, and, so far as it goes, this is a great improvement.

² Not Provost Black, but John Black, calico printer.

James Scott, Esq., has acquired, from the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, that portion of Blythswood Holm to the east of Wellington Street, and immediately opposite the west end of Gordon Street. It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that this ground was purchased by the Railway Company in the daft year, when Junctions and Directs were the order of the day. It was proposed to form their terminus on this spot; but, like many other projects, it was shelved by the Legislature. The Company has held the subjects since then, and have sold them to Mr. Scott for the sum (as our information goes) of £37,000, thus clearing a pretty handsome profit. Would that all similar land purchases had turned out so favourably. If it had been so, Hudson might have yet swayed the sceptre of the Railway King, and many a ruined merchant been allowed to pass the evening of his days in peace and plenty. But, alas! the railway panic, unlike the threatened high tide which has frightened the Greenock and Leith folk out of their senses, did come, and like a tornado has swept the country from one corner to the other—levelling to the ground old and wealthy establishments—making shipwrecks of the fortunes of the rich, and the means of subsistence of the fatherless and the widow. But, as the song says, "There's a good time coming, boys." We hail this purchase by one of our wealthy and enterprising merchants as an omen that the good day is not far distant. The price, we are informed, is about 75s. per square yard, and considering that it is the nearest piece of vacant ground to the Exchange, we are far from thinking the sum exorbitant. The price of ground in Gordon Street, on which the churches and stores are built, is valued at from £6 to £7 per square yard; and considering that all the buildings would require to come down before the ground could be occupied profitably, it will be seen that the price paid is far from extravagant. We understand that it is proposed to erect shops and a handsome pile of warehouses, counting-houses, etc., for the accommodation of the mercantile community. With the evidence of Queen and Ingram Courts, Exchange Square, Prince's Square, and St. Vincent Place before our eyes, and the enormous price paid for ground on which they stand—this, with the fact that our

city is still pressing westward, induces us to believe that the new square at the west end of Gordon Street will be another distinguishing feature in our city architecture. In no city in the Empire are the business places constructed with such a regard to appearance as in Glasgow. Look at the localities already mentioned, not forgetting the Bank and the palace-looking structure at present in course of erection in Miller Street, by our townsman Mr. Archibald M'Lellan; and we can only add, that we regard this purchase of Mr. Scott's as a proof that good stone and lime, when judiciously planted, is not such a bad investment as most people would have us to believe. At all events, it is not subject to the same risks as the scrip or stock of joint-stock companies, nor to the same fluctuations as produce, whether home or foreign.

After some unimportant business, the Court adjourned.

(28th January 1850.)

STIRLING'S ROAD—THE TRONGATE—ST. ENOCH'S BURN AND SQUARE—CARRON IRON COMPANY, ETC.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Court was held on Thursday, the 17th January 1850. The cases before the Court to-day were not numerous; but still the general business did not fall off in importance. A portion of the tenement lately destroyed by fire on the east side of St. Enoch's Square, belonging to Messrs. Buchanan, coach-builders, was reported on by Mr. Thomas M'Naught, builder, and the dangerous parts ordered to be taken down forthwith.

A petition was presented by Mr. Allan Carswell, for authority to "golf," or underbuild the gable of a tenement situated between Love Loan and the newly-opened street called Cathedral Street. On the angle of ground formed by these two streets, Mr. Carswell proposes to erect an elegant range of one-storey shops, for the convenience of the increasing population on Bell's Park, and the surrounding localities, which show every symptom of thrift

and improvement. While in this quarter we cannot help noticing, with some satisfaction, the great progress which has been made during the last few months in widening Stirling's Road, and thus opening up the approach to our venerable Minster from the new city which has sprung up to the west. Until the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company formed their terminus at the head of Queen Street, the only communication between the north-eastern and western parts of the city was by the old straggling Rotten Row and Stirling's Road, both of which joined Love Loan at the head of John Street, and thence the route held westwards, along a vile 15 feet lane or passage, flanked with deep quarries on each side, to Dundas Street, which leads to the Canal Basin. The Railway Company removed the old dirty road or loan, with so sweet a name, and, in conjunction with the proprietors of Bell's Park, substituted for it Cathedral Street, which fortunately comes in a line with Stirling's Road; and in this quarter the authorities, for the last two or three years, have omitted no opportunity of purchasing subjects, where they could be reasonably acquired, for the purpose of widening still further this great thoroughfare to the north-east. The improvements on the south side of the road are now completed as far as the head of Montrose Street, and on the north side to within a few yards of Taylor Street. Thus, the authorities are rapidly converting a crooked and rutted road of 15 feet in width into a spacious street of 60 feet. When the entire plan may be carried through, it is not easy to predict; for there are still some obstructions in the way of the uniform width of 60 feet, the chief of which is a silk factory, on the south side, near Hopetoun Place, which is now no ornament to the locality. But we trust, when the authorities have the means of offering reasonable compensation, it will be accepted; and that Stirling's Road, freed of its narrow necks, and connecting the modern city with the ancient Cathedral, will be worthy of both. As it is, the improvement which has been made is a vast one; and as the Police and Statute Labour Committee intend to put in a main common sewer, with proper connecting drains, the health and comfort of the district will be attended to, simultaneously with its improved outward aspect.

Stirling's Road, as our readers are aware, takes its name from the Messrs. Stirling, who had the merit of carrying through and completing the Monkland Canal, when its affairs were almost at a dead-lock. Denholm, in his History (edit. 1804), makes the following remarks :—

“The second canal in the environs of the city is the Monkland Canal, which terminates in a basin to the north of the Cathedral church. The design intended by this canal was to open a free and easy communication with the interior parts of the country, and likewise, by transporting amongst it coal from the particular districts, to reduce the price of that article in the City of Glasgow. An Act of Parliament was procured for making this cut in the year 1770, but owing to a deficiency in the original subscription, and a stagnation which took place in trade about the beginning of the American war, the scheme was interrupted. In 1782 the stock was sold. The greatest part of the shares were then purchased by the Messrs. Stirling, who ultimately became the sole proprietors. These gentlemen finished the plan, having extended the navigation to the river Calder, 13 miles east of Glasgow, and formed a junction with the great canal at Port-Dundas.

“This canal was 15 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the surface, and is capable of admitting vessels which draw $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet water, equal to about 60 tons burden. Its greatest height above the level of the sea is 273 feet, the lowest at the basin, situated at the West end, 156 feet, the same height with the Forth and Clyde Canal, to which it is connected. The principal trade of this canal consists in the carriage of coals to the city from the collieries in the parish of Monkland.”

Some great improvements have been made since the days of this local chronicler, of which we may take notice on some future occasion.

A petition was presented from the Carron Iron Company, craving authority to convert the ground and sunk floors of their premises, situated on the west side of Buchanan Street, into a range of elegant shops. This will be a vast improvement, as the area in front, which has hitherto been a great inconvenience to this thoroughfare, will now be removed, and the pavement thereby widened about nine feet. It will also remove the dull appearance which this gay and fashionable promenade only presents at this point. The case was delayed to allow the adjoining proprietors to examine the plans. We understand that these grounds were acquired by the Carron Company in 1816, upon which they erected the present buildings, which were used exclusively as a

warehouse and manager's dwelling-house. About ten years ago they erected an additional warehouse on the back grounds, which they will still retain for business purposes, with a front entrance from Buchanan Street. Though the main outlet for the produce of the Carron works is by the eastern end of the Forth and Clyde Canal, at Grangemouth the Company are nevertheless some of the oldest merchants amongst us ; and, accordingly, we find that, so far back as 1765, they projected Duke Street, for the purpose of securing a direct route from Cumbernauld to the city.

While on this subject, it may not be out of place to say a few words regarding the institution of the Carron Company, to which we stand indebted for the introduction into Scotland of what may now be considered its great staple product and manufacture—viz. the making of iron. In the early days of the commerce of Glasgow herrings were cured and exported to the Continent, and in return our merchants brought back brandy, wines, salt, *iron*, etc. ; and it is recorded that Walter Gibson, one of our earliest mercantile magnates, was the first to import iron direct into the Clyde from Stockholm. The trade was conducted on a very limited scale, however ; and, in connection with this subject, we may record an anecdote which was told us by a respectable and elderly citizen (Mr. Allan Clark). A few years ago previous to the removal of the Consistory or Commissary House at the Cathedral, an immense mass of legal documents had collected in the upper floor, uncared for by any one ; externally it was nothing but a room full of paper rubbish, exposed to the weather, and covered with the droppings of crows and pigeons, which had held their parliaments there for time immemorial. If we are not mistaken, there was not even a sufficient lock on the door, and any one by turning up the cart-loads of old papers with his stick, might select the documents of a divorce case, or a little bit of scandal, or the details of a disputed settlement, as the case might be—in all of which the ancestors of the present generation had at one time been deeply interested. From this quarry our friend became possessed of certain of these old documents, and on examining one of the set he found that it contained a statement of a keenly-litigated case, between a Glasgow house and a Swedish house, concerning

the importation of *two tons* of iron from Stockholm to the Clyde. So much as a sample of the extent of our iron trade less than two hundred years ago. Our friend, we believe, handed the records of this ancient law plea, as a curiosity, to one of the Messrs. Baird of Gartsherrie, who produce as much iron in a week as would have sufficed the wants of Glasgow for a century, according to the then rate of consumption. By the way, we would like to know what has become of the wreck of these old documents that had accumulated in the Consistory House since the days of the Bishops. Some cart-loads, we have heard, were bundled into Edinburgh, but whether they are cared for or no we cannot tell. If preserved and duly arranged, they must have afforded splendid material for a local gossiping antiquary.¹

¹ In reference to this subject we republish the following letters :—

THE OLD DOCUMENTS IN THE LATE CONSISTORY HOUSE.

To the Editor of the Glasgow Herald.

SIR—In your paper of yesterday, in one of those valuable and curious articles which you are from time to time furnishing us with, regarding our ancient city, you put the following question :—“By the way, what has become of the wreck of these old documents that had accumulated in the Consistory House since the days of the Bishops?” Perhaps I may be able to tender some scrap of information as to the fate of the “wreck.” About the time when the building of the Consistory House was doomed to destruction I one evening met with a friend who, from his personal observation the previous day, told me that what were considered the valuable documents connected with the Consistory Court had been carried off, and that the rest were being condemned to the flames, but that many people were taking away numbers of them. Having a species of literary avidity to share in part of the spoil, I went next morning as early as seven o'clock to the Consistory House, the whole of the lower part or ground floor of which I found filled with a heavy dark brown smoke, where certainly conflagration was making its way—little tufts of loose papers flaming up here and there—but the great mass smouldering, for sorry indeed did the documents appear to wish to become defunct, even by the help of two stout labourers stirring them up with long sticks. Vexed at what I deemed the recklessness of such proceedings, and with a desire to secure even yet a few, I ventured, under a feeling next to suffocation, knee-deep among the mass, and, picking up parcels I thought might contain a subject or two for future use, was making my exit; however, I was detained under instructions the labourers had received, that no more papers were to be taken away; but, never mind how it was, or through what agency, whether *per fas aut nefas*, I got released, possessed of a goodly number of documents, which, arranging into a portable bundle on a grave stone, I departed, very down in the mouth and afflicted to witness this scandalous *auto da fe* and last solemn obsequies of what might have supplied food to many local antiquarian pens, and contributions to newspaper columns for generations to come. I have no doubt, Mr. Editor, in such remarks you will feel with me a kindred sympathy, and excuse them. On a leisurely examination of the contents of my random bundle, I discovered them to consist of such as the following :

Even at the comparatively recent period within the memory of those still living our iron trade had scarcely an existence, and

—Many loose papers in strips, which, from having been tossed about, had lost their relationship to their parent subjects, on which were written names and genealogies not a few—these most likely bearing reference to cases before the Consistory Court; several leaves of a sermon, in a fine, small, clear, close handwriting, of some two centuries ago; stanzas of poetry; a beautifully engraved and partly written official document in the Danish language, with two seals, dated May, Anno 1711; bills of exchange and bills of lading, and mercantile letters—all connected with our trade to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, prior to, and about the date of the union of our kingdom with England. I daresay our merchants of the present day will think it a little queer to learn that their forefathers imported wigs; yet, “true it is, and of verity,” that from one of these mercantile letters a Glasgow merchant orders his Swedish correspondent to send him wigs of a fair colour, describing exactly the shade of hair. Most of those versed in Glasgow lore are, I daresay, aware that honourable bailies and lordly merchants once strutted pompously with a huge ornament of this sort on the top of their person; but I believe it has been in reserve for this generation alone, through the salvation of this document from the fire, to know the *important fact* of the true colour of the hair of those wigs which were made from the flaxen ringlets of the Swedish and Norwegian damsels. I regret, Mr. Editor, that my memory does not serve me in giving you farther details of the foregoing documents, having put them long since into the hands of our late worthy and intelligent townsman, Mr. Robert Stuart, when compiling his *Notices of Glasgow in Former Times*, for any use he could make of them; but, from the sample, you may judge how much curious and interesting matter we may have lost by the conflagration of many hundredweights of stock. There is, however, no doubt of much being saved that would yield solid knowledge, besides what you pleasantly name “gossip,” an innocent mixture of which is sometimes both useful and salutary in relieving the austere studies; and, as what has been saved and carried to some hiding-place, is likely to remain for ever “dead stock,” would there be no possibility, by an application to the proper authorities, of making it accessible to investigation? If such an opportunity were afforded, I am satisfied our literary antiquarians would flock to it in strong muster to have a capital “field-day,” and a succession of them.

Glasgow, 29th January 1850.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

GABRIEL NEIL.

To the Editor of the Glasgow Herald.

Glasgow, 29th January 1850.

SIR—I observe from the report of the proceedings of the Dean of Guild Court, in your paper of the 28th January, that a desire is expressed to know what became of the records of the ancient and extensive Commissariat of Glasgow, which I can explain.

In March 1817 I was, by a Commission from the Crown, appointed Clerk to the Commissariat of *Glasgow*, which I held till January 1824, when, in virtue of the Act of the 4th of King George IV., cap. 97 (which abolished that and other two small Commissariats in the county), I became Clerk of the newly-formed Commissariat of *Lanarkshire*, and, in obedience to that Act, I some time afterwards sent to the General Register House, in Edinburgh, the whole papers and deeds of every description connected with the late Commissariat of Glasgow, where, I presume, they may now be seen, on application to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

C. D. DONALD,

Commissary Clerk of Lanarkshire.

the Clyde formed the medium of imports rather than that of exports. So late as the year from 5th January 1771 till 5th January 1772 there were imported into the Clyde 835 tons, 18 cwts., 2 qrs., and 13 lbs. of bar-iron, and 896 tons of pig-iron. Of this there were exported 10 tons of pig, and 1,503,872 lbs. of wrought or manufactured iron. The greater part of the latter was sent to "the Plantations" of British America, in exchange for tobacco, of which Glasgow was then the greatest emporium in the world. Of this amount no less than 1,095,914 lbs. were exported to Virginia, after being fashioned into malleable utility at the Glasgow forges.

From a most interesting little book, by Mr. Thomas Barclay, iron broker, Glasgow, printed for private circulation, and issued two or three days ago, we learn that in 1788 there were only 8 furnaces in blast in Scotland, of which 4 were at Carron, 2 at Wilsontown, 1 at Bonaw, and 1 at Goatfield—the two latter being burned with charcoal. The production per furnace was little more than one-sixth of what it now is. So late as 1827, the total production of Great Britain was 690,000, to which Scotland only contributed 36,500 tons. In the past year, 1849, the production of Scotland, *per se*, was 690,000 tons. This total was produced by 113 blast furnaces—there being 31 furnaces out of blast, making a total of 144 furnaces. The great majority of these are situated in what may now be termed the Glasgow district. Instead of importing parcels of *two tons* from Sweden, we exported to Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, 7054 tons in 1848, and 4519 tons in 1849. In 1830 the Scottish foreign exports of pig-iron amounted to 8931 tons. In 1849 the foreign exports had increased to 153,183 tons.

But to return to the Carron Works. Attracted by the abundance of coal in the district, the great water-power in the locality, and the knowledge that ironstone was not far distant, these works were established on the Carron, in the parish of Larbert, in Stirlingshire, in 1760, by a Company consisting of Messrs. Roebuck, Garbet, and Cadells. The first two of these gentlemen were respectively from Sheffield and Birmingham; and, as these towns were already celebrated for their iron manu-

factures, workmen were procured from them to set agoing the new undertaking. Roebuck, we may mention, was associated with James Watt in his steam-engine patent. In 1773 the Company procured a charter, by which their operations were simplified and extended. In 1786 Mr. Joseph Stainton was appointed manager of the works, and by his ingenuity, zeal, prudence, and perseverance he secured for the Company and the works that high position in the manufacturing and commercial world which it has ever since worthily maintained. Here everything in iron is manufactured, from the most common kitchen utensil upwards; and Carron guns and Carron grates are, or used to be, as well known over the world as Wedgwood's pottery.

"We can attest," says the writer in the New Statistical Account, whom we take to be Lieut. Colonel Dundas, "from personal inspection, that the guns of Duke Wellington's battery train were all from Carron. This is not an occasion to discuss the comparative merits of brass and iron ordnance; but so conclusive has been the disquisition to the mind of the French Government, that, in the year 1835, a committee of French Artillery Officers was permitted by the Carron Company to superintend the construction of some trial guns, which had been ordered by the French, with the sanction of our Government. This liberal conduct need not awaken national jealousy, as, with regard to the mixture of ores, and the composition of the metal, which is the only secret worth knowing, the Frenchmen went just as wise as they came."

We suspect, however, that cannon-casting does not now form any part of the operations at Carron; and may the day be long and distant ere it again constitutes one of its staple manufactures. We were shown the pit, however, on a recent visit, in which many of these death-dealing engines had been fabricated. Mr. Stainton was succeeded in the management of the works by his nephew, Mr. Joseph Dawson, and they are still managed by gentlemen of this name with great ability and enterprise. In the manufacture of pig-iron, other companies have now far exceeded the production of the Carron Company; but, if we are not mistaken, they still occupy the first place, as far as iron castings of every kind are concerned.

According to a feu-charter granted by them in 1763, the original partners were John Roebuck, doctor of medicine in Sheffield, and his two brothers, Thomas and Ebenezer Roebuck;

Samuel Garbet, merchant in Birmingham ; William Cadell, sen., merchant at Cockenzie in East Lothian ; William Cadell, and John Cadell. The said William Cadell was the first manager of the works. Some years after they were instituted, the celebrated engineer, Smeaton (who had tried his hand at improving the Clyde), was employed to reconstruct the blowing machines and other parts of the machinery at Carron. He also constructed the convex dam dike across the Carron at Larbert, by means of which the water is retained in a reservoir of thirty acres in extent, and used for the purpose of propelling the machinery. It may be worth while to mention that the Carron Works threw off a hive for the benefit of the Russians. Mr. Cadell was succeeded in his situation as manager of the works by Mr. Charles Gascoigne, the son-in-law of Garbet, and while thus employed an offer was made to him on behalf of the Empress of Russia, who wished to construct works in her dominions for the purpose of casting guns, shot, and shells. As Gascoigne had no great ties at home, by reason of his affairs being embarrassed, he readily accepted the offer, which was made to him through our countryman Admiral Greig, then a distinguished officer in the service of the Czarina ; and, on his departure, he coaxed away with him a number of the skilful workmen at Carron, although contrary to law. Iron works were accordingly erected by the Carron Colony at Petrozabodsky, and elsewhere in Russia. Gascoigne was created a Knight of the Order of St. Wladimir, had the rank of General in the Russian service, and died worth £30,000. Subsequently, and till a very recent period, the same works were managed by Mr. Wilson, who went out with Gascoigne, and who was also a Russian General. Charles Baird, also one of Gascoigne's *protégés*, and also a Knight of the Order of St. Wladimir, established a manufactory for muskets, steam-engines, etc., at Cronstadt, which was lately, and may be still, in flourishing existence. These military titles for civilians need not excite much surprise, when it is known that it is the fashion of the country, and that the woman who suckled the Emperor Nicholas was at least a Colonel.

A petition was presented for authority to alter the tenement at the corner of Glassford Street and Trongate, for the purpose of

adopting some modern improvements in the construction of the shops. This is the property so long occupied by our late townsman, Mr. Liddell, oil and colour merchant, who, if we mistake not, was, at the time of his death, some five years ago, the oldest shopkeeper in the city, and was able to link the days of the old Virginian lords with those of the present generation. Though Trongate is one of the oldest streets in the city, it has got, within the last few years, quite an altered appearance, albeit we don't say an improved one, by the substitution of square built modern fabrics for the old jaunty gable-fronted houses with their crow steps. So late as thirty or forty years ago, the "jugs," or iron neck cravats, were suspended by chains from the Cross Steeple, as a terror to evil-doers; and, in an earlier generation, they were pretty often tenanted on market-days. We hope these same jugs are in the safe keeping of the Chamberlain; not that we exactly desire to see them put up again, but that it would be wise to retain them as memorials of the past. After all, the jugs might be serviceable in some cases. For instance, there are many scores of vile wretches who professedly and constantly live by plundering the public—that is, they pick pockets, and steal "orra things," when out of prison, and they thrive upon the rates when in it. In fact, a few months in prison to these red republicans is like a sojourn in Torquay or Madeira to the invalid. They are compelled to lead sober and orderly lives, and accordingly they come out a stone or two heavier than when they went in—fresh complexioned, and furious for plunder. Now, that which we mean is, that though these scoundrels are pretty well known to the detectives, they are not known to the public; but were a few of the wickedest of them compelled to stand now and then in the jugs, at the Cross, for their picture, it would greatly spoil their game; and, from having been thus exhibited with the blackguard's mark upon them, they would afterwards be readily identified on the public streets, at public meetings, and in steamers and railway carriages. One of the Glasgow jugs was provided with an iron tongue to perform the office of the "branks," and when inserted into the mouth of a "randy-wife," who had turned her neighbourhood upside down by her abuse and scandal, it was remarked that the remedy was

effectual when everything else had failed, including even the abjurations of the minister and elders. After this digression, we may state that the only remains of the olden time now visible in Trongate (for the statue of King William has only been there 116 years), are the two steeples, the Cross and Tron—each more than 200 years old—and some of the former piazzas, which, in early times, were almost universal on the main lines of street, and the outlines of a few of which can still be seen through some of the shop windows east of the Tron steeple.

In connection with the Trongate we have recently dipped into the *Liber Collegii Nostre Domine*, presented to the Maitland Club by the Marquis of Bute, and ably edited by Mr. Joseph Robertson of Edinburgh. We learn from it that the Collegiate Church of St. Mary and St. Ann, founded about 1528 by James Houston, sub-dean of Glasgow, was situated on the south side of the Trongate, then more commonly known by its ancient name of St. Thenaw's Gate. No memorial of the ancient building (upon the site of which the Tron Church now stands) has been preserved; but it is undoubted that it was surrounded by a burying-ground, long since built over, and that on the west side of it stood the Song School. This burying-ground is thus alluded to in a municipal statute, enacted in 1577, and quoted in the Burgh Records. It is then

“ordanit that the mercatt sted of gers, stray [grass and straw], and hay be in the New Kirk Yarde in tyme cuming, and that nane sall present the samyn to ane wthir pace bot thair, vnder the pane of aught shillingis ilk falt.”

The name of the “Tron Gate,” Mr. Robertson tells us, is not to be observed before the middle of the sixteenth century; that is, about sixty years after King James IV. granted to the Bishop of Glasgow and his successors the privilege of having a free tron in the city. In a deed of seisin of 30th May 1545 a tenement is described as being “in le Troyne Gait.” The older name of it, St. Thenaw's Gate, by which it was familiarly known at least as early as 1426, was derived from a chapel situated near its western extremity, dedicated to St. Thenaw, the mother of St. Kentigern or St. Mungo. St. Thenaw was believed to have been buried here, and

in October 1475 James III., by a charter, bequeathed to the Cathedral Church of Glasgow half a stone of wax, from the lands of "Odingstoun," in the lordship of Bothwell, for lights to be burned at the tomb of "St. Tenew," in the chapel where her bones were buried. Be this as it may, we learn from a catalogue of the relics in the treasury of the Cathedral, in 1432, that at least some of the bones of St. Thenaw were kept there along with the remains of her sainted son. St. Thenaw's Chapel was in existence till 1597, and some traces of it were even to be found so late as the beginning of the last century. Wodrow says it was then called St. Tennoch's—"a name," says Mr. Robertson, "which, in the mouths of a people more familiar with the prophets of the antediluvian world than with the saints of the dark ages, was, in no long time, changed into that of 'St. Enoch,' now given to a church and square not far from the site of the edifice which marked the resting-place of the royal matron who gave birth to the apostle of Cumbria." It is also recorded that St. Thenaw lent her name to a spring and streamlet in the neighbourhood of her church—the latter, doubtless, the polluted wash which empties itself, and the dirty drains which communicate with it, into the Clyde, near the Broomielaw Bridge, under the name of St. Enoch's Burn. Where "the spring" is situated we do not know. It is built over and degraded somewhere or other, no doubt; but Mr. R. remarks—"I have been told that, within the memory of man, St. Thenaw's Well was not unfrequently resorted to with feelings in which devotion might claim to hold a part."

The Collegiate Church already alluded to lay waste for a long period after the Reformation; but about 1592 it began to be resorted to as a place of Presbyterian worship, and was continued to be used till 1793, when it was destroyed by fire, in the manner so graphically recorded, not long since, in these columns by our friend Aliquis.¹ The present Tron, or St. Mary's, is built on the same site.

¹ See the letters of "Aliquis," in this work.

(4th February 1850.)

NEW WEST END WYND—NEW CATHOLIC CHAPEL—SMOKE
NUISANCE.

The Court met on Thursday, the 31st January.

A new tenement was authorised to be erected in Drygate, on the site of one of the antique fabrics which was removed in the course of the "dinging-down" campaign last year. The new building is not to possess any peculiar feature. It is only planned to meet the modernised aspect of this venerable street.

A petition was presented by Messrs. Raeburn and Thomson, asking authority to have their property in Sauchiehall Street lined, and liberty granted to erect thereon several tenements, consisting of shops on the ground floor, and dwelling-houses above. The subjects in question are situated on the south side of Sauchiehall Street, and are bounded on the east by the hitherto rural-looking passage or loan leading to Elmbank Place, which forms also the principal avenue to the most fashionable bowling green in the city. The authority craved was, on the application of Mr. Carrick, not granted; and from what fell from him, it would appear that on this spot it is proposed to construct that which he termed a "West End Wynd." In other words, it is intended that the present loan, of 21 feet in width, with its hedgerows on each side, broken only by one solitary tenement, is to be walled in, so to speak, by subdivided dwelling-house fabrics, rising to the altitude of 45 to 50 feet—retaining this said 21 feet of breathing space all the while. Verily, this is an age of sanitary reform with a vengeance; and it would seem that our West End projectors have read Chadwick's essays and Bailie Smith's speeches with peculiar advantage! Seriously, it is not difficult to predict, that if this Sauchiehall Street vennel goes on, it will follow the example of its progenitors in the older and humbler localities down the town. Its lodgings of two and three rooms and kitchens may be occupied by decent tradesmen in the first instance, but with a 21 feet street, and houses 50 feet high, its respectability will become "small by

degrees, and beautifully less." Other fabrics of the like kind will rise in the same locality when once ground is fairly broken; the straight pole, with its triangular drying line, bearing half-washed moleskins, and stockings, and flannels, and feckets, will festoon all the windows, and fever and filth will be constantly kept in pickle as the near neighbours of the West-enders. If carried out, it will be an ugly stinking docken planted amongst roses and lilies. But good or evil are rarely unmixed, and possibly these wynds may be planted there to remind our local aristocracy that they are of the same species with coal-porters, chimney-sweeps, and cinder-gatherers, and that the latter need all their help and sympathy. From all we have heard, this proposal has created no little excitement among the parties chiefly interested in our city's amenity and improvement. In justice, however, to the gentlemen who propose to put down these erections, we have to state, according to the information which has reached us, that the fault lies not with them, but with the surrounding proprietors, who have hitherto declined to bear their fair proportion of forming this lane into a 60 feet wide street, as has all along been contemplated, and as has actually been laid down in the plans of the ground. But the erection of one large tenement on the east building line of the lane seems to have been the *origo mali*, and it is the present obstacle. This shows again the vast disadvantage of the great Blythswood lands not being laid out according to some general and comprehensive city building plan, with their open streets and squares, dotted with gardens here and there. But instead of this, the ground has been feued in lots varying from one to five or ten acres in extent, and each party is left to lay out his pendicle in open streets or narrow vennels, or mews lanes, as seems best in his own eyes, and as if there was not another block of building within seven leagues of him. We trust, however, that some arrangements will be made by which the airy and pleasant West End locality will be spared the erection of a style of buildings which are being gradually rooted out of the ancient parts of the city as a nuisance and a pest.

A petition was presented for authority to erect a new Catholic Chapel, with schools for boys and girls, on the lands of Villafield,

on the east side of Stanhope Street. The case was temporarily delayed. It is to be a very small temple, containing room for only 150 sitters, the overseeing of whom, with their families, will form the labour of one priest. The style is to be the Gothic, from designs by an English architect, whose name we have not learned; but we believe it will be an ornament to the locality. This is another proof—first, of the increasing numbers of the Catholic population amongst us, which is not to be wondered at, since so many thousands of Irish have made Glasgow their headquarters; and next, it speaks creditably as to the desire of the Roman Catholic clergy to provide secular and religious instruction for their adherents. This will now be the fifth Catholic chapel in Glasgow, one of them the largest place of worship within our bounds; and their present church extension contrasts strongly with their limited accommodation only thirty or forty years ago. In the latter end of the last century the Catholics assembled by stealth in a room in “Red-haired” Wilson, the Town Clerk’s property, situated at the bottom of a close in the Saltmarket; and subsequently they assembled in a brick building in the Gallowgate, nearly opposite the Infantry Barracks, which was the best accommodation they had, till the splendid edifice in Clyde Street was opened in 1817, at the cost of £16,000. We may add that this latter place is seated for two thousand sitters, and that three separate congregations assemble in it every Sunday. The peacefulness with which Catholics now put down their temples in the Covenanting West also contrasts strongly with the intolerance of times not long since gone by. So late as February 1780, the shop of Bagnall, a potter in King Street, was destroyed by a furious mob, for no other reason than that he was a Roman Catholic; and thereafter the same lawless set wrecked the poor man’s manufactory in Tureen Street. The magistrates then gathered courage, and dispersed the mob, after they had done the damage—a line of proceeding which was followed, with certain variations, by their successors so recently as March 1848, on the principle, possibly, that precedents are salutary. Bagnall was indemnified, as he well ought to have been, for this damage, at the expense of the city. We do not know the extent of the

Catholic population in Glasgow ; but we can state, from official information, that upwards of 3000 children were, in 1846, baptized at their various places of worship in the city. It is worth while to mention, that on the same side of Stanhope Street, and within a few yards of this "Mass-house," the congregation of Free Martyrs is in the course of erecting an edifice for teaching the doctrines of a purer and simpler creed. No doubt, it will be thought by the adherents of both parties that the bane and antidote are not far separated.

Amongst the cases disposed of was an application from Messrs. Wylie and Lochhead for authority to extend their premises in Argyll Street. These gentlemen have acquired lately the subjects on the west side of Virginia Street recently occupied by the National Bank before its removal to the present magnificent premises on the west side of Queen Street ; and it appears that Messrs. W. and L. propose an extension of their elegant warehouse so as to include the former banking-house. The case has been before the Court for several months, having been opposed by the conterminous proprietors, on the alleged ground of infringement on the rights of parties. The case was heard at great length, but the Court found for the petitioners. The agent for the petitioners was Mr. Kirkland, and for the defenders Mr. Muirhead. In connection with this case, it may be in the recollection of some of our readers that the premises presently occupied by Messrs. Wylie and Lochhead are on the site of those which were wholly burnt down about the year 1810, when several lives were lost. The premises were at that time occupied by the Messrs. Reid as an upholstery warehouse.

As noticed in one of our former reports, the Fiscal has been taking measures to enforce the law regulating the consumption of smoke within the bounds, and for some time four cases have been going on. All of these came up at this day's Court, on reports from Messrs. M'Naught, Harvey, and Cunliffe, to whom the subject had been remitted some weeks since. In the case of the singeing work near the High School, the chimney was ordered to be raised an additional height of 17 feet. In the George's Street work, the Reporters recommended that coke should be used instead

of coal. In the case of Cumberland Court Foundry, Gallowgate, the Reporters stated that, on their visit, they found the works standing, and the parties engaged in making alterations on their furnaces with the intent of abating the nuisance complained of. The chimney and furnaces of the work in Rutherglen Loan, at the corner of M'Niel Street, were also reported on; the stalk was ordered to be considerably raised, and it was stated that in this case also the parties were making alterations to banish the nuisance. By a note appended to one of the reports, we learn that the Reporters could not lay down any general direction applicable to every case, as a great deal depended on the construction of the flues, the extent of boiler room, the height of the chimney, the draught, etc., and that practical men differed as to the best mode of remedying the evil complained of. It was their opinion, however, that the evil was much aggravated, if not entirely occasioned, by the careless manner in which the furnaces were fired. As yet, therefore, the proceedings can hardly be said to have been satisfactory. No general principle has been laid down, nor any invention considered, which promised to be of universal application. The smoke serpent has scarcely been scotched—certainly not killed; and, if the nuisance is to be abated, it must be grappled with of new. To our reading, the Act of Parliament is as plain as the alphabet. It gives ample power to the Court to abate the smoke nuisance, if mechanical skill can do it; but, somehow or other, the grievance never grows an inch the less. For ten years bygone we have been cajoled or tickled with the assurance that the smoke nuisance was to be driven furth the city in no time. But the public men who said so “keep the word of promise to the ear, and break it to the hope.” It has always happened that after the process has advanced a stage or two, it seems to get the “go-by.” Now, after so much has been said on the subject, and so many high expectations formed, it would be kind of the Fiscal of the Court, or both together, to work out the Act as far as the law will allow it; and if this course does not succeed, frankly to tell us that the Act is unworkable for good on the one hand, and mechanical and scientific skill cannot purify our atmosphere on the other.

But the breathing a smoky vapour is not the only grievance of which the public complains. It is at length damaging, if not destroying, the only green spot which the citizens of Glasgow can consider as their own patrimony. During the whole of last summer many of the formerly fine umbrageous trees on Glasgow Green were blackened as if they had been struck by the lightning's bolt, and, just now, we observe that many of them are being grubbed out as useless and blasted trunks. We don't say the tall chimneys have done *all* this damage; but they must be answerable for a great deal, seeing that these unfortunate trees, which would bourgeon and flourish, if only let alone, are almost perpetually smoked at, either from the mills on the nursery grounds on the south, or those in Calton and Bridgeton, north and east.

The Court adjourned after disposing of some minor matters.

(18th February 1850.)

NORTH-EAST QUARTER BUILDINGS—WEST END WYND—
REBUILDING OF STOCKWELL BRIDGE.

The fortnightly meeting of the Court was held on Thursday, the 14th February.

Mr. Stobo, builder, presented a petition for leave to erect a large tenement at the east end of Stirling's Road, opposite the Asylum for the Blind; but the case was delayed, to allow the necessary inquiry as to the proper building line at this point. This is another instance of the improvement in the north-eastern locality by the late widening of Stirling's Road. The proposed houses are intended for the working-classes; and, in this quarter there is likely to be a continued and increasing demand for tenements of this description. This ground forms a portion of the Barony Glebe, and we are glad to think that the feu will at least add something to the stipend of one of the most amiable of the moderately endowed ministers of the Church of Scotland.¹

¹ Dr. Black of the Barony, who died at Florence on 15th January 1851.

Pity it is that when the Town Council was disposing of the lands of Blythswood, at "the price of an old song," they had not reserved a few acres, as glebe ground, to the city clergymen. By this time these acres would have returned them something handsome. Irrespective of seat-rents, the churches would have been (to use the utilitarian phrase), "self-supporting," and the Corporation funds would have been saved those disbursements, which, to say the least of it, are grudged by many who do not belong to the Establishment, although the claim of the Church is as valid as law can make it. It is no good argument to get rid of them that, in a pecuniary point of view, they now exhibit a deficit instead of a surplus. Perhaps it may not be too late yet to profit by this hint, as the Council has still an estate left at Coplawhill; and, in an expanding city like this, he would be a bold man who would predict its value as building ground to the next generation.

The "West End Wynd" scheme, leading from Sauchiehall Street to Elmbank Place, came up for judgment, and the Court, evidently with great reluctance, had to interpose its authority to the infliction of this indignity upon the most beautiful and progressive part of the city. Mr. Keyden, of the firm of Strang, Yuille, and Keyden, the proprietors of the ground on the west side of this narrow lane, appeared, and stated that he attended the Court for the purpose of explaining that the formation of this wynd was against their wish or inclination; and that they had, for months before feuing the ground, endeavoured to negotiate with the proprietors on the east side, with the view of inducing them to contribute their fair share of forming a 60 feet wide street; but without success. He had seen in the newspapers a report of the proceedings of last Court day, in reference to this case; and, in consequence, in justice to his partners and himself, he considered it his duty to make this public statement in Court. Mr. Allardice, on behalf of Messrs. Raeburn and Thomson, the feuars of the ground from Messrs. Strang, Yuille, and Keyden, stated, that though the Court had granted authority to proceed with the building, they were still willing to treat, on fair and reasonable terms, with the proprietors on the east side of the lane, with the view of carrying out the original plan of a 60 feet street. If this

monstrosity goes on, therefore, we suspect the onus and odium will lie upon the company of gentlemen who hold the east side feus. We earnestly trust, however, that the beautifully built West End will be spared the infliction of this heavy blow and great discouragement. It is not surprising that the inhabitants of that locality are up in arms against this new scheme—not for removing a wynd, but for creating one; and we trust the interest of the feuars themselves, and the remonstrances of the great mass of the public, will be effectual in preventing the spread of the vileness of the old city to the best parts of the new.

By far the most important business at this Court, or, indeed, at any Dean of Guild Court, for a long time bygone, was an application from the Bridge Trustees, and from Mr. York, their contractor, setting forth their intention of rebuilding Stockwell Bridge, and requesting authority to enclose the necessary portions of street in this locality during the building operations. The application was, of course, granted. The character of the proposed structure, of which Mr. Walker, London, is the engineer, may be briefly stated as follows:—The bridge will consist of five arches, each of which will form a very flat segment of a circle. The span of the centre arch will be 80 feet, and the rise 10 feet 6 inches. The span of each of the adjacent arches will be 76 feet, and the rise 9 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; while the span of each of the outmost arches will be 67 feet, with a rise of 7 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Each of the two centre piers will be 10 feet in thickness; each of the two end piers 9 feet; and each of the two abutments 20 feet 6 inches. The total length of the bridge will thus be 467 feet; the total clear water being 366 feet; and the total river space occupied by piers 38 feet. The roadway, like that of the Broomielaw Bridge, will be 60 feet within the parapets. The length of the piers at the foundation will be 80 feet.

It will be observed that the distinguishing feature of the new erection, as compared with Glasgow Bridge, so justly an object of pride and admiration, is, that it will have five arches instead of seven, thereby receiving an appearance of greater dignity and solidity. It will be faced with granite either from Dublin, Aberdeen, or from some of the Galloway quarries, from which

latter, we think, the finest of the Liverpool Docks are built. The design estimated shows a balustrade similar to that on each side of the Glasgow Bridge; but we believe it is not unlikely that a plain parapet will be substituted, after the fashion of the great London Bridge. Considering that there are only five arches, as in the case of the metropolitan bridge, this close parapet system of masonry seems to be more in harmony with the solid style of the structure; and, moreover, these close parapets will afford a better protection to foot passengers than the open parapets during the hurly-gurly days of winter. The level of the new bridge will be almost straight, and the pathway nearly seven feet below the summit level of the roadway of the present venerable edifice—presenting a striking contrast between the styles of bridge-building in the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. The olden “Great Bridge of Glasgow” was for four hundred years the pride of the district; but, nevertheless, it presented, and presents till this moment, a towering sort of hill in the centre, which not only obstructs the straight-line view between the north and south sides of the river, but most cruelly tortured horse-flesh when it had a heavy load behind it. Our forefathers, however, had their bowels of charity rather moved towards the preservation of the insensate stones of the bridge than to the poor horses which dragged loads along its surface; and the reason no doubt was this, that the expense of repairing the bridge fell upon the “common guid,” while the owner of the brute beast was left to plaster and patch up its bits of raw at his own charges. At all events we have warrant for a statement of this kind; for on 18th September 1658, the tacksman of the bridge is ordained not to suffer any carts with wheels to go along the bridge until that the wheels be taken off, and the “boddie of the cart alon harled [drawn] by the hors.”

The foundations of the new bridge, as our readers are aware, are to be lowered to suit the proposed deepening of the river, for the purpose of extending the upper navigation, which there is now a probability of being carried out at no distant period. The plans of the Clyde Trustees have already, we believe, been prepared for deepening the bed, and constructing a permanent stone or iron

quay-wall from Jamaica Street to the new Stockwell Bridge ; and it would indeed be a great event in the city's annals could they be opened simultaneously, or nearly so. We cannot think that the authorities will allow this opportunity to pass without removing the weir from Stockwell to its assigned position above Hutcheson's Bridge. Into the space between the upper and under bridge is poured the great mass of the drainage from the city—the now polluted waters of the once pellucid Molendinar and St. Enoch's Burns, and all the common sewers of Hutchesontown, Old Gorbals, and Laurieston ; and, as a consequence, the vilest slime gathers on either bank during summer, and the almost stagnant water sweats abomination. But were the weir removed as proposed, there would be an uninterrupted flow of the tide past the mouths of all these drains and burns, and the great city jawhole would be scoured out effectually at least twice a day.

In erecting the last bridge, the Trustees had to entrust the building operations to Messrs. John Gibb and Son of Aberdeen, a worthy firm, which executed the work in a manner most creditable to itself and satisfactory to the public. But in this case the Trustees have selected a man of our own, viz. Mr. York, the Deacon Convener of the City Incorporations ; and all his former works belie him if the new Stockwell Bridge be not a structure with which he would delight to have his name associated in after-time. In addition to the splendid city buildings of the British Linen Company's Bank, and the Union Bank, Mr. York has successfully constructed many engineering works of great magnitude, including the Blackhall Locks of the Monkland Canal ; the cut of Junction between Port-Dundas and the Townhead ; the last addition to the Finnieston Quay, and the recent great extension of the locks and wharves on the Forth and Clyde Canal at Bowling.

Mr. York's contract price amounts to nearly £36,000 ; the engineer is paid £1000 ; a resident engineer is to receive £250 per annum, and as there is little doubt his services will be requisite for three years, the total cost of the new bridge, it will be seen, can be little short of £38,000—about £1000 more than the cost of our beautiful Glasgow Bridge, at least, for the same amount of work. At present the debt upon the bridges is £45,000 ; the

revenue is £5000 per annum ; and the ordinary expenditure, for maintaining the structures, etc. (exclusive of interest of money), is between £500 and £600 per annum. The full borrowing powers of the Trust, by their present Act, extend to £68,000 ; and there is no doubt that these powers will be exercised before the new bridge is completed. That is, when the new structure is finished, there will be a total debt on all the bridges of £68,000. The Clyde Trustees pay one-third of the cost of new Stockwell Bridge, on account of the increased depth of foundation they require for improving the navigation ; and but for this contribution the Bridge Trustees would have found it difficult to erect the structure with the means at their command at present. But the Clyde Trust can well afford this proportion, for at the building of Glasgow Bridge they had the good sense and forethought to make a bargain by which they secure exemptions in pontage, which are estimated to be now worth £1500 a year. Assuming, then, that the debt is £68,000 on the completion of the new bridge three years hence, and that the revenue should not decrease from its present average, it is calculated that all these liabilities may be paid off in twenty-eight years thereafter. But assuredly this is a long vista through which we may look for a reduced or a nominal pontage.

A large section of the public is far from being convinced of the prudence or judiciousness of removing our venerable bridge and building a new one. They affirm, on the authority of engineers, that the old Stockwell, which has been a carriage bridge for 500 years, would stand another hundred years as a foot bridge ; while all the horse, cart, carriage, and waggon traffic could be safely accommodated, as it is now, for ten or fifteen years longer, on the present wooden accommodation bridge, which was erected three years ago, at an expense of £3400. Had this delay been allowed, the present debt might have been extinguished, instead of laying a heavy new load upon an old one, as must now be done. Moreover, it seems inconsistent to carry a magnificent 60 feet bridge in a direct line with the present crooked, narrow, and not over-nice Main Street of Gorbals. Some better symptoms of improvement should have been shown in that locality before

it was connected with a £38,000 entrance into the city from the south. But the thing is settled, and it is of no use saying now that it might have been better done. It is to be hoped the extended harbour accommodation will indirectly compensate for all. In point of fact, the public, in the meantime, feels the lack of a foot bridge opposite Portland Street vastly more than the want of a new carriage bridge connecting Stockwell with Main Street.

The oldest view of the venerable structure, to be numbered in early spring with the things that were, is that drawn in the reign of Charles the Second, by Captain John Slezer, of the "Artillery Company, and Surveyor of His Majesty's Magazines in Scotland." A prominent object in the view is the Water Port or southern gate-way of the city, which stood in the line of the present Clyde Street, and a little to the westward of the bridge. The Port was apparently a simple arch through which access was obtained to, and egress from, the city. This Port was a very important one, and here was levied the town's dues from the agricultural produce which entered the city from the counties of Renfrew and Ayr. It was situated closely adjoining the site of the present Waterport Buildings; and it may be interesting to our junior readers to know that in this locality, from distant time down to a comparatively recent period, were accommodated "the shows" which used to astonish the natives at Glasgow Fair. Here many successive generations of giants and dwarfs, merryandrews, and wild-beast showmen, did a noisy stroke of business in view of the "Great Bridge of Glasgow;" and here even Katerfelto, with hair on end, "wondered at his own wonders." Not many years ago the hiring market for servants and the milch cow market were held on this spot. On great days the cows even reached up Stockwell, and partly along Argyll Street and Glassford Street.

It is matter of tradition that Stockwell Bridge was built by Bishop William Raa or Rae, about 1345, assisted by the pious Lady Lochow, who defrayed the cost of the third arch from the north side. Of this magnificent work, on the part of the Prelate and the Lady, there is no authentic record in existence; and it is difficult to believe that a work of such magnitude could be

executed in a time of such great national depression. Rae filled the see from 1337 till 1367, during the unfortunate reign of David II., when the kingdom suffered from the disasters of Edward Baliol's wars—from the battles of Duplin, Halidon-hill, and Neville's Cross. But as no one else has claimed the honour of building the bridge, we see no good cause to deprive the Prelate of the credit which tradition has uninterruptedly assigned to him.

It was originally only twelve feet in width, and would, of course, offer a roadway where "two wheelbarrows tremble when they meet." There were eight arches. In July 1671 the south arch fell on one of the days on which Glasgow Fair was held; but, most providentially, no person was hurt by the accident. In 1776 an addition of ten feet was made to the breadth of the bridge, on the east side looking up the river, and two of the arches on the north side were built up, for the purpose of confining the stream within manageable bounds, and protecting the adjacent property from the effects of floods. In the year 1821 the bridge was further improved, by directions of the celebrated Thomas Telford, the engineer of the bridge over the Menai Straits, by the addition of footpaths, supported on tasteful iron framings, giving to the whole a width of thirty-four feet within the railing. The length is four hundred and fifteen feet. For more than four hundred years (as we have stated in a former article), this bridge formed the only channel of communication between the north and south banks of the Clyde at Glasgow. It has rung under the hoofs of a Scottish king's charger, and been pressed by the bare feet of the "Highland Host." The Regent Murray, with his infantry, and a strong auxiliary force of Glasgow burghers, crossed it to shatter the last hopes of Queen Mary at Langside; Cromwell and his troopers, if they did not use it, must have admired it, for stone bridges were at a premium in those days; the luckless James VII., when Duke of York, was lodged and fêted sumptuously by Provost Bell, within a stonethrow of it; and it was of no small service to his descendant, Charles Edward, and his foraging parties, during the ten days he recruited in Glasgow, previous to the fatal field of Culloden. How many tales could it tell of the dignity of the princely Churchmen of Glasgow, in days ere Archbishop

Beaton fled with the relics and the records, and the golden candlesticks; and how eloquent could it be on the thousands upon thousands sterling, which have been received in doles and mites by the generations of beggars who thirled themselves on its pathway, with their blindness, and age, and deformities, and loathsome sores, and troops of orphan children, lent at so much a day!

The foundation stone of the first Jamaica Street or Broomielaw Bridge was laid on 29th September 1768, by Mr. George Murdoch, then Lord Provost. It was designed by Mr. William Mylne, was 500 feet long, 30 feet wide within the parapets, and had seven arches.

This bridge might be quite adequate for a limited traffic, although its levels, or "gradients," as they are now termed, were always objectionable; but as the commerce of Glasgow became mightily extended, it was found quite unsuitable for the wants of the city, and the Trustees resolved to remove it, and erect a new and more spacious and splendid structure in its stead. The engineer employed was the celebrated Telford, and the foundation stone was laid on 3d September 1833, with great masonic pomp, by Mr. James Ewing of Strathleven, Lord Provost, and one of the Members of Parliament for the city. It was built by Messrs. John Gibb and Son of Aberdeen, is cased with Aberdeen granite, and the citizens have just cause to be proud of its elegant proportions. The foundation is sunk ten feet deeper than the piers of the former Jamaica Street Bridge. It is 560 feet in length, and 60 feet wide over the parapets, including two foot-paths, each 12 feet in width. There are seven arches. It is thus the widest, or one of the widest, river bridges in the kingdom.

The foundation stone of the first Hutchesons' bridge was laid in 1794, by Mr. Gilbert Hamilton, Lord Provost. It had five arches, was 406 feet long, and 26 feet wide within the parapets. It was swept away by a flood on 18th November 1795, after the parapets had been nearly completed. A foot bridge, which was subsequently erected, subserved the wants of the inhabitants for a number of years; and the foundation stone of the present bridge, which was built on the site of the former, was laid on 18th August 1829, by Mr. Robert Dalglish, preceptor

of Hutcheson's Hospital. The designs were by Mr. Robert Stevenson. It has five arches, is 406 feet long, and is 36 feet wide within the parapets.

(7th June 1850.)

DEMOLITION OF THE OLD STOCKWELL BRIDGE:
ITS EARLY ASPECT.

We have had the opportunity this week (first week of June 1850) of devoting some time to an inspection of the operations which will ere long result in the total demolition of the structure which was long proudly known as the "Great Bridge of Glasgow." During the short period in which our townsman Deacon-Convener York (the contractor for removing the old and building the new bridge) has been at work, three of the six arches have entirely disappeared. Three others still remain; but so completely stripped and dismantled, that nothing is left but the bare bend of the arches—reminding one of the gaunt skeleton timbers of some good old ship, after masts, bulwarks, deck, and planking have bidden her farewell. The operations have brought to light some facts which, we should think, will be generally interesting; and the first is, to dispel the notion which was entertained by many, that this structure was in a stable condition, and might have served the wants of the public for generations to come, had it not got a bad name and a shaky character. In reality, it has not been taken down a day sooner than its time; and the wonder is, that it has not long since come down of its own accord. This fact will be readily understood when we state that at this moment the old foundations actually stand nearly five feet above the present natural bed of the river. The channel has been artificially raised from time to time, and the bottom of the piers protected by compact masses of stone, which were latterly enclosed within a strong range of piles, running across the river, both above and below the bridge; otherwise, in the opinion of all practical men who have seen it, the bridge must have given way to the influence

of many of those *spates* which of late years it has withstood. The bed of the river here consists of fine hard sand, topped by a thin layer of pebbles, and upon this the foundations of the old structure have been laid in a very simple manner. Instead of driving down piles, as would be done in the present day, the ancient masons, from the remains still visible, seem to have thrust in a quantity of green paling stobs, to give cohesion to the sand, and afford a regular bed. Upon this, however, they had the wisdom to lay down strong oak beams, 10 inches thick, and from 12 to 14 inches in breadth, which were what is termed "half-checked," or closely dovetailed into each other—forming a foundation which, with the helps to which we have alluded, has supported the structure of stone for full 500 years. These beams, after the outside is scraped away, are as sound and as hard as on the day they were put in; and when taken out from under the piers they have so long supported, will be found as well fitted for the operations of the cabinetmaker as any oaken timber in the land.

The original structure has been built of fine stone, of a close grit, and to the last degree durable. Where it has been got is not known, for Mr. York tells us that no such material is now worked in the neighbourhood of Glasgow; but we should be anxious to know if it resembles any of the component parts of the structure of our venerated Cathedral, which, from first to last, was full 300 years in building. The new or junction part of the bridge, which was added to the east or upper side of the old, in 1776, is evidently from Sheep Craig Quarry, and, though a good stone, it is much inferior to the other. The foundation of this added portion consists of Memel timber beams, which appear to be still in a capital state of preservation.

In those parts of the original piers which have not been subjected to the frequent action of the waters, with the occasional grinding of the ice-floods, the mark of the workmen's tools is as distinctly traced as though the stone had only left the hewers' shed a year ago. But better still, the marks of the individual olden workmen are easily seen inscribed on each stone, which they have carved or dressed. In a very cursory glance, we ob-

served no fewer than eight of these distinct imprints on the stones, forming the side of one pier; and we believe that they are all signs still easily translatable by the initiated—showing that the bridge has actually been reared by the hands of members of the ancient craft. These masons of a bygone time, however, have done their business in a manner which would now be considered unworkmanlike, as well as insecure. Instead of forming the spring of the arch by radiating the stones equally to a centre point, they have “bevelled” or “corbelled” the stones for three feet upwards from the top of the pier, and then they have begun to throw their arch in the usual way. The effect of this plan—which masons of the present day cannot easily account for—is, that in this “corbelled” part, from which the arch is thrown, the proportion of the stones is shorn away to a certain extent—thus presenting inequality and perpetual weakness, from which cause the structure might have given way on the occasion of any ponderous load pressing down from above. These venerable bridge-builders seem to have trusted to chance or the kindness of Providence for the stability of their work much more than would be considered reasonable now-a-days; for these stones, to which we have alluded, are only 19 inches deep in the bed, and 9 inches thick, while in the new or added portion of the structure the stones are 2 feet 9 inches in depth, and from 6 to 10 inches in thickness. But now-a-days 3 feet 6 inches are not considered too much for the depth of arch stones, while our forefathers were quite content to make 19 inches answer the same purpose.

In removing the earth and road metal which covered the original arches of Stockwell bridge to the depth of several feet, a somewhat curious fact was brought to light, viz. that our forefathers must have used the bare structure of the arch for making a passage over the bridge, without any attempt to fill up the inequalities, and construct a level or inclined road. In this way the bridge would only be crossed in these fine old times by a series of ups and downs of the most toilsome kind. In the only original arch still remaining this is so plain that a child might understand it. The stones of the arch, instead of being

sharp and ragged, as they would have been had a distinct roadway been formed above them, are rounded, smooth, and worn, showing the evidence of continued abrasion and lengthened traffic. This, we think, pretty satisfactorily accounts for an entry in the Old Town Council Records, which has often puzzled us. It is of date 18th September 1658 (as noticed in a preceding page), and ordains that the tacksman of the bridge is not to suffer any carts with wheels to go along the bridge, "until that the wheels be taken off and the body of the cart alon harled be the hors." By this regulation the bridge would not be rutted by the wheels; and though there would no doubt be tear and wear of the stones, still the bottom of the cart would get the worse of it. Were the arches of our bridges bare, as those of Stockwell evidently were at one time, the traffic which at present passes from north to south would wear the fabric to destruction in a twelvemonth. The horse traffic on the "Great Bridge" must, however, have been a very gentle affair in the early time of which we speak, for in 1590, in the days of James the Sixth, the "casualties and costumes of the brig" were let by auction for the then current year at the modest rental of 80 merks Scots.

In connection with this subject, we have been courteously shown by Mr. David Smith, Civil Engineer, Virginia Street, "a plan of the Old Bridge of Glasgow, as it stood before the addition was put to it" in 1776. It is, we believe, the only document of the kind in existence, being a copy drawn from the original, dated the 8th November 1798, and signed "William Shaw." This plan proves that which Mr. York had already discovered from the internal evidence furnished by the building, viz. that only three of the original eight arches were in existence when he began his operations, although the general belief was that five of them survived. According to Mr. Smith's plan, the dimensions of the bridge were as follows, beginning to calculate from the north or Glasgow side, viz.—

| | Span of Arch. | Width of Pier. |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1st Arch | 20 ft. | 10 ft. |
| 2d do. | 16 ft. | 10 ft. |
| 3d do. | 40 ft. 8 in. | 10 ft. 9 in. |
| 4th do. | 41 ft. 9 in. | 13 ft. |

| | Span of Arch. | Width of Pier. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 5th Arch | 58 ft. 8 in. | 14 ft. |
| 6th do. or great arch | 71 ft. 4 in. | 13 ft. 9 in. |
| 7th do. | 70 ft. 6 in. | 13 ft. 6 in. |
| 8th do. | 60 ft. (originally 71). | |

At this period (1776) the original arches were all entire, with the exception of the eighth, or the arch next the Gorbals, which fell on the 7th July 1671, one of the days of Glasgow Fair; and it is worth mention that, on the very day previous, the Town Council had resolved to take down this arch, for "eschewing of danger, seeing its not lyklye to stand." This was very clean shaving on the part of our ancestors. They saved their credit for foresight by a day; but in these, our times, we would pity the Bridge Trust which only discovered the shaky character of a structure twenty-four hours before it came down of its own accord.

According to Shaw's plan, in Mr. Smith's possession, great revolutions took place on Stockwell Bridge, over and above the addition of ten feet to the width of the original structure of twelve feet. The two 'north arches, and the pier on the Glasgow side, were altogether removed, and the ground filled up. Mr. York has found the remains in his recent excavations. They seem to have been what is termed "dry arches," and in all likelihood were only scoured by the Clyde when floods invaded the Bridge-gate.

The third arch of the old structure, or the first arch, as known to the present generation, was taken away and lowered four feet at the centre; the second, third, and fourth arches remained untouched. Two of these have been demolished within the last few weeks; and the fourth, or great arch, which still exists, will also soon be numbered with the things that were.

The fifth arch was taken down and lowered three feet six inches; and the sixth and last arch (that which had been previously rebuilt) was also taken down, and lowered five feet in the centre. At the same time this arch was taken in or lessened in span to the extent of eleven feet. Mr. York came, the other day, upon the original land stool, on the Gorbals side, which is fresh and entire, as far up as the springing of the arch.

By all these operations the roadway of the old bridge was greatly lowered and vastly improved. The then summit level of the bridge-causeway, above the old low-water mark, was 40 feet 6 inches. The bridge went up by a rapid slope from north to south; and at the Gorbals end the rise or gradient to be surmounted on coming upon the bridge was at the rate of 1 in $6\frac{1}{2}$. This terrible ascent might have been done by pack-horses, but in the case of wheeled carriages the poor animal must have sorely stretched his leather before passing from one side of Clyde to the other. That these "impracticable gradients," as railway engineers would call them, existed, is not matter of any doubt.¹ The old causeways by which the bridge was wont to be approached, both from north and south, have been opened up quite plainly; and, moreover, Mr. York has just excavated the wall of an old house which stands within three or four feet to the westward of the bridge, on the Gorbals side. There is a little window, 2 feet 2 inches in width, by 2 feet 10 inches in height, by which those in the interior could scan the passengers who descended from the bridge. There are still remaining the jambs of the large fireplace, constructed, as in the old times, with four courses of stone on the one side, and three on the other, instead of being done up on each side with one large slab, as is the custom at the present day. The wall is 2 feet 4 inches in thickness, and 24 feet in length, showing that the house of which it formed a part must have been of considerable dimensions. The rubble has been partly removed from the outer side of the wall, but in the inner part of the house the plaster still firmly adheres. What manner of dwelling this was no man can tell. The "port" or custom-house, is universally represented as having been on the north side, and the queer old house standing at the bottom of Stockwell Street is said to have been the identical fabric used for that purpose. The Gorbals concern we take, therefore, to have been a "public," or a change-house. It was well situated for the purpose, being among

¹ Of these rapid ascents there is still an example extant in the Old Bridge at Dumfries, built much in the style of the Glasgow Bridge, but at an earlier period, viz. in the reign of Alexander III. The Dumfries bridge has long been disused for horse and carriage traffic, and on one side foot passengers obtain access to it by a flight of steps.

the first that country people from the south would reach on approaching the city, and the last at which they could be entertained, or treat their friends, on leaving it. These old walls, doubtless, have seen many a merry scene of jollity, love-making, bargaining, polemics, and perhaps strife. But we suspect not one of the countless thousands who passed along Adelphi Street, to or from Stockwell Bridge, within the last fifty years, knew that he was standing above the walls of a house in which his forefathers might have held high deray.

(*4th March 1850.*)

WEST END WYND—WILLOWBANK—SAUCHIEHALL STREET.

The Court held its usual sitting on Thursday, the 28th February.

The business consisted chiefly of petitions for the erection of new buildings and the altering and modernising of shops. At this season of the year, as our readers are aware, landlords generally make the various alterations to suit the views of the present, or of incoming, tenants; and at this Court authority was granted to execute such improvements in Rutherglen Loan, Adelphi Street, Dalmarnock Road, &c. It may here be worthy of remark that the removal of the duty from plate glass has been the means of vastly changing, for the better, the appearance of our shop fronts. Plate glass is, in fact, now the order of the day; the article is freely introduced into premises of a second-rate order, and gives them a jaunty air of lightsomeness and fashion which no other external adornment could effect. If we mistake not, the late George Douglas was the first to introduce this material in large panes, with brass astragals, in the property which he erected on the north side of Argyll Street, near Buchanan Street, some twenty or twenty-five years ago. Crowds used then to gaze on these fashionable windows with wonder and admiration; but the beauty has now become a common one, though not the less beautiful on that account, and is extending so satisfactorily

that herring, ham, cow-heel, and potatoes seem likely in due course to have the honour of looking through plate glass on the public—a privilege which used to be monopolised by jewellery, silks, satins, and other articles of ladies' dress and finery. We suspect that ere long the city will be able to exhibit the novelty of a whole building with a glass front. At all events, the number, activity, and respectability of the agents for the sale of this material in Glasgow would prove that the trade has become an extensive and, we hope, a profitable one.

Petitions were presented from two respective parties, craving authority to build the remaining steadings of ground on the south side of Sauchichall Road.¹ Thus, in the course of a few months the whole of this side of the road, between Douglas Street and North Street, is likely to be built on, and covered with stately tenements of shops and dwelling-houses. It does seem strange that while the proprietors have opened a street southward, nearly opposite St. George's Road, for the purpose of forming a short approach to the city, the narrow lane, in a line with Elmbank Place, is to be converted, as we have noticed in former reports, into the *West End Wynd*. It seems that neither the proprietors on the west or the east side of this lane will father this disgusting bantling; for Mr. Thomson, who appeared as the agent for the east side owners, stated at this Court that his clients had kept the proper line; while, on the other hand, Mr. Keyden, as representing the proprietors on the opposite side, stated at the previous Court that they had done everything in their power to prevent this indignity being inflicted on the West End. Be this as it may, it is matter of fact that the citizens in this quarter are horrified at the proposal; and as it is unwise to mince the matter, we honestly believe that if carried out a degree of odium will be attached to the names of the gentlemen concerned in it that will adhere

¹ Although we have frequently had occasion to mention Sauchichall Street in these pages, we have omitted to state that this portion of the suburbs of Glasgow was originally called Sauchie-haugh, in allusion to which Mr. Harley named his adjacent property Willowbank. The concluding syllable "hall," in Sauchiehall, is a corruption of the Scotch word "haugh." The English spell it hawgh or haue, which is derived from the Saxon hæz. Agreeably to the above mode of changing terminations, we may live to see the Flesher's-haugh changed to the Flesher's-hall.—"SENEC."

through generations. We trust, therefore, they will pause before the last step is taken. We know that there are gentlemen connected with this property who deserve well of their fellow-citizens for their philanthropic acts and efforts; and we trust they will think twice ere they allow their fair fame to be sullied by a connection with such an abomination. It is true that the proprietors we have alluded to may, like the Duke of Newcastle, "do what they like with their own;" but still we hope they will not do it. Surely the authorities will use their moral influence in this matter. Legal powers they have none, and the more's the pity; for, if proof were wanting of the necessity of a Buildings Act, this proposal affords it with a vengeance. Willowbank Wynd will sound strangely, in a year or two, in the ears of those who frequent the Bowling Green in this shady lane; and the owners of the splendid academy erected in Elmbank Place will look aghast at the northward vista of their rich Italian structure. The Free Tron School, in the Old Wynd (an admirable institution), in point of amenity of position, will have nothing to be ashamed of compared with its wealthy kindred in the west. In fine, unless the proprietors to whom we have alluded change their minds, a Willowbank Wynd will assuredly be inflicted upon this locality.

We may add that the external aspect of this West End Wynd, repulsive though it may be, will be the least of it. On the principle that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," we may expect that by-and-by, when the Wynd comes to full maturity, the morals of the West End youngsters, however favoured they may be by precept and example at home and at school, will adopt a lower standard by continually seeing so much of, and rubbing shoulders with, the kind of population which such places will attract. We do not say that the poor have not as good a right to go westward as the rich. All we say is, that these street-funnels are bitter and bad, and unsuitable as residences for either gentle or simple; and, further, that vile domiciles or squatting-places, and a vile and non-rental paying community, are always found pretty near each other.¹

In connection with Willowbank, we may here mention that we

¹ The project of this "West End Wynd" was eventually abandoned.

have received a courteous note stating that our friend "Senex," in his sketch of the Campbells of Blythswood,¹ has fallen into a slight mistake regarding the early feuars of this locality. Our correspondent, Mrs. Isabella Alderson, the youngest and last surviving member of the family of the late Mr. Lawrence Phillips, says :—

"In your paper of Monday, the 11th current, I noticed some statistics of 'Glasgow in the Olden Time,' and I beg to mention that a slight mistake seems to have occurred in stating that Mr. Harley was one of the first feuars on the Blythswood Estate, as it was my father, the late Lawrence Phillips, who was the first who had a feu from Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Blythswood, and built Willowbank House, &c., which he sold to Mr. William Harley some years after he had done much to improve that locality. I may also mention that my father, at the same time, had what is now called Garnet Hill, part of which he let to the town's people to graze their cows. Perhaps it would be out of place to mention further that, after selling Willowbank, my father feued largely on the Woodside and St. George's Roads, and built Dundas Vale House and various other dwellings in that neighbourhood, many of which are now, like Willowbank, levelled to make way for more modern mansions."

Our courteous correspondent adds, in a postscript :—"I fear I am using too great a freedom in mentioning one circumstance ; it is, that the father-in-law of the esteemed James Lumsden, Esq., Mr. Merrilees, rented a house from my father, adjoining his own at Willowbank, while my father resided there ; and I should think that the survivors of his family could give most correct and interesting information of the early history of that now wonderful locality." Mrs. Alderson has also sent us, for perusal, the original plans of the first feu on the Blythswood Lands—a document now in our temporary possession, and one of rare interest when we look upon it as the original record of the small beginnings of the great Western Glasgow.

The Court adjourned after a sederunt of two hours—the Lord Dean and a few of his brethren hurrying off afterwards to view the launch of the *City of Glasgow* screw steamer, the first for the route direct between the Clyde and the Hudson, and a report of which interesting event has already been published.

¹ See article "Campbells of Blythswood," by Senex.

(18th March 1850.)

“PALAIS ROYALE” IN BLYTHSWOOD HOLM—ST. GEORGE’S
ROAD PAVEMENTS.

The Court met as usual on Thursday, the 14th March—the Lord Dean of Guild Galbraith presiding. Amongst the other business, application was made by James Scott, Esq., for a lining, and for authority to build on the spacious feuing-ground recently acquired by him in Blythswood Holm. The erections are to consist of a series of arcades, similar in design to, and not less beautiful than those in, the *Palais Royale* at Paris. The application was granted. As the details of this spirited and majestic building scheme are not yet definitely arranged, we delay noticing the subject at length until these are completed.

Application was made by the Prisons’ Board of Lanarkshire for authority to extend their buildings from Duke Street towards the north, by taking down the old “Duke’s Lodging” in Drygate, recently purchased by them, and erecting new prison wings on its site. The case was delayed, to allow the conterminous proprietors to see the plans and examine the titles.

The long-pending case of the St. George’s Road pavements was decided at this Court. The finding was in effect, that it was inexpedient to compel owners of property fronting St. George’s Road to lay pavements, as it was doubtful whether the locality should be considered urban or rural. We do not, by any means, challenge this decision ; but we suspect that it will not harmonise with the feelings of the fashionable residents in the adjacent localities of Queen’s Crescent, Windsor Terrace, Clarendon Place, Balmoral Place, etc., who pay all local assessments, tolls, etc., and yet they are not put in as good a position as the weavers in Camlachie, Parkhead, and Bridgeton, whose footpaths are all comfortably paved at the expense of the owners of the tenements. For an indefinite period, therefore, we are likely to have every winter a “slough of despond,” miry and vile, on the high road to some of the finest blocks of buildings in the West End.

The proprietors in North Street, Anderston, were before the Court, on the motion of the Fiscal, for decret for the expenses of constructing a common sewer in that street, which had been ordered to be put in by the Court. It appeared that all the proprietors on the line of street had paid, or were willing to pay, their proportions, with the exception of the proprietors of the burying-ground on the east side. Their objection, on the whole, was rather an ingenious one, as they pleaded that out of 462 lairs, they had sold 364; and that it behoved the Fiscal to call upon these various lair-holders, their heirs, executors, or representatives, and allocate amongst them the requisite number of "bodles" to make up the total of £30 which is charged against the grave-yard. The Court, however, held that the warden, or the superintendent who manages the property, was the party responsible for the expenses of this improvement, leaving him recourse against the numerous lair-holders, if he could get at them. The Court at the same time expressed a decided opinion that the original proprietors of the burying-ground were liable in the whole expenses, as up till the present moment they were feudally vested in the subjects, and, in a legal point of view, had only given a *long* lease to the occupants.

The Charlotte Street railing was ordered to be repaired, and a number of shops and tenements, in various parts of the city, were authorised to be altered; after which the Court adjourned.

(1850.)

FREE CHURCHES—DOLES TO ARCHITECTS—NEW BUILDINGS—
BUILDING MANIA.

The Court held its usual fortnightly sitting on Thursday, the 28th March.

A large amount of business was expeditiously disposed of—such as granting authority for new buildings to go on during the spring and summer, and for alterations in shops and houses in anticipation of the Whitsunday term. The Duke's Lodging in

Drygate got a respite for another fortnight. It seems that some of the conterminous proprietors insist upon the Prison Board (the purchasers of the old subjects in question) carrying a new street through the grounds from Duke Street to Drygate, in virtue of a real or implied obligation in the old titles.

A petition was presented from the Rev. Mr. Macbeth of Laurieston, and others, members of his congregation, for leave to erect a place of worship in connection with the Free Church, with the excellent adjunct of a schoolhouse. It is to be situated in Kingston, at the corner of Patterson and Morrison Streets, being immediately opposite the Kingston Established Church. On this site it is proposed to erect a very beautiful edifice in the early English Gothic style, from designs by Mr. James Brown, the architect of the Eglinton Street Free Church—a structure which is now nearly completed, and which is much admired. In effect, the Kingston Free Church is to be pretty much the counterpart of the other.¹

A petition was presented by Mr. Buchanan and others, on the part of Free St. Matthew's, for authority to build a new place of worship for that congregation. The necessity of a new church in this case does not arise from the people having been "outed," like some of their brethren, but from the very creditable fact that the zeal and ability of Dr. Miller, the pastor, has rendered the present place of worship, off North Street, quite inadequate to the present numbers of the congregation, or the wants of those who are most anxious to join it. The new erection is to be built on the ground belonging to the heirs of the late Mr. Warden, on the south side of Sauchiehall Road, and it is to be so situated as that the front will form the south building line of Bath Street, immediately opposite a new street which is in course of formation, running southward from Sauchiehall Street. It will thus form a prominent object in the view of the passengers in this fashionable thoroughfare. The designs are by Messrs. Black and Salmond, the architects of the New Anderston Free Church; and this last work when finished will no doubt be worthy of the growing

¹ Mr Macbeth was not fated to open this new church. He decamped for America rather hurriedly, in consequence of what is termed, in ecclesiastical phrase, a *jama*.

reputation of these gentlemen. The style is to be Gothic, of the perpendicular character, highly decorated, and ornamented with a spire rising two hundred feet in height. As in the instance of the preceding architect, Free St. Matthew's will bear a considerable resemblance to Anderston Free Church. It certainly shows common sense in these gentlemen adhering to, and working out, a good idea when they have got a hold of it; but all the while the citizens would have no objection to a little more diversity in the plan and appearance of the beautiful church architecture which has been rising up amongst us during the last few years.

The committee of Free St. Matthew's are undoubtedly deserving of credit for their liberality in constructing a place of worship which will be ornamental to the city; and it is a pity they had not also extended their liberality to those gentlemen by whose genius these beautiful structures are reared—the architects of Glasgow. In this case, we believe, circulars were issued to several of the respectable and experienced members of the profession, desiring designs for the new church. These were supplied, and one of the number—that of the gentlemen already named—selected; but, to mark their sense of obligation to the others, the committee, in returning the plans, accompanied them severally with douccurs, ranging within the limits of a police court fine, viz. from 40s. to £5. Now, in cases where the designs for a structure are put up for public competition by advertisement, the architect counts the cost and chances, and enters into the contest at his own risk and liking. But in the case of semi-private invitation it is, we believe, the understanding of the profession, and it seems fair play, that their actual expenses should be paid. But 40s. or £5 would not pay apprentice wages for copying the designs for a church, leaving the actual toil of the master's head and hands out of the question. The profession does not deserve to be dealt by in this manner; and it is to be hoped that this quasi style of remuneration is not to be the beginning of a permanent system. The architects, we believe, are not likely to accept of these *doles*, and some of the city charities, probably, will be all the richer by reason of these very poor fees.

In the case of both churches the requisite authority was granted by the Court.

A petition was presented by Messrs. Galloway and Lumsden, builders, craving authority to erect three large tenements at the corner of St. George's Road and Great Western Road. The petition was granted. Truly, this locality, the urban or rural character of which was matter of dispute last Court day, is fast exhibiting itself in its true colours, and if it is not already decidedly urban, it will soon become as decidedly part and parcel of the city as the Saltmarket.

Mr. Scott and others, portioners, applied for leave to erect a large tenement of houses in Gallowgate, to the east of the Barracks, and also to erect several tenements fronting the street or lane called Armour Street, running eastward from Barrack Street. From the discussion which took place in Court between the parties and Mr. Carrick, it would appear that it is coolly proposed to erect there three-storey buildings, so as to form another eastern wynd—Armour Street, or the place which obtains that name, being only 20 feet wide at this spot. The case was delayed ; but really after what has been going on elsewhere, no one need feel surprised that the East-enders think they can do little wrong in taking a leaf out of the fashionable West End book.

Several minor cases were disposed of. We may add that the amount of buildings authorised or applied for at this Court, will infer an outlay of fully £25,000 ; and looking to the rapid firing which has been going on in the same way ever since the money market became easy, the gross sum thus contracted for during the last twelve months must be tremendous. Those who are best able to judge of its effects are really beginning to feel uneasy at the progress of this building mania. The running-up of houses is going on as rapidly as if we were rebuilding a city which had been torn by the enemy's shot, or burned by his rockets ; for, in sober truth, the population, elastic though it may be, is not yet capable of occupying—profitably, at least—these numberless fabrics, unless upon the plan of filling one bucket by emptying another. We desire to touch on this subject lightly, but we cannot part with it without expressing our fear that the over-

enthusiasm of speculative builders, bankers, conveyancers, feu-holders, or ground speculators, etc., will yet do them harm unless they take in a reef while it is yet time.

The Court adjourned, after a sederunt of two hours.

(15th April 1850.)

MORE CHURCHES—ALTERATIONS, ETC.

The Court met as usual on Thursday, the 11th April. The business list had a character as incongruous as it was varied. Here, for instance, were the proprietors of a grave-yard boggling at the expenses of drainage, and entreating that the cost might fall on the shoulders of some one else rather than their own; next, we had a proposal to convert an old-established chapel-of-ease into a leather and hide warehouse; and thirdly, we had an application from two priests for leave to erect no fewer than two additional Roman Catholic places of worship in the capital of the Covenanting West. These, mixed up with applications for alterations in shops, for the erection of dwelling-houses, rivet-works, etc., and discussions as to additional prison accommodation at the Duke's Lodging, made as queer a compound almost as that mixed up in the caldron of the weird sisters.

The first specific business which came up was that of Sharpe's Lane, or the Anderston Wynd, which has been alluded to in former reports. The proposal is to build a tenement of dwelling-houses, fronting, and having entrance from this narrow ten feet lane; but it is alleged by the opponents on the west side that the lane is private property, and that consequently the proprietors on the east side are not entitled to "ish and entry" from the lane—that, in short, though they may build on the line of the lane they must find an entrance somewhere else. As the case involved the legal points of rights of parties, it was taken to avizandum.

Application was made for authority to erect two dwelling-house tenements fronting Sandyford Road, immediately adjoining the lands of Over Newton. It was granted. The houses are to consist of lodgings with five rooms and kitchen for the middle

classes, who we are glad to see are, like richer people, obtaining a location in this fashionable western suburb.

A petition was presented by Mr. Thomas Binnie for leave to erect a tenement of houses on the west side of Rose Street, Hutchesontown, to afford good accommodation for the working classes. This, our readers are aware, is a feu from Hutcheson's Hospital, and we believe will not cost more than from 9s. to 10s. per square yard. We are glad to observe that the Preceptor and other directors are taking advantage of the building and extension spirit which now exists to open up Hospital Street south of Cumberland Street, to the Junction of the Cathcart Road at Dochane-faulds. We shall no doubt therefore soon have the buildings in Hospital Street carried up to the point in question. This street is perhaps the broadest and most spacious in the city—thanks to the liberal scale on which the directors laid out their building plans long ago; and from their never having demanded fanatical prices for their feus, is to be attributed the circumstance that their ground is now so largely built on, and yielding good returns. Others hang out for extravagant feu-rents; and their ground yields nothing while they are waiting till they get it. One good effect of this extension will be to relieve the narrow and dirty Main Street of Gorbals of a great portion of the through traffic towards the accommodation, and subsequently the new Stockwell Bridge.

Application made by Mr. Crawford to erect a rivet manufactory on the lands of Little Govan, or the nursery grounds behind the Hayfield Foundry, was granted.

A petition was presented by Messrs. Callendar Brothers for authority to alter and convert the Albion Street Established Chapel-of-Ease (late Mr. Nisbett's) into shops on the front range, and a leather and hide warehouse, and other storage, behind and above. This property, with the buildings upon it, was recently, we believe, purchased at the very moderate price of £2 per square yard, from the curators of the chapel. The authority was granted. These operations will have the effect of changing another landmark of the city in this locality, and at least impart a more lively aspect to this very modest-looking and unpretending kirk. This

church, however, was one of the most spacious in the city, having been built in 1767 to accommodate 1696 sitters, and till recently it had a very large and flourishing congregation; but, from the demission of the minister, which took place under unhappy circumstances two or three years ago, the people were scattered, and now the owners have done what they considered best with the stone, lime, and solum. It is somewhat remarkable that another church in the same street has already shared a similar fate in being denuded of its sacred character. This is the place of worship which was originally erected by Dr. Wardlaw's congregation in 1802, which was subsequently occupied by Mr. Campbell of Row, and latterly by Mr. Pullar of the Independents, but which has now quietly settled down into the hide and leather line of business. Until within the last five or six years the unpretending tabernacle, built by the first Seceders in Glasgow, stood within a few yards eastward of the spot of which we are speaking. It was removed to open up the approach to the College in this direction; but these early Dissenters are still lineally represented by Dr. King's congregation in North Albion Street. When these places of worship (now removed or altered) were built, an almost uninterrupted stretch of fields and gardens extended from them towards the west, and the hum of the busy population was only heard in the distance, from the High Street, Trongate, Saltmarket, and Gallowgate.

Application was made by the Rev. Messrs. Gallacher and Hanley, for leave to erect two Roman Catholic places of worship—the one on the north side of North Woodside Road, near the Black Quarry, and the other on the west side of Hill Street, Cranstonhill—the latter on ground feued from Mr. Houldsworth. They are both calculated to contain from 700 to 800 sitters. The first is in the Roman style of architecture, from designs by Mr. Robertson, a young gentleman who has recently joined the architectural corps, and whose first essay, which we believe this to be, is in a high degree creditable to him. The exterior is to be plain and chaste, and the interior is to have pillars with arched roof; altogether imparting to the structure the classic features of the Italian school. The Cranstonhill church is to be of the

Gothic character, and the managers, strange to say, have gone to the mining district of Airdrie for an architect; but, from all appearances, he will make a creditable job of it. The Catholics, in their building operations, seem to have a curious taste for change, and to be oblivious of the homely maxim of keeping "our ain fish guts to our ain sea-maws;" for, in the case of the chapel which they are now building on the lands of Villafield, they got their designs prepared by an architect all the way from Carlisle. By the way, something of the same kind has been done by the new owners of Albion Street Church; for they are having their transmutations made under the charge of a professional gentleman from the neighbouring town of Paisley. But this is the age of free trade; and our native talent will be none the worse of coming into contact and competition with eminent men furth of the Municipality. Cranstonhill, we may remark, is assuming the character which Albion Street and its neighbourhood are losing; for, in the former spot, within a very short distance of each other, there are already, or will soon be, a Free Church, an Episcopalian Church, and a Roman Catholic Church.

The proprietors of the North Street burying-ground in Anderston, had a reclaiming petition against being saddled with the expenses of the sewer made in that street along the side of their property; but, after an animated debate, in which Messrs. Allardice and C. Baird took part, the Court adhered to its interlocutor, finding the parties liable in these charges.

The plans for "dingin'-down" the old Duke's Lodging, and extending the prison accommodation on the site, were finally agreed to.

Various alterations having been authorised, the Court adjourned, after a sederunt of three hours.

(27th May 1850.)

MURDOCH'S CHARITY SCHOOL, ETC.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Court was held on Thursday, the 23d May.

At this Court no fewer than fourteen petitions for leave to erect new buildings, or to alter old, were considered and disposed of. We may briefly notice the more prominent topics. Our respected townsman, Mr. David Gilmour, applied for leave to take down a range of one-storey buildings on the east side of Main Street, Bridgeton, and erect thereon a tenement of dwelling-houses for the working classes. It is creditable to the liberality and taste of the worthy Councillor to state, that the building in question is only to be three storeys high ; and that each dwelling-house or separate occupancy will be provided with a supply of water and all the other conveniences for health and comfort. The back ground, which is extensive, is to remain open, and will afford space for air and exercise, and facilities for washing. We observe that the road at this portion will be widened, in accordance with the provisions of the Turnpike Act, to the extent of five feet, making the total future width of Main Street fifty feet.

A petition was presented from Mr. Andrew Hay, warper and portioner in Calton of Glasgow, craving leave to erect a tenement of houses in that once suburban village. The subjects are thus quaintly described :—

“ All and whole that steading of ground lying upon the north side of that street in Calton, called Kirk Street, as lately staked off, marched, and meathed, bounded by the steading feued to Daniel Carse, mason, in Calton ; on the north and east, by the ground or loch sometime belonging to the deceased John Orr, Esq. of Barrowfield.”

In addition there was a title of the property alluded to, in which it was stated that the western boundary of the subjects was a *loch*. This locality, as our readers are aware, is in the immediate vicinity of the old Calton Cross, there being at this point a hollow which in bygone years would receive the waters of the district, and form the loch alluded to in the petition. These waters, however, now escape to the Clyde through the sewers and drains leading into the Molendinar Burn. The authority craved was granted.

Petitions were presented from two separate parties for leave to erect tenements of dwelling-houses on lands feued from Hutcheson's Hospital. One is on the west side of Upper Crown

Street, and the other on the east side of Main Street, Gorbals, near Gushetfaulds. Agreed to.

A petition was presented from the trustees of the school founded by the liberality of the late James Murdoch, jun., Esq., merchant in Glasgow, who, on the 2d July 1824, bequeathed a handsome sum for educational purposes, and which in his will is expressed as follows :—

“I hereby leave five thousand pounds to be laid out in lands, for the maintenance of a school for boys, for reading and writing and arithmetic, to be under the management of the magistrates and ministers of the Established Church.”

The trustees propose to erect a large schoolhouse on the high sloping ground on the south side of Rottenrow Street. The cost of the new erection, including the price of the ground, will be about £3500, and accommodation will be provided for the education of about 400 children. The locality in question is thus described in the petition—

“All and whole that new middlemost fore tenement of land, high and laigh, with the midden-stead or piece of waste ground at the back thereof, and back middle house adjacent thereto on the west side of the close, with the close and cross house or lodging, high and laigh, at the foot of the same, and high and laigh yards on the south and west sides of the said lodging, and of the close with the two wells therein, one of them now shut up, and hail parts, pendicles, privileges, and pertinents belonging thereto—all lying contiguous within the burgh of Glasgow, on the south side of that street called Rottenrow, bounded by the lands of old belonging to the chaplain of St. Michael's, thereafter to the heirs of John Stark, and now of John Freeland, on the west.”

We understand that arrangements have been made by which that excellent institution, the Ragged or Industrial School Society, is to partake in the advantages of Mr. Murdoch's charity. The designs are by Mr. J. T. Rothead, and reflect the highest credit on the taste and ability of that gentleman. The school is to be an erection plain and substantial, after the old Scotch style of architecture which had its origin in Scotland in the reign of James I., and continued to flourish most vigorously all over the country as the best adapted for domestic and defensive purposes. This quaint old-fashioned style held its undisputed sway through all the reigns of the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th Jameses, down to the time of

James VI., when it gradually declined and finally gave way to an imitation of the French chateau of the last century. Borthwick Castle, Edinburghshire, is one of the earliest, strongest, and most entire examples of old Scotch feudal architecture. Many of the later styles of it in the shape of gable ends are still to be seen in the older portions of Glasgow, diversifying in no small degree the utilitarian stiffness and square outline of our modern street architecture. The above schoolhouses are from 80 to 90 feet long, with a width of from 26 to 52 feet, and are two storeys high fronting Rottenrow, and at back three storeys, owing to the great declivity of the ground. The boys will occupy part of their time in the ordinary branches of education, while another portion of it will be devoted to the acquiring of some particular occupation or other; industrial work-rooms being provided besides the class-room. The schools are to be heated and ventilated on proper principles, and are to be fitted up in the most convenient and economical manner. There are also large play-grounds attached. In short, the whole arrangements do the parties entrusted with the charge of the funds devoted for the erection of the schools the highest credit, as everything has been carefully studied with a view to the comfort and education of those poor and destitute children who crowd the streets of our city.

This trust, which has been managed by the magistrates and ministers of the Established Church in Glasgow, presents one of the most successful examples of what may be done by foresight and prudence which is to be met with in the annals of charitable institutions. Mr. Murdoch died in 1826, and in 1829 a committee of the Trust was appointed to invest the funds, which they seem to have done to great advantage. In 1833-34 the trustees, we believe, acting principally under the direction of Mr. Lumsden, our late Lord Provost, acquired a large quantity of ground fronting the City and St. George's Roads. This speculation and others have turned out so well that the funds at the disposal of the Trust which have sprung out of Mr. Murdoch's legacy are now estimated at £11,344. The Trust has already acquired property, and founded a school in St. Andrew's Square, and another in East Regent or Blackfriar Street, where upwards of four hundred poor

boys receive the elements of a sound education, on payment of a merely nominal fee, to relieve their tuition of the imputation of being wholly charitable. In 1841 the trustees acquired, at the expense of about £300, a royal warrant and charter of incorporation, which confers upon them peculiar privileges; and altogether the Corporation has been managed so as to confer the greatest benefits on the city, and to reflect the highest credit on all concerned. We may add, that in addition to the sum of £5000 thus left by the benevolent Mr. Murdoch, he bequeathed £1000 to the funds of the Royal Infirmary, £100 to the Old Man's Society, and £1500 to be devoted at the discretion of the trustees for other charitable purposes in connection with the city.

Monsieur Franconi, equestrian, presented an application through Mr. Burnet, the Fiscal, stating that he had erected a new circus in Maxwell Street, and desired an official inspection of the same. A report was also read from Mr. Andrew Brocket, stating that he had inspected the circus, and certifying that the erection was safe and substantial, and every way fitted for the convenience of the public. The Court thereupon interponed its authority for the opening of the circus.

A number of minor cases were disposed of, and the Court adjourned.

(21st October 1850.)

EXTENSION OF POLICE BUILDINGS—POLICE STATISTICS.

The Court met on Thursday, the 17th October, being the first sederunt consequent upon the recent elections. The following gentlemen were accordingly duly sworn in by Mr. Forbes, the Assessor, viz.—William Connal, Esq., the Lord Dean, Mr. James Hannan, Sub-Dean, and Messrs. M'Ewan and Wingate, "merchant lynars," with Deacons Christie, Wilson, Morrison, and Mr. Renton, "trades' lynars." Thus, the whole members were present with the exception of one merchant lynar, viz. Mr. P. M'Naught.

It so happened that the first application for a lining brought

before the new Dean was one of considerable public importance. This was a petition from the Police and Statute Labour Committee for authority to extend the Central Police Buildings. As our readers may be aware, the Committee acquired, some time since, the site of the Bell Street flesh market; also a venerable-looking tenement immediately adjoining to the west—the whole affording building space of 45 feet by 75, and leaving at same time a stripe of 6 feet in width, by which extent it is proposed to widen Bell Street. The plans, which were minutely inspected and approved of, were prepared by Mr. Carrick, Superintendent of Streets and Buildings. They provide on the ground floor of the new erection accommodation for the fire brigade,¹ as also large safe-rooms, fitted up in the banking style, for the preservation of valuable property, which often, to a large amount, comes into the hands of the police, and is known in their phraseology as “productions.” The second storey is to be divided into small lock-ups or receiving cells, capable of holding three or four persons each; and the third storey will be fitted up with small separate cells for single culprits. In addition to this new extension, the whole of the internal arrangements of the existing building are to be altered and improved. The present lieutenants’ room is to be discontinued, and accommodation of a much superior kind provided for them on the south-west corner of the existing buildings. This accommodation will be so laid out that the lieutenant on duty will have the command of the sole entrance to the police or prison part of the structure. That portion of the ground floor which has hitherto been appropriated to the fire brigade is to be fitted up as wards for the fuddled lieges of both sexes. On Saturday nights these unwelcome customers to the Police Establishment number often more than one hundred strong, and they have all to be dragged up one flight of stairs to their sobering berths on the first floor; but the brutes will now be trundled into their lairs upon the level, and thus save a world of trouble to the officers. In connection with the lieutenants’ room, improved accommodation

¹ Subsequently, it has been wisely arranged that the fire brigade should be removed from the police buildings to a convenient locality in the neighbourhood of College Street.

will also be found for the officers in the detective department, for the inspectors of police, and also for a sufficient band of waiters to be employed as substitutes when occasion requires. The surgeon of the establishment, who has occasion from time to time to inspect all the men in the establishment, and to attend and keep a record of all those who are ailing over the whole municipal boundary, will also find accommodation on this ground floor. It is one proof of the crowded state of the police premises that hitherto not even a room or closet has been set apart which this gentleman can call his own. The Assistant-Superintendent of Police, though a most important functionary, has no apartment just now, and therefore the disused lieutenants' room will afford sufficient space for him.

The civil departments of the Police Establishment, such as those of the Superintendents of Streets and Buildings, Lighting, Cleansing, and also the Treasurer, will have their offices on the north section of this extensive ground floor; but there is this important feature, that their point of entrance will be entirely distinct from that of the criminal department. The civil officers will enter by a vestibule to be formed to the north of the present main gateway in Albion Street, and the latter will be exclusively used by the police and criminal officers and by prisoners. The citizens, therefore, who have occasion so often to resort to the civil departments for the transaction of business need be no longer under the fear of rubbing shoulders with the criminal and degraded portions of the establishment. The present public entrance to the Police Court Hall is by the common stair, which also leads to the cells or prison wards. This will in future be discontinued, and a new entrance for the public found from the lane to the west, which is so well known to dog fanciers and young students in natural history, as being the site of the market for the sale of dogs of every degree, and singing birds of every sort, along with pigeons, hawks, owls, fowmarts, rabbits, and sometimes cats. This change of entrance will be found of great advantage. At present, for some hours daily, while the Police Magistrate is sitting, the whole of the staircase and corridors of what should be a prison is filled with witnesses, or the associates of criminals, who are hanging on

to help their comrades if they can, or to learn their fate if they cannot.

On the first storey of the existing building the Police Court Hall and the Board Room are to remain as at present ; but the Superintendent's room, which has hitherto been a place of no privacy, is to be appropriated as a retiring room for the Magistrates on duty. The Superintendent is accordingly to have instead apartments for himself and the clerk, and accommodation for police stores, immediately over the present large gateway. He will have an entrance both through the civil and criminal departments ; but the citizens who have business with the Superintendent will alone find access by the former. The accommodation for witnesses attending the Police Court is to be increased by the addition of the office hitherto used by the Superintendent of Fire-engines, who will find an office adjoining his own department in the new Bell Street building. This will nearly double the space for witnesses ; and there will also be separate rooms for officers attending the Court. The present large lock-ups, where a score of tattered malions are huddled together at a time, are to be discontinued, and the space occupied by a larger number of smaller rooms to afford a better system of classification of prisoners.

The third storey, which is at present mainly occupied by lamplighters, tinsmiths, and other workmen belonging to the establishment, is to be thrown into corridors, with small cells branching off them all round the building. The dead-room has been placed on this flat ; but access to it, for the purpose of identification or otherwise, can only be obtained by passing alongside a number of cells and through the workshops. This room of sadness will still be retained on this third flat, but situated immediately at the head of the stair, and distinct from any of the other apartments. There will be ample light from the roof, and every privacy and convenience afforded for making *post-mortem* examinations when necessary.

One very important feature in connection with these changes is contemplated, viz. to obtain authority of the Prison Board to lay off a certain number of apartments, either in the new or the

old building, as cells for the detention of convicted prisoners. These will be set apart for prisoners convicted for the first time, and sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or for such other persons as have broken the law, but are not hardened or vicious. As this is a move on the tender side, it is hoped that by escaping the trundling to the North Prison in the van, these persons will not be branded as "jail birds;" but being merely police *detenus*, they may the more readily amend their conduct if they are so disposed, in so far as they will not sink so deeply in their own esteem as they would do if classed with and lodged in the same wards with felons ripe for transportation or actually under sentence.

The total accommodation for prisoners will now amount to fifty-four separate single cells, and twenty-three lock-ups, capable of containing from four to ten persons each. The new buildings are already in progress, and it is expected that they will be ready for occupation early in the ensuing summer. We have every reason to believe that due attention has been paid to sanitary matters, and that the ventilating and heating of the whole will be of the most complete kind. The total estimated expense of the new addition, including the site, will be about £7000. The existing police buildings were completed in 1825, at a cost, including the site, of £15,000, and they were then thought to be laid out on such a big scale as to be enough for the wants of the city for a century to come. The authorities have been mistaken, however; but they are no worse in this respect than the Post-Office magnates, who seem determined to believe that Glasgow is nothing but a provincial town, and who, until a period so recent as 1840, cooped up this great public department into a huxter's shop.

While on this subject, it may not be out of place to say a little regarding police matters in bygone days; but, after all, the Police Establishment is not what deserves to be termed a "venerable institution;" for though the Magistrates made various attempts to carry a Police Bill, from the year 1778 downwards, it was not till the year 1800 that they eventually succeeded. The assessment for the first year, when the population was about 83,700, afforded a revenue of nearly £3400. But to this major sum there fell to be added £576 for street manure, £126 of fines,

and £800 contributed by the Corporation, which, with some other items, gave a total of about £5000. A master of police was appointed at a salary of £200 per annum; a clerk at £85; a treasurer at £80; three sergeants at £40 each; nine officers at £30 each; and 68 watchmen at 10s. a week each. There were also £1400 expended on 930 public lamps; £319 in the cleansing department; and £153 for boxes in which the watchmen, poor souls, might sleep and shelter themselves from the weather; but, with all these outgoings, the Police Commissioners had no less than £400 to the good at the close of the first year of commencing business. The first master of police was John Stenhouse, Esq., who filled the office from 1800 till 1803; the second Walter Graham, Esq., who officiated from 1803 till 1805; and the third Sergeant or Adjutant Mitchell, who filled office from 1805 till 1821, after which he enjoyed a superannuation pension for a great many years. The first two were well-bred Glasgow gentlemen; one was advised by his friends to resign, because the office was scarcely respectable, and the other was obliged to resign because he would not head the patrols on night duty. But Mitchell had been in the army, and was glad to get the situation, regarding it as alike honourable and onerous, which, in sooth, it really is. As compared with the £5000 of revenue, and the 80 officers and watchmen which marked the first year of the existence of the police, we may state that the income for the Police and Statute Labour Committee over the whole bounds for the year ending 15th May 1850 amounted to £85,338 : 7 : 1, and the total number of the police force is at the present moment 626 men. The fines in 1801 were £126; last year they amounted to £3583. The population was then 83,700. It is now estimated at 360,000. Everything seems to have gone ahead but wages; for, if the duties and class of men are considered, 10s. a week paid to the watchmen of old was at least full pay, as compared with the sum of 13s. a week to the disciplined and hard-worked men who now fill the duties of night-watchmen. Yet we have at this moment men in the Police Committee who, some two years ago, actually kicked up a clipping committee to see whether or not this pitiful dole could be reduced.

A worthy citizen, who was present in the Laigh Kirk session-house on the first occasion when the Glasgow watchmen were brigaded in 1800—who has repeatedly filled the office of Commissioner of Police since, and who is at present a respected member of the Town Council (Dr. John Aitken), has furnished us with some interesting gossip regarding these early times, which we thus transcribe :—

“Our first start with a Police Force took place in 1800 in the Laigh Kirk session-house, which was the first office. We had 68 watchmen and 9 day officers; and our impression was that this force was so large and overwhelming that it would drive iniquity out of the city as though by a hurricane. On this first night greatcoats and staves were served out to each watchman—the latter not the ordinary sticks which were recently in use, but joiner-made staves about four feet long, painted of a chocolate-brown colour, and the running number painted on each. Each man’s number was also painted on the back of the greatcoat, between the shoulders, in white-coloured figures about 6 inches long and of a proportionate breadth. A lantern and two candles were also served out to each man—the one lighted and the other in reserve, it being understood that the ‘candle doups’ became the perquisite of the man himself. This first turning-out of the force was a great event, and before being told off to their respective beats, a number of the men exercised their lungs in calling the hours to show how rapidly they had acquired proficiency in this important part of the watchman’s functions. It is proper to state that before beats were assigned to the watchmen, or lights served out to them at all, they did duty a little while after they were embodied by patrolling the streets in squads of a dozen or more, headed by officers. Our staff of officers, as contradistinguished from watchmen, amounted actually to only nine, and even these were divided into three divisions of three men in each, namely a sergeant and two officers. The duties of the sergeants, so far as they went, were exactly similar to those now performed by the lieutenants of police. The clothing of the officers consisted of blue-cloth coats as at present, with blue vests and blue knee breeches, but the seams were welted over with red stripes, and the sergeants were distinguished from the common officers by having shoulder-knots of red and blue mixed worsted thread. In this small corps there were three reliefs. One sergeant and two officers were on duty in the office for twenty-four hours; one division on patrol duty;—which was, however, very imperfectly done, as the men could take a rest for an hour or two in their own houses and no one be wiser for it—while the third division was entitled to rest for twenty-four hours.

“Our second Police Office was up one stair in the locality long known as the ‘Herald Office Close.’ It was on the north-west corner of Bell Street, with a front to Candleriggs. Our third office was in Candleriggs over the main guard-house; and here we got on swimmingly, for, not content with one large room as before, for sergeant, officers, and prisoners, we had two large walled presses or closets—one for males and the other for females—into which the

refractory might be locked up. But more than this, we had a large room underneath, in which no less than seven wooden cells were constructed, sufficient for the accommodation of seven different prisoners. We thought there was no danger of us now, and that we had provided prison accommodation to serve us for a generation. But our business increased amazingly, so much so, that in two years we were obliged to remove to more commodious premises, viz. an old packing-box and joinery establishment situated exactly on the site of our present police buildings. In about fifteen years, however, our trade had increased so tremendously that we conceived the bold intention of pulling down the joiners' shop and rebuilding entirely from the foundation. We resolved no longer to occupy any patchwork concern as tenants, but to build a structure for ourselves which should be a terror to evil-doers, and, at the same time, the pride of the whole kingdom. Accordingly, as it was better to pull down the old before building the new, it behoved us to look out for temporary accommodation, and this was found in the Vagrant Office immediately adjoining the site of the premises at present occupied by our surveyors and collectors. This made our fifth move, and when our present building was completed we entered it as sole proprietors, making move the sixth; but so much have the criminal wants of our city increased that even this splendid establishment needs extension and improvement.

“At the commencement we had no fire brigade—that department being specially under the charge of the Magistrates. Neither had we any separate scavenging squad. The watchmen were engaged to do the duty of scavengers on two days of the week, and for two hours each day. In the summer mornings they were relieved at four o'clock, but instead of going to bed they plied the broom till six. In the winter mornings they knocked off at six, when they immediately went to bed for a comfortable sleep, and, with renovated strength, they commenced their sweeping operations at twelve noon. As there were no fewer than sixty-eight of them they went rapidly over a large extent of ground, and two hours each day, for two days in the week, were found quite sufficient for the cleansing operations. The squad was superintended by one of the officers, who appeared on duty in a short blue coat with a red neck. This jacket was manufactured out of the uniform coat of last year, which had been turned and had the tails rumped off; and in this way he preserved the uniform of the current year in which to make a figure before the citizens. The sweepings were taken away by carts and horses belonging to the establishment; but after a few years it was found not suitable for the police to take the charge of live stock, and accordingly the system for contracting for carting was resorted to, which still continues, the manure remaining the property of the police. The latter was then deposited on the north side of the Clyde, a little above Stockwell Bridge, on a spot at present occupied by Convener York for his operations in connection with the rebuilding of the venerable structure. The site of this dung-heap was then called the ‘wee ree.’ Although the police then swept the streets, it was their duty then, as now, to see that the shopkeepers and others kept the pavements clean opposite their own doors. Accordingly, shortly after the Act came into operation, when an officer entered a shop and

warned the master to get his pavement cleaned forthwith, the latter looked upon the interference as a case of the most unnatural oppression. He could not understand why he was not entitled to sweep his own pavement when he liked, and how he liked, and to leave it unswept altogether if he liked. But by-and-by the police gradually gathered strength, and their regulations were submitted to in the most kindly manner by every respectable citizen.

“There was no causewaying squad, originally, under the charge of the police. The Magistrates managed this department, and kept it up from a small assessment called ‘road money.’ I may also add that when the fire brigade was under charge of the Magistrates, before being added to the police, the superintendent of the fire engines was a master slater, carrying on his business in town and country as a slater, and residing within the city wherever he might please to choose a dwelling-house. In those days the fire drum was beat off from the mainguard house, Candleriggs, by the regimental drummer on duty. On midnight alarms he was escorted by two men of the military guard; and it was usual for the guard to turn out to assist at the fires by keeping the ground clear, and, on occasions of large fires and of several hours’ continuance, we had a reinforcement of sometimes two or three hundred men from the infantry barracks for the same purpose, viz. to keep a clear space and course for the men employed.

“In these early times the officers and watchmen assumed a discretion in the performance of their duty which would look rather queer at the present day. It was nothing uncommon then for a watchman to take a man to the office and lock him up for a few hours, and then let him out again, without any charge being entered, or any record kept of the proceedings. I remember well a stern old pensioner, named Jaikey Burns, who officiated as an officer. Jaikey had a mortal antipathy to Irishmen, and whenever, in the case of any street disturbance, he heard the brogue uttered, he was sure to take the unhappy owner of it into custody, whether he was the assaulting or assaulted party, holding it to be sufficient evidence of guilt that the man was a Patlander. In fact, it was alleged that in these times many a poor fellow was locked up for no other offence than that he was an Irishman. Jaikey, as a good patriot, did all he could to discourage and repress the ‘Eerish,’ by locking them up in cells, and cracking their croons with his truncheon, but the effort was like that of Dame Partington sweeping out the Atlantic Ocean with her besom. The Huns overspread the land notwithstanding. Each watchman had a wooden box, called a sentry-box, for resting in when he felt fatigued, or when the weather was cold and rainy. The wild youths of the town used often to lock Dogberry in his nest altogether, and sometimes they even tumbled the box over on its face, in which position the poor fellow lay till relieved by his fellow-watchmen. In these times there was no regulation to prevent all the watchmen in the city being in their boxes at one and the same time; and it was well known that many a snooze they took in these retreats, while the city took care of itself. This system would be considered the height of absurdity nowadays; but not very many years ago, when it was resolved that not more than every alternate watchman should take shelter in his box, this

modified arrangement was thought to be one which savoured of inhumanity. The watchmen went on duty at ten in summer, and came off at four; and at nine in winter, and came off at six. As there was no retiring muster-roll called, however, these hours were not, by any means, strictly observed, and many a one was snug in bed, when his betters believed him to be on duty. There were no detective or criminal officers in those days, as distinguished from common policemen."

So much for the recollection of our respected informant. The effect of a police force in the city proper, however, was to drive all the desperadoes into the suburbs; and the decent inhabitants of the outskirts had to endure for years the most hideous scenes of immorality and disorder. A civil force became necessary in these districts also; and accordingly, the Gorbals Police was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1808; the Calton Police in 1819; and the Anderston Police in 1824. At the outset some of these concerns were managed in a primitive way, and, as a specimen, we may give a few details regarding the Calton. The first police office in this quarter was formed out of part of the Lancasterian school in Green Street, and consisted of an officers' room, with two or three small cells adjoining. In a court outside, the stocks were erected for the purpose of reducing camstary prisoners to reason, and as a terror to evil-doers in general. The Calton people shortly thereafter feued ground for themselves, and erected thereon the present Court House, Bridewell, and Police Office. It contains twelve large cells. Eight of these have been used up till the present time as a bridewell for convicted prisoners; but from the growing wants of the district they are now all needed as receiving cells, and application has been made to the Prison Board for authority to discontinue them in this capacity. The Calton was for many years an exceedingly lawless and unruly place, so much so that for a long period the officers perambulated the streets, two and two, armed with cutlasses. And they used them too; for one occasion is well remembered on which a rencontre took place with a gang of desperate resurrectionists, who were robbing the Clyde Street burial-ground, and as one of the body-lifters got his arm nearly cut off, this wholesome blood-letting cleared the district ever after of these wretches. In more peaceful times the cutlasses were displaced by staves or cudgels.

These serviceable tools are still retained, however ; they are regularly polished, and are disposed so as to form a circular ornament on the wall of the Superintendent's room in that district.

If we are not mistaken, the Gorbals Police opened shop in the old Baronial Hall, in which, in other times, Sir George Elphinstone lived in high estate, and which afforded shelter to the declining years of Sir James Turner, the old captain of Gustavus Adolphus, and the prototype of Dugald Dalgetty. Here the stocks were mounted also, and did good service in their day. But the building was a most insufficient and awkward one, and those who had charge of it do not seem to have been much better ; for an occasion is still held in remembrance on which a mob took possession of the whole concern, burned the books, and kicked the policemen into the street. By-and-by the Gorbals authorities built and lodged themselves in the present handsome structure in Portland Street, at an expense of £8000. It is still amply sufficient for the purpose, and altogether a credit to the south side of the river.

The Anderston authorities commenced proceedings in an old Methodist chapel, which they still retain ; and though much improved, it is exceedingly inadequate to the wants of this extended district, which now includes all the fashionable West End as far as the bridge over the Kelvin at Partick.

We might extend on this subject by alluding to the excellent system introduced last Whitsunday by Superintendent Smart, of accommodating the various members of the force in commodious dwellings fitted up with every adjunct of comfort and cleanliness.

These barracks, so to term them, are situated near to the respective head Police Offices, and, from the committee taking the buildings *in cumulo*, they have them on easy terms, as the rent is sure, and comes in in one large payment. These advantages are transferred to the men. By this mode their domestic comfort is cared for ; and as a large body of the constables are now grouped together, instead of being scattered over the town, their services, even though not on duty, can be commanded at a moment's notice in the case of a riot, or necessity from any other cause. Into this subject we have not, however, space to enter.

Some other important matters were disposed of by the Court, which adjourned after a long sederunt.

(18th November 1850.)

ST. VINCENT PLACE—REV. MR. PORTER'S CHURCH.

The Court met on Thursday, the 14th November—present, William Connal, Esq., the Lord Dean, and all the members of his Council.

The business was important, and several new cases were introduced in connection with intended buildings in various portions of the municipality. The most interesting of these, as regards the change in the external aspect of the city, were narrated in two petitions—one craving authority to build at the corner of Buchanan Street and St. Vincent Place, and the other for leave to erect a new place of worship for the congregation of the Rev. Mr. Porter, whose demission as the co-pastor of the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw excited a good deal of interest a few months ago. The first application was at the instance of Robert Black, Esq. of Kelvinhaugh, who has recently acquired that tenement at the corner of Buchanan Street and St. Vincent Place, so long known as the town residence of the late William Dunn, Esq. of Duntocher. This subject has till the present period been occupied as a private city domicile by Mr. Dunn and his heirs, and for the last six or seven years has been the only house in that locality used as a residence, and in which a kitchen cooking fire was lighted. All the others in the "Place," which were dwelling-houses like itself, so recently as ten years ago, have, from their proximity to the Royal Exchange and centre of commerce, been converted into offices or places of business for lawyers, accountants, agents, merchants, and bankers. At the time alluded to—viz. only ten years since—this spot was exclusively appropriated for the dwelling-houses of our wealthy merchants and professional gentlemen, and it seems only as yesterday since the late Dr. Balmanno; our worthy Chief Magistrate, Lord Provost Dalglisch, along with Mr. Dunn, the Connals, and many other

well-known citizens, held a high state in this quarter, and dispensed all the comforts of a refined and courteous hospitality. And, in the way of *Glasgow Punch*—

“’Twas here they’d mix the genuine stuff,
As they mixed it long ago,
With limes that on their property
In Trinidad did grow.”

But the din of social mirth is likely to be heard no more in that once dainty place. The value of these subjects, which was estimated some few years ago at from £2500 to £3000 each, has now advanced to from £7000 to £8000; and we are informed that the site and tenement in question, which belonged to Mr. Dunn, were purchased only a few weeks ago, at a public sale, for not less than £10,000. The plans submitted to the Court contemplate the entire removal of the dwelling-house, and upon the site it is proposed to erect an elegant range of shops, with counting-houses above, and the tenement to be three storeys in height. The plans are by Mr. Robertson, a young and rising artist of this city, and while usefulness is not lost sight of, the building promises to be a highly-ornamental one, well worthy of this eligible site in the “Regent Street” of Glasgow, in which a square yard of solum now sells as high as £20.

The second petition, by the managers of Mr. Porter’s congregation, was for leave to erect a church on the lands which formed part of the old orchard at Willowbank, on the south side of Sauchiehall Road, and which is now the property of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The site chosen for the erection is at the corner of Holland Street, in continuation of Bath Street, immediately behind one of those cotton-mill looking ranges of shops and dwelling-houses, which we noticed with lamentation when in the course of erection a year ago. The building is to be of a highly-ornamental kind, and will present a distinctive feature as compared with any modern ecclesiastical erection within our city. The style of architecture chosen is Gothic, of a highly-decorative order, with a beautiful spire, shooting up some 180 feet from the ground. The church is only calculated to contain from 600 to

700 sitters; galleries, so common and commodious in our Presbyterian places of worship, are dispensed with, and the interior will be fitted up somewhat in the style of the choir of our Cathedral, with stone pillars, ashlar walls, clerestory windows, and an imposing oaken roof of great altitude. Provision is also made for an organ gallery; the sittings will be laid off in the bench or Cathedral style, and the pulpit will be constructed of magnificently-carved stone. Altogether, for its size, it promises to be one of the most unique and exquisitely beautiful temples of Christian worship in Scotland. In connection with the church there is to be a large schoolroom, with the usual accommodations of vestry, deacons' room, and dwelling-house for church-officer. The plans are by Mr. Emmett, an English architect of some eminence in ecclesiastical buildings. The total cost is estimated at £10,000. We almost wish that in this instance "protection to native industry and talent" had been something more than a mere phrase. Hitherto our ingenious native architects have been required to build churches with the maximum of commodiousness and beauty of proportions, at the minimum of cost. They have never had a full, and rarely an adequate, exchequer to draw upon for the elaboration of their designs. And now when this tid-bit of a job has turned up, with large means to build a small house, they have not even had a chance of showing what they really could do, when unfettered by the terror of going eighteenpence beyond the estimate. Be this as it may, we shall have another ecclesiastical ornament to our city. We understand that both of the above buildings are contracted for, and that they will go on immediately.

The consent of the Court was given to the applications, and, after the disposal of some unimportant business, it adjourned.

(16th December 1850.)

NEW BUILDINGS—THE PORTLAND SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

The Court held its usual sitting on Thursday, the 12th December—William Connal, Esq., the Lord Dean, presiding.

Mr. Turner, Town Clerk, officiated as Assessor in room of Mr. Forbes, who, we believe, is absent in Liverpool, attending the trial of a person named Blackhurst, accused of forging or falsifying a will which his wife had made, devising certain charitable bequests to the City of Glasgow.¹

A petition was presented by Mr. Kelly, builder, asking leave to erect several tenements of houses on sites in continuation of Bath Street, at the corner of the lane which was some time since threatened to be converted into a West End Wynd, but which, we are happy to say, is now being formed into a 50 feet street. The buildings are to be suited for the accommodation of the middle classes, and laid out in flats with four and five apartments each. The effect of these extensions will be to increase the population in this neighbourhood, and thus afford an excellent background to the range of elegant shops which now form one continuous line in Sauchiehall Street, extending from Douglas Street to North Street, Anderston. It is scarcely four years since the first application was made to the Police and Statute Labour Committee for the widening and improvement of Sauchiehall Road, then a rural loaning; and now it presents a continuous and majestic line of street of 60 feet in width, built upon ground which has advanced in value from £1 to £2 : 5s. per square yard. It may surprise our readers to be informed that the buildings which have been erected here, and in this short space of time, have cost not less than £100,000. But such is the fact, according to statistics upon which we are willing to rely. It is only a proof of the great elasticity of our city that all this has been done without attracting any special notice, or without nine-tenths of the citizens knowing that such vast works were in progress. It is the fact, that a sedentary tradesman, for instance, who confines himself pretty closely to, say the eastern or southern parts of the city, when he accidentally wanders westward finds a noble city built, where formerly he left gardens and green fields. Bath Street is now being laid down parallel with Sauchiehall Street, and, as noticed in former reports, here are Free and Independent churches, with

¹ Blackhurst, after trial, was found "not guilty"—a verdict which, in a Scotch Court, would not, in all likelihood, have amounted to more than "not proven."

noble spires, in the course of erection. Like Blythswood Holm, which long lay fallow, separating the crescents from Blythswood Hill, Bath Street will now be continuously filled up with appropriate buildings.

The most important matter, however, whether as regards the convenience or the aspect of our city, was contained in an application from the Trustees of the Portland Street Suspension Bridge, craving the authority of the Court for their intended operations. This case was before the Court last day; but some small adjustment being necessary between the promoters and the River and Bridge Trustees, it was delayed, and finally disposed of to-day. The Court readily interponed its authority for this much-needed erection. Accustomed as the citizens of Glasgow have been to the bold and massive piers of the late Stockwell and the present Glasgow Bridges—the latter with its superincumbent masonry of freestone and granite—the comparatively modern style of engineering to be developed by this suspension bridge will form a most striking contrast. It will be in the highest degree lightsome and graceful; and at the same time thoroughly substantial. As most of our readers are now acquainted with the mode of constructing these bridges, we may briefly state that in this instance two land piers, with towers 45 feet high, are erected on each bank of the river, with an opening through them, in the form of an arch, of from 12 to 13 feet wide. The chains are suspended from the top of these towers, and will describe the segment of a circle spanning the river. The roadway in turn is suspended from these chains by vertical rods, carrying a framework of timber, and affording a firm and level foot passenger bridge of 16 feet in width. These chains are stayed at the back of the towers by a solid pack of masonry, built 30 feet into the ground, and thus forming an adequate back weight to the suspension bridge, which will present one span of 425 feet. We understand that the bridge will be capable of bearing a weight of not less than 2000 tons; and though its pathway should be filled from end to end with a crowd of human beings, their weight will not amount to a tenth of that sum. The most timorous passenger, therefore, may rest assured that he will be treading on sure ground.

The contract has been undertaken by Mr. Virtue, who, though a stranger in Glasgow, comes with a high recommendation for ability to construct works of this kind. The smith-work, which forms the most important portion, will be executed under his direction by our townsmen, Messrs. M'Lellan, Trongate; and we believe that the whole iron to be used will be manufactured within the municipal boundary, viz. at Govan, on the south side of the river, and at the Glasgow Ironworks at Townhead. The amount of the contract price is somewhere under £6000, and as the contractor is under engagement to have the work finished in nine months, he has already enclosed the streets on either side of the Clyde with "hoarding," for an immediate commencement of operations. Should the winter be favourable, it is expected that the whole will be completed during the ensuing summer. The expense is to be defrayed by a small pontage on foot-passengers; and we believe it is the intention of the Trustees to compound on easy terms with the proprietors on the south side of the river for the free passage of their tenants. When the debt is paid off, the structure will be handed over to the Trustees of the other bridges, and will then be opened to the public free of cost. There are no proper data upon which to form an estimate of the total sum which will be annually raised by a halfpenny pontage—but some have estimated that these dues should not be let for less than £1000 per annum. The engineering department is under the able charge of our townsman, Mr. George Martin; and, we have no doubt that, when completed, the work will be a feather in his cap, and prove, to the satisfaction of all, that Glasgow does not require to go to London for bridge engineers. We congratulate the public on the certainty of this great improvement being now speedily to be carried out; and, while we do so, we cannot forget the obstacles which were thrown in the way of its accomplishment by the Admiralty on the one hand, and the short-sightedness of local parties on the other. All these, however, have been successfully overcome by the energies of Mr. Andrew Gemmill, who carried through the bill in Parliament; and to that gentleman, in other respects, we believe the public is mainly indebted for this great improvement.

In the course of a few years the aspect of this locality will be

entirely changed. Standing upon Glasgow Bridge, and looking eastward, we still see the ruins of the foundation piers of the venerable Stockwell Bridge ; and, closely adjoining it, there is the cofferdam, in which Mr. York has already raised the northern abutment of its noble successor above the water line. Then there is the commencement of this suspension bridge itself, along with the extension of the quay walls eastward to the foot of Stockwell Street—presenting, within the area of a few acres, an amount of engineering activity and magnitude, all in progress at the same time, which is without a parallel in any other city, and is unparalleled in the annals of our own.

After the disposal of some minor matters, the Court adjourned.

(30th December 1851.)

BUCHANAN STREET CHANGES.

The Court met on Thursday, the 26th December—Mr. Connal, the Lord Dean, presiding.

The business transacted embraced building operations over the whole city. The most important, however, as affecting the external aspect and improvement of Buchanan Street (the Glasgow Regent Street), was an application from the Royal Bank for authority to take down the subjects belonging to them fronting the street already named, and occupied as a dwelling-house by Mr. Fairley, one of the officers of the Bank, and Messrs. M'Clure and Son, printsellers. The application was granted. These subjects embrace the whole space, north and south, between Royal Bank Place and Exchange Place. Upon this site it is intended to erect an elegant range of first-class shops, with warehouses above. The designs submitted were prepared by our native artist, Mr. Charles Wilson, and, so far as we are able to judge, the buildings will be of a highly-ornamental kind. The style of architecture chosen is of the light Grecian character, with a profusion of graceful ornaments, differing in this respect from the unadorned but substantial range of buildings which form Buchanan Street.

By removing these subjects and planting upon the site, and the vacant ground behind, shops and places of business, the Royal Bank will increase its rental vastly ; and this, no doubt, is a sufficient reason with this liberal money-dealing company for making the change. The public, however, will get some share of the advantages, for the sunk area in front of Mr. Fairley's dwelling-house will now be appropriated to extend the pavement in Buchanan Street. It is creditable to add, that the Royal Bank has in this and other cases set an example to builders in the liberal and comprehensive character of their arrangements ; and it should not be forgotten that we are principally indebted to that company for our noble Exchange ; for the plans were laid down by the banking company, and they were chiefly instrumental in promoting the establishment of an institution which is now the pride of the West of Scotland.

In connection with this important street, we have gleaned some particulars which may not be uninteresting. Buchanan Street was opened about 1780 by Mr. Andrew Buchanan, of the firm of Buchanan, Hastie, and Co., who were eminent Virginia merchants at a time when the tobacco lords formed the aristocracy of Glasgow. He possessed the ground now occupied by the lower part of the street, and lived in the house, still existing, at the south-east corner of it, fronting Argyll Street. At a later period part of the same house was occupied by old Mr. Monteith, father of the late Mr. Monteith Douglas of Stonebyres. For a period long subsequent to its opening the street was very sparsely built upon. The first house planted upon the west side was erected by Mr. Robert Dennistoun, who occupied it as his dwelling-house. It was taken down to make way for the present Monteith Rooms. The dwelling-house, which is now to be removed by the Royal Bank, was built about the year 1804 or 1805 by Mr. Alexander Gordon, of the eminent firm of Stirling, Gordon, and Co. and subsequently occupied by that gentleman as his residence. From his well-known taste for the fine arts, he was familiarly known by the name of "Picture Gordon." The background, now occupied by the Royal Bank and part of Exchange Square, was in these times taken up by Mr. Gordon's garden and offices. The stable stood

upon the spot now occupied by the south arch leading towards the Exchange, and in this unpretending erection several of Mr. Gordon's then young friends, who are still living, have spent many a happy evening. As he was a kindly and liberal-hearted man, he fitted up part of the structure as a small theatre, and here the youngsters performed the tragedy of "Douglas," the comedy of "She Stoops to Conquer," and many other popular pieces, amidst the unbounded applause of a youthful and delighted audience. We have met with one gentleman who used to take part in those scenic representations, and who still remembers them as the occasion of innocent and unbounded delight. As the house was built by Mr. Gordon for his own residence, it was constructed of the most solid materials, and was then, in fact, considered the most substantially-built fabric within the city. That it might not be overlooked, and its amenity otherwise preserved, Mr. Gordon purchased the then vacant ground on the opposite side, which was subsequently formed into Gordon street, and hence its name. To the north of the house in question, and separated from it by a passage of some eight feet in width, stood another dwelling-house, which had been erected in 1794 by Mr. Robert Muirhead, a respectable merchant, but which, at the time in question, was occupied by Mr. Gordon's relative, Mrs. Buchanan. The locality was then an entirely rural one; and, as a proof of it, we may mention that in the autumn of 1803, when one of this lady's sons was looking out of the window he observed a covey of partridges to alight upon the spot now occupied by the premises of Councillor Forrester, upon which he took his gun, went out, and immediately returned with a brace of them. In these days, however, it was no unusual thing to kill game in this locality; and a venerable and respected member of the Faculty of Procurators, still living, records that he has shot many a hare in the cabbage gardens, the site of which is now taken up by the fashionable Buchanan Street shops. Indeed, all this space was occupied by garden ground, and the families then residing in the thinly-built Buchanan Street used to pay a guinea per annum for the privilege of walking through the parterres to the Grammar School, then situated in George Street, on the site of the present Andersonian Institution. The

gardeners themselves lived in a square of cottages towards the north-east of the present Exchange, the centre of which was adorned and scented by a large dunghill or *midden*. Prince's Square occupies the garden site of the city residence of the late Mr. Gordon of Aikenhead. And, so lately as fourteen years ago, the pavilion was erected there for the Peel Banquet.

Mr. Gordon, above alluded to, died only last year in Upper Canada, at the advanced age of ninety-five. He was the father of the first corps of light-horse raised in Glasgow during the revolutionary war, and was the last remaining member of the old race of Glasgow West India Merchants. The value of the paintings in his house was estimated at no less than £30,000; but it is matter of regret that some of them were unfortunately burned in London, where Mr. Gordon had gone to reside after his removal from Glasgow. We quote the following particulars regarding this gentleman, from the pen of Mercator, who writes in a recent number of the *Reformers' Gazette* :—

“As Mr. A. Gordon was the first of our Glasgow merchants who possessed a fine collection of paintings, it may interest some of your readers to learn how that collection was formed.

“A year or two after the French had overrun Italy, at the close of the last century, and when the Italian princes were disposed to part with their valuables for a moderate consideration, Mr. Gordon gave an order for a few pictures to his friend, the late Mr. Irvine of Drum, a gentleman of acknowledged taste, then residing at Rome. Mr. Irvine executed his commission with great judgment and ability, and, amongst other capital paintings, secured for Mr. Gordon two very fine Guidos, which had long formed the boast and ornament of the Sala Palace at Rome. The subject of one of these was ‘*Lucretia Stabbing Herself*,’ a picture which displayed the great powers of the artist in their highest perfection. The figure and attitude of Lucretia were inimitable; and none who has seen it can ever forget the look of speaking anguish portrayed in her beautiful features. The heroine of the Hebrews was a picture of a different kind, but also of surpassing excellence. Judith was represented with the ghastly head of Holofernes in her right hand, while her left rested on a massive sword. The headless body of the ‘*captain of the host*,’ partly without covering, and displaying the finest proportions of manly beauty, lay stretched on the richly-decorated couch on which he had reposed. The face of Judith seemed to *beam* with pious exultation; and her majestic figure, drawn up to its full height, was arrayed in the flowing and gorgeous dress of the East, which gave the painter an opportunity of exhibiting that wonderful felicity in blending his colours for which Guido was so remarkable. Both

pictures were in the highest preservation, and instead of being painted in the seventeenth century, appeared to have been lately finished. They were both destroyed by fire, and in them the lover of the fine arts sustained a loss which may be said to be irreparable.

“Mr. Gordon, as I have stated, was the first of our Glasgow merchants who formed a collection of paintings, and I well recollect his being jeered at by some of his contemporaries, who thought his money might have been more profitably invested. But even in a pecuniary point of view, these pictures, had they still existed, would have turned out a *good speculation*. As a proof of this, I have reason to know that Mr. Gordon was offered, by a great London collector, £5000 for the two pictures which I have described, including with them a small but brilliant Rubens, called ‘Soldiers’ Merry-making,’ formerly in the Collona palace at Rome, and purchased by Mr. Irvine. The example of Mr. Gordon has since been followed by several of our Glasgow merchants, who have adorned their galleries with specimens of the old masters; but it would be difficult to match, either in this city or anywhere else, the *chef d’œuvres* of art, selected by that accomplished and high-principled gentleman.”

(10th March 1851.)

ODDS AND ENDS—GORDON AND WEST NILE STREETS—OLD GORBALS—THE “FORTY-FIVE”—NECESSITY OF A BUILDINGS ACT.

The Court met on Thursday, the 6th March 1851—Mr. Hannan, the Sub-Dean, presiding, in the absence of the Lord Dean, who was unable to attend from indisposition.

A more than usual amount of business was disposed of, consisting of applications from all parts of the municipality for authority to erect new houses, or alter and improve existing buildings to meet the taste of old or new tenants. In healthy times there is usually a large resumption of building operations in the spring of the year. At least it is the favourite starting season with all prudent, cautious, and creditable builders; for they have time to perform their work decently and in order; and the house being nearly complete, or at all events “theekit,” before the frosts or hurly-gurly blasts of winter, the whole tenement is painted, papered, seasoned, and in tip-top order for occupation at the following Whitsunday. An opposite course, however, is not

unusual in a large city like this, where speculators and artificers of every shade of respectability are struggling to turn the penny; and we could point to houses, the foundation-stone of which is laid at Candlemas, and the green walls occupied at the ensuing term. The tenant, poor soul, who is proud of his new house, wonders that some member of his family should become afflicted with an inveterate or "sitting-down cauld," and finally go off in consumption. And the man who has been fool enough to buy the house, because he got it for little money, with the prospect of a great return, wonders, in turn, that the fabric can never be kept in order, and that it at last goes to the mischief with dry-rot. There are certain things that cannot be done in the twinkling of an eye, even with all our go-ahead qualities, and clever as we think ourselves. The growth of good wheat or potatoes is not in any ways beholden to the locomotive or the electric telegraph; and, in the same way, time and the seasons must be taken into consideration in the construction of a house intended for the healthy occupation of a family.

The respectable firm of Messrs. Wilson, Kay, and Company presented a petition, craving authority to erect an extensive range of shops, counting-houses, and warehouses on the east side of West Nile Street, on the vacant space of ground between Gordon Street and St. Vincent Street. The buildings are to be of an elegant description, from designs by Mr. John Baird, architect, and when completed they promise to be well adapted for the accommodation of our merchants and manufacturers, who, nowadays, are not pleased with the plain externals and interiors which would have delighted their fathers. At all events, these buildings will keep full pace with the improvements which have recently been developed in our city architecture. Authority was granted to proceed with the front buildings, but the back portions were in the meantime delayed. In noticing this new erection we cannot help calling to mind the daft days of the railway and joint-stock mania of 1845-6. About that time the ground in question was acquired by a company for the purpose of building a Trades' Exchange—an institution really much wanted, but the proposal for which came to nought, by reason of coming above-ground

along with the mushroom projects of the time. The price then paid was at the rate of £7 the square yard ; but instead of rising in value, as is the case with building ground in nineteen cases out of twenty, the present proprietors have acquired the spot at £5 : 10s. The plain fact is, that in the "daft year" it was bought at a famine price ; and the present holders, while they have paid a fair value, have got a good enough bargain, from the anxiety of the Trades' Exchange parties to clear off the fag-end of a losing concern. We have only to add, that the ancient "rivulet of St. Enoch's," or St. Thenaw—now, we lament to say, a common sewer—runs right through the property, so that one portion of the building will be in the City and the other in the Barony Parish. How the surveyors and collectors of the poor-rates in the respective parishes will dispose of a case of this kind we do not pretend to guess. The tenant will belong to both of them and to neither of them ; and yet, like "Tibbie Fowler o' the Glen," they will be both "wooing at him, puing at him." The City official will descant on the workable and common-sense character of the rental mode, and the Barony man will come out strong on the heavenly justice of "means and substance," till the distracted tenant may exclaim with Macheath—"How happy could I be with either, were t'other dear charmer away." Seriously, this is only one of many good arguments for an amalgamation of parishes, and a uniform system of rating ; for though the City and Barony as parishes, may be divided by "here an ideal line, and there a nameless brook," they are like the French Republic, or rather like what it says of itself, "one and indivisible" in all their interests, civil and sacred.

We observe that operations have commenced at the corner of Union Street and Gordon Street, where our active citizen, ex-Bailie Orr, proposes to erect a pile of buildings adapted for shops and warehouses of the first class ; and from an inspection of the design by Mr. James Brown, architect, which is Italian in its character, we feel assured that this erection will be an ornament to the city, and may in due time give a tone to the locality, which seems likely to start in the race of competition with our fashionable promenade of Buchanan Street. We should not feel

surprised if the proprietors of the sombre-looking stores and kirks at the west end of Gordon Street were to be at the expense of a coat of paint, when so much that is new and fascinating in the building way is going on around them.

A petition was presented by Mr. James Gilfillan Anderson for leave to erect a tenement of four storeys in a mews lane in Cowcaddens. This application was opposed by the opposite proprietor on what he termed "sanitary grounds," viz. that the proposed erection would just contribute towards the formation of a new wynd. It came out, however, in the discussion that this man's property was already of the same height as that proposed to be erected by his neighbour, and, on the principle "that the law allows it, and the court awards it," the bench unwillingly gave its consent to the perpetration of this new breach of the laws of health and comfort. Truly, we live in strange times. We are rooting out the wynds of last century quite fiercely; but at the same time, as fast as hands and material can do it, we are constructing fresh plague-spots, vastly worse than the wynds, vennels, and closes formed by our forefathers, when the very term "sanitary," as now applied, was unknown—when Health of Towns' Associations and model dwelling-houses had not been dreamt of—when the public recreating-ground was vastly larger than at present, and when gardens and green fields surrounded every part of the then small community. And yet, after all this, we will be told by "cheese-parings and candle-doup" patriots that a West End Park is unnecessary—that it is a job, or a robbery of the poor for the sake of the rich.¹

Authority was granted to Mr. Parlane to erect three tenements on the east side of Main Street, Gorbals, on ground feued from the Incorporation of Hutcheson's Hospital. At this point there is ample room and width of street, and the buildings will be seemly. We trust that, as the northern part of this street will in the course of two years be joined to one of the finest bridges in the kingdom,

¹ While these sheets are passing through the press, the Town Council (at a meeting held on 13th March 1851), by a majority of 25 to 20, resolved to contribute the sum of £10,000 towards the establishment of a public West End Park, along the banks of the Kelvin. It is to be hoped nothing will ensue to mar the completion of this truly philanthropic design.

it will gradually change its present narrow and crooked aspect into that of a spacious thoroughfare. With prudent forethought, the Lord Provost purchased a few weeks ago the solum of the old Gorbals "Community Land" at the bottom of the street for the public interest, and good care will be taken that, at this point at least, the street will be widened. The property is generally in poor case all throughout the narrow portions of the street, which might be widened to the pecuniary advantage of the owners, and the great comfort of the public. There are some buildings on the east side, however, which we would be loath to see demolished. One of these is the remnant of the old Baronial Hall, and it has always been our notion that the portion cleared away two years ago, during the "dinging-down" fever, consequent upon the fall of the Alston Street sugar-house, was done somewhat precipitately. Let us keep what remains so long as it can be propped up. The fabric is dearly associated with the olden time.

There is also the fine old urban manor-house on the same side, opposite Malta Street, which we hope will grace the locality for many a year, although it does encroach a little on the east side of the street. We formerly noticed this old fabric; and we are enabled to set down a little of its quiet domestic annals from the courteous correspondence of the Rev. Dr. Thom of Liverpool, one of the joint proprietors, himself a native of Glasgow, and brother of the lamented Robert Thom, Esq., late British Consul at Ningpo. The front building, or at least a portion of it, was built in 1687, by George Swan, a Quaker, who came originally from Perth, and whose initials, "G. S.," with the date, are still plainly readable above one of the upper windows. There are also on the same stone the initials, "I. R.," which we take to represent the name and surname of the Quaker's spouse. A part of the house was damaged by the great Gorbals fire of 1749, and some additions took place soon after that period. Mr. John Campbell, smith and farrier, became the occupant of the premises, somewhere between 1730 and 1740, and finally purchased the "old house" from Mr. Swan's representatives in 1749, and it remains in the possession of his descendants till this day. Mr. Campbell carried on his business in the little court, which still exists. He was a highly-respectable

man, and his name is still inscribed on the Gorbals tablets as a great benefactor to the village poor. His first wife was a Miss Maxwell of Williamwood, and his second wife a Miss Margaret Corss of Paisley, whom he married in 1739; and by the only daughter of this lady, who was born in this house in 1744, and who subsequently married Mr. William Falconer, merchant in Glasgow, the property has been transmitted to the present proprietors, her descendants. This Mr. Falconer was descended from Mr. William Falconer, whose fine for the affair of Bothwell Bridge is noticed in Wodrow. Many eminent Glasgow families claim kindred with him; but it is unnecessary to pursue this genealogical disquisition further. After the family ceased to use the house as a place of residence, the front portion became an inn or public-house, in which capacity it was tenanted for more than half-a-century. The tenants are to this day humbly respectable; but they do not, of course, occupy the position in society which their predecessors did.

It was Dr. Thom's lot in early life to meet frequently with his great-grandmother, who had occupied this old house with her husband, Mr. Campbell, from 1739 downwards. While residing with her granddaughter, the late Mrs. Thom, this venerable dame was frequently visited of an evening by the late Mr. William Walker originally a printer in Glasgow, afterwards a teller or accountant in the "Glasgow Arms Bank," and in the latter part of his life, for a period of about twenty or thirty years, the respected clerk of the general Session of Glasgow. As a boy, our informant has sat by the side of his aged relative, listening with intense delight to the "old world" stories related by her and Mr. Walker respecting their youth and mature age. The old lady stated, that during the stay of the rebels in Glasgow—from Christmas 1745 till 3d January 1746—two officers of considerable rank were quartered in her house—that is, in the front lodging upstairs of the building in question. This fact will account for the still existing tradition, which we have formerly noticed, that the Chevalier himself visited and was entertained in this decent Gorbals mansion. One of these gentlemen the old dame described to Mr. Walker as decorous and respectable in his conduct; the other as light and giddy,

and fully confident in the ultimate triumph of the cause of the grandson of James the Seventh. Upon both, however, she appears to have won by her most benevolent disposition and demeanour. Although a sturdy Hanoverian, and making no secret of her disapproval of their enterprise, both gentlemen treated her with the most marked respect. She received from both officers a strong invitation to witness the review of the rebel forces, which took place during their stay on the Green; but even this she courteously but steadfastly declined. During the sojourn of the rebels in the city, and on the Sunday after their arrival, her husband, Mr. Campbell (who was probably the most important functionary of the kind in the town or neighbourhood), was sent for in his capacity of smith and farrrier, to shoe the Pretender's horse. This, as a strict Presbyterian, he refused to do, as the act would involve in his opinion a profanation of the Sabbath. Some threats having been uttered, however, and the worthy man viewing the matter in the light of a work of necessity, he ultimately complied.

Another of the old lady's reminiscences was, that one of her husband's (Mr. Campbell) brothers having entered into one of the two regiments of volunteers which the city of Glasgow raised to testify its loyalty, came running into her house one day in January 1746 to say that the regiment had been ordered off on immediate service. It was about noon, and dinner was in the course of preparation, but so hurried was he that he could not wait its being regularly served up. He took from the pot, therefore, a ladleful of the soup, or broth, and hastily swallowing it, with a "Farewell, sister," quitted the house. She never saw him again. He was one of those who perished in the action at Falkirk on the 17th January. A most graphic account was given by the old lady of the great conflagration in Gorbals in 1749. As the flames approached, she stated that she rushed out of the dwelling—the "old house" in question—with her child in her arms, the future Mrs. Falconer, then about five years of age. As a curious coincidence, Mr. Falconer himself used to relate that on that day he gazed on the flames from an eminence in the neighbourhood of Hamilton, little dreaming that he was to get a wife out of the conflagration.

Our courteous correspondent, Dr. Thom, adds for himself—

“As I am writing a gossiping letter on Glasgow of ‘the olden time,’ I may mention that, besides my great-grandmother, I have conversed with only two other individuals who remembered anything personally concerning the affairs of 1745-46. One was Mr. William Walker, already alluded to, who died, I think, in 1820. Well do I remember his taking me in 1815 to a spot in the Saltmarket, two or three doors from my father’s shop, and mentioning that under the then piazza, close to where we were, he had stood and seen the rebel army pass up from the review on the Green. The Pretender rode at their head. He was pale, and, in Mr. Walker’s apprehension, looked dejected. He said that he had a distinct recollection of ‘Bonnie Prince Charlie,’ after the lapse of seventy years. He saw the rebel forces, when they had reached the Cross, turn to the left, and march along the Trongate, on their way to Shawfield House, at the bottom of the present Glassford Street, then the residence and headquarters of the Chevalier. Mr. Walker was then, he told me, about ten years of age. The other ‘remnant of the Forty-five’ with whom I have conversed was old Mr. Stewart of Fasnacloich, who died, if I mistake not, in 1819. I happened to be residing for a few weeks at Ardvorlich, with my father’s relation, the late William Stewart, Esq. of Ardvorlich, when old Fasnacloich paid him his annual visit. This was in September, 1818. The topic of the ‘Forty-five’ was kindly introduced by Mr. Stewart, my relation. Old Fasnacloich’s face positively brightened up at the mention of that stirring and romantic time. Anecdote after anecdote of that period he gave us. All have been forgotten, excepting one. He had been, it seems, at the time only a boy—a sort of henchman, or attendant, on an elder brother. In that capacity he had been present at the battle of Falkirk. His eyes kindled as he described the action. One expression of his, with the gesture and intonation which accompanied it, I shall not soon forget. ‘There were the Glasgow shopkeepers,’ said he, ‘with their big bellies, at the bottom of the muir. And, by my faith, we did *paik* into them.’”

By the way, we have not at any time met with the numbers or names of those Glasgow citizens who were killed and wounded at the battle of Falkirk. Though no acts of heroism are laid to the charge of the St. Mungo volunteers, it is satisfactory to know, from the records of the time, that they behaved creditably, and, indeed, in a manner which put the courage of many of the regulars to the blush. They were, however (as hinted by old Fasnacloich), severely handled by the Highlanders, who always regarded those who voluntarily took up arms against them with much stronger feelings of hostility than they evinced towards the regular troops, whose proper trade was fighting. Dugald Grahame, the accurate metrical chronicler of the rebellion of 1745, and who subsequently

became the bellman of the city, details the sad plight to which the Glasgow militia were reduced. After narrating the defeat of Hawley's horse by the Highlanders, he proceeds:—

“ The south side being fairly won,
 They faced north as had been done ;
 Where next stood, to bide the crash,
 The volunteers, who, zealous,
 Kept firing close, till near surrounded,
 And by the flying horse confounded :
 They suffered sair into this place,
 No Highlander pitied their case.
 ‘ You cursed militia,’ they did swear,
 ‘ What a divel did bring you here ?’ ”

In good sooth, it is admitted on all hands that the Glasgow regiment behaved gallantly, considering the circumstances in which it was placed. It was absurd in Hawley to push forward into a position, to receive the brunt of the enemy's shock, a regiment which had never before been in action. The only excuse for him is, that he was taken by surprise, and that he (or his more able second-in-command, General Huske) was glad to push forward any regiment that was ready to take the place. The regiment of horse which was beaten and driven in upon the Glasgow volunteers was that which had been commanded by the lamented Gardiner, and which behaved so ignobly at Preston. The Glasgow regiment was stationed in Edinburgh while the Pretender was in possession of the former city ; and we take it that the Mr. Campbell above alluded to must have been home on furlough, or from some temporary cause, when he learned of the advance of Hawley from Edinburgh towards the West, and joined his regiment to meet his fate. The most of the Glasgow volunteers served without pay.

After this digression we have to state that, previous to the breaking up of the Dean of Guild Court, a most important matter was introduced by Mr. Hannan, the Sub-Dean. He stated that for some time past he had observed, with much anxiety and uneasiness, the numerous applications which had of late come before them for the erection of high buildings in narrow streets and lanes, and

in all of which there was the greatest indifference exhibited as to the provision for light and air. He thought that the Court should make some effort to remedy this evil, which would, in due course, tell bitterly on the comfort and health of the population. This important matter had at one time been brought under the notice of the Town Council by ex-Bailie Smith, and he believed that the proposal then made, if carried out, would have a most beneficial operation, and would not in any way interfere with the fair scope to which builders were entitled. Several other members of the Court expressed their entire concurrence in the remarks made by Mr. Hannan, and their wish that the matter should again be brought urgently under the notice of the Town Council. In the absence of the Lord Dean, the further consideration of the matter was delayed. It is our opinion that the public are much indebted to Mr. Hannan for the very mention of this subject: and we trust the Court will take such steps in the matter as may induce the Council to procure a Buildings Act for Glasgow; for we are certain that no general bill will meet the peculiarities of this overcrowded and rapidly-advancing community.

The Court then adjourned.

GLASGOW IN THE OLDEN TIME

OR

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

OF

MEN AND THINGS IN GLASGOW

ABOUT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH
AND BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURIES

CONTRIBUTED BY "ALIQUIS"
TO THE *GLASGOW HERALD* IN JUNE AND JULY 1849.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages are truly Random Recollections ; as they were not written till a few months ago, when they were first jotted from memory, or rather (as a metaphysician would have it) from recollection, in consequence of a casual suggestion which was made to me by Mr. Pagan of the *Herald*.

They could have been greatly extended ; but they may suffice to give the reader some idea of what was seen in Glasgow fifty years since : of scenes and doings not a little unique, which, if not in some manner recorded, would soon pass into oblivion.

MATHIE HAMILTON, M.D., *Glasguensis*,
formerly Surgeon to the London, Potosi, Paz, and Peruvian
Mining Company ; Physician to Military
Hospitals in Peru, etc.

GLASGOW, *January 1851.*

GLASGOW IN THE OLDEN TIME.

(1849.)

VOLUNTEERS IN GLASGOW DURING THE WAR OF 1793.

THESE consisted of two battalions of infantry and a squadron of light cavalry, also a body of musketeers, called the Armed Association, but which did not attract much notice.

The first battalion was originally formed of 350 men, but prior to the peace of Amiens it had 500. They clothed themselves, and served without pay, but their arms were from Government. They were known as the "gentlemen volunteers," and had, when in full-dress, coats of scarlet cloth, trimmed with gold lace.

The other battalion was above 800 strong, dressed in blue and scarlet, were clothed and paid by Government, and attained a high state of discipline ; appearing like troops of the line.

The cavalry was a splendid corps, and was commanded by Mr. Dennistoun. They found everything at their own expense—dress, scarlet and gold. Altogether, their appearance when on duty was imposing, and their complete state of discipline, as seen while charging in King's Park at the review in the year 1800, is still remembered by some spectators of it.¹

These battalions were much exercised in firing balls at targets. They marched from Trongate by High Street to the margin of the Molendinar Burn, outside the wall of the churchyard, and fired across the ravine at targets, which were placed on the face

¹ On that day the standard was carried by Mr. Benjamin Mathie, and in 1850² the survivors of the corps are said to be only six, viz. Messrs. James Oswald, Robert Reid, Robert Wallace, Robert Sheriff, James Buchanan, and Gilbert Kennedy.

² Robert Reid ("Senex"), the last of the corps, died in 1865.

of the woody precipice then known as the "Fir-park," now the Necropolis; but at that period it was a most romantic-looking locality.

They went in columns of three or four companies at a time, each company having its own target, which caused much competition among them; and on returning at about 9 A.M. from these bloodless contests, the squads, with their targets carried in front as proofs of their relative dexterity, the enlivening sounds of martial music, the shouts of the accompanying crowd, and a fine morning being generally chosen for these "wapinshaws," the scene caused no little excitement on the streets.

After the peace of Amiens in 1802, these troops were discharged, and delivered their arms to the Government. The first battalion gave up theirs under attendant circumstances which proved the very inefficient state of the city police force in those days. The battalion paraded inside the inclosed space at George Square, which then showed no shrubbery; nor was all the square built, and in the vicinity there were both gardens and many trees. The regiment mustered in full force, and in sections marched out by the gate, inside of which is now seen the statue of Sir John Moore. Five companies marched first; then the colours and the band of music, followed by the other wing of the corps. Much interest was excited in the city by this the last appearance of these patriotic gentlemen soldiers, as they marched through Miller, Argyll, Trongate, and King Streets, to the Merchants' Hall in Bridgegate, to lodge their colours and arms. On that day the Glasgow "chaps" were assembled in great strength in Bridgegate, for fun and mischief. When the troops were within the hall, the mob on the street formed a large circle at the entrance; and the street being wet, they availed themselves of it to assail more effectually one another, but more especially to pelt the volunteers as they came out of the hall with various ugly missiles, which were used by the mob, and made more offensive by having been first submitted to the gutters; the result of which, was a defacement of the uniforms of many, and injury to the person of more than one of the gentlemen. The other battalion, 800 strong, marched to the barrack square and laid down their

arms ; after which, the ten companies of the regiment, separately, put their officers into coaches, with music outside ; and the discharged volunteers, acting as horses, pulled the coaches through the principal streets of the city, to the cheering strains of martial music, and huzzas of the populace.

(1849.)

GLASGOW VOLUNTEERS DURING THE WAR OF 1803.

Britain and France went to war again in May 1803, when such a burst of military enthusiasm was exhibited by all classes in Glasgow as has been rarely seen in any community. When the French threatened to invade this country, thousands of young men formed themselves into squads or corps, to practice military evolutions, such as marching and wheeling. They in some cases had instructors, who (it was said) were paid for their exertions by patriotic individuals of both sexes. These would-be soldiers were neither armed nor clothed with uniforms ; but some of the corps had both colours and music, to the sounds of which they perambulated the streets and outskirts of the city, in some cases to visit their patrons and display their efficiency at drill, and in others merely to exhibit themselves to a gazing crowd.

Two of these corps were more particularly noticed as to number, organisation, and music. One used to march to the premises of Mr. John Swanston, whose lady was patroness of the corps, and who, as was believed, spent money on it freely. The house was north from the Royal Infirmary, and was turned into a fever hospital. It was on the site of the present Blind Asylum. The other corps was patronised by Mr. Stewart of Glasgow Bleachfield, whose house was near the Monkland Canal, and within whose policies was a grove, where in ancient times, according to tradition, the Druids had exercised their sanguinary religious ceremonies : that locality is now totally changed. The greater part of these volunteers being variously engaged during day, it was chiefly at night when these displays were made, and during the ferment

which followed the outbreak of the war, when the talk in all circles was about the "French coming over," during a *fog*, a latitude was given for the exhibition of warlike propensities, which in other circumstances, it may be supposed, would not have been tolerated by the local authorities. At that epoch people in Glasgow, when in bed, and occasionally after midnight, were awakened from sleep by the roll of the drum and sound of the trumpet; and they lay listening to the continued and measured tramp of large bodies of these would-be warriors. It was whispered at the time that the Supreme Government not only winked at, but very properly, though occultly, encouraged such demonstrations.

The volunteer force which was formed in Glasgow in 1803-4 consisted of a squadron of light cavalry, similar in dress and general appearance to the former. The infantry formed eight battalions. One was known as the "gentlemen sharpshooters," a splendid corps of 700 men—Colonel Corbet. They paid all their own expenses. The old yeomanry formed the battalion, which was commanded by Mr. Craigie, and afterwards by Mr. Kirkman Finlay. This corps was now about 900 strong, and was distinguished for its complete state of discipline. The Highlanders formed a magnificent corps of 700 men, dressed in the full Highland garb—Colonel M'Allister commander, and subsequently Mr. Samuel Hunter. The Trades' battalion was under Colonel Flynn, and consisted of 600. The grocers formed a handsome corps of 600 men—commanded by Mr. Charles Walker. Mr. John Geddes was Colonel of the Anderston regiment, 900 strong, and which ultimately attained a high degree of discipline. The canal volunteers were commanded by Mr. Baird, who employed at his works most of the corps, above 300 very stout men, and two field-pieces, with everything complete for working them. Lastly, there was a corps called most appropriately "the Ancients;" it consisted of about 300 gentlemen, who, like the cavalry and the rifle corps, served without pay and clothed themselves. These Ancients were discharged by General Wemyss in 1804.

Thus it appears that the military force in Glasgow at that period was about 5000 men, besides the troops in garrison, which generally was a battalion of the line, and one of militia; also

dragoons and artillery. The drilling of so many caused much bustle in the town at first; but being conducted methodically, the excitement soon subsided. The Green was the grand arena for their evolutions, but other points were also selected, and during the winter of 1803-4 various public buildings (including the nave of the Cathedral) were used, in which the din of arms was heard both early and late, and the citizen soldiers seen at drill by torch or candle light.

Among so many some of course appeared more prominent than others, and one of these notables was a gentleman who occasionally acted as fogleman of the rifle corps; he was not only the tallest of a hundred thousand people, but also displayed in his person the phenomenon of *tria juncta in uno*, being a merchant, a soldier, and pastor of a Christian congregation.

The chief of the Anderston regiment is still remembered for his very martial figure, as seen on his magnificent black Arabian, armed with a long sword, and decorated with a gaudy cocked hat of more than ordinary dimensions; also such a nasal organ as should have delighted an esteemed and venerable Professor, who in days of yore thus addressed his class (*ex cathedra*), "Gentlemen, always when you wish to portray a clever fellow, be sure to put a big nose on him." The Ancients consisted of gentlemen, many of whom exhibited in their persons not only the "scar and yellow leaf," but also a rotundity of body ill adapted for the fatigue concomitant on warlike operations. Surely patriotism must have glowed with ardour in those gentlemen, thus inducing them often to abandon the pleasures of the family circle and the festive board, and to trudge to the Flesher's Haugh, with musket on shoulder, and there attempt to do what was contrary to the laws of nature. When these gentlemen were ordered to fire in single files, so far well; but when they attempted a volley in line, or by companies, or sections, they seemed to be imitating bushrangers; but a sore trial for them was when an attempt was made to dress the line; for in consequence of the monstrous inequalities of their mortal coils, it was found to be impracticable to make their bellies present what in a military sense is called a good line, without at the same time putting both heads and extremities out of it.

There is reason to suppose that the learned Professor (Meikleham), while with sword in hand he attempted to drill and form into line men who varied in weight from about eight to twenty stones, soon found the task to be as difficult as how to square the circle. The Ancients were discharged by General Wemyss, a few weeks prior to the grand review in the Green by General Lord Moira, in 1804. They were nicknamed the "Belly-gerants."

(1849.)

WANT OF POLICE, AND BURNING OF THE TRON OR LAIGH KIRK.

Prior to the year 1800 no efficient police force existed in Glasgow, though at that date the population, suburbs included, was about eighty thousand.

Those who are too young to have seen the city fifty or sixty years ago, and who are cognisant of the scenes now almost every day exhibited in its police courts, might wonder how people were able to live here in those days without police; but with the aid of town's officers and their staves, with their long red coats swinging about the calves of their legs, people managed to jog on in spite of some ugly accidents—such as an occasional murder, street robbery, assault on the person, and stone-battles on the streets, etc.; but petty thefts and attacks on property were much less frequent than now, even allowing for the great increase of population.

During the olden time, and till the first Police Bill was obtained in 1800, the guardians of the city during the night were the burgesses or freemen craftsmen, who had to serve in rotation or find a substitute. They appointed their captain for the night, and for a guard-house were allowed the use of the Laigh Kirk session-house, which was attached to the church, both of which were totally destroyed by fire on the 8th of February 1793. The guard being out going their rounds, had left a fire as usual in the session-house, without any one to take care of the premises, when some of the members of a society, who were the disciples of

Thomas Paine, and who designated themselves the "Hell-fire Club," being on their way home from the club, and excited with liquor, entered the session-house in a frolic. While warming themselves at the fire, and indulging in jokes against one another as to their individual capacity to resist heat, with reference to an anticipated residence in the headquarters of the club, they placed what inflammable materials were at hand on the fire to increase it; and ultimately having in bravado wrenched off and placed some of the timbers of the session-house on the ignited mass, they could no longer endure the heat, and fled in dismay from the house, which contained much dry wood, as it was seated like a church. It was soon a mass of fire, and the flames caught the church, which was totally destroyed in a terrific conflagration, so that on the north side of Trongate, between it and Bell Street, where Antigua Place in Nelson Street now is, a quantity of hay in stack was with difficulty saved from the embers which were wafted through the air from the blazing church. The parties thus implicated were so astounded at their own folly and wickedness, and so afraid of the consequences, as to abscond and go abroad to different places, where, as was said, most, if not all of them, died miserably, which might have been predicted by any one who was aware of their vicious habits.

Prior to the burning of the church a party of said club went to one of the churchyards at midnight, and with a trumpet, etc., endeavoured to turn into ridicule the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead.¹

(1849.)

THE RIVER AND THE GREEN.

Fifty years ago the Clyde below the bridge at Jamaica Street was much narrower than now, being confined both by nature and

¹ About forty years ago it was stated by a citizen that he had been a member of the Hell-fire Club, and though, as he affirmed, not present at the burning of the session-house, yet detailed with prolixity the whole transaction; also, that one of the party, Hugh Adamson, who went to the churchyard with a trumpet, etc., was hanged at the Cross on 5th of June 1805. (See page 263.)

art. On the south side of the harbour, near the bridge, the ground presented a beautiful green slope, extending far into the middle of what is now the harbour ; and during the proper season the said slope or bank was profusely adorned with daisies and other spring flowers—so secluded then was that locality which now teems with life and the operations of busy men. Further down, the river was artificially contracted by jetties, which were formed at short distances, with expectations that in due time the spaces on the banks between the jetties might be filled by the matters there deposited during the flow and efflux of the tides, and that so the river might become deeper and fitter for navigation. The result of such engineering work was to obstruct a proper race or channel for the stream—the gradual shallowing of some places ; and in consequence of the stagnation of the water caused by obstructions below the bridges, the Laigh Green and lower parts of the city were often inundated. Dredging has made the river what it is, not the jetties.

One only of these floods or spates may be noticed as an example of the fear and suffering which, by such visitations, were inflicted on a portion of the population.

In November 1795 much rain fell in Clydesdale, which made the river overflow its banks so as to cover the Fleshers' Haugh, the Laigh Green, and streets in the lower districts of the town ; and thus lay hundreds of dwelling-houses under water. A handsome bridge of stone across the Clyde, opposite Saltmarket Street, was almost built at this date ; but the mass of water in the river was so great as to turn over the bridge, which fell with so much force, and in such a mass, that the recoil of the rolling flood extended not only over the vast expanse of water on the Green, but with a force which burst open the doors of the washing-house, and also threw down a portion of the old stone wall which enclosed the Green on its northern boundary.¹

At that period the low green was often inundated, and presented various inequalities of surface ; but in most parts of it was seen a fine coat of verdure, the grass being long and well adapted for grazing ; also many stately trees were there, all along

¹ A stately stone wall 2500 ells in length. *Vide M'Ure's History of Glasgow, 1736.*

and inside the wall above noted. These trees extended from the gate which was opposite Saltmarket to the commencement of what was called the "Serpentine" walks, at the south end of Charlotte Street. These walks went over the ground on which Monteith Row is now built, and on towards the eastern limits of the Green, and were much used as a promenade, giving a romantic and sylvan aspect to this favourite place of resort. One very large elm-tree deserves notice here, as in a plan of the Green published in the *Glasgow Magazine* in 1783, the site of that once celebrated tree is omitted. It stood quite alone on the Laigh Green in front of the old washing-house, and at the bend of the ancient gravel walk, which was between the washing-house and the tree, the latter being west and south from the entrance through the Greendyke from Charlotte Street. That tree was distinguished from all others by its insular position, its size, and its being so well adapted to give shelter from a sudden shower, or the solar rays. It was called the "big tree," and about the year 1800 it was an ornament pleasing to behold, when, during the summer months, its widespread branches were covered with beautiful dark-green foliage. This once famous tree afforded cover for a few minutes to General Lord Moira, his numerous staff, and a guard of honour, on the day of the grand review in 1804. It has been asserted that said ancient tree was the original represented in the city arms; but this, of course, is quite apocryphal. This tree being in a state of decay, and being in the way of modern improvements, was removed along with various other relics of bygone ages. About thirty years ago many hundred thousands of cubic feet of rubbish and earth were laid on the Laigh Green, thus raising its surface several feet, in some parts ten feet; so that any geological theory which might be formed on that locality, without a knowledge of this artificial elevation of the Green, must be erroneous.

Fifty years ago people were often seen on the jetties in the river fishing with rod and line, and during a whole summer's day not even a solitary sail appeared to disturb their operations. In 1804 juvenile fishers were on a jetty within half a mile of Jamaica Street, from five A.M. till five P.M., in which time no

vessel passed except a boat or wherry with herrings; and in 1807 much interest was excited in the city by the arrival at the Broomielaw of a "ship," which was only a brig of about one hundred tons; but having two masts and cross-trees, it was a rare sight in that locality; so that, to behold it, thousands of persons went to the harbour; nor was the interest thus excited merely transient, for it continued longer than a world's wonder, which, it is said, lasts only nine days.

(1849.)

FRENCH PRISONERS IN GLASGOW.

Very few of this generation are aware of the fact, that among the many stirring events in our city towards the close of the last century, was that of the arrival of a numerous party of French prisoners of war, who had been captured on the Irish coast. They were landed at Greenock, and marched in one column to Glasgow, *en route* to the depot for prisoners of war. About the close of the year 1796-7 a large military force went forth from this city to escort these unfortunates; for both the volunteer corps and regular troops conducted them into town. An immense multitude witnessed their entrance and procession through the city—both windows and housetops being occupied throughout the line of march to see them pass to their lodgings in the Old Correction House (the officers were lodged in the Tontine at the Cross), the grand entrance to which was on the east side of Shuttle Street by an antique archway, secured by an enormous gate, which was immediately to the north where College Street is now built. These Frenchmen being safely located, were served with a good meal, each of them being allowed one pound of beef-steak, bread, and a bottle of porter; yet some persons were most unjustly scandalised because some of the poor Frenchmen grumbled at the quantity of food thus given to them—though at that period a pound of beef in Glasgow was twenty-two and a half ounces. But it should not excite surprise though in such circumstances

some were not contented; for among so many there might be some of them with a canine appetite; besides, it is known that the Gauchos in South America can eat at a time several pounds of beef; and Vaillant states, that when he was in South Africa his Hottentot servants, after an involuntary fast, ate at one meal of roasted elephant's flesh, *twelve pounds each man.*

(1849.)

BATTLE OF CAMPERDOWN.

Fifty years since the London mail-coach arrived at Glasgow about seven A.M.; and when the bearer of great news, such as a victory by the British arms, it was the duty of the mail-guard to fire three shots from the coach while it was running between the barracks and the Cross.

When the news of Lord Duncan's decisive triumph was brought, the shots were discharged and the city bells were rung at noon; but the local authorities resolved against any illumination, because (it was said) the Dutch were Protestants, and also that they were forced into hostilities against us by the French Republic. So there was only a transient illumination at night by carrying burning tar barrels through some of the principal streets.

St. Andrew's Square in those days was a most aristocratic locality. The Royal Bank was in the south-east corner, and both dwelling-houses and places of business, of the first class, were situated in the square.

On that evening an illuminated procession met in front of St. Andrew's Church; thence began its peregrinations, going up Saltmarket and High Streets to the Greyfriars, or, as it was then called, the "Old Grammar School Wynd," through which the procession marched by Canon and Ingram Streets, stopping at the Junction of Glassford Street and Trongate. The crowd at that point being in the act of throwing about burning embers, were attacked by the civic guard, and speedily dispersed. On that, as on all other similar occasions, extreme satisfaction with

the battle was displayed by the masses, which satisfaction was always in proportion to the amount of destruction supposed to have been, by British arms, inflicted on the enemies of their country.

(1849.)

LOYAL PREACHERS IN GLASGOW.

These were numerous, including men of every denomination ; but some rev. gentlemen stood out more prominently than others.

One sermon, which was preached and printed during the war of 1793 was much noticed at that period. The text was Jeremiah vi. 16. The author was the Rev. William Porteous, D.D., whose wife was maternal aunt to General Sir John Moore ; and the Doctor was the author of a tract on the subject of giving alms to the poor, which called forth against him, from a section of the people, a torrent of unmerited abuse ; so that the talented and rev. gentleman got the nickname of "buff the beggars," verifying, that he who serves the public works to an unthankful master.

About the same time another rev. D.D. intimated from the pulpit on a National (King's) fast-day, that in the event of its being necessary for the fighting portion of his hearers to march against any invading foe, he was willing to go with them ; and those who knew the rev. historian believed that he would have done so, though he was well known as an amiable and unassuming gentleman.

Early in the war of 1803, and prior to the destruction of the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar, a worthy Dissenting minister informed his congregation (then the most numerous in town) from the pulpit on a Sunday morning that he had just received news of the French army being embarked to come over and invade us ; which was surely a novel piece of information to his flock, at such a time and in such a place.

(1849.)

A MURDERER.

One day in autumn in 1796 a stout well-made man of short stature was ushered into a room of a house in High Street, near the University; he brought fancy-coloured shoes for a child three and a half years old, who was present at the reception of this being, who lived not far off. On this occasion he was without a coat, having sleeves to his vest, and a leathern apron. He appeared to be, as he was, a man in easy circumstances, for he possessed some property, wrought himself as a shoemaker, and employed workmen, and expected soon to be made an elder in a church. He did not sit, but stood at a table in the centre of the apartment, spoke little, and soon disappeared.

During this brief interview the sun shone brilliantly on his face, which was being scanned by his infantile observer; and, in consequence of what occurred within a few weeks after, it was treasured in his memory, that the man who had brought the shoes did not look on the face of the lady who spoke to him, and that he had a dark visage, a sullen forbidding countenance, one which did

“ Cream and mantle like a standing pool.”

This man was James M'Kean, the murderer of Mr. Buchanan, the carrier between Glasgow and Lanark, who, after arranging as usual for the journey, which was begun generally in the evening, and being in the habit of carrying on his person to Lanark parcels of bank notes, had been (as he mentioned before leaving his quarters in Gallowgate that fatal night) invited by M'Kean to drink tea with him in his house on 7th October 1796.

The circumstances of this preconcerted and horrid murder are shortly these, as given by Mrs. M'Kean, who, on the fatal evening, was at home with her daughter, both of whom were of good character, and respected individuals. The house in which this foul deed was perpetrated was antiquated, and does not now

exist. It consisted of shops off the pavement, and one flat above with attics; both the flat and attics were occupied by M'Kean, the latter being his workshop. The entrance was by an outside stair, which was on the north side of Old Castlepen's Close, High Street, and to M'Kean's workshop there was a separate stair off the landing-place at his house door, which had a knocker. On opening said door, a lobby appeared, at the extremity of which was the door of the room where the deed was done. This was the principal apartment; it fronted the street, and had a closet concealed by a door, and was empty at the time of the murder. Entering the outer door, and off the lobby, on the right was a kitchen, and off it there was a room also fronting the street, which was used by the family as a parlour. The city bells had rung the usual peal at six P.M., while M'Kean, with his wife and daughter, were in said parlour at tea, when the knocker was heard, and M'Kean, who had not mentioned that he expected a visitor, but who seemed to be watching for something, started towards the outer door, opened it, admitted his victim, and conducted him to the room with the closet. He had been absent from the parlour a few minutes only, when he appeared in the kitchen, took a cloth or towel, and, in haste, returned, shutting the door of the room after him; almost immediately he again appeared in the parlour, and hurriedly gathered to him the crumbcloth of the carpet and from under the table, at which were sitting his wife and daughter. Mrs. M'Kean now became alarmed and inquired why he acted so? He testily replied, "I have a drunk man with me," and hurried again to the room with the cloth, followed by his wife into the lobby, but he slammed the door on her and fixed it with the bolt inside; and then his wife, opening the house door, went to the stair clapping her hands, and shrieking that murder was in her dwelling. M'Kean, on hearing the alarm thus given by his wife, came forth into the lobby, where were hanging his hat and greatcoat, when, putting on the hat and having the coat on his arm, he ran down stairs, having, as he passed his wife, shaken his clenched fist at her, saying, "Woman, you have done for me now!" Bailie Wardlaw and other authorities were soon at the fatal spot, and sent Mrs. M'Kean and daughter to a place of

security ; but their innocence being evident, they were soon liberated. On inspection of the premises it was seen that the murderer had prepared for his guest, not a friendly repast, but a razor, the blade of which was fixed to its handle so as to prevent the one from moving on the other.

Mr. Buchanan, who was a good-looking man, of large size, and much esteemed by the public, had been seated in an arm-chair, when M'Kean, from behind, with the razor, nearly severed the head from the body. He then abstracted from the person of his victim about £120, in bank notes, and a watch, which were found on him when made a prisoner at Lamash, in Arran, on his way to Ireland. The razor and M'Kean's watch were seen as left by him in the room ; and the body, heavy though it was, had been dragged by the murderer from the fatal chair to the closet, and there deposited by him, with the head downwards, and the feet laid up against the wall, all which had been done prior to the first appearance of the murderer for the cloth or towel. M'Kean exonerated his wife and all others, admitted his guilt, and expedited punishment by forcing on the trial at Edinburgh ; and on 25th January 1797 he was executed at Glasgow, where his skeleton is still to be seen in the University. This great criminal was of sober and quiet habits, and professedly religious ; but (as was stated by his wife) had been noted for being extremely covetous. It was also reported that he was of a cruel disposition, having when a youth put to death his mother's cat by boiling it in a caldron ; also, he was suspected of having been implicated in the death of his mother, who was found drowned in the canal, by whose decease he inherited a small property. While under sentence of death he was, with all delicacy, interrogated by a clergyman who attended him as to the truth of the reports which had been in circulation against him as to his mother's death ; but the only answer obtained from M'Kean was, " Doctor, can you keep a secret ?" and an answer in the affirmative being given, the culprit replied, " So can I." (See also vol. ii.)

(1849.)

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY IN THE OLDEN TIME.

Now it is difficult to form an idea of what was seen and heard in Glasgow on every 4th of June, at the period under notice, viz. the early years of this century. The morning was ushered in by discharges of firearms and large fires on the streets; also effigies of "John Wilkes and Thomas Paine," which at a late hour were burned by the rabble amidst shouts and execrations. Many houses were tastefully embellished with flowers and branches of trees; and horses in the mail and stage coaches, drays, etc., were adorned in like manner. After nine o'clock A.M. the trumpets of the cavalry and riflemen, and the drums and fifes of six battalions of volunteers, were blowing and beating through the streets of the city, which then was only about one-fourth of its present size; the object of such a hubbub was to call together the members of the corps to their points of muster, each regiment having a gathering tune for itself. The troops being all assembled in the Green, most of them with oak leaves in their caps, the troops from the barracks included, the line was formed, and then the Lord Provost and Magistrates, preceded by the Town Officers, all in full dress, made their appearance in front of the line, and having interchanged compliments with the General, the troops were put in motion.

Ammunition for six volleys was given to each soldier; and three volleys having been fired in the Green, followed by a general hurrah, in which the Magistrates joined, by taking off and waving their cocked hats, a movement was then made towards the Cross, Trongate, and Argyll Street. The dragoons and artillery who were in King's Park, on the right of the line, marched first, then the troops from the barracks, followed by the volunteers, moving off the Green from the right, so that at all times it occurred that some of the troops were in position at the Cross before the left wing of the army (which extended nearly to the Herd's House), had wholly left its ground on the Upper Green.

On such occasions the line of troops was always formed fronting the Calton Green ; and the route to the Cross was by the old gravel walk, passing the then washing-house and the once famous "big tree," issuing by the gate in the dyke opposite Saltmarket Street. When the line was formed on the streets, it on some days extended from the Cross, at the head of the Gallowgate, to beyond Jamaica Street, on what was then called Anderston Walk, that depending on the number of regular troops in town ; and, also, because in some cases the force from the barracks did not parade at the Cross. The whole line then fired three volleys, which closed the military show. During the first years of the war of 1793 the artillery was discharged at the Cross along with the small arms ; but windows were damaged by concussion of the air, and it was not repeated. The bells of the city were rung from about five till seven P.M. ; and at six o'clock the Magistrates appeared in public at the Cross, on the top of the broad stairs in front of the Tolbooth, to drink to the health of the King, etc., in three bumpers ; and after each they threw the empty glasses to the crowd on the street, which of course caused a scramble. The Magistrates then retired to the Town Hall, in which were a number of the city notables and officers of the garrison, invited by the authorities to drink wine. A military band of music was within doors, and on the street a party of soldiers, who fired a volley to every toast given in the hall, from a window of which a flag, with the Glasgow arms on it, was held out to the military as a signal for them to fire, and at least twenty bumpers went down between six and eight o'clock, when the gentlemen separated—some of them very well pleased, both with themselves and others. The King's birthday was at that period so observed in Glasgow by multitudes, that probably a greater quantity of wines, rum-punch, and other liquor was consumed in it than in any other city of equal extent in the British Empire.

Meanwhile, since the bells began to ring, Trongate and the adjoining streets have been in an uproar with discharges of fire-arms and various sorts of fire-works, that being the chief attraction till about nine or ten o'clock, when a shout from a multitude at a distance is heard, and at same time the glare of reflected light is

seen, being that of burning tar barrels, conveyed to the Cross to make a bonfire. A blazing mass is now on the street, in front of the Cross-steeple, and how to support and increase it is the desideratum ; but not long, for some of the rabble, more daring and less scrupulous than others, soon find materials in anything combustible on which they can lay their hands—such as hand and wheel barrows of all kinds, empty casks, loose doors and windows, shutters, articles of furniture, ladders, sign-boards, pieces of builders' scaffolding—all these have been committed to the fire. And on one occasion the excited crowd went so far that the life of a watchman was nearly being sacrificed. In gathering together all manner of combustible materials, the mob made seizure of one of the watchmen's boxes, numbers of which in those days stood in many of the streets for the use of the police. On this occasion the aged guardian of the night had ensconced himself in his box, and being, in spite of the hubbub and rejoicing going on around him, more inclined to sleep than to watch, he had fallen into a sound dose. The fated sentry-box, with its nodding inmate, was lifted on the shoulders of a dozen stout men, and hurried towards the roaring bonfire. The jolting awakened the sleeping Charlie, and he only escaped the flames by leaping out of the box when within a few feet of the fire. And now the flames ascend to a great elevation, so as to excite fears for the safety of adjacent buildings. Another night the mob, infuriated with a desire for mischief, made a vile attempt to burn the little door which gave entrance to the prison from the pavement through the steeple—that door which, in *Rob Roy*, is represented as giving ingress and egress to Bailie Nicol Jarvie and his friends. That evening, the civil power being unable to subdue the rioters, troops from the barracks were ordered up Gallowgate to the Cross, and moving at the charge-step, with bayonets presented, they cleared the Cross and its vicinity, when the city fire-engines were put in operation, and soon extinguished the ignited mass. Thus ends an attempt to give a brief and not overcharged memento of the manner in which the King's birthday was celebrated in Glasgow in "the good old times."

(1849.)

STONE BATTLES IN THE STREETS.

Prior to the operation of an efficient police force, stone battles on the streets of the city, between numerous parties of young men, were of frequent occurrence. These contests were not like what happened here more recently, or may still be seen among children; for about fifty years ago some portions of the town were often in a state of turmoil and alarm from the appearance of hundreds of combatants, who, divided into two hostile bodies, fought against each other with an obstinacy more like that seen among savages than residents in a civilised community.

The combats usually happened in the evening, after business hours, and during the summer months. In some cases it was only street against street, and in others the war was more extended, being between different portions of the town—such as those who lived north of the College, and who wished to join in the *mêlée*, were invited to fight against those who resided south from it, and *vice versa*. At times individuals assumed the post of leaders, and negotiations were conducted between them, and stipulations agreed on, by which the belligerents on one side were not to be molested by their opponents, except when engaged in the fight, which agreements were generally observed.

It is not intended to give a history of such petty, but not always bloodless, warfare; it is merely noticed to illustrate a state of society and feeling which prevailed here at this time. Nor is it alleged that man, when not held in check by education and legal restraint, is always a fighting animal.

Perhaps these pugnacious propensities were partly induced by the national events then in progress; by the wars and rumours of wars, which were topics of anxiety and conversation in every circle of society.

It is known that a numerous portion of those young men who so pertinaciously figured as mimic soldiers in the streets of Glasgow were subsequently engaged in contests more terrible in their

results ; and that many of them fell on the battlefields of foreign lands.

In most cases, during these street brawls, the civic power seemed to be asleep, as nothing was done in the way of prevention ; for only when something extraordinary had happened did the town's officers appear ; and in most cases just in time to be too late for the prevention of mischief. When the officers did turn out, and especially if supported by a Magistrate and his *cocked hat*, that generally was effectual in scattering the forces. One evening the army of the south, as it was called (those who resided south from the University), were so hard pushed by their opponents as to be compelled to take refuge at headquarters, *i.e.* by climbing over the walls which enclosed the burying-ground attached to the Blackfriars' Church. The attacking party rushed into the avenue to scale the walls of the churchyard, and one of them, more daring than his fellows, had mounted the parapet, but was felled to the ground by one of the besieged, who, with a piece of a decayed coffin which had a nail projecting from it, so struck his opponent, that the nail penetrated the cranium. The nailed champion was carried off the field ; and he who inflicted the injury fled from the city, nor was it known that he ever returned. That night there was a grand display of officers, with Magistrates and cocked-hats, it having been reported (erroneously) that a man had been killed.

The only other of these affairs to be noted here occurred about the beginning of this century, between a party of young gentlemen who lived in and about Queen Street, and others from George Street, etc. ; the latter being led on by a youth, who became an officer of rank in India, and died there. The contest was in Ingram and Queen Streets, or the Cow Loan, as both of them were then called. One of the two parties had its rallying point at the front of the splendid mansion in Queen Street, which was built by Mr. Cunningham, and consequently occupied by one of the merchant princes of the city. It now forms the anterior portion of the Royal Exchange. The other post was on the east side of a chapel, which was at that time on the north side of Ingram Street. Both of these places were laid with gravel and plenty of pebbles,

which afforded ammunition, a thing in those street fights which was often a desideratum.

Queen Street then was about out of town ; there were no shops, and only a few houses in that quarter. It was a very dull locality, so that even foot passengers were few and far between.

(1849.)

THE OLD JUSTICIARY HALL, FRONTING HIGH STREET.

The entrance to it was from Trongate, by a double flight of steps, which were known as the "Broad Stairs," in front of the Tolbooth, and led to a spacious landing-place or stair-head, on which the Magistrates drank to the Sovereign's health on his natal day. On the stair-head there was a large door, which communicated with the Justiciary Hall, which fronted High Street, and was altogether lighted from it. The hall was small for such a city, and so ill adapted for hearing that evidently acoustics had not been attended to in its formation. In those days the great door was kept by the town's officers, who took what money they could obtain from such visitors to the Court as had not the *entrée*.

In April 1805 I, having paid a shilling to the officers at the door, was admitted, and for the first time saw the "Lords" on the judgment-seat in their robes, and before them many members of the bar dressed in all the trappings of office, "in solemn silence all," till a prisoner was placed at the bar to be tried for a capital crime, said to have been perpetrated in Airdrie. That morning Adamson¹ and Scott had been sentenced to death for having forged and uttered notes of the Ship Bank ; and the trial now to be noticed occupied the Court fourteen hours, from ten o'clock A.M. until midnight. Then, as now, the public were excluded from Court during similar trials, according to the evidence to be given ; but in this case all were allowed to remain in Court during the whole trial, which, though not reported in the public papers, was both amusing and instructive. Many witnesses were examined,

¹ See page 249.

and the advocate for the Crown made a speech, which took two hours to deliver, against the prisoner; and his counsel addressed the jury in an eloquent harangue equally long. Then the Judge summed up all on both sides, in a discourse which lasted three hours, after which the jury acquitted the prisoner, who, in the opinion of some who heard the case, should not have been brought to trial. The Lords Craig and Armadale were the Judges; but that day the whole work of the bench was directed by Armadale (Sir William Honyman), and well was it done by him.

At five P.M. the advocates and the jury were served with soup, etc., *ad libitum*, for a potful was brought and set down in the Court-room. Their Lordships had only wine and fruit placed before them on the bench; but Lord Armadale took only an orange, and not a drop of strong drink during the whole trial, and left the bench once only, for a few minutes, during fifteen hours. His Lordship, while charging the jury, referred at length to ancient history, both sacred and profane; noticed the rape of Jacob's daughter, and the terrible revenge which was inflicted by her brothers; the violation of the Princess Helen and the woeful results, ending in the destruction of Troy; also, the calamities which overtook Italy consequent on the rape of the Sabine women by the Romans, etc.; after which illustrations, and advert- ing to the evidence, he advised the jury to acquit the prisoner, which was done.

Judging from the improved mode of preparing cases and conducting trials now (1849) before the Circuit Court, it is probable that such a case as that above noticed would not be brought to trial; or if so, that it would be disposed of in one-fourth of the time which was given to it, otherwise the criminal business of the Courts could scarcely be overtaken; for it is evident that crime has increased much in this locality of late years, far beyond what was experienced fifty years since, after allowing for the vast increase of population.

(1849.)

REMINISCENCES OF CERTAIN LOCALITIES.

Within the last half century Glasgow has been so prodigiously enlarged, its boundaries have been so extended, so many green fields and secluded spots are now covered with stately edifices as to strike the beholder with astonishment, especially when first seen by those who have been absent during a long period, who, on revisiting old haunts, are perplexed with the metamorphosis which has been effected on scenes of early life. What has now become of the sylvan locality which fifty years since was known as "Dobbie's Loan," particularly that portion of it then called "Lovers' Loan," and which, by tradition, had been used fifteen hundred years ago as a road by the Romans, communicating with their station on the banks of the Molendinar Burn, near the site of the Cathedral. There, fifty years ago, the blackbird, the thrush, and many other songsters of the grove were wont to congregate and hold sweet converse together; for who doubts that the feathered tribes can communicate with one another through the medium of voice? Dobbie's Loan at that time was a beautiful green lane, which extended from the Barony Glebe to near Port-Dundas, and was famous in the estimation of sundry urchins who delighted to go a bird-nesting, occasionally looking for hedgehogs, riding on sheep, holding on by the horns for want of a bridle, and not unfrequently admiring the eccentric movements of hares, while these creatures skipped from hedge to hedge, or bounded over the then verdant lawn. The first innovation made in Dobbie's Loan in modern times was preparatory to the grand masonic and military procession at the laying of the foundation stone of the Asylum for Lunatics, now the Poorhouse. The procession passed up the "Bell of the Brae" and the Rottenrow, down Taylor Street and Dobbie's Loan, to the north-east side of the Asylum. Some hedges in the Loan were then removed, and now that ancient and once secluded locality is known only as a thing which was.

Fifty years ago that now splendid district called Sauchiehall, and its vicinity, with its places, crescents, and terraces, which exhibit hundreds of costly and elegant mansions, more so than some occupied by Continental princes, was in most places during wet weather, only a quagmire. Then it was with difficulty that a foot-passenger could thread his path between the willows (saughs), weeds, stunted hedges, and mud, even when impelled by a love of adventure; and as for any one riding there in a wet season, he soon found himself in a slough of despond.

It would be a curious and instructive statistical fact if ascertained, viz. What was the number of inhabitants, and the annual value of the land and property of all sorts on it, within the space of *one square mile*—having for its eastern and southern limits the north side of Argyll Street and Anderston and the west side of Queen Street—fifty years since, and the amount *now*?

Various interesting geological phenomena in and about the city were observed during the first years of this century when foundations were being dug in the course of local improvements; as, for example:—In George Street there appeared an unlooked-for mud-bed, and near it, also, unexpectedly, an excellent freestone rock. In 1803-4 a range of houses was erected in George Street, on ground which had been in the garden of the Prebend of Hamilton; and after cutting and removing a large quantity of virgin earth, it was discovered that without driving down stakes through a deep bed of mud and water which was seen, a foundation could not be had. Accordingly, the projector of the wished-for houses set two battering rams agoing to sink hundreds of long piles; and two gangs of labourers being employed to pull the ropes attached to the rams, the wily speculator (Mr. John Graham) attended the pile driving, and having liquor on the ground, he often made two of the stakes to be inserted in the mud simultaneously, to be driven home by the gangs, saying to them, "Now, men, pull away, first down will get a dram," which spirit-stirring speech caused a competition between these labourers, which proved that "*they who think do govern those who toil.*"

In 1806, what is now called North Portland Street, off George Street, was a grass-park in which sheep were kept; and after that

date, in 1807-8, when the sheep park was being dug out to build the George Street coach-work, the proprietors were agreeably surprised at finding on the site sufficient stone with which all that mass of building was made, which is to be seen on the east side of Portland Street and towards George Street. Also, in 1802, a chapel, Dr. Wardlaw's, was erected in North Albion Street, which was founded on hundreds of long stakes driven through mud, like that on the north side of George Street already noticed—so singular are the geological features of that locality. In 1802 the ground now known as North Albion Street, between the south side of George and Canon Streets, was occupied for growing vegetables, with only an ancient foot-path between the upper and lower portions of the town.

(1849.)

A SCHOOL IN THE YEAR 1800.

The educated portion of the present generation in this city should be wiser than their grandfathers, for the former have enjoyed educational advantages which were unknown to the latter. Fifty years ago the division of labour principle, as it can be applied to the instruction of youth, was not here acted on as it is now; then there were no normal schools, nor did any philanthropic Mr. Stow adopt such apt means, as has been done of late years by that gentleman and others, to teach "the young idea how to shoot."

Not only was the mode of communicating instruction comparatively defective, but the system on which schools were conducted was bad—being ill adapted for imparting even the elementary parts of education to the young.

Several years' attendance at the one to be noticed gave ample opportunity for observation, and also for reflection afterwards, on the system of that period.

The school was under the care of a gentleman of rare tact as an instructor of youth, and who during a long period was famous as a teacher in the West of Scotland.

He had been engaged nearly half a century instructing the ignorant, and was the author of a work on grammar. He taught English reading, writing, and arithmetic; as well as the higher branches of mathematics, including mensuration and navigation; besides all these he taught, in a special class, the Latin language.

Without any assistant he managed sixty or seventy pupils of all ages, from five years upwards to manhood, and was so popular that the number of pupils was limited only by the size of the schoolroom. The hours for teaching were twenty in a week—four every day excepting Saturday. His place was not a sinecure, for he had such a multiplicity of objects to direct, that it may seem strange he should attempt to do so much. All the students sat at desks, and those of more years, or who were learning the higher parts of mathematics, occupied one side of the room, while all the junior portion were on the other, the master's desk being at the end of the hall, whence, with a good eye, he saw what was being done by the heterogeneous group under his care—having the *taws* lying ready for operation; they were made of black leather, and were a terror to evildoers.

The Bible was much used as a class-book—the chapters of which were read consecutively, including such as the 10th and 12th of Nehemiah. Perhaps some philologist, sufficiently versed in Oriental literature, could explain why juvenile pupils are, or were, obliged to attempt the pronunciation of such hard names, on which does not pend the elucidation of any important chronological fact.

Portions of Scripture, Psalms, and the Catechisms were given as tasks to be said on Fridays, without book—on saying which much stress was laid; but the pupils had little opportunity for displaying their elocutionary powers, though the master, who at that period was an old and grave man, was fond of spouting occasionally, for he both astonished and entertained his youthful auditory from time to time by reading or reciting such pieces as “Mr. Pulteney's Speech on the Jew Bill,” “Satan's Speech to Death,” “The Beggar's Petition,” “Alexander's Feast,” “The Country Bumpkin and Razor Seller,” etc., which pieces, and especially some parts of the latter, were given with a pathos,

humour, and strength of voice which totally eclipsed "Bell Geordie," who at that time was the eloquent, humorous, and very popular city crier.

Every afternoon, before the school was dismissed, the venerable gentleman stood at the door with uplifted hands. He returned thanks to the Almighty, and craved a blessing from the Giver of all good in behalf of his young charge; and during a period of some years he did not once omit that duty, which was always attended to with becoming solemnity, even by those who were most eager to be off.

"From scenes like these a nation's grandeur springs."

Punishments.—The master was a strict disciplinarian, but not a tyrant; for though he often castigated delinquents, he was no respecter of persons, nor was he capricious in his awards, being systematic in the use both of the taws and a cane—the latter being applied exclusively on those pupils who were more advanced in years, even on mates of vessels, and others on that side of the school where the higher branches of mathematics were taught.

When any of these magnates were absorbed in the, to them most fascinating game of "the nine holes," or endeavouring to escape from the labyrinth of the "Walls of Troy," as delineated by a pencil on slate; and while so engaged were descried by the master, they were liable to be started from their reverie by unexpected and terrible whacks on the shoulders from the ratan, wielded by a man weighing at least sixteen stones, who having espied what was in hand, had with the cane softly approximated himself towards them, and having obtained ocular demonstration of the game going on, blows with the cane were heard, which caused "the boldest to hold his breath for a time." These examples, when made, were generally accompanied with a laconic and pithy address from the teacher, such as, "I will not allow you to rob neither yourself nor those who may have sent you here; nor will I permit such bad conduct to corrupt others; if you think that I am harsh, the door is open, and you may walk down stairs;" but the permission to decamp was seldom or never taken.

The taws were used exclusively on the juniors, and were carried by the master in his pocket when going his rounds between the classes ; but when he was at his desk and saw any act or movement contrary to rule, it was his custom to throw the taws, rolled up, at the offender ; and more than forty years' practice enabled him to hit the boy with unerring dexterity. The culprit, on reception of the black messenger, had, *nolens volens*, to carry it *instantly* to the master, viewing it as the signal for punishment without trial, prompt and certain, as when in past ages a bull's head, when presented to a Scottish grandee, gave him warning that he was to be made a head shorter, without the interference of either judge or jury.

When punishment was inflicted, the taws were not used in every case ; for in some he attached a degree of ignominy to the infliction, which was viewed with greater horror than the taws or ratan. In such cases as truants, or those connected with fibbing, etc., they were placed on the floor, holding out a long pole ; and in more aggravated cases the culprit was adorned with a very large wig.

These had been used in that seminary during a long period ; but early in the century some of those juvenile offenders, who incurred the punishment of standing with the wig and pole, had occasionally to submit to the additional ignominy of having their lower jaws decorated with a long black beard, taken from an aged goat, and which was publicly bestowed as a gift to the master by a senior pupil, for the benefit of his junior fellow-students, who, though they had often enjoyed certain comical feats (*Tontine Faces*¹) exhibited by the donor² of the beard, did not thank him for it ; but (like the heir whose father left him a shilling with which to purchase a halter) they wished that he had retained it for his own use only. The odium of appearing with

¹ "Tontine Faces"—a quaint term in Glasgow, meaning comical or distorted, with reference to the heads or faces which are to be seen on the tops of the pillars which support the Town Hall, at the Cross. The hall was begun to be built in 1736, and finished in 1740. The mason was the once famous Mungo Nasmith, who also built St. Andrew's Church, and cut the Tontine Faces.

² Mr. James Balderston, a facetious gentleman, who, with his brothers, William and Robert, attended the school. J. and R. were named in connection with the Dean of Guild Court reports, *vide* "Partick Mills," in *Herald of Monday*, May 21.

the wig, pole, and goat-skin, which seldom happened, was more dreaded by the boys than mere corporal punishment.

Every Friday the youngsters were expected to say the weekly tasks—these being chapters, Psalms, and portions of the Catechism; and the dux of a class was often appointed to act as monitor in hearing the tasks or lessons, which were to be said without books; but very few were able or willing to say the lessons so prescribed; and as defaulters were liable to be kept confined for an hour or two in the schoolroom, if reported to the master by the monitor, strenuous efforts were commonly made to induce those thus “dressed with a little brief authority” to have compassion on their compeers; and the expedient, which seldom failed, was bribery and corruption. Shade of Sir Nathaniel Wraxall! hadst thou been cognisant of the doings here noted, there might have been an *addendum* to thy veracious chronicles of the pecuniary peccadilloes of British legislators; thou hast left on record that sums so great as £500 and £1000 to each man were doled out by the minister in thy time to needy members to make them say yea or nay to a question; but thou couldst truly have averred that such ignoble things as snaps, ginger-nuts, barley-sugar, and other items less evanescent, were given and received *sub rosa* in the beginning of the nineteenth century, in a school in the Bread Close, High Street, nearly opposite the College, to deceive the good old dominic there, and also sundry governors at a distance.

The teacher, Mr. William M'Ilquham, died suddenly in 1803-4. He was not only respected but revered by many who were under his tuition; and was accompanied to his last resting-place, near the Blackfriars' Church, by a crowd of sincere mourners. His son (who changed the name to Meikleham) filled a chair in the University during almost half a century.

(1849.)

MUSIC AND DANCING AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY.

Music, both vocal and instrumental, and also dancing, were then taught in Glasgow with fewer flourishes than now; the

former was professed and taught to classes of both sexes by various individuals ; and among them was Mr. Rivin, as he was usually called (Ruthvin was the name), who was precentor in the Ram's-horn Kirk, and who taught numerous parties of young people to sing ; he often led them in such a manner that their sweet voices had small chance against his pipe.

In that he was not unlike some of the more modern precentors now in churches, who, instead of merely raising and conducting tunes to congregations while engaged in the soul-stirring exercise of psalmody, seem to think it their duty to sing with such exertion of lungs and larynx that ordinary mortals are held at bay.

Pianofortes ("spinnets") were much rarer instruments in houses in this city than they are now, even in proportion to its wealth and population ; only a few of the then citizens seemed to think with Congreve that

" Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

Dancing was then confined almost to the walking of the minuet and *contredanse*, with Roger de Coverley, or bab-at-the-bolster and Highland fling. Waltzes, quadrilles, gallopades, and polkas were at that period either unknown here, or not in fashion.

On the evening of the King's birthday there was always a grand ball in the Assembly Rooms, where the scions of the Glasgow aristocracy figured on "the light fantastic toe;" but the balls, concerts, and practisings of schools were mostly in the Trades' Hall. In those days ladies going to parties in an evening were usually carried in sedan chairs, of which there was a great number in town, carried mostly by Highlanders ; and on any grand occasion, especially without moonlight, it was a sight worth seeing, that of these chairs being hobbled along, each of them with a lantern dangling from its pole, and making darkness visible even when the street lamps were burning ; but before the introduction of gas the oil lamps with which the streets were supplied were often on a windy evening nearly all extinguished, leaving the thoroughfares of the city after business hours in almost total darkness.

(1849.)

THE HANGMAN, AND PUBLIC WHIPPING IN GLASGOW,
FIFTY YEARS AGO.

It may not be known to many of the present time that within the last half century the punishment of public whipping in the streets of this city was frequently seen. The Magistrates, who presided in the Burgh Court, had power to sentence persons convicted there to be confined during any period not exceeding a year; and they could also order convicts to be tied to a cart, taken through the streets of the city, and whipped by the hangman. The places where the whippings were inflicted varied at the discretion of the Magistrates, who of course awarded the degree of punishment in accordance with the enormity of the offence and character of the culprit. In aggravated cases the custom was to conduct the poor and degraded creatures down Gallowgate and Saltmarket, also through the Trongate, to the crossing at Glassford and Stockwell Streets, thence back again to the Cross, and up High Street to the Havannah.¹ But the

¹ Havannah Street, popularly termed "The Havannah," was named in honour of the capture of the capital of Cuba by the British arms in 1762. The most tangible and valuable result of that triumph was nearly three millions sterling of prize-money, which was divided among the land and sea forces which had been present at the siege. This afforded a very handsome sum individually to the captors; and one of them, named Gavin Williamson, who had belonged to the naval part of the expedition, came after the wars and set himself down as a shoemaker in Glasgow, which was in all likelihood his native city. From the Spanish plunder he built that house which fronts High Street, and now stands the second south from Havannah Street; and in grateful remembrance of his windfall he contrived that that name should be given to the new street or lane or wynd which was forming towards the Molendinar. Mr. Williamson kept a shop or warehouse for the sale of shoes on the ground floor of his property; and this establishment is said to have been the first of the kind ever seen in High Street. It was then almost the universal custom for shoemakers to make only *crystal* shoes; that is, they did not put the shoes on the last until a customer had ordered them. Those whose recollections extend to the beginning of the present century may remember Mr. Williamson as a fine old man with a long *queue*, "which did o'er his shoulders flow." The house immediately to the north, and which enters from Havannah, was built in 1777 by Mark Reid.² His initials and the date are inscribed on the building. It is probable that, when Williamson set down his building, the site of Reid's house was either empty or occupied by a thatched cottage.

² Mark Reid was a retired sergeant or corporal.

ordinary route was only by Trongate and High Streets, these being then the principal thoroughfares of the town.

The criminal had the lash applied opposite the Tolbooth, Candleriggs, and Glassford Streets, also at Bell's Wynd, opposite the Blackfriars' Church, and Havannah Street, whence the ugly procession returned to lodge the convict again in jail. These exhibitions were not of very uncommon occurrence; for it was usual for the children who attended a school on the line of march to be looking out at noon, on Wednesdays, to see "Hangy-Jock," as a sort of "raree-show," it being on market-days only when people were so punished.

The crowd which usually congregated to accompany these (to every one with refined sentiments) disgusting spectacles was not, in ordinary cases, very great, amounting only to a few hundreds of the Glasgow mob, specimens of that kind of force for which the city had long been famed, both before and after the time of Daniel Defoe.¹

At a Circuit Court held at Glasgow in 1798 only *one* criminal case was brought before it for trial, it being war-time, and previous to the Rebellion in Ireland that year, before which the number of Irish in this city was so limited that all of them, including both sexes, could have been contained in one very small chapel; scarcely an Irishman, therefore, was to be seen in such groups as escorted "Jock Sutherland" in his perambulations through the town in the way of his calling. Those who went about with "Hangy" were only the scum of the population; for, judging from appearances, there were few or no decent workmen among the motley group who formed a dense mass or ring while the culprit received punishment. Inside the rabble, and forming a circle round the prisoner, were the town's officers in full dress, who, in place of halberds, were armed with staves; while within, and guarded by them, was seen the "observed of all observers"—not the convict, who on such occasions was often only a secondary personage—but "Hangy-Jock," *alias* the finisher of the law. There he stood, to be a terror to evildoers.

¹ *Vide* Defoe's very graphic narrative of the dreadful riots in Glasgow in 1725, when many lives were lost, and when the city mansion of Mr. Campbell of Shawfield, M.P., was gutted and burned by a mob, on account of Mr. Campbell supporting a more stringent excise law for Scotland.

On some of his public appearances he did not come out in full costume ; but whether from command, or indolence, or caprice, is unimportant ; for even when arrayed with all the trappings and terrors of the law about him, he was only a miserable and ill-looking wretch of a hangman. He was of ordinary stature, but lank and shrivelled, with a small head, having a white and wizened countenance, spindle-like legs, which when he was in full dress were adorned with white stockings ; he had also buckles to his shoes and at the knees. His clothes were of blue cloth, including a long coat, with collar, cuffs, and other facings of scarlet, and a cocked-hat with white edging. At times he showed frills from his wrists, reaching to the knuckles of his skeleton-like fingers, which wielded the cat-o'-nine-tails. Altogether Jock's aspect was such that had he lived when it was the fashion in Scotland to drown wrinkled old women who were accused of witchcraft, he might have been burned as a warlock.

(1849.)

GRAND REVIEW IN THE GREEN OF THE TROOPS IN GLASGOW
AND OTHER PLACES, BY THE COMMANDER OF THE FORCES,
LORD MOIRA, IN 1804.

Early in 1805, Mr. Pitt announced in Parliament that the armed force then in the United Kingdom was above 700,000 ; and, in corroboration of this statement, the French author Baron Dupin¹ has put on record that at that time the armed force of the British Empire, naval and military, was not less than 1,040,000

¹ When the Bourbons were restored to the throne the second time the French Government sent over the Baron Dupin to this country, with a request that he might be allowed to examine into the state of the armed force of the British Empire. The Government was so generous as to give every facility to the Baron in his investigations, the result of which appeared in a work of two volumes, published at Paris in 1816, entitled "Dupin on the Military Force of Great Britain," in which it is stated that during the period above noticed the British Government commanded 140,000 seamen and marines belonging to the royal navy, 200,000 troops of the line, also artillery, regular militia, yeomanry cavalry, and volunteers, all of whom were well armed, clothed, and disciplined, to the amount of 700,000 men ;—making in all, 1,040,000, at home and abroad.

men. The number afforded by Glasgow was fully in proportion to its then population, as appeared at a review in the Green in 1804. The brave Earl Moira (latterly Marquis of Hastings) made a tour of inspection to Glasgow, etc., during autumn that year, reviewed the army, and advised as to possible contingencies. At that epoch the number of armed men of all kinds in Scotland was above 60,000.

Since the battle of the Nile Napoleon had made great efforts to augment his naval force, and in 1804, having at his disposal the navy of Spain and an immense army, and supposing that Britain was the greatest, if not the only, bar in his way to universal empire, he contemplated the invasion of this country, saying, that "if his troops could obtain a footing on British ground, they would have only to contend with a 'nation of shopkeepers.'"

About twenty corps were paraded on the Green that memorable day, where was exhibited a spectacle such as had never been seen there before, so far as is known, *i.e.* a force so numerous and completely armed and disciplined. For when Prince Charles inspected his troops in the Green, the fighting men did not number more than half of those reviewed by Lord Moira. The Regent Murray had an army about equal to that of Charles Edward. And as for the Highland host of 1679, which invaded Glasgow and the West of Scotland, at least one-half of them were armed only with spades and sacks in which to bag stolen property, according to the records of that period.

No good man who has witnessed the operations of war would defend its aggressive form, or incline again to see such scenes as are the concomitants of the battlefield, or places taken by assault. Any one who is enamoured with war, but who has never seen it nor its more direct consequences, might be improved could he travel even in a thinly-peopled region recently ravaged by contending armies, where the thatch of poor folks' huts has been eaten by horses or mules, and the timbers burned either wantonly or for fuel; where the dead have been left unburied, and the wounded have been abandoned to the elements and chance. The votary of war should visit a battlefield, and also a military hospital during or after an action, and there witness the writhings, groans, and

execrations of the wounded and the dying ; he should look attentively on the ghastly spectacle there presented, and watch the coming out of the "small bones," and say if he desires to be a sharer in that sort of glory. But defensive war is a necessary evil, and till a change comes over men there will be both wars and rumours of wars. They also soon become influenced by the circumstances in which they may be placed, and in a degree reconciled to them. People in this country at that period had in a manner prepared themselves to fight the French, and as for the volunteers in and about Glasgow in 1804-5, they seemed to be ready for the combat ; for some of them were with difficulty prevented from fighting with one another, even in their corporate capacity. Two battalions quarrelled several times about precedence—*i.e.* the honour of forming on the right—and after some negotiations on the subject between the regiments, it was proposed by both parties—so bellicose were they—that the point of honour should be settled by a mutual charge of bayonets ; and so imminent was the danger of mischief being done by them, that the General of the district (Wemyss) interposed personally, and in very severe terms he rebuked both regiments publicly on the Green for their inconsiderate and irrational conduct.

Since the commencement of the war in 1803 false alarms of the enemy having effected a landing had more than once been given ; and on such occasions the troops of all sorts had responded with alacrity to the call ; and judging from the spirit then prevalent, any invading foe must have received a hot reception from the "nation of shopkeepers." The weather having been fine previous to the review, the ground in the Green was firm, and that day the sun shone with effulgence on the following corps, viz.—

| | |
|--|---|
| A Regiment of Dragoons from Hamilton Barracks. | Two Battalions of Volunteers from Paisley. |
| Do. Infantry of the Line, and two guns. | Greenock and Port-Glasgow do., and four guns. |
| Do. Regular Militia. | Dumbarton Volunteers. |
| Glasgow Light Cavalry. | Kilsyth do. |
| Gentlemen Riflemen. | Cumbernauld do. |
| Five Regiments of Glasgow Volunteers. | Airdrie do. |
| Canal Volunteers, and two guns. | Hamilton do. |

Twenty corps in all, of which six were not numerically strong, for the Dumbarton, Kilsyth, Cumbernauld, Airdrie, and Hamilton Volunteers, with the Glasgow Light Horse, were in all about one thousand. The whole armed force on the Green that day was about seven thousand men and eight guns, there being a sad deficiency in that most important branch of the service; for at least twenty field-pieces, with *trained horses*, should have been provided in the West of Scotland in the then critical circumstances of the country. The march of soldiers from so many points caused much excitement to see the review; consequently, in addition to the people of the city, a vast number from other places was congregated on the Green.

The nobility and gentry within many miles round the city attended, so that there was a line of carriages of all kinds, and equestrians, at least a mile long, on the review ground; and it was supposed that altogether a hundred thousand persons were present. The Calton Green that day presented a dense mass of spectators, who, though at a greater distance, yet were more elevated than the multitude on the line of operations. There were on guard about a thousand troops, infantry and cavalry, to prevent the crowd from intruding on the space allotted to the army.

At that period the Calton Green was separated by the Cam-lachie Burn, which was not covered from sight till the year 1819-20; and not a stone of the elegant range of houses now called Monteith Row was then built, nor till many years after.

The line was formed with its rear towards the river, the right resting on the eastern extremity of the Green, and the left extending to the Herd's House, which was at a short distance west from where now stands Nelson's Monument; also on the right wing there was a regular regiment, dressed in the full Highland garb, which was formed at a right angle with the main line for want of space on the Green, so that the front extended above a mile. The cavalry were placed on the wings and rear of the centre, and the guns were stationed in advance, two on each flank, and four in the centre of the line.

A detachment of the Glasgow Cavalry was stationed on the

Laigh Green at the "Big Tree," to receive Earl Moira on his entrance *via* Charlotte Street, and conduct his Lordship to the field; and they acted as his bodyguard during the day. At noon the hero of "Camden" (a tall and venerable-looking personage) made his appearance, attended by a numerous and brilliant staff. The usual formalities of a review were observed; such as the General and a splendid cavalcade inspecting the lines, all the colours being lowered to him as Commander-in-Chief in Scotland; after which he, with his staff and the Magistrates, were stationed nearly opposite the turn of the river at the peat-bog, while the whole army passed by his Lordship at slow and quick time, previous to any discharges of firearms, which discharges were that day made in a manner which was novel to the most of the vast assemblage, and added in no small degree to impress on the memory the whole of that grand and, in this locality, extraordinary spectacle. Ten rounds of ammunition had been served to each soldier, but there was no running fire permitted, neither was there firing by companies nor battalions; the orders were, that on the signal being given every man should load and fire as quick as possible while the ammunition lasted, and the artillery-men seemed to have powder for the field-pieces without limitation. The signal to begin was a volley from the artillery, which was continued from the eight guns and the whole army till the ammunition of the soldiers was exhausted. The result of such a mode of firing, in imitation of an army defending a position, was exceedingly impressive; for during the cannonade, which lasted till each man had discharged his musket ten times, a column of smoke and fire in front of the whole line obscured the troops, only transient glimpses of them being seen through the obscurity.

Mr. Burke, in his *Essay on the Sublime*, defined it as a combination of the great and terrible; and if so the scene above noted was sublime.

GLASGOW IN THE OLDEN TIME.

LOCAL MEMORABILIA.

CONTRIBUTED BY "SENEX."

(1849.)

MR. CUNINGHAME'S HOUSE IN QUEEN STREET, ETC.—THE
GORBALS ISLAND.

IN the communication by *Aliquis*, in a recent number of your paper, he takes notice of "the splendid mansion in Queen Street, which was built by Mr. Wm. Cuninghame, and subsequently occupied by one of the merchant princes of the city, and which now forms the interior portion of the Royal Exchange." I remember when the foundation of this house was laid in 1778, but it was not finished till 1780. The ground on which it was erected was at that time quite a swamp, and it cost Mr. Cuninghame much trouble and great expense to drain it. It was not his original intention to have built his house upon this site, for he was upon terms to purchase the ground which the terminus of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway now occupies, and which was a very superior situation, being upon a rising ground, and facing the whole vista of Queen Street; and it further possessed this advantage, that, from its elevated position, there was an easy drainage; but a Mr. Crawford stepped in and made a purchase of the spot before Mr. Cuninghame had concluded a bargain, and he (Mr. Crawford) built thereon the house lately possessed by Mr. James Ewing; and it seems but the other day since the trees surrounding this house were the abode of a host of rooks, whose numerous nests

occupied almost every tree upon the ground. Although we have now splendid mansions in Glasgow in abundance, nevertheless not one of them can be compared to Mr. Cuninghame's house, which cost him £10,000 (equal now to £20,000); indeed, this house was universally allowed to have been the most splendid urban mansion in Scotland, and the only one which could at all be compared to it was the house in Edinburgh now occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland. On the front of his house Mr. Cuninghame placed the very appropriate motto of "Emergo;" and I confess that I felt much regret when I observed that the Committee of the Glasgow Royal Exchange had neglected to keep a motto so descriptive of the emporium of this great city. The rise of Mr. Cuninghame¹ was both sudden and singular, and I may here repeat the narrative:—At the time when the first American war broke out he was a junior partner in a very extensive Virginia house in Glasgow. This house at that time held the largest stock of tobacco of any house in the United Kingdom. The cost price of their stock, upon an average, was threepence per pound. Immediately upon the declaration of American Independence tobacco rose to sixpence per pound. Upon this great rise taking place, a general meeting of all the partners of the house was called, in order to consult about the sale of their stock. At this meeting every partner, with the exception of Mr. Cuninghame, was of opinion that the present opportunity should be taken advantage of; and as their capital would be doubled by an immediate sale, it should be effected without delay. Upon hearing this resolution, Mr. Cuninghame turned round to each partner in succession, and asked him "If he offered to sell his share of the company's tobacco at sixpence per pound;" and upon every one of them answering in the affirmative, Mr. Cuninghame very coolly replied, "Well, gentlemen, all your tobacco is sold at sixpence per pound." The partners stared at one another, and demanded of Mr. Cuninghame what he meant by that expression. To which Mr. Cuninghame answered, "I have bought the whole of it at sixpence per pound, and I will satisfy you as to the payment of it." Tobacco continued from this time to rise, till at

¹ Now represented by the Cuninghames of Lainshaw.

last it reached the enormous price of three shillings and sixpence per pound. Mr. Cuninghame, however, had sold the whole of his tobacco before it had reached its ultimate highest price; nevertheless, at a price by which he realised an immense fortune.

I have mentioned that the ground on which Mr. Cuninghame had built his house was swampy; but what will some of the present generation say when I inform them that I have *fished* upon the site of Dr. Wardlaw's church in West George Street! Ay, I have absolutely fished in that very place! There was an old quarry there, the working of which had been abandoned; but it was full of water, in which a few eels might be caught, but the great sport was to catch "asks" in it. These were a sort of water-lizard, and the manner we caught them was as follows:— We had our usual fishing-rods and hair-lines, but no hooks; at the end of our hair-lines we made a running noose with a slight sink to it; we dropped this among the "asks," which were very numerous, and whenever one of them got within the folds of the noose (which we could easily see), by a sudden jerk we twirled it over our heads to the dry land, and then we deposited it in a phial filled with whisky, and so kept it for a show, as the doctors in those days used to do, at their shop windows, with preserved snakes and curious reptiles. This quarry was the grand receptacle for the carcasses of dead horses, dogs, and cats. There the bones of many a high-mettled racer lie interred below the foundations of the houses in West George Street. Often, when I required a cross bow, have I resorted to this spot and selected a first-rate rib for that purpose from a dead horse; and there I got for my fishing bait the finest maggots in the world, from the numerous putrid carcasses lying round about in all directions. Oh, what a glorious time this would have been for our present indefatigable Dean of Guild Court Procurator-Fiscal! But my young friends will also be surprised when I inform them that my favourite place for collecting worms for bait was Ingram Street. This street was anciently called the Back Cow Loan, and for a long time was the only thoroughfare from the High Street, by Canon Street, to the Cowcaddens. Candleriggs at this period was a corn-field. Cows were formerly driven along the Back Cow Loan to and from their

pasturage at the Cowcaddens, in consequence of which the soil of Ingram Street became enriched with the droppings of cattle, during many generations, and was a noble receptacle for rich bait. Many are the times that I have gone out at night with my little *horn bowet*, or small lantern, and gathered bagfuls of the finest large rich worms, which, unfortunately for them, had come up to the surface to sip the evening dew. These were most carefully deposited in bags of moss, where they remained in close confinement until the poor miserable things were starved to a sufficient degree of hardness to bear the hook without breaking. It was truly a cruel sport, and even then, while impaling them on my hooks, I sometimes shuddered at the writhings of these "little harmless serpents that live in the earth," as Dr. Johnson calls them.

At the time that Mr. Cuninghame was building his house, viz. between the years 1778 and 1780, several important buildings were in the course of erection, or improvement, in Glasgow. The present St. Enoch steeple was then erected. The church, which was built at the same time, was afterwards taken down, and a new church raised in its place; but the steeple remains in its original state, with the exception of the dial-plate wheel, which has been shifted a little higher up. A melancholy accident happened at the building of this steeple. The proper scaffolding having been erected to the full height of the steeple, and made quite secure, several tradesmen were working on it, when a sudden gust of wind made it sway a little to one side; one of the tradesmen, in that sudden bereavement of mind which imminent danger is apt to inspire, was seen to spring from the scaffolding, and to fall from the full height of the spire. Of course he was dashed to pieces. The other tradesmen kept their places and received no harm. At the above-mentioned period of 1778, the old bridge was widened to about double of its former breadth. Any person, by looking at the lower side of the present arches, will see distinctly the joinings of this addition to the ancient portion of the bridge.¹ I remember crossing this bridge while the operations were going on; foot passengers not being hindered from using the old part of the structure during the erection of the new part.

¹ This article was published in the summer before the removal of old Stockwell Bridge.

At this time there was an island in the channel of the river, betwixt the old and new bridges, on which Bailie Craig, of the Water Port, used occasionally to place his timber. I wonder how your friend *Aliquis*, in giving you an account of the stone battles in the streets, should forget this particular spot, which was the regular battlefield of the Glasgownians and the Gorbalonians—the combatants being not merely a parcel of boys, but many of them full grown-up men. The Gorbalonians claimed more than a forty years' prescriptive right to this island, and defended it with the utmost pertinacity. If at any time they were likely to be worsted in battle, a messenger was immediately sent to the Gorbals weaver lads, who, without fail, left their looms, and brought aid to their discomfited friends. A great deal of strategy was required in these battles; for, besides the weavers' *corps de reserve*, there were on each side regular advance and ambush detachments. Some of these parties, in a hidden manner, would contrive, by creeping on all fours, to cross the new bridge unobserved, and to make an attack on the enemy's rear, while perhaps a detachment from the attacked party had pursued the same manœuvre, by crossing the old bridge, or the river, at the slaughter-house. In such a case there would come to be a complete *mêlée* when all the parties got upon the island, and fought almost hand to hand. I remember that the Gorbalonians had a big bold fellow for a champion, whom they regarded with as much pride as the Philistines did their Goliath. This chap was their leader, and whenever he appeared the Glasgownians were sure to give way before him, and to betake themselves to flight or to manœuvring in his rear; for he was a downright, straightforward fighter, and despised all strategy; so that he and his party were sometimes taken so suddenly in the rear, that his young adherents were put to the rout, while he alone braved all his enemies. These battles took place regularly on the Saturday evenings, and it then became dangerous for any person to cross the old bridge, or to walk the streets adjacent to it. It is singular that the then Magistrates of Glasgow should have allowed such a state of matters to continue; but they seem to have considered it as a sort of idle sport, nearly as innocent as a game at the foot-ball. An accident,

however, at last happened, by a boy being killed in one of these battles, and although it could never be ascertained who had thrown the fatal stone, nevertheless, a proclamation was issued by the Magistrates, strictly prohibiting all stone battles in future ; and as the red-coat officers were directed to take up, and bring to the Chamber, all offenders, these stone battles upon the river entirely ceased.

There was, however, another kind of battle, which still continued—I mean snow-ball battles—during the winter season. Many of these battles took place in the High Street, betwixt the collegians and grammar-school boys ; but these were not fair battles ; for the collegians being much older than their opponents, were sure to carry the day. There were, however, large parties of boys of tender age, who would form themselves into a phalanx in the public streets, and would order every passenger, high or low, to make obeisance to them on passing—the men to take off their hats, and the women to drop them a curtsey—and woe betide those who refused to obey ; for in this case he or she was most unmercifully pelted with snow-balls. This sport was continued for many years by the little boys of Glasgow after stone battles had ceased ; and remembering my having had a share in this sort of sport in my infantile days, I took good care, when grown up, upon passing one of these phalanxes, to take off my hat to them, and, in addition, I saluted them with a gracious smile and a most profound bow of respect, by which means I never failed to escape all molestation from the little gentlemen. But it was the country lads and lasses who gave these boys the most sport ; for these rustics felt indignant at being peremptorily called upon to take off their hats, or to beck to a parcel of infants, and so refused to obey the order, upon which they were assailed with a perfect shower of snow-balls, and then were obliged either to take to their heels, or to pursue the little rascals, who, however, were seldom caught. I must confess that a great improvement has taken place in the manners of the Glasgow boys within the last sixty or seventy years, for in my school days we were a parcel of little devils, bent upon mischief. One of the favourite places of our resort was at the gate of Hutcheson's Hospital, which then stood at the foot of Hutcheson Street, near to where the *Herald* office now is. This

gate was made of strong timber for about four feet from the ground, and above that there were open spars, through which the inmates of the hospital could converse with any one upon the street. This gate shut with a check, so that no person could get in to the hospital court from the outside, unless the gate was opened by some one in the inside. Now, upon the Wednesdays (which are our market days) we took possession of this gate, and watched carefully until we saw a countryman passing, with a fine walking-stick in his hand; one of us then immediately sallied forth, and getting slyly behind the rustic, whipped away his fine stick in a twinkling, and then ran within the hospital gate, which was directly *clinked to* by one of our confederate boys. The countryman, of course, pursued the delinquent, but here he was stopped by the impenetrable gate. We then, in a most provoking manner, addressed him through the open spars, "Weel, John, hoo's a' wi' ye—hoo's the wife and the weans, man—are they a' brawly?" The countryman generally stormed and raged for the loss of his fine stick, but could find no means of getting at us, unless he ran round by the Candleriggs to the old Cow Loan, and scaled the hospital wall; but even then we had sufficient time to see him running down the hospital garden, and to open the gate, and scamper off. We often had compassion, however, upon a merry fellow, if he took up the joke in good humour, and spoke us fairly, and so restored him his stick through the spars; but we always took good care to see him surely away before we returned to open the gate. Another of our tricks was to find out two houses upon the same stairhead, having their outer doors right opposite each other. These doors we quietly fastened at night to each other by strong ropes, and then we made the most thundering rap, rap, rap at each door, and, at the same time, called out, "Fire, fire, fire!" The poor inmates, in the greatest state of alarm, rushed to their respective doors, and then, when one pulled to get his door opened, his neighbour, who was as much frightened, pulled against him; and so they continued pulling and struggling together to get out, until some one, who lived at hand, hearing the uproar, came to their relief and cut the ropes. I cannot exactly say what was the reason of it, but we always felt greater inclination to play tricks

upon strangers rather than upon citizens. Perhaps it was because strangers were less able to identify us than residents.

At this time the most of our old Scottish clergymen wore large bushy wigs, and coats with flowing outside pockets. It was a glorious sight for us to see one of these reverend old gentlemen walking, stately and soberly, along the streets of Glasgow. We always kept a plentiful supply of *pee-oy*s beside us, and when we saw one of these old country ministers trudging along the streets, without suspicion, we slipped cautiously behind him, and deposited one of our *pee-oy*s in his bushy wig, and one in each of his coat pockets. By-and-by, pluff went off the *pee-oy*, in the old gentleman's wig, who, startled at the explosion, naturally put up his hand to his wig to see what was the matter, when pluff went the *pee-oy* in one pocket, and before he could recover from his surprise, pluff went off the *pee-oy* in the other pocket, to our great amusement; for in such cases we almost died with laughter at the reverend old gentleman's astonishment. We were also in the practice of purchasing old horse-shoes, and having made them nearly red hot, we carefully watched the approach of a country farmer, and then we dropped the hot shoe in his path. The farmer, immediately on espying the shoe, never failed to lift it, for all farmers think that it bodes good luck to find a horse-shoe; but in this case he soon dropped it in agony, with burned fingers, to our great amusement.

I remember that one dark night we ventured on rather a bold undertaking. Having secured a handy ladder, and having previously fixed upon certain signboards as being suitable to be operated upon, we cautiously pulled down various signboards in the city, and substituted others in their place, so that in the morning "Thomas Logan, grocer," found the sign over his door to be "William Morrison, wig-maker and hairdresser," and William Morrison, hairdresser, found his sign replaced by one bearing the title "Daniel Wardrop, spirit dealer;" and so forth of many others. One day, when a man was to be hanged at the Cross of Glasgow, and the Trongate was densely crowded in every part, we happened to find out a garret with a window looking into the street. Some painters had been whitewashing this garret, and had left their water-paint and brushes behind them, on going to

see the execution. We could not resist the temptation to mischief on this occasion, and accordingly, having dipped the brushes in the white paint, we, by a sweeping stroke, scattered the paint on the heads and clothes of the multitude below, who were so wedged in that they could not get out from the crowd to catch us. These are but a tithe of our tricks, for which we deserved a good thrashing; and, indeed, we sometimes were discovered, and then we received a hearty drubbing. There were no police in Glasgow in those days, otherwise we would not have been so bold.

(1849.)

THE JUVENILE DRAMA.

By far the most amusing of our boyish pranks was our attempt at getting up a play. We fixed upon the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, and we were so to disguise ourselves as not to be known by the audience; but as the whole of our *dramatis personæ* were merely a parcel of diminutive boys, we thought it necessary to procure an associate to represent the character of Robinson Crusoe, having at least the appearance of a grown-up man. Accordingly, we prevailed upon a burly young fellow, a journeyman joiner, who had a pretty good voice, to join us; and, besides his other qualities, he undertook to entertain the audience betwixt the acts with a song. We still, however, were in want of a person to take the management of our orchestra. As for hiring professional musicians, this was quite beyond our purses, none of which contained above a shilling or two. There was, however, one boy amongst us who was learning to play upon the fiddle, and had got the length of scraping, with much difficulty, such tunes as "Johnny M'Gill" and "Dainty Davie." We endeavoured to prevail upon him to undertake the musical department; but he positively refused to appear before the public as a common fiddler, saying that his companions would laugh at him. To obviate this objection, we consented that he should fiddle behind the scenes, so that none of the audience would see him. On these terms he consented to

perform. We still had one great difficulty to get over, viz. how was our scenery to be painted? for, in place of being able to draw or paint, the most of us could scarcely write. In this emergency, after much diligent search, we fortunately found out a boy who was an apprentice to a house-painter, and who had really a turn for painting. We bribed this boy to join us, by promising him his full share of the profits of the play; and I must say that he well deserved them, for our scenery was executed in a very fair manner. The next thing to provide was the drop-curtain; but one of our party soon furnished this part of our decoration by stealthily borrowing his uncle's green crumbcloth. A few of us having slyly taken the loan of our elder brothers' guns and pistols, and having for a couple of shillings purchased a rough sheepskin, as hairy as possible, we soon completed the dress of Robinson Crusoe—the joiner himself possessing a hairy cap. We were very fortunate in having for one of our associates a most excellent clown or harlequin merryman (afterwards a well-known Glasgow L.L.D.),¹ and as in this character the face is half covered with black crape, there was no danger of the audience being able to distinguish his features; he therefore undertook to amuse the company betwixt the acts with jokes and buffoon gestures, for which part he was admirably well qualified. There was, however, some difficulty in finding actors for the savages, on account of the nasty mode of disguising them, which was thus: We procured a large quantity of cork shavings, which we burned to a state of black charcoal; with this dark residuum the skins of the savages were besmeared from head to foot, with the exception of the middle parts, which were enveloped with white towels. The character of Friday was undertaken by a young gentleman (afterwards an Edinburgh advocate),² and Friday's father by a well-known member of the Faculty of Procurators of Glasgow.³ As for me, I undertook the part of a Spaniard, disguised with black whiskers and mustachios, having objected to become a savage. All our preliminaries being thus arranged, we hired a back room in the Trongate, for a week, for 3s. 6d., in a narrow close, the second

¹ Dr. William Rae Wilson of Kelvinbank. ² John W. Rae, advocate, Edinburgh.

³ The late William Aitchison, writer, Glasgow.

from the Candleriggs,—the buildings, both front and back, being then old, and having an ancient narrow close, such as are yet seen in many old properties in Saltmarket Street and High Street. Our theatre was situated up one stair, “cheek by jowl” with the spot where was afterwards the *Herald* printing-office, in the old Post-office Court, but not then in existence. It was a dirty place, there being no pavement or flagstones at that date on this part of the Trongate, and public scavengers were quite unknown.

All matters being now in a state of forwardness, we got flaming hand-bills printed, and pasted up in all the principal streets of the city, representing ourselves as a set of first-rate comedians from London ; and we gave ourselves the finest outlandish foreign names in these play-bills, to make the public believe that we were really performers of great eminence and celebrity. We fixed the price of the front seats at one shilling, and the back seats at sixpence. Doors to be opened at half-past six o'clock, and the performance to commence precisely at seven o'clock. We had two porters hired, whom we believed to be strictly honest men, to take the money at the door of the theatre. There were no tickets issued ; every person paid as he entered. The great night of the play at last arrived, and we were all assembled behind the scenes in our respective costumes, peeping out every now and then, with great anxiety, through the apertures of our green crumbcloth drop, to see what kind of company was arriving. The public of Glasgow, not being aware who the actors were, mustered very fairly, so that both our front seats and back seats were nearly full. The first part of the performance was by our associate the fiddler, behind the scenes ; but as he was really a miserable player, the audience got tired of him, and called upon him to come forth and show himself ; this, however, he would not do, to the great annoyance of the back seats. The next part of the entertainment (upon the green crumbcloth being drawn up) was the grand opening scene, where was seen a ship in a storm, among the raging billows, in great distress, and firing signal-guns, while the lightning flashed in most vivid blazes, the thunder rolled in tremendous peals, and the rain and hail fell in torrents. At last the poor ship founders upon a precipitous rock : and so

the scene closes. I must confess that this scene was really well got up ; for the audience, upon the curtain being dropped, gave us loud applause, and this put us all in an ecstasy of delight. In the above scene the waves were painted by the painter's apprentice upon a perpetual screw, which one of us kept turning, so that they seemed pretty like real heaving billows. I had the charge of the lightning department, and stood close to the stage, concealed by the scenery, with a quantity of pounded unwrought rosin in one hand, and a lighted candle in the other ; I tossed the rosin aloft, and then set it suddenly on fire, which, as the room was then darkened, made excellent lightning. I had an associate close by me, with an old baking girdle, and as soon as he saw my flash of lightning he, with a muffled mallet, gave a tremendous peal of thunder on the girdle, while another associate behind us, with a bag of pease, let them rattle away through a tube, into a brass pan (used for making jelly by his mother), and this did for a storm of hail and rain. The next part of the entertainment was a song betwixt the acts, and the antics of Mr. Merryman, the harlequin-clown ; and here again we were quite successful. Our burly joiner having appeared in character, with a monstrous pair of shears, sung the "Tailor done over," with all its burlesque attitudes, and met with unbounded applause, while Mr. Merryman (being rather tall for his age) performed the clown to admiration without the audience suspecting him to be a mere boy. The next scene brought in Robinson Crusoe, with his rough sheep-skin dress and fur cap, having a gun upon each shoulder, and two pistols in his girdle, his rustic cabin appearing in the background. After a little manœuvring, and shooting a painted parrot from a tree, the scene closed ; but it was rather a languid affair. The next scene was Robinson Crusoe rescuing Friday from the savages, who appeared in their sooty costume, armed with bows and arrows, and uttering horrid yells.

But here the audience began to see that the whole actors were merely a parcel of children, with the exception of Robinson Crusoe himself. They first began to hiss, and then, by-and-by, to cry out, "cheats, rogues, and impostors ;" at last a most terrible uproar and general confusion took place, by the audience demanding

back their money, and threatening to have the whole company of actors taken before the Magistrates, as a parcel of sturdy vagabonds and swindlers. In this state of matters we were all frightened out of our wits. Robinson Crusoe took up his guns and pistols and ran out at the door, and down stairs (sheep-skin dress and all) as fast as his heels could carry him ; and we all followed his example, almost overturning one another in our haste to get away—the savages having only time to seize their usual dresses before decamping. In the meantime, the audience had fairly broken loose in our theatre—some of them had taken possession of our stage—while others of them seized the two porters at the door, and insisted upon getting back their money. None of us, however, again ventured to show our faces that night, but left the porters to battle it out with the audience. The next day, however, we called upon the porters to account to us for the money which they had received at the door of our theatre : but they swore that they had been obliged to pay back to the enraged audience every sixpence of it. As for the rent of the room, and for damages done to it by the audience, the landlord seized uncle's green crumblcloth, mother's brass jelly pan, the thunder girdle, and the whole of our scenery. And so ended our theatrical attempt.

(1849.)

ROBERT M'NAIR—JAMES WARDROP—THE HUNCHBACKS.

In your paper of the 6th of July you mention that the directors of the Buchanan's Society have applied to the Dean of Guild Court "for leave to take down and rebuild the land of houses situated at the corner of King Street and Trongate." Now, the land next to this property, situated in King Street, was built by a Mr. Robert M'Nair, a grocer and general dealer. The stones of this building were got from the Black Quarry, regarding the present state of which there has been so much ado of late before the Dean of Guild Court.¹ Mr. M'Nair was a man of abilities,

¹ The Black Quarry at this time contained a deep pool of stagnant water, and was

but of very eccentric manners. Amongst his other whims, he ordered the key-stones of the arches above the shops in this building to be cut so as to represent ludicrous human faces, and each one to be different from another. It was a source of amusement to him, on market days, to join the crowds of country folks who were gazing upon these heads, and to hear their remarks upon them. At present most of these figures are covered by the signboards of the present occupants of the shops, but some of them are still to be seen peeping out.

Many amusing anecdotes are told of Mr. M'Nair. At the time in question there were few individuals in Glasgow possessed of large capital; in consequence of which, all extensive undertakings were carried on there by joint-stock companies, having several partners, perhaps six or eight, who each respectively furnished his quota of capital. Such were our east and west Sugarhouse Companies, Tanwork Company, Soapwork Company, Deltfield Company, Inklefactory Company, Ropework Company, Bottleneck Company, Smithfield Nailree Company, and many others. Mr. M'Nair was resolved not to be behind these companies, and accordingly assumed his wife as a partner, and had his firm painted above his shop door, "Robert M'Nair, Jean Holmes, & Co." There happened one season to be rather a scarcity of oranges in Glasgow, and, unfortunately for Mr. M'Nair, his stock of them was very small, while a neighbouring grocer held nearly the whole stock of oranges in Glasgow. Mr. M'Nair, however, told all his customers that he had a large cargo of oranges, which he expected to arrive every hour. In the meantime, he made up apparently a barrow-load of oranges with his small stock, and employed a porter to wheel them past his neighbour grocer's shop, and to deliver them to his own shop (as if he was getting delivery of a cargo), but immediately afterwards he privately sent away the porter, with his load well covered, by a back door, and through cross streets, and made him again wheel the same barrowful of oranges (openly exposed) past his opponent's shop; and so the porter continued employed for many hours. Having thus appa-

used as the receptacle of the rubbish and carrion of the district. Some persons who were intoxicated, or had lost their way in the dark, and children who had been playing in the neighbourhood, were drowned, from time to time, in this hole.

rently laid in a large stock of oranges, he engaged a person to call upon his neighbour grocer, and to buy his whole stock, which his friend did on very moderate terms, the grocer believing that Mr. M'Nair had received a large supply, and that certainly oranges would fall in value.

Mr. M'Nair kept his phaeton, and had his town and country house. The latter was situated on the Camlachie road, and he named this property "Jeanfield," after his wife, Jean Holmes. The house stood upon an eminence in the middle of a park of considerable extent, and it now forms the Eastern Cemetery. At this period Government laid on a tax upon two-wheeled carriages, to the great annoyance of Mr. M'Nair, who was determined to resist payment of this obnoxious tax, and therefore he took off the wheels from his phaeton, and placed the body of it upon two long wooden trams, on which machine he continued to visit his country house, and to carry Jean Holmes and his daughters to church. The public of Scotland is indebted to Mr. M'Nair for obtaining the abolition of a shameful custom, which then existed in our Exchequer Court. It was at that time the practice, in all Exchequer trials, for the Crown, when successful, to pay each jurymen one guinea, and to give the whole of them their supper. It happened that Mr. M'Nair had got into some scrape with the Excise and an action was raised against him in the Exchequer Court at Edinburgh. When the case came to be called, the Crown Advocate, after narrating all the facts and commenting on them, concluded his address to the jury by reminding them, that if they brought in a verdict for the Crown, they would receive a guinea each, and their supper. Upon hearing which, Mr. M'Nair rose up, and asked the Judges if he might be allowed the liberty of speaking one word to the jury. To which request the Judges readily assented. Mr. M'Nair then turned round to the jury and thus addressed them:—"Gentlemen of the Jury, you have heard what the learned Advocate for the Crown has said, namely—'that he will give you a guinea each, and your supper, if you bring in a verdict in favour of the Crown.' Now, here am I, Robert M'Nair, merchant in Glasgow, standing before you, and *I* promise you two guineas each, and your dinner to boot, with as much wine as you

can drink, if you bring in a verdict in my favour ;” and here Mr. M’Nair sat down. The trial went on, and Mr. M’Nair obtained a verdict in his favour. After this trial the Crown never made any attempt at influencing the jury by this species of bribery. Mr. M’Nair had two daughters, buxom lasses, and, as he was known to be wealthy, these ladies had abundance of wooers ; but Mr. M’Nair became afraid that they might make foolish marriages with some penniless young fellows ; to prevent which, he inserted an advertisement in the newspapers, giving notice to all young men who might come a courting of his daughters that, unless his daughters married with his express consent and approbation, he would not give them one shilling of his property ; and he requested all young men who might be looking after his daughters to attend to this notice.

It happened at one time that Mr. M’Nair required a quantity of copperas for his business, and accordingly he wrote to his agents in London to send him 2 cwts. of that article ; but Mr. M’Nair was not very expert at either writing or spelling, and, in the letter ordering the copperas, he spelled the words “2 cwt. of capres” ! The agents in London, however, read these words “2 cwt. of capers,” and it was with much difficulty that they could make up the order for such a large quantity. Upon the capers arriving in Glasgow, Mr. M’Nair was quite astonished, and immediately wrote back to his agents, saying that he ordered them to send him “2 cwt. of capres,” instead of which they had sent him a large quantity of “sour peas,” which nobody in Glasgow would look at ; therefore he was going to return them. The mistake, however, turned out better than Robert expected, for capers in London (in consequence of the market being cleared), suddenly rose greatly in price, so that Mr. M’Nair re-sold his “sour peas” again to great profit. Several of the descendants of Mr. M’Nair were eminent merchants in Glasgow, and were much esteemed for their abilities and integrity.¹

As I have entered upon the subject of an eccentric character

¹ These were his grandsons ; first, Robert M’Nair, Bailie and Dean of Guild ; second, John M’Nair, manufacturer, who married a daughter of Provost French ; third, James M’Nair, who built the large sugar-house which stood at the corner of Ingram Street and Queen Street, being the opposite corner to the present British Linen Company’s Bank.

in Glasgow of olden times, I may take notice of another gentleman of a like description ; this was a merchant of the name of James Wardrop, commonly called "Jimmy Wardrop." He was a man of wit, of engaging manners, a jovial companion, and possessed of much humour ; with these qualities, it is unnecessary to say that he was often invited to the tables of the first families in Glasgow, and he of course had to make returns. On one of these occasions, when he was giving a dinner, he took a whim that every one of his company should be hunchbacked, and accordingly, without any distinction of rank, he invited every hunchback in Glasgow that he could find out. I recollect only three of this number. The first, and most important, was Walter Stirling, Esquire, the founder of Stirling's Library, whose dwelling-house was in Miller Street, and who associated principally with the aristocratical portion of our merchants. The next was a Mr. Hall, a teacher, a man of learning and abilities, commonly called "Humphy Ha'." Some of the scholars of this gentleman are still alive, and amongst them is Mr. John Pollok, of the firm of Pollok, Gilmour, and Company. The third was a man singularly deformed in person, and in an inferior station of life. His name was Pollok, a wig-maker and hairdresser. He was universally known in Glasgow as "Poke the Barber." He was daily to be seen bustling through the streets of the city, attending his customers, all besmeared with hair powder, and a hump on his back like a mountain covered with snow. At this dinner there were seven or eight guests present—Mr. Stirling was the last to arrive. Immediately upon his coming in to the drawing-room, and looking around him, he saw at once the object which Mr. Wardrop had in view in inviting him, and he turned sharply round to Mr. Wardrop, and thus addressed him : "Sir, happily for yourself, you are exempted from the misfortune which has overtaken your guests, and *you* may think that this is a proper occasion to pass your jokes upon them, and to hold up their infirmities to ridicule ; but, sir, I consider your conduct as a gross insult, and that I would demean myself to sit down at the table of a man so destitute of proper feelings and of common good manners,"—so saying, Mr. Stirling directly left the room, and walked away. Mr. Wardrop saw the impropriety of what he had

done, and made every sort of apology to his remaining guests, declaring that he never meant to insult them, or to treat their misfortunes with ridicule. Being a man of very insinuating manners, he contrived to detain his other guests to dinner, and having exerted himself to entertain them, they all left his table, at a late hour, and in good humour ; but the public of Glasgow took up Mr. Stirling's view of the matter, and blamed Mr. Wardrop most excessively for his unfeeling conduct, so that he never again recovered his popularity in the city. Some years afterwards Mr. Wardrop took a religious turn of mind, and endeavoured to form a congregation of his own, by hiring a room at the head of the New Wynd, and becoming a preacher ; but his doctrines were so *outré* that nobody could understand them ; and after people's first curiosity was satisfied by going to hear "Jemmy Wardrop preach," his congregation dwindled away, and at last he died, almost forgotten by the public of Glasgow.

(1849.)

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL WYND—CURIOUS
CRIMINAL CASES.

In "Stuart's Views of Glasgow in Former Times," there is a lithographic sketch (at page 67) of an ancient back building, entering by No. 157 High Street. Mr. Stuart (at page 74) says, "We have been informed that this house was at one time occupied as an inn." This may be true, if it refers to a period subsequent to the Reformation ; but at the date when this building was erected Glasgow could not have supported so extensive an inn ; for if the map of Glasgow, dated 1783 (at page 113 of Mr. Stuart's book) be examined, it will be seen that the existing erection is not the entire of the original building ; for this map shows it to have had a front to the Grammar School Wynd. For the reasons I am about to give, I feel inclined to think that this building was connected with the convent of the Dominican or Blackfriar preachers ; and I would be glad if some of your readers who are more versant

in archæological studies than I am, would visit the building: for if my conjecture is right, this structure would be one of the greatest curiosities in Glasgow. When I was at the Grammar School, in 1782, there was an ancient covered entry to this building, situated directly opposite the door of the Grammar School. This entry was about seven feet wide, and on each side of it there were stone seats. The tradition among the schoolboys of the time was, that these seats were used by the Blackfriar preachers as a lounging resort. Similar stone seats were placed in the gallery of the ground floor of old Hutcheson's Hospital, upon the west compartment of the inner court,¹ for resting-places to the old and decrepit inmates of the Hospital. Mr. Stuart gives us little information regarding the convent of the Black and Grey friars, but M'Ure, in his *History of Glasgow*, at page 59 and 68, is more explicit. He thus writes (page 59): "In the City of Glasgow both the Black and Grey friars had convents; the Blackfriars, Dominicans, or Friar preachers (*Fratres Predicatorum*) had their convent near to the Blackfriar Church." Page 66—"There was also within the precincts of the city a convent of Grey friars, or Franciscans, at the foot of the wynd, called the Greyfriars Wynd, and by corruption (but how I know not) is now called Bun's Wynd. At the Reformation, when the convents were dissolved, and the friars dispersed, the rent, lands, and possessions of all that belonged to the convents of the Black and Grey friars were given to the University of Glasgow; and these small duties paid out of the several tenements within the city, that held of the Black and Grey friars, are now payable by the heritors to the College." Mr. Stuart also, at page 68, says: "The Dominicans appear to have erected cloisters adjoining to their church, which stood from an early date, where now stands the structure represented by the plate (College Church, page 67), and to have eventually abandoned their old quarters for those which, at the period of the Reformation, were situated '*in magno vice tendente ab Ecclesia Metropolitana usque*

¹ This gallery is rather imperfectly exhibited in Mr. Stuart's view. See page 50, left-hand side. The father of the late Provost M'Kenzie had his reading-school in a small room which entered from this gallery.

For description and identification of this mansion see correspondence with Messrs. John Baird and A. D. Robertson in Notes to this work.

ad Crucem Foralem'—(in the great street leading from the Metropolitan Church to the Market Cross).

The front of the old building in question, which stood directly opposite the Grammar School in the wynd, has been taken down, and now replaced by a brick building, so that nothing of the ancient building now faces the Grammar School Wynd. The tenement in the High Street containing the entry No. 157 was built by Mr. Barr, Rector of the Grammar School, about eighty years ago, and in the front of it he placed a bust of Cicero, which has lately been taken down; but the niche in which it was placed still remains. In the old back building, before mentioned, we still see the massy outside stair, and the arched door on the ground floor. On going upstairs we see on both flats long galleries, with rooms entering from them suitable for dormitories, while underneath the building seems substantially arched. The upper or attic windows are in the old peaked fashion, and the staircase surmounted with *corby-steps*. It must be evident to every person who examines this building that it never was erected for ordinary dwellings, and it would be interesting to know something of its history.

When Mr. Stuart was giving us a print of this ancient building I wonder how he came to forget our old and venerable Grammar School, which would have recalled the reminiscences of many an ancient gentleman in the city. The other day I happened to be in that quarter of the city, and thought that I would take a look of my old acquaintance. But oh! how changed is our *Ludus Literarius!* On my entering the well-known lobby and looking to my left, behold the keeper's lodge turned into an old iron cellar! Again, turning to my right, and expecting to see the great hall, where we all used to assemble for prayers, and where the four venerable masters, with their black gowns, sat in their respective pulpits until prayers were over, and till three of the classes went upstairs to their own particular class rooms—what a sight did I see! The great hall shorn of all its grandeur, except its ancient cornice, and divided into two parts with unplastered walls, the eastern part a rag cellar, and the western part a smith's shop!—truly, truly, *tempora mutantur*. Well, upstairs I went, to see

what had taken place there. In one room I found some old women washing dirty linens; and in another there were six poor-looking weavers driving hard at work with the fly-shuttle. Again, I ascended another storey, when I found the whole extent of the building occupied as a weaving factory, and in place of hearing the well-known "*penna, penna*" declined, I heard only the stunning noise of heddles, treadles, and fly-shuttles. Here I called up to memory the time when this building was full of bustle and of youthful merriment. Now, where are our four venerable teachers, Ball, Dow, Braidfoot, and Barr? What has become of all my class-fellows? Out of about three hundred boys who were in the four classes when I first trod this spot, there are now but ten alive, so far as I know. In going through these rooms, I called to my recollection the merry rhymes upon their masters of these departed fellow-scholars, and with what glee and laughter they repeated the following lines:—

"A gun was fired, the *Ball* it flew,
And killed outright the muckle *Dow*;
The *Braidfoot* after it had ran,
But soon a cross *Bar* stopped the man."

I remember with what ecstasy of delight we all anticipated the glorious announcement of the "*Vacans*," on the 4th of June, and how many mutual salutations there were of *memento Feriarum*; but when the happy day at last arrived, and the *Vacans* for six weeks was formally declared, oh, how did these rooms shake with thundering ruffings and loud huzzas, and cries of "*Vivat, floriat!*" It was a complete scene of pleasure and delight; and truly I do not wonder at it, for we really were kept at hard work during our Grammar School course. We first came to school from seven till nine in the morning; then from ten till twelve; and again from one till three. Lastly, after dinner we attended, in some other school, our writing and arithmetical studies; and finally, closed the evening by getting long grammatical rules by heart, and by preparing our theses for the week. People are very apt to look back to their boyish days as the happiest period of their lives, but I am inclined to think that Cicero was not far wrong in giving a preference to a quiet and comfortable old age.

When I attended the Grammar School it was customary to make a present to the master at Candlemas, which was commonly called a Candlemas offering. This practice, degrading to the master and invidious to the scholar, has happily disappeared in our schools. The most usual present was a quarter's wages, or seven shillings and sixpence, commonly paid by three half-crowns ; but many of the scholars gave only five shillings, and some of them merely two shillings and sixpence ; indeed there were some boys whose parents were unable to give their sons even the last-mentioned pittance to present, to the sad humiliation of the poor little fellows. A few of the sons of the richer class of citizens gave ten shillings and sixpence, always in gold ; and I remember in particular that a son of one of our mercantile magnates presented a gold guinea, and was declared *King*. It is curious to look back to these times, and to see how correctly even boys beheld the practice as one degrading to the master ; for some of them purposely presented their gifts in coppers, and even in coins so low as farthings, while the whole class *tittered* when such presentations were made, and at beholding the odd look of the master, when he came to mark down the gift in his book. While I looked at the industrious weavers of the present day, plying their occupation upon the second floor, I called to remembrance that on this very spot, nearly seventy years ago, many a *loofy* was given, and more than once was inflicted a punishment not to be mentioned to ears polite upon an afterwards Lord Provost of Glasgow, and worthy M.P.,¹ not for being a bad scholar, for he was a clever little fellow, but he was a sad mischievous dog. Then, again, in that very corner have I seen the tears trickle down the cheeks of an eminent member of the Faculty of Procurators, because he had *lost a place* in the class.² It would be a most entertaining history to review the lives and pursuits of these three hundred schoolboys—some cut off in early life, others arriving at being made Knights, Generals, M.P.'s, Lord Provosts, Bailies, LL.D.'s, D.D.'s, M.D.'s, F.R.S.'s, Nabobs, and Merchant Magnates ; and it is most pleasing to recollect that almost all our class-fellows who lived to an advanced life were ultimately fortunate, and that none of them lost caste.

¹ The late Kirkman Finlay, Esq. ² The late Alexander M'Grigor, Esq., of Kerrock.

Since I have got amongst the stories of olden times, I may mention a very remarkable trial and execution which took place in Glasgow in May 1784. The trial was that of Archibald Jarvies, and James Jack, stocking weaver, lately recruits in the 1st Regiment of Foot, who were accused of robbing William Barclay, schoolmaster, at Calder Kirk. Jarvies was fugitated for non-attendance. The jury upon Jack returned a verdict unanimously finding him guilty, art and part, of the robbery libelled; but on account of his ingenuous confession before the Magistrates, they *unanimously* recommended him as a proper object of mercy. Upon returning the verdict, the counsel for the panel moved an arrest of judgment, on the ground that there was a person of the name of Robertson who made one of the jury who returned the verdict, but who was not one of the jury enclosed upon the trial, his name in the list of jurors served upon him being Robertson. The Court repelled the objection, and sentenced the panel to be hanged at Glasgow in July following. Accordingly, on Wednesday the 7th of July 1784, James Jack, aged 24 years, condemned in May previous, was hanged in the Castle-yard, the place of execution in former times, being now the termination of the Monkland Canal. The morning of the day of his execution he attempted to destroy himself with a knife, but was prevented, though not till he had wounded himself in different places. He was put in a cart, *with fetters on*, and in that condition was carried to the place of execution, and after the usual time spent in prayer by the Rev. Mr. Lothian, to which the poor man paid little attention, he was *hoisted up by a pulley* from the cart, and hung the usual time.

The public of Glasgow took much interest in the fate of this unhappy young man, whose crime was not of a revolting nature, and who was condemned principally by his own confession. It was thought that the Judges should have given effect to the objection of his counsel regarding the misnomer of one of the jurors, and that the unanimous recommendation of the jury, stating him to have been a proper object of mercy, should have brought about his pardon. Every person felt hurt at the barbarous mode of executing him, and the cruelty of parading him through the streets bound upon an open cart. But above all, his conduct

since condemnation led most people to believe that he was insane; for, while in the condemned cell, he amused himself by drawing rude sketches with a pen, of his expectant interview with the devil—representing the devil as shaking him by the hand, and as introducing him into his infernal abode. These drawings he gave away to those who visited him in prison, and many of them were handed about the city as curiosities. When the cart, on which he was fettered, was leading him up the High Street for execution, he looked around him at the various windows in the line of route, crowded with spectators; and when he saw any window occupied by young females he gave them a smile in passing and a familiar nod, as if he had been an intimate but indifferent acquaintance. It is to be hoped that such a scene as this will never again occur in Glasgow.

There was another trial took place at this period, regarding which, I daresay, our underwriters in the Royal Exchange will feel more interest than in the fate of poor Jack. On Wednesday, May 19, 1784, the trial of John M'Ivor and Archibald M'Callum, merchants in Greenock, took place in Edinburgh, they being accused of wilfully and feloniously sinking of ships, or advising and directing others so to do, in order to defraud the underwriters. The trial proceeded, and the next day the jury returned their verdict, all in one voice, finding the panels guilty, as far as regards the brigantine *Endeavour*. The Judge then pronounced their sentence, which was that they should stand in the pillory at Glasgow on the 28th of July 1784 for the space of one hour, with a rope about each of their necks, and bareheaded, with the following label affixed to their breasts:—"Here stand John M'Ivor and Archibald M'Callum, infamous persons, who did wickedly procure holes to be bored in the ship *Endeavour*, in order to sink the same, and thereby to defraud the underwriters." They were also banished Scotland for life. Like most boys, I was curious to see this exhibition, and accordingly managed to procure a situation from which I could behold all that was going on. The culprits were placed on the top of the great stair at the Cross, which then led into the Town Hall, with their heads leaning towards the Salt-market. A board, with the above-mentioned inscription, was hung

from their necks, and lay loose, dangling upon the iron rails of the stair. Neither M'Ivor nor M'Callum looked up during the whole time that they stood in the pillory, but kept their faces continually bent downwards towards the ground. Their hands were placed in holes in the board of the pillory, upon the same level with the holes through which their heads were placed. It was indeed a most humiliating and degrading punishment. The mob pelted them most unmercifully with rotten eggs, turnips, potatoes, and even stones. Whenever a rotten egg hit them, and bespattered their heads with its yellow yolk, there was a loud huzza from the crowd, and a shout of laughter; but when a stone was thrown there was a universal expression of indignation given, as not being fair play. Although the sentence was, that they should stand in the pillory bareheaded, nevertheless it was understood that they wore wigs lined with copper, to defend their heads from stones. The pillory is certainly a very improper punishment; for it leaves to the caprice of a mob the extent of punishment which a culprit may suffer, in place of having the exact amount of punishment legally defined.

At the period when the foregoing events took place, a new religious sect arose in this part of the country, called Buchanites. Mrs. Buchan, the founder of the sect, was at this time (1784) 46 years of age, and was married in 1760 to Robert Buchan, delf-workman in Glasgow. She came to Glasgow when she was about 22 years of age, and took service with Mr. Martin, one of the principal proprietors of the Delffield Company and soon after married Robert Buchan. Her maiden name was Elspeth Simpson, and she was the daughter of John Simpson, innkeeper at Fitmycan, which is the half-way house between Banff and Portsoy. When she was married she was of the Episcopal persuasion, but soon changed her opinions greatly, and became author of many new and extraordinary doctrines. She brought over to her opinions Mr. Hugh Whyte, who was the settled Relief Minister at Irvine, and connected with Mr. Bell in Glasgow. She also brought over Mr. Hunter, a writer to business, and fiscal in Irvine. The Buchanites declared that the last day was at hand, and that no one of all their company would die, but would hear the voice of the last trumpet, when all the wicked would be struck dead, and so remain

for a thousand years ; at the same moment, that the Buchanites would undergo an agreeable change, and would be caught up in the air to meet the Lord, from whence they would return to this earth in company with the Lord Jesus, with whom, as their King, they would possess this earth for a thousand years, the devil being bound with a chain in the meantime. The Buchanites had one common purse for their cash, and otherwise lived together as communists. Mrs. Buchan said that she was greater than the Virgin Mary, who was Christ's mother ; but she was Christ's daughter, after the spirit. The opinions of this sect were so absurd that it soon failed to make converts, and gradually became extinct.¹

(1849.)

JOTTINGS ANENT CANDLERIGGS.

In Mr. Pagan's interesting *Sketches of the History of Glasgow*, (presented to Her Majesty by the Lord Provost) various references are made to the old buildings, and to circumstances connected with Candleriggs Street in olden times. As I remember the erection of the entire present buildings in that street, with the exception of two tenements, I will endeavour to detail a few matters having reference to this subject.

The two old tenements above referred to are situated, the one at the north-east corner of Wilson Street, and the other at the north-west corner of Bell Street, formerly called Bell's Wynd. The ground floor of the first-mentioned old tenement in my younger days was occupied partly by tenants, having front shops,

¹ The last survivor of this fanatical community, named Andrew Innes (if we remember correctly), died within the last five years, at the village of Crocketford, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. On inspecting the house after his death, the body of Mrs. Buchan was found carefully laid out in a private apartment, which no one was in the habit of entering save the old man himself. The remains were quite in a mummified condition ; but it appeared that old Innes was under the impression that the body was only in a state of trance, and till his dying day he cherished the belief that the active spirit would again vivify the mortal clay of the pseudo-prophetess. The body of Mother Buchan, however, was at length consigned to the earth, along with that of her deluded disciple. A curious and interesting history of this silly-minded sect was written a few years ago by Mr. Train of Castle Douglas, the correspondent of Sir Walter Scott.—J. P.

with one or more rooms attached to them, in which they resided, and partly as carriers' quarters. This was before Wilson Street was opened. In the floor above, and entering by the back, there resided two respectable elderly maiden ladies of the name of Pagan, and I rather think that the property was their own, and that Mr. James Ewing of Strathleven was subsequently factor upon the estate. At the back of these premises was situated Wilson's Charity School, from which Wilson Street derived its name. Before this street was opened, the space at its junction with Candleriggs Street was an open court, with a well in the middle of it, in some respects resembling Wallace Court. There was no thoroughfare from this Court to the west, but it led to the property of Mr. Robert Smith, builder, which extended back as far as Brunswick Street. Mr. Smith opened Wilson Street, and built nearly the whole of it. The other old tenement at the corner of Bell Street is one regarding which you must be pretty well informed, as the *Herald* newspaper printing establishment was carried on in it for many years. The principal shop on the ground floor was occupied by Mr. John Gardner, mathematical instrument maker and measurer, who laid off the lands of Tradeston, belonging to the Incorporated Trades of the city, and with whom the present respectable proprietor of Laurieston served his apprenticeship. Before the *Herald* newspaper proprietors rented the upper parts of this building it formed the residence of John Alston, Esq., and I believe that both the late Douglas Alston, Esq., and his brother John Thomas, formerly Provost of Glasgow, were born in this tenement. At this time it was quite a rural spot, for the back part of Mr. Alston's house looked into the Candleriggs bowling-green (taken notice of by Mr. Pagan at page 65).

This bowling-green, I have understood, was bequeathed to trustees, expressly to be kept, in all time coming, as a bowling-green, open to the public upon payment of a small sum. Admission was given to any person upon payment of one penny; but, in the course of time the smoke of the city prevented the grass from growing, and it then became useless as a place of sport. The city of Glasgow, in some of their Parliamentary Bills, got power to make it into public markets, which were erected under

the superintendence of the late Dr. Cleland, who first *dubbed* it "The Bazaar Market," and afterwards altered it to its present name of the Bazaar. About 1780 there was a deep and broad ditch extending along the whole front of the bowling-green (now the Bazaar); this ditch was never cleaned, and was about two feet deep of thick *glar*, in which innumerable large maggots with tails made a prominent figure. The children, for amusement, used to step into this receptacle of black *glar* with their bare legs, and when they came out of it they perambulated the street in sport, having on what they called a pair of boots! In the same old tenement, but facing Bell Street, Mr. Andrew Stevenson had his muslin warehouse, and it was here that Provost Dalglish first commenced his mercantile career. From regard to Mr. Stevenson, Provost Dalglish named his son after him, now our distinguished townsman, Andrew Stevenson Dalglish, Esq. Immediately behind the south-east corner of the bowling-green, and looking into it, Bailie John Brown had his place of residence. The entry to it was by the Pen Close, next to the Bell Street Market, and its site is now used as an open market for the sale of singing birds, dogs, and rabbits. The Bailie was the senior partner of the manufacturing house of Brown, Carrick, and Co., whose warehouse was situated in Bell Street, directly opposite to Wallace Court. Matthew Fleming, Esq., of Sawmillfield, served his apprenticeship here. Robert Carrick, of the Ship Bank, was a partner of this house, and Mr. Brown was a partner in the bank, the firm of which was Carrick, Brown, and Co. Although Mr. Carrick was very strict in seeing that none of his bank customers overdrew their bank accounts, nevertheless he made no objection to Brown, Carrick, and Co. overdrawing *their* account £5000 or £6000.

The following anecdote of Mr. Carrick was told to me by a gentleman (now deceased) who himself transacted the business in question with Mr. Carrick. This gentleman for many years, when money was scarce, had kept a large sum of cash in the Ship Bank; but when money became so plenty that Mr. Carrick found difficulty of employing it to advantage, he sent a letter to this gentleman, saying that the bank was going to pay him up his deposit money. The gentleman, in consequence of this communi-

cation, waited on Mr. Carrick, and represented to him the hardship of thus suddenly being paid up his money, when it was so difficult to find a profitable investment for it; and he told Mr. Carrick that as he (Mr. C.) had had the benefit of the money for so long a period, when money was scarce, that he ought now to keep the remembrance of former benefits; but Mr. Carrick was deaf to this argument, and answered that the partners of the bank could not find employment even for their own capital. The gentleman, seeing Mr. Carrick to be quite determined, then asked him in what manner he (Mr. C.) proposed to pay him; to which Mr. Carrick replied, that the amount would be paid in the ordinary way, with bank notes; to which the gentleman answered, "Na, na, Mr. Carrick; if you won't accept of my money, I will not accept of yours; you must therefore pay me in gold." Mr. Carrick was quite taken aback by this demand, and after a few smooth speeches (for Mr. Carrick possessed very bland manners), he concluded by saying that it would be a pity if they should have any words about a settlement after having so long done business together, and therefore, however inconvenient it might be to the bank, that in the meantime the matter might lie over. After this the gentleman heard nothing more on the subject.

But from this digression I return to Bailie Brown. This gentleman purchased an estate in Ayrshire, and as he had made the principal part of his fortune by the manufacture of fine lawns, he named his estate Lawnfine; but afterwards (like a worthy *ex*-Provost on the banks of the Leven) the Bailie thought that it would be an improvement to give his estate a more euphonical name, and therefore he changed it to "Lanfin." Dr. Thomas Brown succeeded to this estate upon the death of his cousin, Nicol Brown, Esq. To the north of Bailie Brown's burgage property, and behind the bowling-green, there was a garden belonging to Mr. Cross, lying on the west side of the Police Lane, and now forming part of the police establishment, in which garden I have had many a game at shinty and "I spy." To the south of Mr. Cross's garden were the wright-shop and timber-yard of Bailie Ninian Glen (commonly called Ringan Glen). These are now occupied by the police buildings. Mr. Cross's house formed part

of a range of two-storey houses, with single outside stairs to the upper floors, and situated upon the east side of the present Police Lane, which was the entry to it from Bell Street. Next house to Mr. Cross's in this range, towards the north, was the house of George Bogle, Esq. (belonging to an old Glasgow family). It was in this house that, in my younger days, John Stirling, Esq., married Miss Bogle. Old William Stirling's house was situated at the north extremity of this lane (Police Lane), but the principal entry was from the High Street, by the present Stirling Street, and was a very different affair from Mr. Cuninghame of Lainshaw's house, afterwards the residence of this mercantile family. It was the intention of Mr. John Stirling to have made Stirling's Square a handsome square, but he failed in acquiring some property essential to his plan, and therefore formed the present confused square or place, in a sort of disgust at the disappointment of his intentions.

From High Street, of old, there joined the properties of Mr. Cross and Mr. Bogle, the property of Bailie Robert Reid, who was shot in the Saltmarket about the year 1730, endeavouring to quell a riot.

Nearly facing the Police Lane, in Bell Street, Messrs. Spreul, Sommerville, and M'Caul had their muslin warehouse. Mr. Spreul was afterwards City Chamberlain; his original name was Shortridge, and he was younger brother to Mr. Shortridge of the firm of Tod and Shortridge. (Mr. Tod's family house was in Havannah Street.) Mr. Spreul changed his name in consequence of receiving a considerable legacy from Miss Spreul, who also bequeathed to him an old building, then next to Hutcheson's Hospital. On the site of this old house Mr. Spreul erected the present elegant building, now known as Spreul's Land, on the back part of which the printing establishment of the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper is at this time conducted. Mr. Spreul was at considerable extra expense in erecting this building, as he entailed it upon his family. It was in the muslin warehouse of the above-mentioned company of Spreul, Sommerville, and M'Caul that the late William Maxwell, Esq., of Dargavel, served his apprenticeship.

Mr. Pagan, in his *Sketches*, at page 63, mentions that in 1725, during the Shawfield riot, the Glasgow mob assailed the

military, "drove them from the guard-house, locked the doors, and carried off the keys." The guard-house here mentioned was situated at the south-west corner of Candleriggs Street, where it joins the Trongate, and was a place of no strength whatever. It was a coarse building of two storeys, projecting about ten feet upon the line of the Trongate, having a portico, or piazza, open at the east and west ends, and raised a step above the level of the street. The portico was about the same size as the portico of the present Royal Bank building. Within this portico the soldier on guard, while on duty, marched backwards and forwards, and would not permit any citizen to trespass upon it. The ground floor consisted of one large apartment, flagged with stone, which was kept in a very dirty condition. From this apartment there was an inside stair, leading to the upper storey, used by the officers when on duty. Altogether, it was a paltry building, and was used by the guard merely when on duty; for the soldiers at that time were billeted upon the citizens, and continued to be so until the Infantry Barracks were built. On the site of this guard-house the present large tenement was erected by Mr. M'Ilhose, the father of the late Mr. Hozier (who changed the family name). The *Herald* newspaper establishment was removed from Bell Street to the back premises of this building. Its court is called the Post-Office Court, from the Post-Office having been there at one time. The back premises were subsequently taken by a congregation of the Jewish persuasion for a synagogue, but at the time I have first mentioned there was not a single Jew settled in Glasgow. I have always considered it as boding good luck when a Jew settles in a town, and I am delighted to see so many hundreds of them established in Glasgow. They would not come here unless it was a thriving place.

To the north of the guard-house in Candleriggs Street was situated the green market. It was about 150 feet in length, having a coarse rubble wall fronting the street, with a door near each extremity; and altogether was a copy of the King Street markets, but got up quite on cheap principles. Next to this market, towards the north, and standing a little back from the line of the street, was the public Weigh-house—a clumsy building,

like a large shed, with a high roof, and similar to some of our carriers' quarters. This weigh-house was subsequently removed to Ingram Street, and occupied the south-east corner of Montrose Street and Ingram Street, and was a building of a similar description to the old one. After the weigh-house was removed from Candleriggs Street, the guard-house was taken from the site that I have already mentioned, and a new guard-house was built upon the site of the weigh-house; but this new guard-house was only a copy of the old one, with the exception that the front of the piazza was upon the line of the street. In fact, this new guard-house was erected with the stones of the old one. To the north of the last-mentioned buildings there were some two-storey old buildings, through which there was a cart-entry, leading into the cooperage of Mr. Hood, the father of Bailie Hood, and grandfather of Lady Anderson, the wife of our present excellent Lord Provost. Old Mr. Hood's cooperage had another entry for foot passengers by the second close (in Trongate) west from Candleriggs. The principal entry to old Mr. Hood's cooperage was opposite to the extensive warehouses of Messrs. Campbell and Co. At this time there was another cooperage in the Candleriggs, situated to the north of the bowling-green, and now forming part of the Bazaar. This cooperage belonged to Mr. Young, the father of Dr. Young, and grandfather of the late Mr. Archibald Young, writer. When old Mr. Hood's cooperage came to be required for new erections, Bailie Hood removed his cooperage to the premises of Mr. Young, who in the meantime had died. Bailie Hood sold this property to the city of Glasgow, and it is now embraced in the Bazaar.

To the north of old Mr. Hood's cooperage there was a two-storey house with an outside stair, and then rather a superior building, fronting Bell Street, having a back court, and a respectable back building. In this back building was the writing-school of Mr. Scruton, the father of the late Dr. Scruton. The marriage of Mr. Scruton's great-granddaughter is announced in the *Glasgow Herald* of 31st August 1849.

Mr. Pagan, in his *Sketches*, page 189, mentions that in the year 1749, Provost Cochrane and Bailie Murdoch were sent by

the city of Glasgow as a deputation to London, and that amongst their charges of expenditure there is an item, "To a Writing Master, to come down, five guineas." Now, the writing master here alluded to was Mr. Scruton, and there never has been seen in Glasgow his superior in caligraphy. I attended his school in 1782, and after his death I attended the school of Mr. M'Ilquham, opposite the College. Mr. M'Ilquham had a curious sign-board, with a man's hand holding a quill painted upon it. His son, the late Professor, was then at the University, and occasionally assisted his father in the arithmetical department, in which he excelled. He changed the family name (like some others) to Meiklem. But, to return to the Candleriggs. The property I have last mentioned belonged to Dr. Scruton, and as it fronted Bell Street, Mr. Smith, the builder, wished to purchase it, so that he might have been able to continue the line of Bell Street directly westwards, by opening up a new street through Dr. Scruton's property; but, having failed in the negotiation with Dr. Scruton, he opened up the present Wilson Street, a little farther towards the north. The public of Glasgow regretted very much that Mr. Smith's intentions had been frustrated.

I have already taken notice of the present old buildings at the corner of Wilson Street. To the north of them there was a smith's shop fronting the street, and then an excellent house, with a double outside stair projecting upon the street, like the stair of the Buck's Head Inn. This house was the property of a Mr. Dunlop, and, after his death, it was let in separate parts. The late John Lang, Esq., Dean of Faculty of the Glasgow Procurators, had his writing chambers in the hay-loft of the stables in the back court attached to this house. John Fleming, Esq., writer, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Lang in this hay-loft. To the north of Mr. Dunlop's house there was an old house with a wooden front, and then followed a thatch house; after that two or three old houses, with outside stairs; and, last of all, a respectable three-storey tenement, being the corner of Candleriggs Street and the old Cow Loan. Some of these properties had gardens behind which reached to Brunswick Street. Immediately to the west of the Ram's Horn Church (now St.

David's), in the old Cow Loan, were two small thatch houses, occupied by Allan M'Aulay, gardener, and westward, the whole extent of Ingram Street (then a narrow thoroughfare), was un-built upon, with the exception of the Inkle Factory, part of which still remains upon the east of Hutcheson's Hospital, and part of the ground was taken to widen Ingram Street, which street was named after Provost Ingram.

On the site of Allan M'Aulay's houses the public weigh-house was erected, as before mentioned. Then, with regard to the east side of Candleriggs Street, the corner steading, next the church, was occupied by the Glasgow Soapery (as mentioned by Mr. Pagan, page 78). This was rather an extensive building, and consisted of a square court, having a cart entry by the Candleriggs. I went through these works about sixty-five years ago, and remarked that the concern was languishing. There appeared only about half-a-dozen of men employed, and these were *clamping* about the floors in a very inactive manner, having heavy iron shoes upon their feet. It was easy to be seen that they were working at day's wages; but what struck me most, was a large pile of very fine fire bricks, intended to be used in constructing the company's furnaces. They were placed in an open yard, to the south of the court. I inquired where the company got these bricks, and was informed that they were imported from Holland. Now, it is singular that Glasgow should, at this period, have been obliged to resort to Holland for fire bricks, when the city is surrounded, on all sides, with fire clay of the best quality, and which, at the above-mentioned time, might have been got for the trouble of carting away. The present Commercial Buildings were erected on the site of the Soapery by Messrs. William and James Carswell (both above fourscore), who also rebuilt a considerable portion of Candleriggs Street. Immediately south of the Soapery was the cooperage of Mr. Young, and then the bowling-green, and after that the corner house of Bell Street (all already noticed). On the opposite corner of Bell Street was the old Sugar-house, also a languishing concern. Then followed a range of two-storey houses, being shops and dwellings of a plain description. In one of these Mr. Graham, baker, lived, and had his baking establish-

ment. He was the father of Mr. John Graham, at one time City Marshal. The late Bailie Ferrie rebuilt the greatest portion of this part of the Candleriggs.

Amongst the memorabilia of the Candleriggs, I may mention that Andrew Carmichael, the last Earl of Hyndford, was an articulated apprentice for seven years to a cabinetmaker in that street. His Lordship afterwards resided at Mauldsly Castle, now the property of William Dixon, Esq. Mr. Pagan, at page 82 of his *Sketches*, takes notice of our enterprising townsman, the late Kirkman Finlay, Esq., being the first Glasgow merchant who despatched a ship from this port to India. I think that Mr. Finlay had his early place of business in Smith's Court, Candleriggs, and that he afterwards removed it to Brunswick Street. It is not generally known, I believe, how this gentleman acquired his Christian name. It was thus: his father, Mr. James Finlay, was a great Reformer, and a strong advocate of free principles. At the time when his eldest son was born, there was an Alderman Kirkman in London, who was the Cobden and Joseph Hume of the day, and old Mr. Finlay admired his public conduct so much, that he named his first-born after him. At page 77, Mr. Pagan takes notice of a joint-stock company being formed in Glasgow, in the year 1665, and that they fitted out a letter of marque of sixty tons burthen, during the Dutch War. Amongst the partners of this concern there appears the name of John Boyle. I believe that this gentleman was the father of David, the first Earl of Glasgow. Mr. John Boyle, of Kilburn, was Commissary of Glasgow in the year 1631, and I presume that Earl David took his title from his father's connection with Glasgow. I am not aware of the family ever having possessed any property within the city. Mr. Pagan, at page 75, narrates that "In 1789 the manufacturers proposed a reduced scale of wages to their workmen, in consequence of which the weavers struck work, and many acts of violence followed." Amongst these acts of violence, a strong body of weavers got hold of the late Henry Monteith, Esq., of Carstairs, and handled him in the roughest manner, on account of his having reduced the price of weaving in his establishment. Besides grossly maltreating him, they cut off his

cue or *pigtail*, it being then the fashion for gentlemen to wear their hair powdered, and tied with a black ribbon, in the form of a pig's tail. The late William Aitken, Esq., of Frisky Hall, was struck by a brick bat, and severely wounded in the head by the mob.

(1849.)

THE CAMPBELLS OF BLYTHSWOOD.

The Campbells (afterwards of Blythswood) are descended from one of our oldest mercantile families, for they seem to have been traders in Glasgow during the reign of Queen Mary, when the city contained only 4500 inhabitants, and thereafter to have gradually acquired considerable wealth and influence in the burgh.

Colin Campbell (the first), styled senior, merchant burgess, was Bailie of Glasgow in 1615. His only son, Colin Campbell (the second) of Elie, was Bailie of Glasgow in 1628, and Provost in 1636.¹ His *eldest son* was Robert Campbell of Elie and Silvercraigs, in whose house, situated in the Saltmarket, opposite the Bridgegate, Oliver Cromwell took up his abode in 1650. It was taken down about twenty years ago, and had been previously occupied by a furniture broker. His *second son*, Colin Campbell (the third), styled elder of Blythswood, was Provost of Glasgow in 1661; and his brother, James, was Provost in 1669. Another brother, named Robert, was Dean of Guild about this time. The city then contained 14,678 inhabitants. Colin purchased the estate of Blythswood from Sir George Elphinstone, or rather from his creditors,² and built various tenements in Glasgow. He died

¹ It was during his Provostship that the Town-house, Jail, and Steeple at the Cross were built. Dr. Cleland says, that the Jail and Court-house at the Cross, were built in 1603, which may be so far correct; but these seem to have been taken down and replaced by the Jail, Court-house, and Steeple, erected in, or previous to, 1636. Dr. Cleland purchased the late Jail for £8000, and built the present tenement upon its site about thirty-five years ago.

² It was Sir George Elphinstone who got the Gorbals erected into a burgh of barony and regality. He died in 1634, and so poor, that his body was arrested by his creditors, and privately buried by his friends, in his own chapel adjoining his house, lately the Gorbals Town-house and Tower.

in 1706, and was succeeded by his son, Colin Campbell (the fourth), styled younger of Blythswood, who left an only daughter named Mary. She married her cousin-german, Colin Campbell¹ (the fifth), the grandson of Colin Campbell (the third), styled elder. Colin Campbell (the fifth) was succeeded by his only son, James Campbell, the father of our late member, Archibald Campbell, Esq., of Blythswood. James Campbell, the younger brother of Colin Campbell (the fifth), was left the estate of Mains by his mother's father, in consequence of which he changed his name to Douglas, and became Douglas of Mains. The family mansion-house was in the Bridgegate, a little to the west of Blythswood's House. Our townsman, Campbell Douglas, Esq., is descended from this branch of the Blythswood family. James Campbell, who, as above mentioned, acquired the Mains estate, and took the name of James Douglas, was succeeded by his son, John Douglas of Mains. This gentleman, in the year 1732, married Miss Agnes Jones, on which occasion her mother, Mrs. Janet Norie, settled 20,000 merks upon the young couple and the issue of the marriage. John Douglas of Mains died about the year 1760, in debt, and his creditors raised an action in the Court of Session claiming 10,000 merks of the sum settled at the marriage, for which, I believe, they obtained decree in their favour.

The following narrative is taken from the printed papers laid before the Court of Session (in the course of this lawsuit), by James Douglas, the son of the said John Douglas of Mains. The petitioning creditors were James Sterling, Archibald Hamilton, and John Hamilton, merchants in Glasgow, and others:—

Narrative 1st December 1763.

“Upon Mr. Douglas's death it appeared that he had contracted debts to the extent of about £3300 sterling of principal sums, upon which his eldest son, James Douglas, who succeeded to the entailed estate of Mains, brought a process of sale of the said ten shilling land of West Clober, with another ten shilling land contiguous to it, which had been acquired by his father, and after the lands were sold, and the creditors had produced their interests in the ranking, a long interlocutor was drawn out of nineteen pages, ranking the creditors upon their interests, which was signed by the Lord Ordinary, as usual.”

¹ His father's name was John, who was a brother of Colin Campbell (the fourth).

It is rather singular that the heirs to the large entailed estates of both Blythswood and Mains, viz. James Campbell of Blythswood, the father of our late Member, and John Douglas of Mains (being cousins), should each have died in debt—showing very strongly the necessity for the late change in our Scotch Law of Entail.¹

The town residence of the Campbells of Blythswood was situated in the Bridgegate (No. 109), which house is still in pretty good preservation, and of which Mr. Stuart in his *Views of Glasgow*, page 99, has given an excellent sketch. It presents an extensive front to the street, and it had a large garden reaching to the banks of the River Clyde. About a century ago the family of Blythswood ceased to occupy this mansion as a place of residence, and began to let it in various portions to different tenants. The back premises or ancient garden grounds were at first let in one lot to David Lilly, a wright, but subsequently they were divided into three portions; first, to William Martin, wright (father of the late Mr. Martin, ironmonger); second, to John Robertson, cooper; and third, to an Englishman of the name of Lin Dillon, a plasterer (father of the late Mr. Dillon, writer), of whom I will presently speak.

With regard to the lands now forming what is called the Blythswood Annexation, these lands, as I have heard from old

¹ To the best of my recollection the last Duchess of Douglas belonged to the Mains branch of the Campbells of Blythswood. She was a Miss Douglas of Mains, and lived in the family mansion in the Bridgegate. The following story is told of the manner of her first introduction to the Duke of Douglas: A Glasgow party had been made up to take an excursion to see Bothwell Castle and its pleasure grounds, and among this party was Miss Douglas of Mains, a very lively rattling girl. The Duke of Douglas was a man of very retired habits, and saw little company, living generally at Bothwell Castle. Upon the Glasgow party reaching the Castle, and finding that the Duke was there, they sent a message requesting liberty to take a view of the Castle and pleasure grounds, which was readily granted. The Duke himself very politely received them, and not only made them welcome, but accompanied the party himself through the Castle and pleasure grounds. On this occasion Miss Douglas rattled away with his Grace, and chatted with him in so easy and lively a manner that the Duke was quite taken with her. The Glasgow party, after having viewed the house and pleasure grounds, were about to depart, when Miss Douglas said to the Duke, "Please your Grace, everything here is most beautiful, and very fine indeed; but I think this place might be wonderfully improved." "How so," said the Duke quickly. "Why," answered Miss Douglas, "just by your Grace taking a wife." Of course this passed off with a laugh. However, the Duke returned the call, and ultimately married the lively young lady.

people, were purchased by Provost Colin Campbell of Blythswood, at a very small price indeed. In my younger days people alleged that the Provost had bought them at merely a nominal value, the Town-Council of Glasgow in these times being very liberal in their dealings, particularly with their friends and with members of their own body, as the following entry in the Town's books, dated 18th July 1670, will abundantly show:—

“The Bailies and Counsel ‘ordains ane tack to be wrytten and subscrivit in favors of Sir James Turnor of the tounes housse and tour in Gorballs, quihilk he presentlie possesses, and that dureing his lyfetye, for payment yearlie of thrie punds Scots (5s.), gif the samyne be requyred.’”

The Magistrates and Council of Glasgow also, about this time, made a present to Mr. Hugh Tennent of some of the city lands in the Gallowgate, on which Mr. Tennent erected the Saracen's Head Inn; and they further gave him liberty to use the stones of the Bishop's palace towards the building of the said inn. It is therefore to be presumed that the then Magistrates of Glasgow would not stickle in making a bargain with their own Provost. A great deal has been said by the citizens of Glasgow regarding the price which Campbell of Blythswood paid to the Magistrates and Council of the city of Glasgow for the Annexation lands in question; but I have never heard the exact amount named, and I am sure that it would give much satisfaction to the community if our city records were searched, and a fair statement laid before the public regarding the important sale of these burgh lands, now yielding upwards of £25,000 per annum of revenue. The Blythswood Annexation lands contain 470 acres, 1 rood, and 2 falls, Scotch measure, or 2,892,150 square yards, which, at *one half-farthing* per square yard, amounts to £1506:6:6 $\frac{3}{4}$. Now, from what has been told to me by old people in my younger days, I do not believe that the city of Glasgow ever received £1500 from the Campbell family for the Blythswood Annexation lands; indeed, I have heard it stated again and again by aged folks, that Blythswood had got these lands from the city of Glasgow for a *mere wanworth*. I have strong doubts if the Blythswood family ever paid one half of £1500 for the lands in question; but, even supposing that the

purchase money had absolutely amounted to £3000, still this would only have made the price a fraction less than *one farthing per square yard* ! I really hope that some explanation will yet be given to the community regarding the unfortunate sale of these city lands—the baneful effects of their alienation extending down even to our own times. It would be curious to see from the Council books the amount of, and how and when the price of these lands was paid ; or if, like the 5s. tack duty due by Sir James Turnor, it was only to be payable “*gif the samyne be requyred.*”

The tailzie of the Blythswood estates, embracing the Annexation lands and the different family tenements within the burgh, was executed by Colin Campbell, younger, of Blythswood, on the 13th of December 1739, and contained the usual prohibitory, irritant, and resolute clauses. Colin Campbell was succeeded by his grand-nephew, James Campbell, the father of our late member, Archibald Campbell, Esq., of Blythswood.

In the year 1779, the annual rental of the Annexation lands before mentioned, and of the family burgage tenements, appears to have been about £320 sterling ; and the total rental of the whole of the Blythswood estates amounted, at that time, to a trifle more than two thousand pounds per annum.

James Campbell of Blythswood died 8th January 1773, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Campbell, afterwards Colonel Campbell, who, dying unmarried, was succeeded by his brother Archibald Campbell, our late Member, then Captain, afterwards Major Campbell.¹

There was only a small portion of the Blythswood Annexation lands feued during the life of Colonel John Campbell : but shortly after Major Archibald Campbell had succeeded to the Blythswood estates, William Harley, merchant in Glasgow, took a very large feu of the said Blythswood Annexation lands, and in 1804 erected thereon (in Bath Street) extensive dairies, baths, and

¹ Since I sent you the paper regarding the Campbells of Blythswood, I happened to see an old magazine of 1794, in which it is stated that Colonel John Campbell was killed at Martinico in 1794, and that his brother Archibald (our late Member), then Captain Campbell, was a prisoner at Toulon, where the news reached him of his having succeeded to the Entailed Estates of Blythswood.

other buildings, and at the same time he tastily laid off and improved the whole of the grounds which he had feued. In short, Mr. Harley may be considered as the founder of the present New Town of Glasgow upon the Annexation lands.¹ Mr. Harley, however, was unfortunate in not being able to retain his purchase a sufficient length of time to remunerate him, otherwise his heirs might have been ranked amongst the wealthiest of our citizens. Even the successors to Mr. Harley's speculation—Mr. Archibald Cuthel, writer, Mr. James Cooke, engineer, and others—also failed in their attempts to retain Mr. Harley's purchases, owing to the want of means, or to these not being sufficiently large to have enabled them to hold the said feued lands until the market price rose by the extension of the city. The exertions of these gentlemen, however, had called the attention of the public to the capabilities of the Annexation lands for building purposes, and a course of speculation of feuing grounds in that quarter of the city rapidly increased. Amongst these early feuing speculators were the late Mr. Dugald Bannatyne, Mr. William Jack, of Jack, Paterson, and Co., and Dr. Cleland.

About the year 1799, and shortly before this spirit of speculation had commenced, the Blythswood Annexation lands produced an annual rental of only £223 : 1 : 3. About fifty years ago, our late member, Major Archibald Campbell, seeing the probability of the whole of the Blythswood Annexation lands being speedily feued, applied for, and obtained power under the superintendence of trustees (some of whom, I think, were Lords of Session), to purchase the said entailed Annexation lands and family Burgage tenements, at the then valued price, which price the said trustees were taken bound to lay out in the purchase of other lands to be substituted for the Annexation lands and Burgage properties so sold, and these newly-purchased lands were to be entailed in strict conformity with the terms of the original deed of 1739. In this manner Major Archibald Campbell came to hold the Blythswood Annexation lands and family Burgage tenements in Glasgow in fee simple. Major Campbell sold the ancestral mansion-house and pertinents in the Bridgegate in the year 1802.

¹ See some allusion to the early feuing of the Blythswood lands in Dean of Guild Court Reports, *ante*.

In 1777 a question of the greatest importance, in so far as regarded our Scotch Law of Entail, arose in consequence of a lease of part of the garden of the above-mentioned mansion-house having been granted by James Campbell of Blythswood to a person of the name of Lin Dillon, an Englishman, in the year 1770. The question was twofold, but the principal legal one was, whether or not a burgage tenement could be validly entailed in the same manner as lands. The public of Glasgow at the time felt great interest in the question, not so much for the issue of the legal point, as in compassion for the hardship of Dillon's case, in the event of his being unsuccessful.

The following are the facts, which I have taken from printed papers that were laid before the Court of Session :—

On the 22d day of May, 1770, James Campbell of Blythswood granted a tack to Lin Dillon, a plasterer, and to his heirs or assignees, of part of his garden, lying behind his mansion-house in the Bridgegate of Glasgow, for the space of nineteen years, with breaks at the end of seven and thirteen years, “and with liberty to erect shades (sheds) or other buildings thereupon ; and the landlord, at the end of this tack, to pay the value of the said shades and buildings, as the same shall be ascertained by two persons, to be mutually chosen by the parties.”

Dillon entered into possession of the premises under full faith of the validity of the tack, Mr. James Campbell in the said tack having designed himself “heritable proprietor of the yard after-mentioned.” Mr. Dillon then raised the ground of the garden about three feet, to prevent its being inundated during the ordinary floods of the river ; built a dwelling-house of three floors upon it ; also erected shades, offices, and workhouses, and enclosed the ground with a brick wall ; all these he did under the eye of Mr. James Campbell, who every day saw the buildings going on, and who expressed his approbation and satisfaction at the improvements making on the subjects. Dillon regularly paid the rent of the premises to Mr. James Campbell during his lifetime, as the same fell due.

James Campbell of Blythswood (father of our late member), after a lingering illness of nine months, died in the latter end of

the year 1773, leaving no real or personal estate whatever, after sick-bed and funeral charges were defrayed. His eldest son, John (afterwards Colonel Campbell), succeeded to the Blythswood entailed estates, to whom Dillon regularly paid the rent of the subjects, in conformity with the terms of his tack. But, having entered into another line of business, he gave intimation to Colonel Campbell's factor, on the 2d of July 1776, that he was going to quit the subjects and give up the tack at the break of seven years, viz. at Whitsunday 1777; and again (no answer being returned) did the same in proper legal form at the term when the first seven years of the tack had expired, requesting a proper person to be named in order to ascertain the value of the buildings, so that the amount thereof might be paid to him, as provided by the tack. This request being unattended to, or refused, Dillon brought an action against Colonel Campbell upon the tack and circumstances before mentioned, and denying the validity of the Blythswood entail, in so far as regarded burgage tenements, concluding against Colonel Campbell, the defender, for £300, as the value of the buildings erected on Blythswood grounds under the faith of the tack.

When the case came before Lord Braxfield, Ordinary, Colonel Campbell appeared and pleaded as follows: "That he was heir of entail to the deceased James Campbell of Blythswood, and that as he represented him in that character only, so he could not be liable to the pursuer's claims."

The Lord Ordinary (8th December, 1778) took up Colonel Campbell's view of the case, and assoilzied him from the action; reserving to Dillon his power to make his claim effectual against the other representatives of the late Blythswood; but this reservation was of no value to poor Dillon, as Mr. James Campbell had not left one farthing of available property.

Dillon had one of the ablest advocates of the day for his counsel, viz. Robert Cullen, afterwards Lord Cullen, and he presented one of the most eloquent and most powerful memorials to the Court of Session that ever appeared there. The following is part of it, and the italics are in the original, and not mine:—

“ The petitioner (Dillon), who is a stranger, was induced to enter into this tack, and to advance his all upon these buildings, entertaining no doubt that the bargain was to be fairly fulfilled. He knew nothing about strict entails, or of any secret fetters which Mr. Campbell might be under. That gentleman set himself forth in the tack merely as *heritable proprietor of the garden*; and this poor stranger never dreamed that by making what he understood a fair bargain with this gentleman, he was to find himself hooked in, and caught in a snare; for what he has met with cannot now be considered in any other light. Mr. Campbell, who contracted with the pursuer, is now dead, and is succeeded by his son in a very opulent estate of more than £2000 sterling a year; but when this poor plasterer comes and says to him—*Perform your father's contract, and give me what the subjects are worth*, the defender tells him—*I am an heir of entail: I am not bound to fulfil any of my father's engagements: I will take and pocket your rents, and I will keep your buildings; but I won't pay you a single farthing.* And he adds this notable reason—that *he has prodigious occasion for money to buy himself up in the army.* Such is precisely the defence here maintained by this gentleman, who gets by his father so very large a fortune; and it just comes to this, that he will deprive this poor stranger of his whole fortune, and convert it to his own use, without giving him a penny of equivalent.”

This most splendid address to the feelings of their Lordships so far influenced them, that they pronounced the following interlocutor in favour of Dillon:—23d February, 1779. “ Find the respondent (Colonel Campbell) liable in performance of the prestations in the lease, within mentioned, prestable by the master.”

But Colonel Campbell having given in a reclaiming petition, and being fully heard thereon, and also on the subject of the validity of an entail of burgage tenements, their Lordships finally, in substance, returned to the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary; and, on the 18th November, 1779, found that—

“ In respect of the prohibitory, irritant, and resolute clauses, *de non contrahendo debita*, in the tailzie of the estate of Blythswood; and that the defender, the heir of entail in said estate, does not represent the late Blythswood in any other manner; and therefore find that he, the defender, is not liable in payment of the buildings within mentioned.”

So poor Dillon, to the great regret of the citizens of Glasgow, lost his suit on both points.

I believe that there are few cases on record where the injustice of the Scotch Law of Entail has been so glaringly exposed.

Dillon's house is on the west side of the close, No. 109 Bridgegate, and is at present occupied as a storehouse. It appears

to have been sold by Major Campbell of Blythswood, our late Member, along with the other parts of the same subjects, in the year 1802.

I am not aware of any family in Glasgow, or in its neighbourhood, who owe so great a debt of gratitude to our citizens as the Campbells of Blythswood. Setting aside altogether the alleged *swanworth* acquisition from the city of Glasgow of the Burgh Lands, now called the Blythswood Annexation, we see that these lands, in more recent times, have been turned into a mine of gold ; not by the spirit or energy of the late Blythswood, but principally by the enterprise of William Harley, Hamilton Garden, and other early feuars, who commenced laying off these grounds in streets, squares, and other improvements, but unfortunately to their own ruin, while Blythswood himself lay quietly past on his oars, reaping all the advantages of these meliorations, and of the immense rise in value of his property in consequence thereof. To these circumstances must be added, as tending still further to enhance the value of these lands, the extension of the city through the industry and commercial spirit of our citizens, thereby causing an immense influx of wealthy strangers and citizens to congregate upon the Annexation lands. Notwithstanding of this, we look in vain for the Campbells of Blythswood amongst the benefactors of the city.

[Our excellent friend "Senex," in dealing with this subject, seems to forget that the Campbells of Blythswood, of an early day, in acquiring the lands in the neighbourhood of the city, now so valuable, may, for anything we know to the contrary, have paid their then actual value. It could not have been foreseen that lands then yielding scanty herbage or stinted crops would, in a generation or two, form the solum of a mighty city, and afford feu rents of great value. If Colin Campbell paid anything at all for these grounds, it is more than can be said of the ancestors of many of our most amiable noblemen, who seized on the fair acres of the ancient Church at the Reformation, and considered they had given enough for them by becoming Protestants. Within the last twenty years some hundred thousand pounds have been realised by river-side proprietors. It was a happy accident that they possessed lands which the growing commerce of the city rendered immensely valuable ; and no one blames these gentlemen for making the most of them. The position of Campbell of Blythswood is not much dissimilar. Whatever blame there may be in this Blythswood Annexation transaction would lie fully as much with the Council for giving as with Mr. Campbell for accepting.—J. P.]

(1850.)

OLDEN MEMORABILIA—THE COLLEGE FOOTROAD—EXECUTIONS
AND FLOGGINGS—BELL GEORDIE, ETC.

I believe that most old people receive pleasure at having the little tales and stories which were familiar to them in their younger days recalled to their recollection, and that there are few octogenarians who are not delighted at perusing a dissertation upon the alterations, and even the decay, of those material objects around which their early associations have been entwined. A new race has risen up around them, accustomed to other habits, and to greater luxuries, whose modern ideas are not in unison with the scenes of bygone times ; yet it is pleasant to see how the young enjoy the garrulity of an aged person, reciting the exploits of his youth, or expatiating upon the mighty changes that have taken place in society everywhere around him ; and still more pleasant is it to see two aged persons meet, who were play-fellows in their younger years. Then every little circumstance, however trivial, if mutually recollected, is a source of enjoyment ; the *nugæ* of their school-days are brought up to memory, and their own youthful peccadilloes form a source of merriment and of gratification, not only to themselves, but to the youngsters who may be listening to their prattlings.

When I inform your juvenile readers that I have conversed with relations who were born before the Union of England and Scotland ; have seen nine-tenths of all the buildings in Glasgow erected ; have beheld its population increased tenfold ; and have been familiar with two generations of our fellow-citizens, now passed away from amongst us, perhaps these young readers may excuse a little idle gossip regarding objects which in olden times interested their grandpapas. I shall therefore commence with an old story, which in its day kept the whole city of Glasgow in a state of ferment ; but which is now so totally forgotten that I doubt if there is a dozen of our citizens alive who remember anything of the subject.

There was, and still is, an ancient footroad, a quarter of a mile in length, and situated in the very centre of Glasgow; yet there are thousands of your young readers who have never set a foot upon this ground; nay, I doubt if one-half of the subscribers to our Royal Exchange Room know whether this foot-passage is a public or a private one. Nevertheless, in the year 1775 a dispute regarding the right of the public to the use of this foot-passage was the cause of most bitter animosity between the inhabitants of Glasgow and the Professors of our University, which, like the celebrated case of "Harvie's Dyke,"¹ ended in a protracted lawsuit, establishing the claim of our citizens to the free use of the footroad in dispute. The Professors, however, have laid off and circumscribed this footpath in such a manner as to afford the least possible accommodation to the public, although it is evident enough now that it would have been greatly for the advantage of the University itself if the Professors of 1775 had acted with more liberality, and had made a respectable road to the east through their grounds.

It may be remarked that at this time there was, properly speaking, no good road from Glasgow to the east except the Gallowgate, for the road by the Drygate had a great ascent to be overcome at the Bell of the Brae, then about twenty feet higher than it is at present, and also a like descent to the Drygate Bridge. Duke

¹ About twenty years ago, Adam Ferrie, Esq., who had taken the principal direction of superintending the action against Thomas Harvie, having been successful in the House of Lords, recovered £384 of expenses. As Mr. Ferrie was about to leave Scotland, he called a meeting of the subscribers to the Harvie fund, and after giving them an account of his intromissions, and declining to charge the greatest part even of his own personal expenses, made a motion that the subscribers present should elect trustees to take charge of the said sum of £384, and to lodge it in a bank for accumulation, so as to be applicable in future times as a fund to oppose all encroachments upon the rights of the public of Glasgow, if cases similar to Harvie's should occur. The meeting unanimously approved of the motion, and then elected seven trustees to take charge of the said sum of £384, and to see that it was safely lodged in a bank, and the interest regularly accumulated thereon. Mr. Ferrie then, in presence of the meeting, handed over to the trustees the said sum of £384, and shortly afterwards sailed for Canada. Having returned to Glasgow on a visit a few months ago [spring of 1850], Mr. Ferrie made inquiry regarding the state of the Harvie fund, but to his astonishment he learned that the whole seven trustees were dead, and that no clue whatever could be got regarding the trust of £384 and its accumulations; moreover, that no such sum had ever been lodged in any of our Glasgow banks by the said trustees, as distinguishable trust property.

Street, London Street, Hamilton Street, and Monteith Row were not then opened ; so that from the Drygate to the River Clyde the Gallowgate was the only thoroughfare for carriages towards the east. Under these circumstances, it became an object of considerable importance to the public of Glasgow, but more especially to the inhabitants of what was then called the North Quarter, to preserve a right to a footroad which ran along the north-east wall of the College Garden, and which had been shut up by the Professors of the University. This road, from time immemorial, had been patent to the public as a foot-passage from the east end of the Gallowgate, near the old toll bar (then at Calton Mouth), through what is called the Butts, or Eastern Common, and from thence to the foot of the New Vennel. At this period the inhabitants of the New Vennel were almost all weavers, in respectable circumstances, many of them being proprietors of houses there, and both themselves and families in constant employment, and receiving high wages. The Act of Parliament of 1748 prohibited the importing or *wearing* of French cambrics, under severe penalties. The Act of 1751, allowing the weavers in flax or hemp to settle and to exercise their trades anywhere in Scotland, free from corporation dues, and more particularly the bounty of one penny halfpenny per yard¹ on all linens exported at or under eighteenpence per yard, had turned the attention of our enterprising citizens to the manufacture of linens, which ended at a later date in the manufacture of cotton fabrics.² This change, however beneficial it may have been to the public at large, has, I am afraid,

¹ The exporters of these linens were put to much trouble, not only by being obliged to get them previously measured and stamped by stamp-masters, but also on account of the regular custom-house being then at Port-Glasgow, where the entries entitling shippers to draw bounties required to be passed. The Broomielaw was at that time a mere pendicle of the Port-Glasgow custom-house, and it was not till the year 1780 that Glasgow possessed a custom-house independent of the lower port ; when, instead of a few half idle tide-waiters superintending the shipments at the Broomielaw, the city of Glasgow commenced her career as a great shipping port, by obtaining a custom-house of her own. Wednesday, the 17th day of May 1780, is a memorable day in the annals of the Broomielaw harbour, for on that day sixty pipes of French brandy were imported there out of the *Triton*, Thomas Martindale, master, from Dublin, for which duties were paid at the custom-house and excise office *in Glasgow*, being the *first* importation at the Broomielaw since it became an independent port.

² The weaving of silks was first introduced into Paisley in 1760 by some Spitalfield weavers, and into Glasgow in 1761.

been hurtful to the interest of the poor hand-loom weaver, whose wages, comparatively speaking, have been gradually falling for this last half century.¹

None of the inhabitants of Glasgow were more interested in preserving their right to the free use of the footroad in question than the weavers of the New Vennel, for they remembered that, before the year 1755, when the Professors of the College enclosed their garden with a stone-wall that they (the weavers) had free access across the unenclosed College grounds direct to the Old Vennel, and from thence by the Dowhill to the Gallowgate, but now they had lost the privilege of this ready communication, and the Professors were here attempting to shut up their last remaining direct footroad to the east. Accordingly, a strong opposition was formed on the part of the inhabitants of Glasgow to dispute the right of the Professors to shut up this footpath; and amongst the leaders of the opposition was Ninian Glen, afterwards Bailie Glen.

It appears that in the year 1459 Lord James Hamilton bequeathed to the College of Glasgow a tenement and four acres of ground near the Blackfriars Church, on which property the present University buildings are erected;² and in 1572 the city of Glasgow conveyed to the said College the whole property of the Dominicans or Black Friars, consisting of thirteen acres, then open fields, which lands had been bestowed on the city by Queen Mary;

¹ A few weeks ago I happened to be taking a walk on the Sauchiehall Road, when I was stopped by a well-dressed elderly gentleman, who, accosting me by name, asked me how I was. I thanked him, and said that I was pretty well: upon which he said, "Perhaps you have forgotten me?" I answered that really I could not remember of ever having seen him before. He then said: "About fifty-four years ago I was one of your weavers. You were the first manufacturer in Glasgow who gave out a lappet web to be woven. I wove that web. You paid me three shillings and sixpence a yard for weaving it, and now I can buy similar lappet-cloth, bleached and ready for the market, at three-pence halfpenny per yard!" I then said, "And, pray, how much of that sum falls to the share of the poor weaver?" "Oh," answered he, "it's all power-loom work nowadays. Machinery, and machinery alone, has effected all these wonderful changes in our manufactures. The weaver-trade has sadly fallen off since I dropped the loom." Here the elderly gentleman said, "I have a cottage hard by, on this road, and it being just dinner hour, I will be happy if you will come along with me." I happened, however, to be engaged to dinner that day, and so was obliged to decline my kind friend's invitation. I unfortunately forgot to ask his name.

² The Charter bears Lord James Hamilton "*Dedisse, concessisse, et assignasse* (etc.), *quodam Tenementum cum pertinentiis, una cum quatuor acris terras.*"

but it was not till the year 1593 that the old part of the present College buildings was erected. The Professors of the College were in the practice of letting the greatest part of these grounds for tillage, reserving a small portion of them near the College for a garden, which, till the year 1755, remained unenclosed.

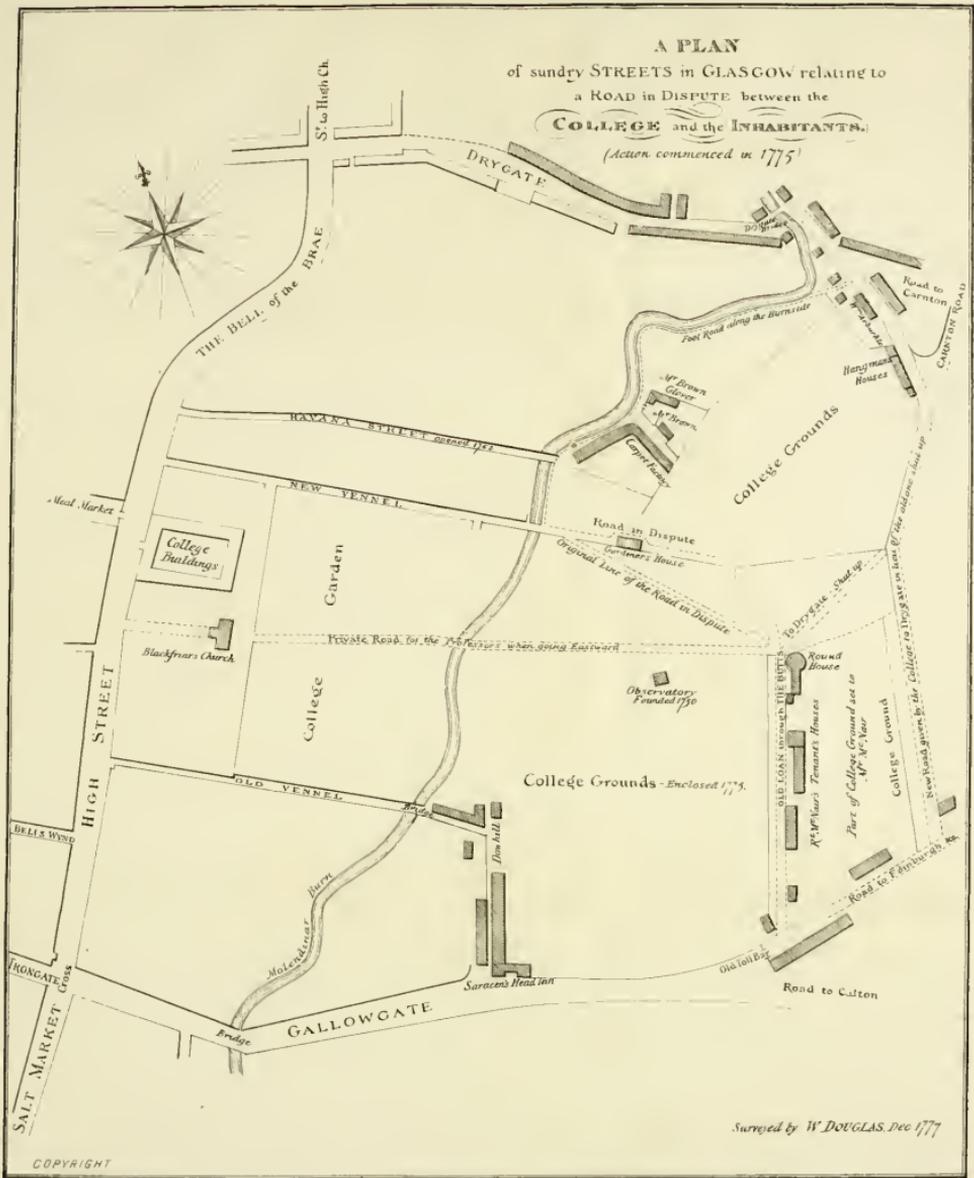
The tract of the footroad in dispute, and the situation of the adjacent grounds, will be better understood from inspecting the plan hereto subjoined, than by any description in words. In the year 1760, after the College had built their astronomical observatory, they applied to the Magistrates of Glasgow for a grant of part of that piece of ground called the Butts, and as there was at that time a public highway leading through the Butts to the Drygate, the College offered to make a new road in place thereof, which would answer equally well for the accommodation of the inhabitants. The Magistrates and Council, having considered the application, immediately passed an Act of Council granting the request of the College under the following condition, ending with rather an Irish recommendation :—

“27th March 1760.—But on this condition always, that the new road be made thirty foot broad at least, whereof eighteen feet to be sufficiently causewayed on the College expense ; and be obliged, before extracting, to grant an obligation for performance thereof. And recommend to the Dean of Guild and Deacon Convener, or any three of them, to see the same laid off.”¹

It was in the year 1775, being about fifteen years after the Magistrates of Glasgow had granted to the College a right to the old road through the Butts, in excambion for the new road (now running along the west wall of the Infantry Barracks, built in 1795), that the Professors of the College erected a barrier at the Roundhouse (see the plan), a little to the east of the Observatory. This effectually shut up the free communication from the Butts to the New Vennel, and hence arose the dispute in question.

¹ I hope that the above passage will catch the eye of Mr. Carrick, our very active Superintendent of Streets, for the Professors of the College have not yet fulfilled their agreement with the city. Mr. Carrick will find the street in question, from the east end of Græme Street northwards, to be still uncausewayed, and in place of having eighteen feet in the centre well paved, and two footpaths of six feet wide each, he will find this place a most miserable quagmire from side to side, and in wet weather nearly impassable even for foot-passengers. The public have fought a great battle—have obtained the victory—and should enjoy its fruits.

A PLAN
of sundry STREETS in GLASGOW relating to
a ROAD in DISPUTE between the
COLLEGE and the **INHABITANTS.**
(Action commenced in 1775)



Surveyed by W DOUGLAS Dec 1777

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It would not be entertaining to narrate the various proceedings which took place before the Sheriff, the Lord Ordinary, and the Inner House, in the course of this protracted lawsuit. It may be sufficient to state, that on the 27th of January 1779 the Lords found—"That the footpath libelled is a public footpath, common to all lieges; but that the breadth thereof is four feet and no more."

Principal Leechman, and Professors John Anderson and William Richardson, who represented the interest of the College, supported its right to shut up this footpath almost entirely by witnesses who deponed that the public were not injured by the said footpath being shut up; as a better and a shorter road to the *Meal Market*, from the east, was open to them through the Dowhill and the Old Vennel, than by the footroad in dispute. Certainly a very lame argument.

As some of the old witnesses who were examined on the part of the pursuers deponed to various interesting circumstances, illustrative of Glasgow in former times, I shall endeavour to state these as concisely as the case admits.

Robert Dougall, weaver in New Vennel (born in 1705), depones:—

"That since he was eight years of age he has known the road in question. That he had occasion to go with weft to the New Vennel from his father's house in the New Wynd, by the New Green-Dyke Cross, or by Mark-daily,¹ by the Burnt Barns, up the road in question, and at this time it was a common footpath." [It is curious to observe that, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, it was more convenient to go from the bottom of the New Wynd to the bottom of the New Vennel, by the ground on which the English Chapel now stands, across Charlotte Street and Calton Mouth, along the Butts, and through the unenclosed College grounds, than by the way of the High Street. It must be observed, however, that at this time (1715) neither King Street nor Candleriggs had been opened, and Robert Dougall appears to have traversed open fields nearly all the way.]

¹ Of old the annual rental of the lands, now of Charlotte Street, was 365 marks Scots; hence the name Mark-daily. These lands were purchased about 1777 by Mr. Archibald Paterson (father of the late Archd. Paterson, Esq.), who laid off the grounds for building purposes, agreeably to their present state; but it was originally intended to form a handsome square upon this site, as may be seen in Barry's map of Glasgow. The late Mr. David Dale, who, in his younger days, was a weaver in Stewarton, entered into partnership with Mr. Paterson, as importers of linen yarns from Holland, and this was the commencement of Mr. Dale's successful career.

Again, Silvester Donaldson (born in 1703) depones, "That there was a custom levied from country people who entered the town by that road on fair days, and that there was a mark put by the toll-gatherer on some part of the shoe of the person who paid the custom, denoting that he had paid." [What a primitive mode of granting a receipt for payment of the city dues! I wonder how the toll-gatherer managed when a buxom lass came trudging along bare-footed with her basket of eggs. Did he put a *mark* on her foot too?]¹

Ann Barr (born in 1694) depones, "That she remembers the town-officers of Glasgow were in use to stand at a part of the said footpath in the time of the Fair of Glasgow, and levied a toll or custom from the country people who entered the town that way. Depones, that she thinks there is no great difference between the distance from the Gallowgate toll-bar to the *Meal Market*, in going either along the road in question, or through the Dowhill and up the Old Vennel."

Peter Dougall, weaver (born in 1705), depones, "That in the year 1715 he remembers there was a *trench* running from the Drygate across the said road to the foot of the Gallowgate; and being interrogated for the defenders, depones that the above *trench* was round (or at least almost round) the whole town."

The trench here deponed to was twelve feet broad and six feet deep, and was made during the Rebellion of 1715 by the citizens, to protect themselves from the inroads of the rebels under the Earl of Mar. The city of Glasgow, on the occasion of this rebellion, raised a body of five hundred men, for sixty days, at their own charges, and sent them to Stirling, under the command of Provost Aird.

John Gardner (born in 1710) deponed to the Butts and College grounds being unenclosed in his remembrance.

William Stirling (born in 1715) deponed that he was tenant of part of the College grounds, and had orders from the Professors to delve up, or labour the same.

Numerous witnesses deponed to the road in dispute being a common footpath for upwards of fifty years.

Upon the annexed plan will be seen the dwelling-house and workshops of Mr. William Brown, glover, lying contiguous to the Molendinar Burn. This gentleman was the first who introduced the manufacture of gloves into Glasgow, in the year 1763. His son, Mr. William Brown, must be remembered by all your elderly readers, on account of his being conspicuous in 1793 for

¹ The town dues on eggs was one egg out of each basket.

holding extreme Whig opinions—then termed democratic. To the east of Mr. Brown's property, and opposite to the Carnton or Carntyne Road, will be seen the hangman's house. It was here that Hangy Watty lived.

It is certainly difficult for us to attach any share of respectability to a hangman;¹ nevertheless, Watty was the most respectable hangman that the city of Glasgow ever possessed, and he owed any little reverence that was shown to him to the merits of his wife, who was a well-behaved woman, neat in her person, and in her house. In consequence of which, Watty and his wife were visited by their neighbours in a friendly way, and were kindly received by them when they returned the visit. In the Weavers' Riot of 1787 (taken notice of in Mr. Pagan's *Sketches of Glasgow*, page 75), several persons were killed and wounded standing beside the hangman's house. Mr. Pagan, at page 16, takes notice of the Battle of the Butts, fought on these grounds during the infancy of Queen Mary, between the Regent, James Hamilton, and the Earl of Glencairn, assisted by the citizens of Glasgow, in which Glencairn and the citizens were defeated with great loss, and the city given up to pillage.

It has already been stated that the College enclosed their present garden with a stone-wall in the year 1755, and altered the old road through the Butts in 1760; shortly after these alterations the College let their lands to a farmer, who ploughed them up and sowed them.

In ancient times, when every Scotchman was a soldier, the Butts was the place where our citizens performed their martial

¹ The Magistrates of Glasgow of a former day seem to have been of a different opinion from that held by our friend "Senex," as may be inferred from the following advertisement, which we have copied from the number of the *Glasgow Courier*, dated 16th April 1803:—

"EXECUTIONER.

"Wanted, for the City of Glasgow, an Executioner. The bad character of the person who last held the office having brought upon it a degree of discredit, which it by no means deserves, the Magistrates are determined to accept of none but a sober well-behaved man. The emoluments are considerable.

"Applications will be received by the Lord Provost, or either of the Town-Clerks.

"Council Chambers,
Glasgow, 13th April 1803."

J.P.

exercises, and on this spot took place the scene of the weaponschaw. The grounds then connected with the Butts stretched to a considerable distance towards the east and north, and formed an extensive common, on which the inhabitants of Glasgow pastured their cattle, driving them out in the morning, and bringing them home in the evening. At this period the Drygate was the leading street of Glasgow towards the east. The Butts was also the ground on which criminals were executed, and it continued to be so until the time when the College made the above-mentioned alterations; after which the place of execution was changed to the Howgatehead, near the Monkland Canal Basin. The first criminal, I believe, who was executed at the Howgate-head was Hugh Bilsland, a Glasgow carter, for street robbery. His execution took place on the 10th of July 1765. This was before my day, and I do not remember of hearing any particulars regarding this unhappy person. At this time, and down to the period of the execution of Walter M'Intosh, who was hanged at the Cross of Glasgow on the 22d of October 1788, it was the practice, on the day of execution, for the criminal to be attired in the prison dress, consisting of white or unbleached linen, and then brought into the Town-hall or Court-house, where prayers were said, and a glass of wine offered to him; afterwards he was led out and placed upon an open cart along with the hangman. A carter took charge of the horse and cart, and received a fee of one guinea for his services. The procession proceeded slowly up the High Street to the place of execution, attended by the Magistrates and Town Officers bearing their halberts. Having arrived there, the hangman performed his usual duty of fixing the rope round the criminal's neck, and of drawing a cap over his face, when, upon the signal being given by the criminal, the carter gave his horse a sudden lash with his whip, and the cart slipped away from under the feet of the unhappy sufferer, thus leaving him suspended by the neck. This, in fact, was a death by strangulation, and the criminal sometimes appeared to suffer much. At present, a considerable fall is given, and when the bolt is withdrawn, the sudden shock generally dislocates the criminal's neck, so that he can suffer no pain in dying.

In the *Glasgow Herald* of the 1st of February last [1850], there is an interesting article regarding the public executions which have taken place in Glasgow since the year 1765, and particular mention is made regarding the execution of Andrew Marshall, who was hanged for murder at the Howgate-head on the 25th of October 1769. As a most revolting scene took place at this man's execution, I shall enter a little more into his history and death than what is stated in the *Glasgow Herald*:—

On the 15th September 1769 the Circuit Court at Glasgow was opened by Lords Auchinleck and Pitfour, when Andrew Marshall, late in Blacklock, parish of Slamannan, a soldier in the 38th Regiment, was tried for the murder and robbery of Allan Robert, of the before-mentioned parish, on the 31st of July 1769, near the house of Drumpeller. The jury unanimously found him guilty of both crimes; and the court sentenced him to be fed on bread and water till the 25th of October, and on that day to be hanged, and his body hung in chains. It is stated in the *Glasgow Herald* that, until the execution of Andrew Marshall, the Magistrates of Glasgow were never troubled with overseeing the execution of any criminal sentence whatever; that duty, when the convictions were before the Circuit Court, being imposed on the Sheriff of the county. Marshall's execution, therefore, was the first occasion of the Magistrates of Glasgow having so disagreeable a charge forced upon them. Whether it arose from a feeling of humanity towards the criminal, or from inexperience in such matters on the part of the Magistrates, it so happened that the arms of Andrew Marshall had not been sufficiently pinioned on the day of execution, in consequence of which he had the free use of them. When the procession (such as I have described) had arrived at the Howgate-head, the hangman proceeded as usual to adjust the rope about the criminal's neck, and had drawn the cap over his face; and the carter, waiting for the signal, had already raised his whip to give the fatal lash to the horse, when Andrew Marshall made a sudden spring upwards, and seized the projecting beam of the gallows with the grasp of death. The hangman laid hold of his legs and endeavoured to pull him

down ; but it was in vain. After fruitless attempts to make him quit his hold, the hangman was obliged to procure a stick, with which he struck and belaboured the poor man's arms and hands until they became disabled, and no longer capable of supporting him ; when he dropped from the beam, and in this manner was executed. There is no wonder, therefore (as noticed in the *Glasgow Herald*), that the Magistrates of Glasgow, after witnessing such an appalling exhibition, petitioned to be relieved in future from the irksome duty of overseeing the execution of criminal sentences. Agreeable to his sentence, the body of Andrew Marshall was hung in chains at the Howgate-head. This is the only instance on record of a criminal executed in Glasgow being hung in chains ; but so offensive was the sight to the inhabitants of the North Quarter that putrefaction had scarcely commenced when the body was clandestinely removed.

In the year 1765 two rather remarkable trials took place in Glasgow. On the 19th September 1765, Alexander Provan, in Paisley, was found guilty of murdering his wife in a most cruel manner, and was sentenced to lie in Glasgow prison till the 1st November, that day to be carried thence to Paisley, and on the 7th to be carried to the place of execution, there to have his right hand struck off, then to be hanged till dead, and his body given to the surgeons for dissection. This is the only instance I have met with in our Glasgow annals of a criminal being sentenced to lose his right hand previous to being executed.

The other trial was on the 19th of March 1765, on which day, Humphrey Ewing and Matthew Jack were tried before the High Court of Justiciary for abstracting the King's weights in the scale of weighing tobaccos for exportation, thereby defrauding the revenue in the debentures to be granted on exportation. An unanimous verdict was returned, finding them guilty, and they were adjudged to stand, attended by the town-drummer and the hangman, at the Market Cross of Glasgow, for half an hour at mid-day, with their hands tied behind their backs, and a label on their breasts with these words : "*Convict of withdrawing his Majesties' weights, and substituting false weights in place thereof ;*" and to receive fifteen stripes from the hangman on their naked

backs ; thereafter to be carried to Greenock, and on a market-day, at the place where tobaccos are commonly weighed for exportation and importation, to receive the same punishment, and then set at liberty.

In the course of this trial it appeared that James Dunlop, merchant in Glasgow, William Oughterson, his clerk, and William King, merchant in Port-Glasgow, were accessory to these frauds, and a warrant was issued for apprehending them. The Crown issued a writ of extent against the estate of Mr. Dunlop, and made a large seizure of his tobacco. Mr. Dunlop executed a trust-deed in favour of his creditors, who found themselves suddenly involved, through Mr. Dunlop's conduct, in no less than six Exchequer suits, at the instance of the Crown, all of which, however, they had the good fortune to get compromised. The loss, indeed, was great ; but not one-fourth part of what it would have been if the Crown had prevailed to the full extent of their claim.

But I must return from this digression to our Glasgow hangmen. In my younger days this office was performed by a man of the name of Sutherland, commonly called Jock Sutherland, a poor, silly creature, pitted with the smallpox, and with a countenance of the most cadaverous cast ; but what was worst of all, timid, and nervous to the last degree. At an execution he trembled from head to foot, and was in such a state of agitation that he could scarcely perform his duty. I remember a very singular instance of this kind—I think it was in 1798, when a man of the name of M'Millan was hanged at the Cross.¹ At the execution the Magistrates and members of the Town Council were congregated on the stair-head of the Town-house, and the scaffold was erected immediately adjoining to it towards the east ; both being upon the same level. Sutherland with difficulty had adjusted the rope about the criminal's neck, and had drawn the cap over his face ; when, having descended from the platform on which the said

¹ John M'Millan was hanged in May 1798 for the murder of Alexander Moodie, gardener, whom he stabbed to the heart, on the 13th September 1791 ; after which he absconded, and was employed in London as a watchman in St. Martin's Lane, and here stabbed a brother watchman, and was confined in Newgate till the man's life was out of danger. The Magistrates of Glasgow offered a reward of twenty-five guineas for his apprehension, and described him as a native of Lochaber, aged 62.

criminal stood, in order to wait the signal for withdrawing the bolt, the fatal signal was given, and the handkerchief dropped sooner than was expected. Here poor Sutherland's nerves failed him; in a state of great agitation he continued fumbling at the bolt, and attempting in vain to draw it; while the poor criminal was kept standing in a dreadful state of suspense, waiting the result of the fatal signal. The crowd now began to murmur; on observing which, Ex-Lord Provost John Dunlop suddenly rushed out from amongst the magistracy, and pushing Sutherland aside, in a moment withdrew the bolt, and the unhappy man was no more. Mr. Dunlop received great credit for his active humanity on this occasion.¹

Speaking of executions, I may remind you of the two Brodies, who were hanged at the Castle-yard, near the Cathedral here, in 1784, for robbery and housebreaking. There was one circumstance connected with these men which created some interest at the time. It was this. Immediately after committing the crime for which they afterwards suffered they took up their abode, for concealment, in the old dripping aisle attached to the Cathedral. They kept themselves hid during the daytime; but came forth at night to procure victuals, and thus they were eventually taken. At one time the entry to the aisle was by a small open *bole*, or window, placed about six feet from the ground, and there was then no difficulty in entering the said dungeon. I have often stood on tiptoe, and looked into the gloomy abode of the Brodies. I may also mention that I was present at the execution of David Steven, who was hanged in the Castle-yard in 1785, for the murder of a weaver, whom he shot while at work upon his loom. On this occasion the walls of the old Bishops' Castle were crowded with spectators, and also the leads on the roof of the Cathedral were occupied by a great concourse of sight-seers. At that time the road immediately adjoining the Bishops' Castle was in first-rate order, being composed of small whinstones, closely embedded so as to form a solid mass of pavement. We were told then that it was a Roman road; but I daresay it was the work of our old bishops.

¹ The working-classes, however, ever ready to lampoon those high in office, used to call Provost Dunlop "Our Hangman the Lord Provost."

The duty of a Glasgow hangman in former times was greater than at present ; for, besides officiating in capital cases, he was obliged to flog lesser criminals publicly through the streets, when they were sentenced to undergo that punishment. In suffering such minor inflictions, the criminal walked behind a cart, naked to the middle, having his hands tied in front, and his person attached to the cart by a loose rope. The floggings took place generally at the intersections of some of the most public streets, such as the Cross, Candleriggs, Stockwell, Jamaica Street, and so on. People used to allege that Sutherland was such a poor, silly body that he was not able to inflict a sore flogging ; but I doubt this, for I once saw a man at the conclusion of his floggings, and he seemed to have suffered very much. There can be no question, however, but that the severity or leniency of this punishment depended upon the hangman, and one would think that it would be no difficult matter to bribe a hangman.

I never recollect of the punishment of flogging being publicly inflicted on boys ; but it was sometimes very improperly inflicted on women. When females were flogged through our streets their bosoms were not exposed, but only their backs, and the latter only at the time of receiving the lashes. On the 25th of September 1793, Mary Douglas, found guilty of breaking into the house of Alexander M'Pherson, Bridgeton, and stealing several articles from it, was whipped through the streets of Glasgow, and banished Scotland for life. I rather think that this was the last instance of a woman being publicly whipped through our streets.¹ The Magistrates did not attend on occasions of public whippings, but left the overseeing of them to the town's officers.

When I was very young I remember seeing a woman drummed

¹ There is perhaps not a better-behaved nor a more orderly regiment in Her Majesty's service than the regiment at present (March 1850) in our infantry barracks, viz. the 27th. But when this regiment was in Glasgow about sixty years ago there scarcely passed a week without some of the privates being flogged, either publicly in the Green of Glasgow, on parade, or privately in the old Guard-house ; indeed, so frequently were these floggings administered, that the citizens of Glasgow used to give this regiment the nickname of "The Whipping 27th." But look how the whipping 27th now return to us ? Not with backs marked by stripes, but loaded with the honours of St. Lucia, the Sphinx, Egypt, Maïda, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula, and Waterloo. Truly a respectable burden !

out of Glasgow, and banished the city. She was taken from the prison at the Cross, and was attended by some of the town's officers and the town's drummer; the drum was beaten behind her as she walked along the Trongate, Argyle Street, and to the extremity of Anderston, where she was dismissed. I suppose that she was a Highland woman, and accordingly put so far on her road to the Highlands. I cannot recollect whether the hangman was present on this occasion or not.

The dress of the Glasgow hangman was rather conspicuous, viz. a blue coat, yellow buttons, and scarlet collar neck. Sutherland was evidently ashamed to wear it, for it pointed him out to the finger of scorn. He appeared upon the streets of Glasgow as seldom as possible; and when he did walk about, he looked around him on every side in a state of alarm lest he should be mobbed, for he was disliked by every one, and he knew and felt it. I think that he resided always in the prison, and had no house of his own.

When I am taking notice of the foregoing under-officials of the city of Glasgow, I must not forget Bell Geordie, who was a prodigious favourite with the populace, on account of a certain caustic humour which he possessed, and which he was fond of displaying to his hearers when he was going his rounds as city-crier. In fact, this turn for humour had no small share in favouring his election as town's bellman. The old bellman being nearly eighty years of age, his voice had begun to fail him, and therefore the Magistrates and Council resolved to elect an assistant and successor to him. Accordingly, they advertised that candidates for the situation were to appear on a certain day to give a specimen of their abilities in the open air, so that the clearness and extent of their respective voices might be tested. The candidates were directed to cry the following proclamation, as proof of their being fit for the situation:—

“NOTICE.—There has just arrived at the Broomielaw a boat-load of fine fresh herrings, selling at three a penny.” (Tingle, lingle, lingle.)

When the day of trial arrived various candidates appeared, and a number of our citizens assembled to witness the exhibition.

After several candidates had given specimens of their talents it came to the turn of Geordie, who then rang his bell, and with a clear and powerful voice repeated the above proclamation, after which, turning round to his audience, he recited the following lines of his own poetry :—

“ Now, my gude folks, this cry is all a hum,
For herrings in the boat are yet to come ;
Therefore, you needna fash to gang awa,
To seek sic dainties at the Broomielaw ;
But, if they come, and I'm town-crier, then
I'll tinkle thrice my bell, and let you ken.”

This practical effusion of Geordie was received by the audience with loud laughter and clapping of hands, in which demonstration of approbation the Magistrates and Council heartily joined, so that Geordie was unanimously elected assistant city-bellman. The old bellman shortly afterwards died, and consequently Geordie became sole Glasgow bellman. After this, Geordie held the situation of bellman for many years ; but, being what the world calls an impudent, loquacious fellow, he began to forget himself, and to speak to the Magistrates with a freedom that was not pleasing to them ; and this ultimately led to poor Geordie's ruin. It happened when Bailie William Bogle (commonly called Shettleston Willie) was in office, that he was giving Geordie some orders which Geordie did not like to perform. On this occasion Geordie spoke impudently back to the Bailie, who told him to remember his situation as the town's servant, and to keep his tongue under better restraint. Geordie fired at this, and retorted to the Bailie that there was no such great difference betwixt them, for that he (the Bailie) was as much the town's servant as he (Geordie) was. This insult offered to the magisterial dignity was rather too much to be borne, and therefore Bailie Bogle made a formal complaint at the Council Board against Geordie's impertinent conduct, in consequence of which the Board dismissed Geordie from the office of city-bellman. It was really melancholy to see how chop-fallen poor Geordie was when he appeared on the streets, stripped of his fine scarlet coat, and attired in a threadbare brown coat. Shortly after his dismissal from the office of bellman, poor

Geordie, now grown old, was attacked by a disease in his eyes, which ended in rendering him stone-blind. For several years before he died he was totally blind, and was seen wandering along our streets in a worn-out dress, led by a little girl, and universally pitied. He did not beg, but never refused any little pittance that was offered him ; and I rather think our magistracy relented a little towards him, and latterly gave him some pecuniary assistance.

Besides the under city-officials before mentioned, we had certain local officials of another class, who, about seventy years ago, were in the practice of entertaining the citizens of Glasgow by an annual grand procession along our principal streets.

Whether it proceeded from the unsophisticated manners of the times, or whether we are not all (as is alleged) merely grown-up children, I cannot say, but certainly the processions I am about to take notice of appeared to be quite as amusing to our citizens as the late grand spectacle of our gracious Sovereign and her spouse perambulating our streets, and politely saluting us all in so condescending a manner.

The procession to which I allude was the ceremonious parading through the streets of Glasgow by the Deacons and Office-bearers of the different Crafts of the City, accompanied by the members of the several Incorporated Trades. The under office-bearers of the respective crafts walked at the head of the incorporated trade to which they belonged, carrying the insignia of their craft in their hands. The masons displayed the plummet and the mallet ; the wright, the saw and the plane ; the smiths, the hammer ; the fleshers, the cleaver ; and the tailors, the shears, and so on. There was also the usual exhibition of gorgeous flags and painted batons ; and sometimes the weavers paraded a full-mounted loom in miniature. But the grand sight was the portion of the procession occupied by the shoemakers and the gardeners. The shoemakers generally made choice of a tall handsome man to play the part of King Crispin. He was magnificently attired in a crimson-coloured robe, shining with spangles and golden ornaments, having a long train upheld by four boys ; on his head he wore a splendid crown, superbly emblazoned with

gold *feuille*, and in his hand he bore a gilded sceptre. In this dress, and followed by his craft, he majestically walked the streets of Glasgow with the utmost gravity and dignity, while the spectators around him were all tittering and laughing. As for the procession of the gardeners, it was, after all, a very beautiful sight; for this corporation had two figures placed in a cart, representing Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. These figures were surrounded by a kind of alcove of evergreens, and dressed out in a profusion of the most beautiful flowers that could be procured; many of these flowers were rare and valuable; and as there was no botanic garden in Glasgow at this time, where plants can be seen every day, the citizens felt much pleasure in admiring this rich display of the flower garden. Nowadays we are too apt to laugh at the tomfooleries of olden times; but was this corporation pageant one whit more ludicrous than the Eglinton tournament, which set the one-half of Glasgow away to witness it a distance of thirty miles, and raised the price of every wheel vehicle in the city? I must confess that I was one of the *gouks* who travelled to Eglinton Castle to behold this tilting spectacle, and I declare, upon conscience, that King Crispin and Adam and Eve were infinitely more amusing than the sham battles of the noble Earl. I cannot but say that I look back to the days of our old pageants and shows with fond recollection; for every person who witnessed these scenes seemed to be happy and pleased, and certainly their cost was not great.

(1850.)

THE SARACEN'S HEAD HOTEL.

I beg leave to contribute my mite to the information which in your Dean of Guild Court narratives you have laid before your readers in reference to the Saracen's Head Inn.

In my younger days the Saracen's Head Inn was kept by a Mrs. Graham, who was highly respected in Glasgow, who visited the first families in the city, and who also received visits from them on a footing of equality; but she unfortunately made a

foolish second marriage with a Mr. Buchanan, then a dashing young man without a fortune, and who, in point of years, might have been her son ; but whose connections were genteel. Mr. Buchanan made no secret whatever that he had married Mrs. Graham for a livelihood ; indeed, so barefaced was he on this subject, that if he happened to be walking the streets of Glasgow with his aged wife upon his arm, and met any of his fashionable companions, he was accustomed to tip them the wink, and to put his tongue in his cheek, for their amusement. He never attended at the Inn, but allowed Mrs. Buchanan to manage its affairs as she had done before her marriage with him ; in fact, he was the gentleman at large, living upon the industry of his wife. He was an elder of the Established Church, and even when standing at the plate at the church-door he could not repress his turn for buffoonery ; for if he saw any of his companions putting in merely a halfpenny into the plate, he used to call out—" Oh, you niggard ! can't you make it white ?"

At this time it was the fashion in Glasgow for young ladies to be taught the art of cookery, as part of their education ; and accordingly there were then few of our merchants who did not send their daughters to get culinary lessons from the head cooks of the Saracen's Head or Black Bull Inns. On the occasion of a grand dinner being given at either of these inns a great number of young ladies attended for instruction, and each paid the cook five shillings for liberty to see how the different dishes were prepared, and in what manner the dinner and dessert were placed upon the table. It happened once that a great county dinner took place in the Saracen's Head Inn, at which many of the neighbouring nobility and county gentry were present—(I think this was in 1779). These gentlemen were greatly surprised to see fifteen or sixteen elegant young cooks, with white aprons, assisting to hand up the dishes, and to place them upon the dinner-table, and they could not help congratulating Mrs. Buchanan on the happy choice that she had made of her servants ; but when Mrs. Buchanan explained that they were all young ladies merely assisting the cook for instruction, the younger and more sprightly county gentlemen immediately set about

joking and flirting with these handsome cooks, and were greatly more entertained by this sport than with their dinner, for some of them went down to the kitchen and assisted the young ladies to hand up the dishes. At this period the head waiter at the Saracen's Head Inn was a gentleman well known in Glasgow, who died not very long ago, leaving a fortune of £60,000 to his only son, recently one of the Magistrates of this city. The old gentleman made no secret of his former situation in life, for he communicated the circumstance to the writer of this as a matter of no importance.

(1850.)

ODDS AND ENDS—GORBALS BANISHMENTS.

In giving a few odds and ends regarding Glasgow in olden time it cannot be expected that a regular order of narrative could be preserved. The present, therefore, must be considered as merely some loose scraps thrown together, without any attempt at continuity or connection.

Englishmen of old used to laugh at our judges for simply banishing delinquents from Scotland, by way of punishment, while the rich country of England was ready to receive them, and to give them superior wages and full employment immediately on their arrival there. It was, they said, like sending a man from a wilderness to a land flowing with milk and honey. But what shall we say regarding the Gorbalonian authorities of olden time, who, in order to augment the severity of the sentences pronounced upon offenders, were accustomed to banish them from Gorbals into Glasgow!

On the 4th of September 1775 James M'Arthur, smith in Gorbals, and Jean Stevenson, his wife, were brought before the Bailies of the Gorbals, at the instance of John Maxwell, sen., Esq., writer in Glasgow, the Procurator-Fiscal of the Barony and Justiciary of the said village of Gorbals. The libel charged the culprits with being guilty of keeping a disreputable house, of receiving and entertaining in it people of bad character, and of

cursing, swearing, making noise, alarming and disturbing their neighbours at unseasonable hours, etc. The Bailies having proceeded to examine the witnesses who were called by the Fiscal, and having heard the defences of the accused parties, found the libel proven, and therefore "adjudged and decerned the defenders to be carried from the bar to the common prison in the chapel of Gorbals, and there to be detained until the 16th day of September current. At 12 o'clock of which day ordained, and hereby ordain, the defenders to be carried from the said prison, and by tuck of drum, with their heads bare and uncovered, to be banished, and hereby banish them from the village and Barony of Gorbals during the whole of their natural lives; with certification to them, that if they, or either of them, shall, after their banishment aforesaid, return to, or be found in, the said village or barony, they shall be apprehended and imprisoned in prison aforesaid, and publicly whipped through the said village of Gorbals on the first Wednesday after their imprisonment; and as often as the defenders shall return to, or be found in, the said village or Barony of Gorbals during the space of their banishment aforesaid, granted, and hereby grant warrant for apprehending, imprisoning, whipping, and banishing them, or either of them, who shall be so found in manner before mentioned."

I believe that this was the last time that the Magistrates of Gorbals¹ pronounced a sentence of banishment from the Barony of Gorbals; for the legality of the proceedings against M'Arthur and his wife was called in question, and it was strongly argued that although the Magistrates of Glasgow might possess the power to banish offenders from the city proper, in consequence of its being a royal burgh, nevertheless that the same rule would not apply to the Magistrates of Gorbals, that village being merely a burgh of barony, or regality. By the Act 1748, abrogating heritable jurisdictions in Scotland, it is declared that "no heritor or proprietor of lands within Scotland which had been erected into a barony, or granted with other lower jurisdiction, or their bailies, shall by virtue thereof have, exercise, or enjoy any jurisdiction

¹ David Henry, Esq., was Chief Magistrate of Gorbals in 1775, and was succeeded by Walter Stirling, Esq., the founder of Stirling's Library.

whatever, in capital cases ; and that no such baron, or other heritor of lands inchoft *cum curiis*, or their bailies, shall, by virtue thereof, have, exercise, or enjoy any jurisdiction in any criminal case whatever, other than assaults, batteries, and smaller cases, for which the punishment to be inflicted shall only be by a fine not exceeding twenty shillings sterling, or by setting the delinquent in the stocks for any time not exceeding three hours in the day-time." The Act further provides, that "nothing in this Act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to take away, extinguish, or prejudice any jurisdiction, or privilege by law, vested in, or competent to the corporation, or community of any royal borough in Scotland."

It may be remarked that about the year 1647 the barony of Gorbals had been acquired by the community of Glasgow from Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerston ; and that an Act of Parliament of Scotland, passed in 1661, confirmed to the Magistrates of Glasgow "all and hail the six-pound land of old extent of Gorbals and Bridge-end, with the heritable office of *bailiary* and *justiciary* within the said bounds." In consequence of this, the Magistrates of Glasgow have been in use to elect a bailie, or bailies, of the Gorbals every year. The question then came to be whether or not the Magistrates of Glasgow had the power to delegate to the Magistrates of Gorbals liberty to exercise the same authority in criminal cases as they themselves possessed.

Ever since the time of the foregoing case the Magistrates of Gorbals appear to have abstained from passing any sentence of banishment from the barony, and to have preferred punishing offenders in most cases by fines, if such offenders were able to pay them. As the community of the Gorbals is very poor, and these fines form part of its revenue, there is something a little anomalous in bailies who are the head of that community imposing fines which go into the pockets of the said community. The bailies themselves are often heritors of Gorbals, and to a certain extent may be said to have an interest in imposing fines ; but I believe that our Gorbals Magistrates have always acted in a fair and honourable manner when they imposed fines, and were never influenced by any interested motive in inflicting penalties of this kind.

Our town-councillor, Mr. Moir, has lately been enlightening his constituents regarding the high profits of the butcher-trade ; and, according to his calculations, a person has only to open a carnarium to realise a fortune ; but, although we have all heard of tobacco lords, cotton lords, and iron dukes, we have never heard of such a personage as a Glasgow butcher noble. In general, the fleshers of this city are in respectable circumstances ; but I do not remember of any member of the incorporation of fleshers who, at his death, had accumulated a large fortune by the trade of slaughtering cattle. I therefore conclude that the profits of the butcher-trade are no greater than they should be, and that competition is quite sufficient to regulate a fair rate of profit in this trade as in others ; but in Glasgow, in olden time, the same opinion as Mr. Moir's was general, that the fleshers here were realising inordinate profits ; and as the rage of the day then was to carry on all mercantile affairs by means of joint stock-companies, there came to be set agoing a grand concern called the "Glasgow Cattle Slaughtering Company."

This company consisted of five partners, each of them holding a fifth share. Two of these partners were of the Glasgow grandee rank, who walked our plain stanes with their scarlet cloaks and cocked hats ; they were to share the profits, but to take no active management in the affairs of the company. Their names were John Graham, Esq. of Dougalston,¹ and James Stirling, Esq. of Craigbarnet. The third partner was Alexander Wotherspoon, Esq., writer in Glasgow, who was appointed treasurer, clerk, book-keeper, and cashier of the Glasgow Cattle Slaughtering Company. The fourth partner was James Finlay, farmer in Keppoch, who was established as the purchaser and drover of the cattle ; and lastly, there was John Buchanan, who undertook the slaughtering of the cattle, and of making sales of the carcasses. Accordingly, this concern (in addition to the capital advanced by

¹ Mr. Graham's father, who died in 1700, bequeathed £2000 to the poor of the Merchants' House. In the year 1735 the city of Glasgow purchased from John Graham, Esq. of Dougalston, a tenement and back property near the Cross, upon the site of which the Town Hall was erected in 1736, and the Tontine Hotel and Coffee-Room in 1781. The opening of the Coffee-Room was celebrated by a grand ball in that room.

the partners), borrowed £150 from a Mrs. Bell in Anderston, and then commenced business in November 1739.

At this time the Glasgow Cattle Market was held at the West Port, in Argyll Street, opposite the late Black Bull Inn, which inn, in consequence of this market being held near it, adopted the Black Bull for its sign. The inn is now occupied by various tenants, and the sign is taken down.

The first bargain made by the Company was a slump one of £100 for fifty cows, so that the price of cattle must have been very moderate at that time.¹ It unfortunately happened that the managing partners of this concern were not very regular in keeping their accounts, so that in a very short time there came to be such a mixture of private disbursements with Company outlays that the affairs of the Company got into a state of great confusion, and to which misfortune was added a knowledge that the butcher-trade was no coining affair; this brought on the shutting of the shop in February 1740, just three months after it had been opened. Mrs. Bell then applied for payment of her £150, but the partners not being able to settle among themselves what was the exact state of their respective accounts, put off payment from time to time. At last Mr. Graham of Dougalston died, and shortly afterwards John Buchanan died; then Mr. Stirling of Craigharnock, being concerned in the Rebellion of 1745, was obliged to keep himself under hidings; and lastly, James Finlay was so reduced in circumstances as to be placed on the poors-roll. In this situation of matters Mrs. Bell was obliged to do diligence upon her bond, and, after a horning and caption had been issued, the heirs of Mr. Graham of Dougalston had to pay the piper. To all these mishaps must be added the unfortunate circumstance that the heirs of some of the partners, not being able to get a satisfactory account from Mr. Wotherspoon, brought a process in the Court of Session against the other partners, or their representatives, concluding for payment of large sums for which they insisted that they had not got credit in the Company's books. This law process lasted for upwards of twenty years, wore out several Lord Ordinaries, and ended, as generally happens in such cases, in the

¹ Fresh beef at this period was retailed in Glasgow at 2d. per pound.

loss of all parties except the solicitors and advocates. So much for the profits of the butcher-trade.

Having alluded to the *Plain Stanes* at the Cross, I may remark that at the time above mentioned the footpaths of the streets in Glasgow were all causewayed with common rubble whinstones, and the only portion of our city which could boast of having flagstones was the *Plain Stanes* in front of the piazzas of the present Tontine Buildings. This promenade was protected by a row of cannon by way of posts, having their mouths uppermost and sunk in the ground to the breech.¹ I daresay that many of your old readers in their schooldays have played leap-frog over them, and he was thought a clever little fellow who could jump over the big cannon which stood at the south-west corner of the *Plain Stanes*. This mercantile walk was tabooed against ladies, for she was thought an impudent, brazen-faced woman who would venture to thread her way through the throng of our dignified merchants perambulating this sanctum. Even in my day I have often seen ladies, in their progress towards the east, step into the mire of the carriage causeway, and trudge along in the dirt to the south of King William rather than venture to trespass upon the *Plain Stanes*. The last personage who continued to walk these *Plain Stanes*, decked out with his scarlet cloak and cocked hat, was Dr. Peter Wright, whom your elderly readers no doubt will remember. The doctor's scarlet cloak, however, like the gowns of some of our senior collegians, was then getting rather threadbare, and had lost a little of its brilliant hue, so that I cannot say much for the learned gentleman's dignified appearance. There was another doctor in Glasgow in my younger days who was of rather an eccentric character. He might have been seen walking our streets, in a brown greatcoat, and supporting his left side with a crutch. This was Dr. Morris. This gentleman, it seems, took it into his head to try an experiment whether he or his horse could hold out longest upon a minimum of food; and, accordingly, he himself took just one raisin each day, and he allowed his horse only one straw daily. The consequence was, that his horse died,

¹ Some of these cannon having been removed, are at present lying in the square of the Police Buildings (1851).

and the doctor lost the power of his left side ; and what was, perhaps, even worse than that, he lost his patients, who very naturally said, " If the doctor tries such experiments upon himself, what will he not try upon us ? "

In speaking of our street causeway, I may mention that the first street that I remember having the carriage-way causewayed with dressed whinstones was the Saltmarket ; but the portion so causewayed was only about twelve feet in the centre of the street, the side portions being executed in common rubble work. As for our footpaths, none of these were laid with flagstones before the year 1776, when a small portion of the footpath on the east side of the Candleriggs, extending from the Trongate to Bell Street, was laid with slabs of dressed sandstone. The footpaths under the pillars, however, were flagged, and in wet weather certainly formed a very comfortable walk ; but the shops in these parts were miserably dark pigeon-holes, and very unfit for carrying on a retail business, which, in most cases, requires good lights. The shops at present under the piazzas at the Tontine are much superior to any shop of olden time situated near the Cross of Glasgow.

It is curious to see the opinion of our forefathers, a century ago, regarding the public buildings in Glasgow, and to compare the descriptions then given of them with the descriptions given by our contemporaries of the buildings lately erected and now erecting in this city. If we excel the olden time in the beauty and magnificence of our buildings, we are certainly thrown quite in the background in power of description. As an example, I now copy a description of the Town's Hospital in Great Clyde Street, taken from M'Ure's History of Glasgow, published in 1736, page 313. (The italics are in the original) :—

" The City of Glasgow's Stately New Hospital, built for the poor in general.

" As you walk westward from the great bridge towards the stately harbour of the city, stands the most celebrated hospital, built by the city of Glasgow, for alimending and educating upwards of one hundred and fifty-two poor decayed old men, widows, and orphans of this city.

" The building is of modern fashion, and exceeds any of that kind in Europe, and admired by strangers, who affirm that Sutton's Hospital, called the Charter

House, at London, which, indeed, is a noble foundation; but the house, neither of that, nor Christ's Church, or anything of that kind at Rome or Venice, comes not up to the magnificence of this building, resembling more like a palace than a habitation for necessitous old people and children. I confess Heriot's Hospital, at Edinburgh, is more embellished over the windows thereof; our hospital is likewise accommodated with a fine well and stately garden, fenced round with a curious wall of ashlar work, together with a handsome chapel and hall for the poor people and boys to eat in."

As the inventing of conundrums is at present all the rage in Glasgow, I shall conclude this rambling paper by giving a conundrum of olden time, which I have no doubt will recall to the memory of your ancient readers the dancing days of their youth, when Mr. Smart, of the Tontine, officiated at our assemblies as master of ceremonies:—Why is an emetic like the country dance of olden time? Because it is down the middle and up again.

(1850.)

THE FEUARS OF GORBALS.

There is a pretty well-known saying current on the south side of our river, "that it is no a *canny* matter to meddle with the Gorbals Feuars;" and of a certainty I believe that this dictum is not without some foundation in truth, for whoever interferes in their affairs is almost sure to get himself plunged into a labyrinth of difficulties, out of which he will not find it an easy matter to escape without a rap on the knuckles.

The Gorbals feuars form a body of a most anomalous kind; they are not a corporation, but merely a private association, originally got up for a particular purpose; nevertheless they have contrived to obtain the principal management of Gorbals affairs, in consequence of their influential members becoming bailies, birleymen, commissioners of police, poor-law commissioners, and so on; and what is very curious, that although as a body they possess a church with the patronage thereof, also lands, houses, and other heritages and property, nevertheless, a new feuar has no entry money to pay on becoming a member of the association; neither

is any particular form required of him at his introduction to this society. All that is necessary for him to do is to attend a public meeting of these feuars in the Gorbals Church, and to give his vote there—this of itself constitutes him a member of the association, and confers upon him an interest in the above-mentioned heritages. What is still more curious, the feuars are most happy to see the face of any new feuar at their public meetings, and seem to have adopted the aphorism of "*the more the merrier*," for no questions are asked about the stranger's titles, or about his right to appear and vote; his word that he is really a Gorbals feuar is readily taken, and his vote recorded, and then he becomes, to all intents and purposes, a legal member of the association. The truth, however, must be told, viz. that the association is sadly in debt, and, consequently, the feuars are exceedingly happy to admit every one a member of their body who offers himself, as thereby the debt is extended over a greater number of persons.

Now, then, let us see how this singular association first came to be formed, and what were the original objects which the feuars had in view, in modelling their union.

The lands of Gorbals appear to have been acquired from the Archbishopric of Glasgow, in the year 1607, by Sir George Elphinstone of Blythswood, and to have been confirmed in 1611 by charter from James VI., by new infeftment. These lands, when the above infeftment took place, were erected into a barony, called the Barony of Blythswood, and were disjoined from the jurisdiction of the Bailie of the Barony and Regality of Glasgow. The barony of Gorbals descended to Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerston, by whom it was disposed in 1647 to the Magistrates of Glasgow, who are at present the superiors.

The Magistrates of Glasgow, as opportunity offered, parcelled out the barony lands (now Gorbals proper) in separate feus to about 100 different persons, who then came to be denominated "The Feuars of Gorbals." The barony of Gorbals was comprehended within the bounds of the Presbytery of Glasgow, and was originally a part of the parish of Govan, of which the University of Glasgow were the patrons.

The feuars of the barony at first were the principal inhabitants

of the village ; but the advantages of its situation drew people together, who, from various views of convenience, were induced to take up their residence in this village ; the feuars, however, enjoyed exclusively the territorial permanent property and interest within the barony. They established among themselves a fund for their common behoof, which they gave in charge to a committee of their number, elected according to certain rules, who were called "*The Managers of Gorbals,*" with powers to choose a preses, and to hold meetings with respect to the application and management of the public funds entrusted to their care.

The village becoming more populous, and the parish church of Govan being at the distance of two computed miles, a proposition was suggested to erect a chapel of ease, with an assistant preacher, for the accommodation of the heritors and inhabitants. They accordingly, about the year 1731, raised a sum by voluntary contribution among themselves, with which they purchased ground (in Buchan Street) for a church, and also bought some land for a burial place (now the Gorbals Burying-ground) ; after which they built their late church, and, with the approbation of the Presbytery of Glasgow, did thenceforward call and maintain preachers to preach the Gospel, as well as to visit and examine there. The salary originally given to the preacher was £50 sterling yearly, and was defrayed out of the seat rents of the church.

In the year 1766 the Rev. William Anderson (father of the late Dr. Anderson), was called to be the preacher, and an addition was then made to the salary which his predecessors had received. The erection and endowment of this church, the election of the preacher, and all relative matters, were directed and conducted solely and entirely by the authority and under the management of the feuars. The other inhabitants had no share in the administration of the funds appropriated to the maintenance of the charge, and no voice in the election of the preacher. In the progress of Mr. Anderson's ministry, the feuars, considering the then opulent state of their public funds, and the increasing populousness of the village, which now contained full three thousand examinable persons, came to a resolution of applying for a disjunction of the parish of Govan, and an erection of Gorbals into a new and distinct

charge upon the Establishment, with an ordained minister. With this view the feuars of Gorbals, at a general meeting, held upon the 28th of September 1768, approved of the measure in agitation, and then named a committee for following forth and pursuing the disjunction and new erection. The committee consisted of the preses and managers of the public funds, of William Bowie, John Snodgrass, and John Currie, three of the feuars, and likewise of James Simpson and Walter Angus, then bailies of the barony. This committee having first obtained the consent of the greatest part of the heritors of the parish of Govan, and also the consent of the Presbytery of Glasgow, did thereafter bring a process before the Lords of Session, as commissioners for the plantation of kirks, wherein they called as defenders—the Magistrates of Glasgow, as superiors of the Barony of Gorbals; the minister of Govan; the University of Glasgow, as patron; and all the heritors of the parish: and after mentioning that they had built a church, and that for a number of years they had maintained a preacher there, they stated—“that the public funds of the said village are sufficient for providing a minister to serve the said new kirk with a competent stipend, not under the sum of £67 sterling yearly of stipend, and £23 money for manse and glebe; and also to furnish communion elements, as often as the Sacrament shall be administered within the said parish.”

The following is a statement of the public funds belonging to the Gorbals feuars at this time:—

| | | | |
|---|-------|----|---|
| Annual produce of seat rents | £100 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. of community-land and house rents | 56 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. of mort-cloth dues | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. of the churchyard grass rents | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Total sum (exclusive of interest of money lent) | £173 | 10 | 0 |

Accordingly, on the 20th of February 1771, their Lordships pronounced decret in terms of the application of the feuars, whereby the village of Gorbals was separated and disjoined from the parish of Govan, and erected into a separate parish, called “the parish of Gorbals.” Further, their Lordships decerned and ordained, “that the *bailies* of the said village, preses, and managers

of the public funds thereof, for the time, shall be bound and obliged, on the proper charges and expenses of the said village, not only to defray the said expenses, but also to provide the minister, who shall serve the cure at the said kirk, with a competent and legal stipend, not under the sum of £67 sterling and £23 money, fore-said, yearly for manse and glebe, ay and until the same is provided, '*both out of the public funds of the said village*;' payable at two terms in the year, Whitsunday and Martinmas yearly, by equal portions; and also to furnish communion elements as oft as the Sacrament shall be administrate within the parish." None of the inhabitants of Gorbals who were not feuars were parties in this process. The patronage of the parish of Gorbals, however, was still vested in the University of Glasgow, as having right to the patronage of the parish of Govan. The feuars therefore made application to the University, and obtained a presentation to Mr. William Anderson (who for several years before had been the assistant preacher), to be minister of the new parish. On this occasion, the bailies, preses, and managers of the Gorbals feuars having met, made the following minutes:—

"At GORBALS, the 31st October, 1771.

"Being convened, Francis Reid (of Greenlaw), and Walter Angus, bailies, with the preses and managers—they agree to pay Mr. Anderson, their minister, for the current year, an additional stipend of £10 sterling, attour the sum of £90 sterling, formerly settled to him—making in hail £100 sterling.

"WILLIAM MURDOCH."

At another meeting—

"At GORBALS, the 16th December, 1771.

"Being convened, Francis Reid (of Greenlaw), Walter Angus, and Walter White, bailies of the barony of Gorbals—William Murdoch, preses, William Bowie, Malcolm M'Leod, John Muir, and Archibald Jackson, managers for the feuars thereof—they allow Mr. William Anderson, minister, for defraying the expense of communion elements for this year, £6 sterling for each Sacrament—he having only two Sacraments. "WILLIAM MURDOCH."

The whole of the above was ordered and executed by the bailies, preses, and managers of such feuars as had joined the association. As for the mere inhabitants, they were not consulted in the matter.

In consequence of the said resolutions of the committee, the several sums mentioned in them as the modified stipend and expense of communion elements were regularly paid to the minister during seven years thereafter. In the year 1778, however, the then preses and managers, dissatisfied with the benevolence of former times, refused to pay the minister the £100 of stipend, or any sum whatever for communion elements, because the addition of £10 to the *minimum* provision, in decreet of court, they said, was merely a gratuitous allowance, as well as the £12 yearly for communion elements, which might be discontinued at the pleasure of the managers and feuars. Mr. Anderson was therefore obliged to bring an action before the Court of Session, founding upon the said decreet of disjunction and new erection, and also upon the subsequent modifications of his provisions by the managers and feuars, and concluding against the bailies, preses, and managers of the public funds of Gorbals for payment, including arrears, of stipend.

On the 11th of December 1781 their Lordships pronounced the following interlocutor:—

“Find the pursuer, Mr. Anderson, entitled to £100 sterling yearly of stipend, with £12 sterling yearly for communion elements; also, find the pursuer entitled to the expense of extract.”

And, by a separate interlocutor, the defenders were found *liable personally*. Here then commenced the difficulties and troubles of the Gorbals feuars, which have been accumulating upon them ever since, with little intermission.

Against these interlocutors a reclaiming petition was given in, praying their Lordships to find—

“1st. That the petitioners were not obliged to continue the £10 of additional stipend to the pursuer.

“2d. That £6 per annum is sufficient for communion elements.

“3d. That the petitioners *are not personally liable* to make up the deficiency of the public funds *out of their own pockets*.

“4th. To authorise the petitioners, for their relief, to *assess* the feuars and *inhabitants* of the village, in order to make up the deficiency.”

This petition was refused, *without answers*, their Lordships

being of opinion that the *first three* articles of its prayer were *unjust*, and the *last, unnecessary*.

Under these calamitous circumstances, various meetings of the managers and feuars were held, and a general meeting of the *feuars* was called, to take place in the Gorbals Church (Buchan Street), on the 31st of January 1782, to determine whether the feuars will agree to assess themselves, in proportion to their valuation of rent, or whether they will come to the resolution of taxing feuars *and inhabitants indiscriminately*.

It is not very difficult to see what resolution this one-sided meeting would adopt; and accordingly, at the said meeting it was carried—"That feuars *and inhabitants shall be taxed*, without distinction at the rate of ten per cent of their respective rents."

This heavy tax was attempted to be laid upon the inhabitants of Gorbals without their knowledge, advice, or consent; and, besides, they were clearly not members of the association. Within a few days after the said meeting had taken place, the collector, acting for the feuars, served libels on various persons in Gorbals, summoning them to appear, not before the Sheriff as a neutral judge, but before their own bailies, who were parties interested. The libels set forth—

"That the bailies, preses, and managers, with concurrence of the *feuars*, found themselves necessitated to assess the feuars *and inhabitants* of the parish at the rate of ten per cent on the rent of the houses respectively occupied by them, in order to raise a fund for satisfying the deficiency of the minister's stipend, and others, aforesaid, *which by the law and practice of the country, they had good and undoubted right and authority to do,*"

concluding against the said inhabitants, and also against certain feuars, who denied being members of the association (and who objected to the tax), severally, for payment of their alleged respective proportions of the said tax. Separate defences were given in for the inhabitants, and for those feuars who denied being members of the association. As was to be expected, the bailies pronounced the following interlocutor in favour of the feuars:—

"Finds the assessment libelled was necessary and proper, and that the preses and managers of the village of Gorbals are entitled to be relieved of the aforesaid deficiencies, and that the said preses and managers are not an-

swerable for the manner in which their predecessors in office collected or disposed of the funds of the village; and therefore decerns and ordains the defenders to make payment to the pursuer, as collector for the *heritors* of Gorbals, of the respective sums libelled."

It may be here remarked that at this time there was really a very trifling shortcoming of the public funds; the deficiency being caused principally by the fall of the seat rents in the church, in consequence of certain disputes and differences which had taken place between Mr. Anderson and some of his parishioners, who ultimately seceded from him. In the year 1771, when the process of disjunction and erection was going on, the seat rents yielded a trifle above £100. The account of the subsequent years is as follows:—Seat rents received in the

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Year 1772 . . | £97 14 6 | Year 1776 . . | £97 11 0 |
| 1773 . . | 95 1 1 | 1777 . . | 99 7 6 |
| 1774 . . | 94 10 5 | 1778 . . | 96 8 11 |
| 1775 . . | 96 5 3 | | |

It thus appears that with common discretion, and with prudent management of the public funds, the feuars had no occasion to levy any assessment upon the inhabitants of Gorbals.

About the year 1772 the University of Glasgow sold the right of patronage of the parish of Gorbals to the heritors and elders of the said village, for the sum of a thousand merks Scots (£65 : 11 : 1), reserving the whole teinds to the parish of Govan, of which they are the patrons.

The foregoing judgment of the bailies having been brought before the Court of Session, was reversed, with expenses, so that the feuars of Gorbals now came to be saddled with a heavy debt; but although they were thus debarred from levying a *direct* tax upon the inhabitants, they nevertheless contrived ways and means to raise funds *indirectly*, and if they had kept quiet, and allowed matters to go on smoothly, they might have recovered from their difficulties; for under the ministry of the late Dr. M'Lean, not only had the seat rents in the church rapidly increased in amount, so as to leave a surplus fund, but also the collections at the church-door were found to be amply sufficient to support the poor of the parish without any assessment whatever.

Alas, the times are changed! Prosperity, however, sometimes dazzles even wise and cautious men, and tempts them to engage in undertakings beyond their means; and so it happened with the Gorbals feuars. Seeing an increasing demand for seats in the old Gorbals church, and finding their funds in a flourishing state, they came to the resolution of building a new church; but they forgot that their former difficulties were caused by a church building scheme, and in place of erecting a place of worship of a plain description, and at a moderate cost, suitable to the state of their funds, they resolved to build one upon a magnificent scale; and accordingly, in 1810 feued a small strip of ground from Mr. James Laurie, at the enormous feu of £100 per annum, and built¹ upon it the present church and steeple, at the cost, it is said, of £5000, which money they were obliged to borrow upon the personal guarantee of some of the influential feuars. This unfortunate erection has been the cause of all the subsequent difficulties of the Gorbals feuars, and at this moment is pressing most heavily, not only upon them, but upon the whole barony.

During the railway mania, the feuars of Gorbals attempted to compel the Caledonian Railway to purchase their church, but were unsuccessful, and their opposition in Parliament cost them £600. Besides this, the accounts of Mr. Strang, their agent in Glasgow, amounted to upwards of £900.

At present the feuars of Gorbals are negotiating with the Magistrates of Glasgow to be relieved altogether of their trust, which they allege ought to be assumed by the said Magistrates of Glasgow, under the terms of the late Act of Parliament. There can be no doubt that the barony of Gorbals has a high claim upon the city of Glasgow, both in *honour* and in *equity*, to be relieved of its present burdens, for the bailies appointed to the barony by the Magistrates of Glasgow went hand in hand with the feuars in their transactions; and the Provost, Bailies, and Town Council of Glasgow, as superiors, assisted in laying the foundation-stone of the Gorbals church—the *malorum origo*. But besides these circumstances, when the late Gorbals Statute Labour Trustees first took the management of the Statute

¹ The church was built by the late Mr. Robert Aitken, builder, Glasgow.

Labour Trust in the barony, they found the old Trust in debt, and the streets in a wretched state of disrepair; but by prudent management they not only paid off a debt of £1000, but also accumulated a surplus of £600; and at the same time kept the streets always in an excellent state of repair, quite equal to what they are in at present. Upon the Magistrates of Glasgow assuming this Trust, under the late Act of Parliament, the Gorbals Statute Labour Trustees paid them the £600 of surplus funds, and made over to them all arrears of assessments. Now, what did the Magistrates of Glasgow do in return? Why, they directly doubled, or nearly so, the Statute Labour assessment upon the barony, when it is self-evident that the old rate of assessment was more than sufficient to keep the Gorbals streets in the most efficient state of repair. Of course, the whole of the extra assessment thus laid upon the barony of Gorbals is appropriated to recausewaying the leading streets of Glasgow proper with fine-dressed granite stones. Now, is it just or fair that the Magistrates of Glasgow should in this manner take the good and refuse to take the bad? I have no hesitation in saying that the £600 of cash which they received from, and the extra assessment which they laid upon, the Gorbals barony (unnecessarily as regards Gorbals) are amply sufficient to cover any loss which the Magistrates of Glasgow can incur by assuming the debts and liabilities of the Gorbals feuars.

(1850.)

THE STATUE OF KING WILLIAM—AND ITS DONOR, GOVERNOR
MACRAE.

It was said of Henry Dundas, the late Lord Melville, that on his visits to Edinburgh he took infinite delight to mount up five or six flights of the dark and narrow staircases of the ancient city buildings, in order to pay his respects to his old dowager acquaintances, and there to crack over the stories of olden time. Under like impressions, I believe that there are few of our aged citizens who do not feel a certain undefined regard for the statue of King William, and can never look up to it without the idea flashing

upon their minds, that they are beholding an old and intimate friend.

I must confess that I never return from a long journey without being delighted, when passing the Cross, to see my ancient acquaintance, with his bare toes and baton frappant, still gracing our old Exchange. What a multitude of bygone events does this statue bring to the mind of an aged citizen. Here, in days of yore, our tobacco lords, with their scarlet cloaks, bushy wigs, and cocked hats, proudly walked to and fro upon the flagstones of our old Exchange, graced by this, the finest statue yet erected in Glasgow. But how changed are the times! This lordly esplanade is now usurped by a motley crowd of ragged, idle workmen, and of sauntering recruiting-sergeants. Here our Magistrates yearly, on the 4th of June, were wont to issue from the Town Hall to drink the healths of George the Third, and of all the Royal family, throwing their wine-glasses aloft with laughter and merriment, amongst the assembled multitude, who eagerly contended for the prizes of the falling glasses, at the no little hazard of broken pates and cut fingers. These doings are passed away as things that were. Here was also the scene of many a melancholy execution; and here, likewise, for many a year was exhibited the busy course of our bustling citizens, entering to and departing from our now forlorn coffee-room. Here were daily heard the merry chimes of our music bells, now miserably decayed and out of tune; and here was once the renowned Tontine Hotel, with its two hundred bed-rooms in full occupation. Alas! behold it now [1850], without a tenant! But notwithstanding of this sad decay of local grandeur, King William still stands forth the brightest monument of our city. This fine equestrian statue was presented to our citizens by James MacRae, Esq., Governor of the Presidency of Madras, in the year 1734, and was erected at the Cross in the following year (1735), during the provostship of the Hon. Andrew Ramsay,¹ Mr. MacRae being at that time a burghess of the city of Glasgow.²

¹ I have in my possession the family teapot of Provost Ramsay; it is a most beautiful article, of the richest India china, and was presented to us by Miss Sophia Ramsay after the death of her father, the provost. No other part of the tea-set now remains.

² The translation of the inscription on the pedestal is as follows:—

It is rather singular that none of the historians of Glasgow have handed down to us any account of the life of Governor MacRae, although it exhibits a series of interesting and uncommon events, which may justly be placed alongside of the life and adventures of the famous Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, for they seem more like fictions than realities.

Knowing that a lady, a near relation of my own, was in possession of many particulars regarding the history of Governor MacRae, which she had acquired partly through her grandmother (an aged lady, residing in a neighbouring shire), and partly through the late Rev. Mr. Fleming of Neilston, I requested her to furnish me with a statement of what she recollected to have heard from these, or from other parties, regarding the history of an individual to whom our citizens are so greatly indebted, and I now give the relation of this lady in her own words, without any alterations or additions of my own :—

“AN AYRSHIRE TRUE STORY.

“A long time ago there lived in a little thatched cottage in the vicinity of

In Honour of
 The most excellent Prince,
 WILLIAM III., SOVEREIGN OF GREAT BRITAIN,
 Pious, Valiant, Invincible,
 By whose courage, counsel, and address,
 Often displayed in the greatest danger,
 To the United Provinces, well nigh overpowered,
 Unexpected safety was obtained :
 To Britain and Ireland,
 Purer Religion, Law, and Liberty,
 Were Restored, Maintained, and Transmitted
 To Posterity,
 Under the just Government of Patriotic Princes
 Of the Brunswick Line :
 And the Yoke of Slavery,
 Intended by the French for the whole of Europe,
 Was averted :
 This Monument of his Immortal Deserts,
 In the XXXIII^d year after his decease,
 Being Accepted with the Highest Approbation
 By the Magistrates and People of Glasgow,
 Was Erected by her Active and Faithful Citizen,
 JAMES MACRAE,
 Late Governor of the Presidency of Madras,

the town of Ayr, a poor but respectable widow, of the name of MacRae. She had two sons, young boys; the eldest was of a kindly and sociable disposition, and having a taste for music, turned his attention to the study of that art, and in due time became a fiddler by profession, and was much taken out to play at weddings, harvest-homes, and rockings, the last a species of merry-making peculiar to Ayrshire, at which the services of the country musician are much appreciated. But poor widow MacRae's youngest son was a disobedient scapegrace, and so early in life as at nine years of age he disappeared, no one knew where; and although his mother made many efforts to discover where her erring boy had gone, they all proved fruitless, and she became old and died without finding any trace of his retreat. A period of forty years had elapsed from the time of the disappearance of the little boy, when a lawyer in Ayr and his wife were sitting together one day after dinner conversing, he asked her if she knew any person in the town of the name of MacRae; she replied that the only one of that name that she knew was old Willie MacRae the fiddler. My reason for asking, said he, is on account of having read to-day an advertisement in the papers, saying that if there are any of the descendants of a widow MacRae (who lived in such a part of the town of Ayr at such a time) yet in existence, that by making due application at a certain office in London they will hear of something to their advantage. The lady suggested that by sending for Willie he might be able to throw some light upon the subject; so a servant was sent to tell the fiddler that her master wished to speak to him. Willie came immediately, and after being questioned as to his pedigree, was found to be the son of the widow, and said that he had a 'ne'er-do-weel laddie o' a brither that ran awa' lang syne, and was ne'er heard o' since; that mony a sair day mither had, wondering if he had come to an untimely end.' As to Willie's own situation, he said that he was married, and had twa wee dochters. The lawyer then said that he would write to London, and make the necessary statements, and would let him know the result. Willie was agreeable to this proposal; but appeared neither sanguine in expectation, nor elated with the prospect of better circumstances—being perfectly happy as he was. However, no time was lost in making application as directed; and an answer was promptly returned, giving the lawyer instructions to come to London, and to bring William MacRae and his two daughters with him. So, dressed in their best, the four set off for the great metropolis; and, although the journey in those days could not be performed with the degree of speed that it is done in now, yet the party arrived at last, and went direct to the agent with whom they had corresponded, and he conducted them forthwith to a splendid establishment in one of the genteel streets in London. But what was poor Willie's astonishment when he was ushered into the presence of the Governor-General of Madras, as one and the same with the little barefoot runaway—even his long-lost brother (the same who had at this time presented the city of Glasgow with the beautiful equestrian statue of King William the Third, which now stands in front of the Tontine). There was indeed a contrast of qualities between the two brothers—the

one polished and polite; the other bashful and awkward. Willie gazed incredulously, while the two girls clung to him, and timidly took an occasional peep at their great uncle; but mutual confidence, however, was soon established. He received them kindly; and while they stayed with him, he suited his manner so as to make them easy and at home. It would have been gratifying had we been able to trace the Governor's history from his ninth year till the time that he made himself known to his brother; but although we have no account of it, we may conclude that before he arrived at distinction he must have had much uphill work, and that he must indeed have been an enterprising boy. But, my young friends, let us here pause, and extract our lesson from this little story, which is not a fiction. Although we are willing to give credit to Mr. MacRae for his abilities, which were of a superior order, oh! how we must lament his want of natural affection, particularly to his mother. He set parental authority at nought, by going away without her knowledge and liberty; his youth in some degree apologises for this step; he was not then aware of the extent of his fault; but when his mind became developed, and was capable of reflection, did he never think of the many bitter tears that she must have shed in secret for the loss of her youngest child? Did he think that if he made himself known that she would expect support from him? Could he have used a portion of the money with which Providence had blessed him to better purpose than aiding his widowed parent with it? or was it cowardice, was he ashamed to own that his was a poor and plebeian mother. Why, she was well doing, and his mother. This was enough. The Creator has appointed to each individual their position in the world; that there must be the rich and the poor to constitute the framework of society is indisputable. Yet, as a sense of poverty renders the feelings acute, and is a principal cause of its being felt a burden, never, then, add to it the sting of neglect; be bland and compassionate to your poorer fellow-mortals, and if they are discreet, they will not impose upon you for being so. But it is pleasing to think that before it was too late he felt the ardent desire to repair, in some measure, the errors of his youth, by improving the condition of his mother's descendants—for this purpose he returned to his native land, for he was childless.

“Governor-General MacRae then made a handsome settlement upon Mr. William MacRae, professor of music, for we like to give a respectful turn to things; but such was his simplicity, that notwithstanding his changed condition, he made the proviso with his brother, that he might still be allowed to go to the weddings and harvest-homes in Ayrshire, and to dissent would have been to rob him of one of the greatest enjoyments of his life; so when he went home he continued his vocation, but at these entertainments he was now quite the king of the company.

“The two little girls were placed by their uncle in a fashionable boarding school, to be brought up and educated as gentlewomen. These and business arrangements completed, the Governor sailed for India again to attend his charge; but he had not been there above ten or twelve years, when infor-

mation of his death was received by his law-agent in London, stating at the same time that the bulk of his fortune, which was immense, was bequeathed to his two nieces, daughters of his late brother William; for William was now lying side by side with his mother, and the grass had grown long and rank over their narrow beds in the old churchyard. The Misses MacRae were now grown up, and fashionable young ladies; and after becoming heiresses, were invited to visit a genteel family in Ayrshire. One day at this time, Lord Glencairn and the lawyer of whom I have already spoken, were engaged in earnest and private conversation in his lordship's library. The estates were already considerably burdened with debt. His lordship being no adept at husbanding money, was now seeking legal advice as to the safest means of raising more. The lawyer said that if his lordship would excuse the liberty of his making a suggestion of a peculiar nature, it was one that, should it meet with his approbation, would not only clear the estates, but leave a considerable sum over. He desired him to be perfectly explicit. He then said, 'Why, my lord, marry an heiress who is at present resident in this county!' The proposal was met with a smile, and a demand of 'Pray sir, who is the lady?' The reply was—'Miss MacRae, niece of the late Governor-General of Madras, and an elegant woman.' This was a brilliant description. His lordship was now in love; if not yet with the lady, at least with her fortune; but not a word of a fiddle. No, no, let his lordship's musical information break upon him by degrees; time enough for that branch; it is not an essential one. Independent of any sinister motives, the knowing lawyer was cautious what mode of speech he made use of, for he was now about to emancipate his noble client from the thralldom of debt, and also to give his heiress-client a title—the prospect of which is at all times a honeyed morsel to a young and ambitious girl; but, in some cases, is not possessed a year till she discovers that it is only a sound, as hollow as the decayed trunk of a stunted oak; but who can stem the current of life's events and vicissitudes?

"Lord Glencairn found no difficulty in being introduced to the heiresses, for they were now upon intimate terms with the Ayrshire gentry, and they possessed that which is a passport to the best society; not that the fortune was their only advantage, for, although they were not beautiful, yet their native gentleness and their liberal education had moulded them into what, at a glance, distinguishes the cultivated female. He paid his addresses to the eldest, and was accepted, and in a short time the marriage was solemnised in presence of a large and gay assemblage of the Ayrshire nobility and gentry. When she was an old lady, and a widow, she, accompanied by her factor, rode out one day to give him directions as to some improvements upon her property; she then pointed to an old tenement which was falling into decay, saying, 'There, sir, is the cottage in which I was born; and the ten years that I spent in it with my poor father and mother were infinitely more happy than the forty years that I have been Lady Glencairn.' Her sister was also married, but to a gentleman in private life; and long long after those whose names I have mentioned

were gone the way of all living, there was assembled at a county ball in Ayr a fashionable company, and among the rest were the respective families of Cassillis and Glencairn, between whom there existed a feeling of jealousy; and when there was a party on the floor about to dance, the inconsiderate young Lord Glencairn said to the master of ceremonies, in an audible tone of voice, 'Tell the musicians to play "Johnny Faa."' ¹ 'Yes,' said the Earl of Cassillis, 'and, after that, let us have the "Fiddler's Daughter,"' neither of the tunes being at all suitable for the figure about to be danced, which might be a *Cotillon*, or, possibly, the *Minuet de la Cour*; but no matter, each young noble shot his poisoned arrow in hopes of a successful hit. So much for the manners of polished society, in the middle of the last century."

Scots Magazine, page 346, 21st July 1744. Died at his seat of Orangefield in the Shire of Ayr, James MacRae, Esq., late governor of Fort St. George.

(1850.)

GOVERNOR MACRAE AND HIS HEIRS—ANOTHER VERSION.

[A few days subsequent to the publication of the above in the *Glasgow Herald*, the following communication appeared in the *Ayr Advertiser* newspaper. In detail it varies considerably from the narrative given by the lady-correspondent of "Senex." The statements, however, are not at variance in reference to the main facts regarding Governor MacRae and his fortune. As I do not possess any materials to balance in detail the accuracy of the one narrative with the other, I have thought it best to insert them both. By this means, at least, some romantic circumstances connected with a man who was a benefactor to Glasgow will be preserved, the recollection of which would in all likelihood have been lost to another generation.—J. P.]

"EDINBURGH, 24th June 1850.

"SIR—In your paper of the 13th instant, there appeared a story copied from *Glasgow in the Olden Time*, entitled 'An Ayrshire Story.'

"The tale is so romantic, and the moral reflections so touching, that I hesitate to say anything to destroy their efficacy. But, as moral reflections are not calculated to do much good when not founded on truth, I think it best to state the real facts of the case.

¹ In allusion to one of the ladies of the Cassillis family who went off with a gipsy.

“Somewhere about the beginning of last century, or perhaps the close of the preceding one, there lived near Ayr an itinerant musician (or as Lord Eldin would have said, ‘a blin’ fiddler,’ only he wasn’t blin’) called Maguire. A brother of his wife, whose name was MacRae, had run away from home when very young, and was not heard of for upwards of forty years, when he returned with a fortune acquired as Governor (not Governor-General, for no such title exists) of Madras. How he had attained to this station it is impossible to say, but somehow he had raised himself, and in those days there was a way of making money as Governors of the Indian Presidencies which seems now to be unknown. He immediately intimated his intention of giving his fortune to the four daughters of his sister. To the eldest he gave the estate of Drumdow (now the property of John Rankine, Esq.); to the second, that of Alva; to the third, that of Houston, in Dumfriesshire; and to the fourth, his favourite, who was born after his return from abroad, and who was named MacRae, after him, that of Orangefield, in your neighbourhood. I may mention that the name MacRae is still kept up as a Christian name in some families connected with her husband, of whom I shall speak hereafter. The eldest of these four daughters was married A.D. 1744, to William, thirteenth Earl of Glencairn. They had issue, William, Lord Kilmaurs, who died unmarried; James, fourteenth Earl of Glencairn, who died unmarried; John, fifteenth and last Earl, who married Lady Isabella Erskine, daughter of the Earl of Buchan, and died without issue; Lady Hennes, who married Sir Alexander Don, of Newtondon, Berwickshire, from whom the present Baronet is descended, and two other children, who died unmarried.

“With regard to him there is a story told of his smart reply to Lord Cassillis, who, having quarrelled with him at a ball, reproached him for so far forgetting his rank as to marry a fiddler’s daughter. ‘Yes, my lord,’ was his reply, ‘and I remember that one of my father-in-law’s favourite airs was “The Gipsies cam’ to Lord Cassillis’s yett,”’ referring to the elopement of a Countess of Cassillis with the gipsies, celebrated in the old song of ‘Johnny Faa.’ The second daughter was married A.D. 1749, to James Erskine, an advocate, who, being raised to the bench, took the name of Lord Alva, from the estate which he acquired by his wife. Of their further history I can tell nothing.

“The third daughter married James MacRae, a nephew (or, as was more generally believed, a natural son) of the Governor. This son James (or as he was commonly yclept Jemmie MacRae), fought a duel with Sir George Ramsay of Balmain, at the Figgate Whins, near Edinburgh. The cause of this duel was a most silly affair. Sir G. Ramsay was coming out of a theatre with a party of ladies; MacRae was escorting another, and they found their servants disputing which carriage should draw up first at the door. They had come to abusive language—each of the gentlemen took his servant’s part, and the result was a duel in which Sir George was shot, and MacRae made his escape in a Dutch smuggler which was hovering about the coast. The fourth daughter, MacRae Maguire, was married to Charles Dalrymple, nephew

of Charles Dalrymple of Langlands, and brother of the Rev. Dr. William Dalrymple, formerly minister of Ayr. This gentleman held the office of Sheriff-Clerk of Ayrshire, in which he succeeded his father, James Dalrymple. She, as has been stated, was the Governor's favourite, and among other things he presented her with a large box of tea, then a great rarity in this country, which he had brought home with him. But, on taking the box out to Orangefield, it was found that the doors were too small to give it admittance, and so they had to crane it up outside the house. The box is bound very strongly with brass, and is now used as a corn-chest by Dr. Whiteside of Ayr. I may mention that a portrait of Lord Glencairn, the great friend and supporter of John Knox, and which had come somehow into the hands of Mr. Dalrymple, is now in possession of his grand-niece, a member of my own family.

"It may serve to show the state of poverty, as well as the ideas of happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Maguire, that on learning of their good fortune, they procured a bottle of brandy and a loaf of sugar, in the latter of which they scooped out a hole, and pouring in the brandy, they supped the liquor with spoons.

"The above are the true facts of this story. Being myself connected with the Dalrymples, and having acquired much information from an aged relative, the only surviving daughter of the Rev. Dr. Dalrymple, besides what I have derived from an examination of the Scotch Peerage, I am able to attest the truth of the above statements.

"The friends whom I have consulted tell me that they never heard of the fiddler going to London. As will be seen, he was a brother-in-law, not a brother, of the Governor. He had four daughters instead of two, and though I have no doubt Miss Maguire's fortune was a considerable attraction to Lord Glencairn, I much fear that the conversation between him and the lawyer, as well as that between the latter and his wife, are only the products of 'Senex's' fertile imagination. From the story which I have above told, Lord G. must have been well aware, as the rest of the country people were, that his father-in-law was a fiddler.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. T. M."

(1850.)

THE BELL'S WYND FLESH-MARKET.

We have just lost our venerable acquaintance the "Auld Brig o' Glasgow," which, during the whole term of its quingenarian existence, has remained through good report and bad report, a steady and a faithful servant of the public, and we are now about

to lose another of our old and respectable town servants, the "Bell's Wynd Flesh-Market," which, although a servitor of a lower grade, has nevertheless, in its day, administered much to the comfort of our citizens.

Here of old, on the Wednesdays and Saturdays, were fought many a priggish battle between our ancient city dowagers and the butchers' wives, about the price of legs of mutton, or back-says of beef; as for the common affairs of sheep-heads, minced collops, and necks of mutton, the value of these was so well known that servants were entrusted with the bargaining for them; but as to a "*prime roast*," *c'était tout-à-fait une autre chose*, and required the presence of the mistress herself, at bargaining for such a weighty affair. It was perfectly understood on both sides that the butcher's wife was to ask from a penny to three halfpence per pound more than she intended to take, so that there was no great difficulty in the mistress priggish down the penny; but there generally arose a stout battle about the halfpenny, and, according to the state of the market, the victory was sometimes on the one side, and sometimes on the other—the mistress, however, had always a *corps de reserve*, which she brought up as a *dernière ressource*, and this generally gave her the victory. She threatened the butcher's wife that she would go to the New Street Market, and would try if she could be better served there. This was a sore cut, for the Bell Street, or country butchers' wives, and the New Street, or flesher's craft wives, were at open war, in consequence of which the Bell Street wife generally thought it better to yield, and to lose the halfpenny, than to permit a customer to enrich her opponent.

As the Magistrates of Glasgow and the Incorporation of Fleshers have been playing at cat and dog ever since I recollect anything, it may perhaps be amusing to your young readers to hear a little of their ancient bickerings, some of which I will shortly take notice of.

In referring to the times when our city appertained heritably to the Bishops and Archbishops of Glasgow (who were Lords of the Barony and Regality), I cannot find any evidence of there being a public market for butcher-meat in Glasgow; and I am

inclined to think, that the butchers of these days had little stalls, or booths, placed at any corner of a street that was convenient, where they exposed their stock of meat for sale, in the same manner as we see it done in most of our small country towns.

It is difficult to tell, with certainty, when and where the first public markets for butcher-meat were erected in Glasgow. My grandmother, who was born in the year 1715,¹ used to mention that she remembered Candleriggs, New Street (King Street), and Gibson's Wynd (Princes Street),² to have been open fields, which were occasionally sown with corn, and that she heard that there was formerly a range of old buildings standing in the middle of the Trongate, at the foot of the Candleriggs, on each side of which there was a narrow cart-entry, or passage, to and from the Westergate.³ The site of the present building occupied by Webster and Son, situated to the west of the Tron Steeple, appears to have formed the south-east corner of the area above mentioned. The steeple itself, projecting into the line of the Trongate, shows that a great alteration has been made upon this locality of our city. From the documents that I am about to take notice of it appears to me that the first regular markets for butcher-meat in Glasgow were situated at the buildings which thus stood in the middle of the Trongate, and that these markets consisted merely of booths, or stalls, and not of large and regularly-constructed buildings, such as our present markets. When the old erections were swept away from the centre of the Trongate, there appears to have been then existing a market called the "Land Market," built in Bell Street, for the accommodation of the country butchers (whose dealings were principally in mutton, lamb, and veal), while another market was shortly after erected at the foot of the Candleriggs, for the sale of beef, etc.—the latter market being exclusively occupied by the members of the Incorporation of

¹ At this period Glasgow contained only 14,000 inhabitants; its annual rental amounted to £7840, and the highest rent for a shop was £5. It was during this year (1715) that the first newspaper was published in Glasgow, price one penny. Three years later (1718) the first Glasgow ship crossed the Atlantic. The old lady above mentioned inherited one of the long closes of houses on the west side of the High Street, which have lately been condemned by the Dean of Guild Court.

² These streets were opened in 1724.

³ Somewhat analogous to St. George's Place.

Fleshers. Both of these markets were the property of the city of Glasgow. Matters thus stood till the year 1755, when the King Street markets were erected by our Magistrates; and from habitual association these markets were separated into the beef and mutton markets—the former being situated on the east, and the latter on the west side of King Street.

The Bell Street, or land market, appears to have been shut up for a short time after the erection of the King Street markets, and considerable disputes seem to have arisen between the Magistrates of Glasgow, the Incorporations of Fleshers, and the country butchers, upon various points, but more particularly with regard to dues, and to the price of stalls. The right of the country butchers to sell meat in Glasgow on any other days of the week than on the Wednesdays and Saturdays (the market days) being also disputed; but when the Bell Street market was re-opened, some of the country butchers became members of the Incorporated Fleshers' craft, and so kept their stalls in the Bell Street market open during all the working days of the week; and this license was followed by the country butchers doing the same, although they had not entered themselves as members of the Incorporation of Fleshers. Of course this became the source of much animosity and altercation.

About the beginning of last century there was no public slaughter-house in Glasgow; for every butcher at that time found premises for slaughtering his own cattle; but there was a public market for the sale of cattle, which was held at the West Port, nearly opposite to the late Black Bull Inn. At this period and even down to my time, it was a very general practice amongst our *bien* citizens to lay in their *mart* in the month of November. They purchased a cow in the market, and employed a butcher to slaughter it, and to cut it up into proper pieces for salting—(I think the butcher got the hide for his trouble). These pieces were cured by the families themselves, and deposited in barrels for winter store. Many times and oft have I seen the kitchen ceilings of some of our old dowagers decked out with strings of bloody puddings, oatmeal puddings, and fine currant puddings, the produce of their *mart*; and it was with no small goût that I occasionally dined in olden days upon a *salt mart roast*; though I must

confess that it required a few copious draughts of the Arns well afterwards to bring matters right again. I shall say nothing of the amusement which the youngsters had in those days by assisting in cleansing the *monyplies*, and scraping the *cow-heels*; for in fact the whole business of laying in a *mart* was considered quite a family ploy. But I am wandering from my subject, and must now give a few extracts from the records of the Town Council of Glasgow regarding our butcher markets in days of yore:—

*Extracts from the Records of the Council relative to the Flesh-Market,
6th October, 1610.¹*

“Item.—It is statute and ordainit, yt it sal be leisum to owt in towne flescheours, ilk day in the ouk, to mak mercate of flesche wt this burt, and to sell the samin in leg bouk and sydes, and yt na impediment be made to yame, nor na nane of yame be frie men fleschers, and yt they bring wt yame hyde, heid, skin, and tallow, and yt na frie men fleschers by flesche in the land mercat, nor yair wyfes, bairns, or handis to sell ovir again under cullor to furnish nobill men, gentile men, or countrie men, and yt under the payne of xty, to be tain of ilk veill, sheip, and lamb, yey by & xxx b of *ilk mart* & yey happen to by.”

12th October, 1611.

“Item.—It is statute and ordainit yt na frie men fleschers by flesche in ye land mercat, nor their wyfes, bairns, nor oyr handis, to sell ovir again under cullor to furnish nobile men, gentile men, cuntrie men, and yt under ye paine of xty, to be tain of ilk veill, sheep, and lamb yey by, and xxx bj b, to be tane of *ilk mart* or yey happen to by. It is statute and ordainit yt na friemen fleschers put nor joyne yame selfs with unfrie fleschers in the Land mercat, under the paine of ilk fault, and that na persons indwellers in this town that uses to sell flesches in the *Trongate* mercat be fund in the land mercate with flesh to by or sell, under paine of .”

6th June, 1704.

“Item.—Received from John Duncan, collector of the stock mails of the flesh mercatt, from Whitsunday 1700 to . Whitsunday 1701, two hundred pound Scots² . . . 0200 0 0

“Item.—Received from Jmes Anderson, collector of the flesh land mercatt, from Martinmas 1699 to Martinmas 1700, ane hundred merks³ 0066 13 4”

¹ At this period Glasgow contained only 4800 inhabitants, or thereby.

² £16 : 13 : 4 sterling.

³ £66 : 13 : 4 Scots, or £5 : 11 : 1½ sterling.

5th October, 1741.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| “To flesh mercat rent, from Whitsunday 1738 to Whitsunday 1739 | £16 13 4 |
| “To land mercat, from Martinmas 1737 to Martinmas 1738 | 5 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ” |

29th April, 1755.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| “To rent of beef mercat, from Whitsunday 1752 to Whitsunday 1753, by Incorporation of Fleshers | £16 13 4 |
| “To rent of slaughter-house, from Candlemas 1752 to Candlemas 1753, by ditto | 40 0 0 |
| “To rent of mutton market, from Martinmas 1752 to Martinmas 1753 | 5 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ” |

From the extract dated 12th October 1611 it appears that there was at that date a public market for the sale of butchers' vivers (in the Trongate) belonging to the city of Glasgow; and the stalls of this market seem to have been occupied solely by the members of the Incorporated Fleshers, who were prevented, under a penalty, from being “fund in the land mercate.”

In the extract of 5th October 1741 there is no mention made of a public slaughter-house; we may therefore conclude that, down to this date, both the incorporated and the country butchers were in the practice of slaughtering their cattle in premises provided by themselves. In the year 1744, however, the Magistrates of Glasgow erected the late slaughter-house on the side of the River Clyde, and let it from time to time to the Incorporation of Fleshers; but disputes having arisen between the Magistrates and the said Incorporation, the latter threatened to give up taking the city slaughter-house, and to return to the old system of slaughtering in private premises. On the other hand, the Magistrates, as guardians of the police, intimated their resolution to prohibit the slaughtering of cattle *within* Burgh, as being a nuisance to the inhabitants. The fleshers not choosing to slaughter *without* burgh, which they might have done, came in to the terms of the Magistrates. Matters thus remained till the year 1755, when a different arrangement took place, in consequence of the Magistrates and Council having erected the extensive markets in King Street. A great deal of communing and wrangling now took

place between the respective parties ; but it was finally agreed that the Incorporation should occupy the new market, along with the city slaughter-house, and should pay for these certain fixed duties, being a specific sum for every animal slaughtered and sold in the market. This arrangement has turned out to be one of great benefit to the Incorporation of Fleshers ; but has given much annoyance to our succeeding Magistracy, even down to this very day.

The important agreement in question was reduced to form, and legal validity was given to it by an Act of Council, dated 8th December 1755. As it forms the basis upon which matters have been regulated ever since between the Magistrates of Glasgow and the Incorporation of Fleshers, I shall now give an extract of its principal clauses :—

“8th December 1755.—The Magistrates and Council of Glasgow being in Council assembled, the Provost¹ represented that at a meeting of the Magistrates,² Convener,³ and several other members of the Town Council, upon the public works of the city, they had under consideration certain rules and regulations to be observed by the butchers and fleshers in the city, with respect to their possession of both the beef and mutton markets, and slaughtering-houses, lately erected and prepared within the city for their conveniency ; and also with respect to the rents and duties, which the freemen butchers of the city ought to pay for the said markets and slaughter-houses ; and likewise, as to what rents and duties strangers and country butchers ought to pay for the said markets and slaughter-houses ; and likewise, as to what rents and duties strangers and country butchers ought to pay for their liberty and conveniency of exposing their vivers to sale in the said markets, erected for them in the said city, upon market days ; and had agreed and ordered that the freemen butchers and fleshers of both markets shall pay the rents and duties therefor to the Town of Glasgow, or their Treasurer, in their name, for the use of said markets and slaughter-houses, at the rates following, viz.:—For each head of black cattle, 6d. sterling ; for every dozen of calves, sheep, or goats, 12d. sterling ; for every dozen of lambs or kids, 6d. sterling ; and for hogs and pigs in proportion ; and that all country fleshers shall, for the use of the markets allotted to them, pay the double of the above rates ; and ordered, that the said rents be exacted and levied weekly from the town and country fleshers, viz., from the town fleshers, upon Saturday weekly, and from the country fleshers, upon the market days upon which they use and occupy the markets appointed for them ; and ordered, that in all time coming,

¹ Hon. George Murdoch, Provost.

² Robert Christie, James Spreull, and James Whytlaw, Bailies.

³ George Nisbet (wright), Deacon Convener.

the several stalls and possessions in said markets; would be appointed and proportioned to the fleshers according to the rents levied from each individual; and in case of the not punctual payment of the rents to be levied weekly, as aforesaid, the butcher or butchers, so failing to pay, shall be liable to a forfeiture of their stall, besides poiding what may be deemed an equivalent to the rent; and in case any butcher or butchers shall presume to kill or slaughter their cattle, or others aforesaid, in any where else than their slaughter-houses at the river side, appointed for that purpose, they shall be liable to a forfeiture of the carcasses of the beast so killed or slaughtered in any other place than the said slaughter-houses already appointed for that purpose; and ordered, that the country butchers are subjected, and pay double of the above dues and rent."

The foregoing rules and regulations were intimated to the deacon and masters of both markets, and also to the country fleshers.

It may here be remarked that previously to the erection of the King Street Markets in 1755, there were no regular or fixed dues, payable by the town and country butchers, for selling meat in the open markets of the city; these dues appear to have varied from time to time, according to circumstances, and were the occasion of constant disputes. The foregoing agreement, however, between the Magistrates and the flesher craft, by fixing the rate of the town's dues, took away a bone of contention which had long existed in relation to the said dues—nevertheless there arose many minor disputes about the allotment of stalls, and want of accommodation, so that there was really no great cordiality between our Magistrates and the market fleshers.

The most important point of dispute, however, came to be this: The Magistrates, on the one hand, maintained that the dues in question were exigible for liberty to the fleshers to sell meat in the markets of the city; while, on the other hand, the fleshers denied that this was the proper construction of the agreement of 1755; for, they said, that these dues were levied *as rent of the stalls* in the markets, which stalls the Magistrates were *bound* to furnish to the Incorporation; and that so long as such rents were duly paid, the Magistrates had no power to dispossess any member of the Incorporation to whom a stall had been allotted. In short, the fleshers insisted that they were not common tenants at all.

In the year 1799, during the Provostship of Laurence Craigie,

the Magistrates and Council of the city made an attempt to augment the duties fixed in 1755, by passing an Act of Council to that effect; but this was resolutely opposed by the Incorporation of Fleshers, who brought the question under the review of the Court of Session. It is unnecessary to give a detail of the proceedings which took place on this occasion; it may be sufficient to say that the Court, by an *unanimous* judgment, found that the Magistrates had no power either to impose or to increase any duties upon the fleshers *ad libitum*; and, at any rate, that they were positively barred by the agreement of 1755, which was to be considered as a permanent and definite settlement, for regulating the mutual rights of the parties in all time coming.

During the Provostship of James Black, in the year 1808, the Magistrates and Council, wishing to appropriate the Bell Street Market to other public purposes, directed Mr. Spreull, the City Chamberlain, to bring a process of removing against the Corporation Butchers who occupied stalls in the market, which he accordingly did before the Magistrates themselves, thereby making them judges in their own case. The Magistrates, as might have been expected, were pleased to decern in the removing as libelled. The fleshers (or rather some of them, viz. R. Gilmour, J. Thomson, W. Thomson, G. Adam, Mrs. Campbell, J. Smith, R. Bruce, W. Graham, and A. Stewart) brought a suspension of this judgment, by petition to the Court of Session; and as the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary (confirmed by the Inner House) shows very distinctly the claims of the parties, I beg leave to give a pretty full extract of it:—

“16th June 1812.—The Lord Ordinary ‘finds, 1st, That the Act of the Town Council, passed in 1755, which, after narrating the late erection of the public markets and slaughter-houses, the former of which are admitted to be the two markets in King Street, of which the one has since come to be used as the beef, and the other as the mutton market, which fixes a certain rate per head for black cattle, and per dozen for calves, sheep, and other animals, to be drawn from butchers, freemen of the city, and double the same rates as exigible from country butchers, and order, “that in all time coming stalls and possessions in said markets would be appointed and proportioned to the fleshers according to the rents levied from each individual,” must be considered as of the nature of a *permanent agreement*, under which the town, receiving payment at the agreed rates per head and per dozen, for the different black cattle and

other animals slaughtered and brought into the town for sale, became bound to uphold these market-places and slaughter-houses for their accommodation. 2d. That prior to the erection of these markets in 1755 there appears to have been a market-place in Bell Street, used for the sale of mutton, and other smaller articles of butcher meat, and chiefly by country butchers; while a market for beef, which would appear to have been exclusively sold by the members of the corporation, was kept in the Candleriggs, where they had stalls for that purpose, though some of the latter appear also to have held stalls in the Bell Street market. 3d. That the Bell Street market was shut up, and applied to other purposes for some years after the erection of the new markets in King Street were built, and when afterwards opened, would seem for some time to have been exclusively occupied by country butchers, and only on the market-days; but that for several years past, it appears to have been opened every week-day, and members of the corporation appear to have also held stalls in it: and such appearing to the Lord Ordinary to be the general import of the proof, though not without some discrepancy among the witnesses on particular points, it appears to him that by the arrangements which took place in 1755, and under which it stands fixed by a judgment of this Court, that the Magistrates cannot, for the accommodation afforded, advance the duties exigible by the head, and otherwise, on black cattle and other animals slaughtered and sold, beyond the rates then fixed; and connecting these circumstances with the marked distinction established by the terms of the Acts of Council then passed between them and the country butchers, in subjecting the latter to double the amount of duties paid by the freemen; and also with that custom, which seems to have obtained both before and after its date, of the Bell Street market—while appropriated to the latter—being only open on the two market days of Wednesday and Saturday, the members of the corporation must be considered as having a right to be accommodated with stalls, at least so far as not previously assigned and possessed by the country butchers, not only in the markets then built in King Street, but in so far as it cannot be afforded them there, in Bell Street, *and all other market-places which are now, or which the Magistrates may afterwards find necessary to open for the sale of butcher meat*; and in that view, holding that the suspenders, as members of the corporation, cannot be justly required to remove their stalls in the Bell Street market, which they now possess, without the town offering to put them in possession of the same extent of accommodation, suspend the letters simpliciter.’”

In the course of this lawsuit nearly twenty witnesses were examined, but as the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary embraces the substance of nearly the whole that was deponed to, I shall give the depositions of only two of them, as containing the most interesting facts which were sworn to by the witnesses:—

“Agnes Haines, widow of John Haines, labourer in Glasgow, aged 80 (born about 1731), who being solemnly sworn and interrogated, depones—

That she was born in Bell's Wynd, and her father was a butcher in Glasgow, and the deponent has resided constantly there: That her father had a stall in the Bell's Wynd market when the rebels were in Glasgow: That at this period it was open every lawful day; but on Wednesdays, the butchers who had stalls in it sold their meat on stands in the *Trongate*: That she recollects the building of the King Street markets; and after they were built her father removed his stall to them, and he also removed to a dwelling-house near to them. And being interrogated for the charger, depones—That the Bell Street market was built at a period beyond her recollection: That after the King Street markets were built, the market in Bell Street was locked up, and made a repository for lumber, and after this, was opened for country butchers: That before the King Street markets were built, it was the butchers who sold mutton who occupied the Bell Street market; and at that time the butchers who sold beef had their stands in the Candleriggs; and when the fleshers went to the King Street markets, those who sold mutton went chiefly to the market on the west side of the street, and those who sold beef to the market on the east side; and before King Street markets were built, there were, to the best of the deponent's knowledge, no country butchers who sold meat publicly in Glasgow. And being again interrogated depones—That at the period before mentioned, when the Bell Street market came to be occupied by country butchers, it was only open to them on market days. And this is truth," etc.

"Gavin Scoular, shoemaker in Glasgow, aged 66, married, who being solemnly sworn and examined, depones—That he was born in Hamilton, and his father was a butcher there: That when a boy he frequently accompanied his father to Glasgow, and at that time the King Street markets were not built; and he remembers that mutton, lamb, and veal were sold in the Bell Street market, and beef in the Candleriggs market; and he recollects that there was one Archibald M'Corkindale who had a stall in the Bell Street market at that time: That M'Corkindale kept five or six men; and one forenoon in *November*, when the deponent and his father happened to be in Bell Street, in company with M'Corkindale, the deponent saw a large flock of sheep there, and M'Corkindale observed to them that there were nearly a *thousand* of them; that they were all his property, and that they would all be killed, *chiefly for salting*,¹ in the course of a week. And this is truth," etc.

[The lengthened contentions between the Incorporation of Fleshers and the Town Council were finally settled by the Markets and Slaughter-Houses Bill of 1850, although not without a severe and expensive Parliamentary contest. The privilege of using the slaughter-house at minimum rates is preserved to the then existing members of the Incorporation, during the natural

¹ These were to be sold for mutton *marks*.

period of their lives, and a similar privilege is secured to the members of their families, then living, who might subsequently become fleshers, but to none other. The distinction, therefore, between the free and the "unfree" fleshers, will gradually die out. The Council has the power of buying up these privileges or exemptions, at a certain defined valuation, if they choose to exert it.—J. P.]

LOOSE JOTTINGS REGARDING THE POST-OFFICE, WITH SOME GOS-
SIPING MATTERS ON OTHER SUBJECTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Of all the branches of revenue which Government levies upon us, there is none which is paid with so much cheerfulness and goodwill as the duty for the carriage of letters. Indeed, so far from considering this tax as a burden, we all look upon the present postage system to be so manifestly for our advantage, that we never paste Her Majesty's head on a letter, without saying to ourselves, "*Much obliged to you for carrying this for a penny.*" And as to the transmission of newspapers, what a convenience is it to us all! I believe that there are few of our wealthy citizens who, during their residence at the coast, do not receive nearly a barrow-load of newspapers and periodicals, with their double sheets and supplements, and all gratis! Besides we have the further liberty of returning these papers to our friends, free of charge; aye, a second and a third time!! I must confess that I have sometimes had a little compunction in thus re-transmitting loads of newspapers, it is so like taking the advantage of the liberality of Government; but we all readily get over that feeling. How different it was about two hundred years ago, when there was no Post-office in the United Kingdom, and when every letter or packet upon urgent business had to be despatched by a special messenger at a great expense; and as for the usual intercourse of life and business, that was carried on principally through the medium of carriers, or boys on foot, who delivered the letters committed to their charge at their own convenience. Even in my own day I have heard of the foot post-boy having been seen

sitting by the road-side, with his companions, amusing himself at a game of cards. I remember about sixty years ago of finding the Fort-William mail-bag lying on the public road, a little way beyond Dumbarton, and had to perform the office of post-boy for several miles ; but what provoked me most was, that when I delivered the bag at the next post village, the postmaster never even said, "Thank you sir," but with a *humph*, carelessly tossed the bag into a corner.

It seems that we are now about to be accommodated here with a new Post-office, and as this will be the fifth Post-office in Glasgow of my day, perhaps some gleanings regarding the original establishment of our general Post-office system, and a few gossiping anecdotes regarding our own Post-office, as it existed towards the end of last century, may not be unacceptable to your readers.

The first institution of a post for the conveyance of letters appears to have been in France, about the middle of the fifteenth century, under the reign of Louis XI. At that period France was no commercial country, and the despatches, it may be presumed, would neither be very frequent, nor contain many letters, nor would they be sent at stated times ; yet all of them got the name of *Malles* (*Malle*, a small trunk or portmanteau), in which the letters were deposited, and this word has been assumed in our language, under the well-known term of the *Mail*. As for the word *Post* it is supposed to have been derived from the Latin noun *Positus*, a station, as there were certain stations on the roads where messengers might stop or rest. These sites or stations came to be called *Posts*, or Post-houses, and the messenger who made use of them a *Post*.

The first accounts we have of the establishment of a Post-office in Scotland reach no farther back than 1635, when Charles I. erected one for both Scotland and England. The post to Scotland by that appointment was to run night and day from London to Edinburgh, and to return in six days. The expedition with which this post went between London and Edinburgh at this time is indeed surprising, considering the miserable state of the roads.

In 1662 a post between Ireland and Scotland was first estab-

lished, and the Privy Council gave Robert Main, who was the Postmaster for Scotland, an allowance of £200 sterling to build a packet-boat for the conveyance of the mail between Portpatrick and Donaghadee. In 1695 the posts to the provincial towns in Scotland generally travelled from Edinburgh on foot, going direct to the post-towns without delivering letters at any intermediate place. These posts from Edinburgh to the provincial towns were only despatched thrice a week to the large towns, and twice a week to the small towns. From Edinburgh to Aberdeen, the post stopped two nights by the way, viz. one night at Dundee, and one night at Montrose.

At this time the Post-office for Scotland was independent of the English Post-office; but in 1711 (after the union of the kingdoms), separate Post-offices for England and Scotland were abolished, and one general Post-office, with one postmaster-general, was established for the whole kingdom; and, at the same period, a chief letter-office was established in Edinburgh. It was not till the year 1750, however, that the mail began to be conveyed from stage to stage by different post-boys and fresh horses, to all the *principal* towns in Scotland, and by foot-runners to the rest.

Before the Union of Scotland and England, the mail between Edinburgh and Glasgow was conveyed by a foot-runner; but on the 7th November 1709 application was made to the united Parliament for a *riding* post between these cities, which application was successful; but the mail in reality had no proper protection, for, down to my time, the rider with the mail was a mere boy, and his horse a sorry hack.

In 1657 a regular Post-office was erected by the authority of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell, and his Parliament, for the whole United Kingdom, upon a model which, with various improvements, has come down to our own time. It was James I. (6th of Scotland), however, who originally erected a Post-office for the conveyance of letters to and from *foreign* parts, under the control of one Matthew de Quester; which office was continued to William Frizel and Thomas Witherings by King Charles I., A.D. 1632, (Rym. Fœd. 585). In 1635, as before stated, the same prince erected a letter-office for Edinburgh and Scotland, under the direc-

tion of the said Thomas Witherings, and settled certain rates and postages ; but this extended to only a few of the principal roads ; the times of carriage were uncertain, and the postmasters on each road were required to furnish the mail with horses, at the rate of 2½d. a mile (Rym. Fœd. 650). On the breaking out of the civil war, great confusion and interruptions were necessarily occasioned in the conduct of the letter-office ; but, as before stated, Cromwell about this time chalked out the general plan of the Post-office, and placed it under the control of Edmond Prideau, who was appointed Attorney-General to the Commonwealth after the execution of the king. Prideau was the first who established a *weekly* conveyance of letters into *all parts* of the nation. (Blackstone iv. 321.)

The privilege of franking letters had been enjoyed by members of Parliament from the first erection of the Post-office ; but by degrees this privilege came to be carried so far that it was not uncommon for servants of members of Parliament to procure a number of franks for the purpose of selling them. This abuse of franking had gradually increased in amount of value, from £23,000 in the year 1715 to £170,700 in the year 1763 (Com. Jour., 28th March 1764) but in 1784 an Act of Parliament was passed, by which no letter was allowed to go free unless the date was marked on the cover, in the member's own handwriting, and the letter put into the Post-office the same day. In Ireland the system was still more abused than in England, for there it was common to forge the name of a member of Parliament on the cover of letters. I remember, about sixty years ago, an old Irish lady told me that she seldom paid any postage for letters, and that her correspondence never cost her friends anything. I inquired how she managed that. "Oh," said she, "I just wrote, 'Free, J. Suttie,' in the corner of the cover of the letter, and then, sure, nothing was charged for it." I said, "Were you not afraid of being hanged for forgery?" "Oh dear me, no," she replied. "Nobody ever heard of a lady being hanged in Ireland, and troth I just did what everybody else did!" As for any gossipings that were current in our city regarding Glasgow franks, I may mention that, immediately after the Sheriff in Glasgow had

announced that our townsman, Kirkman Finlay, Esq.,¹ was duly elected M.P., the late Archibald Smith, Esq., of Jordanhill, stepped up to Mr. Finlay, and requested a frank from him, saying, "That he (Mr. S.) wished to have the pleasure of despatching the first *real* Glasgow frank." The request, of course, was willingly granted, and so Mr. Smith despatched the first real Glasgow frank. Some people in Glasgow, at that time, used to allege that Mr. Finlay would save James Finlay and Co. £1000 per annum by franking the company's letters; but, I believe, this was merely what the French call "*ou dit*," or, as we ourselves better express it, "*all haver and clash*."

A great improvement took place in the year 1784 in the transmission of letters by post, in consequence of Government having adopted Mr. Palmer's plan of conveying the mails in England by coaches, with guards for protection. This improvement was soon after extended to Scotland, and was found to answer well. It was at first doubted if the revenue derived from the Post-office could afford to make this change; but it turned out that, so far from the Post-office revenue being lessened, it had actually increased in amount after the establishment of mail-coaches.

It is not the object of the foregoing and following jottings to enter into a general history of our Post-office affairs, which would require a much more extensive knowledge of the subject than I can pretend to. I shall therefore leave to others to give an account of the present state of our postal arrangements, and shall endeavour merely to note down a few recollections of the Glasgow Post-office of last century, and any circumstances connected with it which may likely be amusing to your readers, or tend to while away a few idle minutes.

I think your archæological friends would feel an interest in taking a look at the Glasgow Post-office of last century. It is, or rather was, in No. 51, Princes Street (then called Gibson's

¹ Mr. Finlay, in October 1781, went to Mr. Dow's class in our public Grammar School. There were about eighty scholars in that class, not one of whom is now alive; the late Adam Watson, Esq., being the last survivor of the class. It is rather remarkable that out of this large number of boys none of them reached seventy-eight years of age except Mr. Watson.

Wynd), and at present is occupied as a leather shop.¹ It consisted of three apartments. The front one measured about twelve feet square, and the two back ones were pigeon holes, each ten feet by six, or thereby. The letter-box was placed where the present shop-door is, fronting the public street. The delivery bole, or wicket-window, was a hole broken through the wall of the close, which close was, and still is, a common thoroughfare entry to King Street. Except upon the arrival of the mail, this bole was generally kept shut with a deal board, which opening inwards and downwards, when laid flat, formed a small table or desk, used upon occasions of payment of letters. A gentle tap on this board caused the immediate appearance of Mr. Haliburton, moving like Mr. Punch at his opera-box aperture. This bole, or small wicket window, may yet be seen, as it is only covered with a deal board on the outside of the wall in the close. The private boxes for merchants' letters were placed in the front room, now the front shop. The east small room at the back was the general sorting-room for the letters on the arrival of the mail; the other small back apartment was the private room of Mr. Jackson, the postmaster. On Sundays letters were delivered to those who called for them, at the back and out of the east small room window.

I cannot exactly say what rent Government paid for these premises, but I think it must have been somewhere from six to eight pounds annually. Altogether, this Post-office was a place of no security, and might easily have been broken into from the back.

The clerks in the Glasgow Post-office, about the middle of last century, and even considerably later, received very poor salaries. The father of a late eminent member of the Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow had only thirty pounds per annum while a clerk in the above-mentioned Post-office.² But, besides the fees for private boxes, there were at this time perquisites obtained to a considerable extent, from a source unknown to the Post-office officials of the present day; and, as the subject is rather a curious one, I

¹ The tenement in Princes Street in which the Post-office of my younger days was situated appears to have been erected about the year 1730, by Daniel Montgomerie, then postmaster, previously to which time the Glasgow Post-office is supposed to have been in Montgomerie's Land, Saltmarket. Princes Street was opened in 1724.

² The father of Hugh M'Lauchlan.

shall endeavour to explain how the practice came to be abolished. I have already mentioned that, till the middle of last century, all letters to the small provincial towns of Scotland were despatched at irregular times, by boys as foot-runners. About this period Glasgow came to be a city of considerable importance; her merchants, carrying on not only an extensive country trade, but also a foreign commerce of pretty large extent. The usual mode of despatching letters by the Post-office to the small provincial towns through running-boys, whose regular delivery of letters could not be depended on, was felt by the Glasgow merchants as a great drawback to their business; it therefore came to be a practice with our wealthier merchants to send their letters *express*, by special messengers of their own; but as this was rather an expensive mode of transmitting their correspondence, they contrived the means of obtaining the assistance of the postmaster in sending off their *express* despatches under the cloak of the Post-office seal. A private party, who had occasion to despatch an express to any part of the country, applied to the Post-office for what was called "*a despatch express*." The postmaster, or some of the clerks in the Post-office, were always so obliging as to accommodate gentlemen in this respect, and when the letters to be sent were ready, they were enclosed in a cover, and sealed with the Post-office seal; upon which the express-boy proceeded on his way, and at all the stages he came to he obtained horses by the authority of the Post-office. This practice, so convenient for persons having occasion to send expresses, became so very common, that most expresses upon private business, or even private pleasure, were despatched through the Glasgow Post-office in this way. In the year 1774 Mr. Jackson, who was then postmaster in Glasgow, gave every encouragement to this practice, which, of course, met with the approbation of our great tobacco merchants, many of whom had country houses, and who found it exceedingly convenient to despatch their messages to their villas in this manner. During the currency of the said year (1774), however, it so happened that the collector of pontage on the New Bridge (now Glasgow Bridge) stopped and detained a horse carrying the mail, or packet, from Paisley to Glasgow, until he paid one penny of pon-

tage for crossing the said bridge. Upon this being made known to Mr. Jackson he was grievously offended, and complained to the Hon. Arthur Connel,¹ then Lord Provost of Glasgow, for redress; who, upon hearing parties, severely reprimanded the collector of pontage for his misbehaviour, and ordered the money to be returned. It would not be fair to say that Provost Connel himself occasionally took the benefit of sending his private despatches through the convenient channel of a Post-office express, as there is no proof of his ever having done so; but assuredly the class in Glasgow to which his Lordship belonged were the great supporters of the system.

Again, upon the 1st of December 1775 David Cross, keeper of the Paisley Loan turnpike,² and William Ure, collector of the pontage on the new bridge, having laid their heads together, did stop and detain a horse carrying a packet, or despatch, alleged to be an express from the Post-office of Glasgow, and each of the said David Cross and William Ure did hold the horse by the bridle till the rider paid the turnpike and pontage duties imposed by law on single horses not drawing. In like manner, on the 14th of the said month of December, Andrew Brown, keeper of the toll-bar at the south end of the village of Gorbals, did stop and detain a horse carrying the mail, or packet, or despatch, with an express said to be upon the public service, from the Post-office of Glasgow. Mr. Jackson was in a mighty passion that these paltry toll-gatherers should presume to stop the expresses of his Majesty George III.; and therefore, in January 1776, he brought an action against the said tollmen before the Sheriff of Lanarkshire, concluding not only for repayment of the sums alleged to have been illegally abstracted from the post-rider, but also to make payment to the pursuer of the sum of £20, in name of damages and expenses. The tollmen in their answers maintained that the said expresses were not sent *bona fide* upon Government

¹ Grandfather to our townsman, Arthur Connel, Esq.

² This turnpike was situated at the junction of Bridge Street with Norfolk Street and Nelson Street. The Paisley Loan was a narrow crooked lane, being a continuation of Malta Street. It joined the Paisley Road about the Kinning House. At this time there were no buildings in Tradeston or Laurieston, with the exception of two or three thatched houses.

business, but were despatches forwarded by Mr. Jackson to particular country gentlemen whom he wished to accommodate, and upon their private affairs only. The Sheriff upon advising the condescendence, etc., ordained Mr. Jackson "specially to set forth whether the persons who were stopped were carrying the public mail or packet, which is regularly sent off at stated times, in the common course of the Post-office employment, or a packet despatched by special express from the Post-office; and whether such packet was a Government or public packet upon His Majesty's service, or a private packet sent off at the instance of a private person in regard to private affairs." This interlocutor seemed to have given Mr. Jackson great offence, for he gave in a reply saying—"That his duty as His Majesty's postmaster made it impossible for him to condescend in terms of the interlocutor, upon account of the impropriety of laying open and discovering the *objects of His Majesty's service.*" At this time there happened to be a prospect of a vacant seat on the bench in the Court of Session, and Mr. Jackson added the following singular *argumentum ad hominem* for the consideration of the Sheriff:—"If one of the now expected vacancies in the Court of Session were an object of your Lordship, and that you had last week committed to the Post-office the transmission of a letter or packet, by express, to your friend in London upon that subject, could you in such a case approve of the pursuers being obliged to discover your Lordship's secret and confidential affairs?" The Sheriff, however, notwithstanding of this personal appeal, remained firm, and accordingly assoilzied the defenders, and found them entitled to expenses. Upon this Mr. Jackson thought proper to present a bill of advocacy, which having been passed, came in course of the rolls before the Lord Ordinary, who, upon advising the memorials, made *avizandum* with the cause to their Lordships. It is unnecessary, however, to state the proceedings which afterwards took place in the Court of Session in this case. It is sufficient to say, that the interlocutor of the Sheriff was confirmed, and thus an end was put to the system in Glasgow of the Post-office sending off private expresses, under the cloak of the Post-office seal, and under the pretence of their being sent upon Government business.

Since I have got upon the subject of express despatches, I may here take notice of two, which were sent off from Glasgow under peculiar circumstances, and which were much talked of in Glasgow about fifty years ago. It is said that no man can be a great general who does not possess an intuitive quickness of perception, or who cannot act with decision upon the spur of the moment, for if he hesitates the favourable opportunity of acting may be lost; in like manner, occasions may occur where the same promptitude and decision, on the part of a merchant, may be necessary to secure a great gain, or to prevent a heavy loss.

During the French war the premiums of insurance upon running ships (*viz.* ships sailing without convoy) were very high, in consequence of which several of our Glasgow shipowners, who possessed quick sailing vessels, were in the practice of allowing the expected time of arrival of their ships closely to approach before they effected insurance upon them, thus taking the chance of a quick passage being made, and if the ships arrived safe the insurance was saved.

Mr. Archibald Campbell, about this time an extensive Glasgow merchant, had allowed one of his ships to remain uninsured till within a very short period of her expected arrival; at last getting alarmed, he attempted to effect insurance in Glasgow, but found the premiums demanded so high that he resolved to get ship and cargo insured in London. Accordingly, he wrote a letter to his broker in London, instructing him to get the requisite insurance made on the best terms possible, but, at all events, to get the said insurance effected. This letter was despatched through the Post-office in the ordinary manner—the mail at that time leaving Glasgow at two o'clock P.M. At seven o'clock the same night, Mr. Campbell received an express from Greenock, announcing the safe arrival of his ship. Mr. Campbell, on receiving this intelligence, instantly despatched his head clerk in pursuit of the mail, directing him to proceed by post-chaises and four with the utmost speed, until he overtook it, and then to get into it; or, if he could not overtake it, he was directed to proceed to London, and to deliver a letter to the broker, countermanding the instructions about insurance. The clerk, notwithstanding of extra payment to the

postilions, and every exertion to accelerate his journey, was unable to overtake the mail; but he arrived in London on the third morning, shortly after the mail, and immediately proceeded to the residence of the broker, whom he found preparing to take his breakfast, and before delivery of the London letters. The order for insurance written for was then countermanded, and the clerk had the pleasure of taking a comfortable breakfast with the broker. The expenses of this express amounted to £100; but it was said that the premium of insurance, if it had been effected, would have amounted to £1,500, so that Mr. Campbell was reported to have saved £1,400 by his promptitude.

The other case alluded to happened in this manner:—At the period in question, a rise had taken place in the cotton market, and there was a general expectancy among the cotton dealers that there would be a continued and steady advance of prices in every description of cotton. Acting upon this belief, Messrs. James Finlay and Co. had sent out orders by post to their agent in India, to make extensive purchases of cotton, on their account, to be shipped by the first vessels for England. It so happened, however, shortly after these orders had been despatched, that cotton fell in price, and a still greater fall was expected to take place; under these circumstances, Messrs. James Finlay and Co. despatched an overland express to India, countermanding their orders to purchase cotton. This was the first, and I believe the only, overland express despatched from Glasgow to India, by a private party on commercial purposes.

Towards the close of last century, the population, commerce, and manufactures of Glasgow had so greatly increased that the Princes Street Post-office had become totally inadequate to the wants of the community. At this time the West India mail arrived only once a month, and upon the arrival of this mail, the pressure which took place at the Post-office at the delivery of letters was quite overwhelming. It was then customary for our most eminent merchants personally to attend these deliveries, and to push and scramble at the little wicket window in the narrow close, for possession of their expected remittances, with as much eagerness as the *dilettanti* at the theatre door when Jenny Lind

is about to appear on the stage. I remember upon one of these occasions that a *fracas* took place between an embryo Lord Provost (and M.P.) and a Glasgow banker,¹ in the course of their eagerness first to reach the little wicket window. From high words they proceeded to downright fisticuffs, and had a fair set to in Princes Street. So long as the contest was kept up in scolding words, the embryo member of Parliament had the best of it; but when it came to a sparring match, the banker showed himself to be the better man. The friends of the parties, however, interfered, and separated them, and afterwards prevented the affair from going any further. These gentlemen, notwithstanding of this misunderstanding, were ever after upon the most friendly terms.

About the year 1800 the Post-office was removed from No. 51 Princes Street to a small dwelling-house on the west side of the close, No. 28 St. Andrew Street. The situation was a very ill-chosen one, but it was understood to have been brought there through the influence of the Royal Bank, at that time located in St. Andrew's Square, and then all potent in Glasgow. This Post-office was almost a duplicate of the Post-office in Princes Street; the rooms were the same in number, and situated, respectively to each other, in pretty much the same manner as those of the old Post-office, only they were a trifle larger. I think Government paid £12 of rent for these premises. This Post-office was soon found to be as inconvenient as the former one, so that a change took place about 1803, when our Glasgow Post-office was removed to the back land of the court, No. 114 Trongate, called the Post-office Court. This office was really little or no better than the two former ones, and was soon seen to be quite insufficient for the increasing business of Glasgow. The fault of bad accommodation undoubtedly lay with the heads of our Government, who would not give a rent sufficient to obtain proper Post-office premises in Glasgow. The rent of the Trongate Post-office was only £20, and certainly great accommodation could not have been expected for this sum in the very heart of the city. This Post-office was indeed a most uncomfortable place for transacting business, for the lobby was formed by the common back close, open at both

¹ Henry Monteith and Robert Watson.

ends, through which, in stormy weather, as through a funnel, the south wind whistled and the rain drifted, the covering being scarcely any protection. No wonder, therefore, that complaints upon complaints rapidly followed each other from all quarters regarding the inadequacy and disagreeable site of this Post-office. These soon brought about another change of our Post-office premises. In 1810, when Mr. Dugald Bannatyne was appointed Postmaster in Glasgow, he built the Post-office situated on the east side of Nelson Street, from a plan by Dr. Cleland. The Doctor had a very high opinion of the superiority of this Post-office, for in his *Annals*, vol. i. p. 99, he says, that "at one end of this building there was a covered way, and at the other a spacious lobby for the accommodation of the public."¹ Government, no doubt in consideration of Dr. Cleland's covered way and spacious lobby, was so liberal as to give Mr. Bannatyne a rent for the same, amounting to no less a sum than £30 per annum. After Mr. Bannatyne's death, the Post-office was removed, in 1840, to its present site in Glassford Street, and now again we hear of nothing but complaints and murmurings regarding the inadequacy, or as Dr. Johnson would have said, "the exility of our Post-office." Whether or not the proposed new Post-office will give satisfaction to the public of Glasgow is yet to be seen; but after what has taken place with regard to the present and former Post-offices, I hope Government will be more liberal than heretofore, and give us large and commodious premises, and that the ground to be occupied by the building shall be sufficiently large to admit of future extension, if found necessary.²

¹ It appears from the following extract from Fullerton's *Gazetteer* (quoted in our Town Council by Mr. J. W. M'Gregor), that Dr. Cleland's plan of a Post-office was not universally admired:—"Previous to the last removal of the Post-office, at Whitsunday 1840, it was situated in a dingy huckster's shop in Nelson Street, and was for many years a disgrace to the city."

² At present our Excise-office, No. 45 Dunlop Street, is a paltry edifice for transacting the extensive business connected with the collection of the duties of Excise. I would therefore respectfully suggest to our Magistrates and Council whether or not it might be advisable to memorialise Government to erect a large and elegant building, ornamental to our city, which would not only embrace accommodation for the Glasgow Post-office and Excise departments, but also for the Stamp-office. There might further be added, suitable offices in the building in lieu of those pitiful Tax-office concerns, 66 Miller Street, and 52 Virginia Street. The present site of the Post-office is unexcept-

Before Mr. Palmer's plan was adopted, of conveying the mail by a mail-coach, protected by a guard, Glasgow was very ill supplied with the means of sending parcels, or light boxes of goods to London, in a quick and safe manner. If articles were forwarded by stage-coaches, there frequently was not only great delay on the road, but also considerable risk of loss or theft; for they required, on the route, to be transferred from one coach to another, there being several independent coach proprietors to whom the articles, in progress of transmission, required to be delivered in succession. I remember, at that time, of having sent a small box to London by stage-coach, value £100, and although the direction continued plain and legible, nevertheless it did not arrive in London for six months; in fact it had been sent to Bristol, and there it lay disregarded, although any schoolboy might have read the address. Heavy goods at this period were forwarded to London by the Newcastle waggon which went from Gabriel Watson's in the Gallowgate. This was a ponderous machine with broad wheels, and drawn by eight horses. It travelled, upon an average, at the rate of twenty-five miles a day, and took eighteen days to reach London, stopping two Sundays on the road. When the Leith smacks came to be established, most of our heavy goods were sent to London by them, the time on the way being almost always shorter, and the expense of conveyance less.

When Mr. Joseph Bain took the mail contract, he put the mail-coach establishment upon an excellent footing, for he kept a distinct place in the coach for parcels and light boxes, which were regularly and quickly forwarded to their respective addresses. In consequence thereof the London mail-coach was constantly loaded with parcels and goods, which in fact paid Mr. Bain better than passengers. I remember once coming from Edinburgh in the mail-coach, when I was surprised to observe the whole of tioneable, if additional property were acquired, having fronts to Wilson Street and Hutcheson Street, and I have some doubts if any site equally good can be got elsewhere so cheap.

[Since the above was written, the extensive range in South Hanover Street, known as the "Manhattan Buildings," has been bought for the erection of a new Post-office; and it is said that the construction of it has been entrusted to a Glasgow architect. Should this be the case, we may expect a building worthy of the city, for Glasgow has hitherto been treated by the Post-office authorities as a contemptible provincial town.]

the top of the coach occupied by early lambs, for the Glasgow market; and I was informed that, on two occasions, the whole places of the mail-coach, both outside and inside, had been taken, and that the coach had been entirely loaded with early lambs for our Glasgow market. At that time inside seats from Edinburgh to Glasgow were 16s., and outsides 10s. I leave it to those curious in these matters to calculate what should be the price per pound of lamb so carried.

Soon after the establishment of the London mail-coach to and from Glasgow, a daring attempt was made to rob it at a place near Tollcross. A little way east of this village the road passed through a small wood of fir-trees; as the coach was expected to pass this place early in a winter morning, a strong rope had been tied from one tree to another, athwart the road, of the height of the places usually occupied by the coachman and guard, so that in the course of the coach proceeding rapidly along, both of these men would have been thrown down by the rope, and then the coach could have been easily robbed. It happened, however, fortunately, that a waggon of hay was accidentally coming to Glasgow early in the morning, and was stopped by the rope, which extended across the road, and thus the intended robbery was frustrated.

During the time of the French war, it was quite exhilarating to observe the arrival of the London mail-coach in Glasgow, when carrying the first intelligence of a great victory, like the battle of the Nile, or the battle of Waterloo. The mail-coach horses were then decorated with laurels, and a red flag floated on the roof of the coach. The guard, dressed in his best scarlet coat and gold-ornamented hat, came galloping at a thundering pace along the stones of the Gallowgate, sounding his bugle amidst the echoings of the streets; and when he arrived at the foot of Nelson Street, at Mr. Bain's office, he there discharged his blunderbuss in the air. On these occasions a general run was made to the Tontine Coffee-room to learn the great news, and long before the newspapers were delivered, the public were advertised by the guard of the particulars of the glorious victory, which flew from mouth to mouth like wild-fire. The coffee-room soon became densely

crowded—the subscribers anxiously waiting the delivery of the newspapers, and every one repeating the information scattered abroad by the guard. When the papers were delivered, all was bustle and confusion to learn what the *Courier* said, or what the *Star* said—for these were the leading papers of the day; and Walter Graham was generally loudly called for to mount a chair and read the despatches aloud for the general benefit. This Walter did with great glee, and afterwards, dismounting from his rostrum, he went about the room shaking hands with every one he encountered, and this was almost every subscriber in the room; for Walter was a great favourite, and knew all our towns-folks, great and small.

At this period there was a curious custom in the Tontine Coffee-room at the delivery of the newspapers. These papers were not placed in the room in the present orderly manner. Charles Gordon was then the *waiter* at this establishment (the word *superintendent* had not then come in vogue). Now Charles was a sort of wag, and very fond of fun, and he certainly took a funny way of delivering the newspapers to the subscribers to the room. Immediately on receiving the bag of papers from the Post-office (generally about sixty in number), Charles locked himself up in the bar, and after he had sorted the different papers, and had made them up into a heap, he unlocked the door of the bar, and making a sudden rush into the middle of the room, he then tossed up the whole lot of newspapers as high as the ceiling of the room. Now came the grand rush and scramble of the subscribers, every one darting forward to lay hold of a falling newspaper, pushing and driving about each other without mercy; and, as the old saying goes, before you could have said *Jack Robinson*, a dozen or two of the subscribers might have been seen sprawling upon the floor, playing at catch who can. Sometimes a lucky fellow got hold of five or six newspapers, and ran off with them to a corner, in order to select his favourite paper, but he was always hotly pursued by some half dozen of the disappointed scramblers, who, without ceremony, pulled from his hands the first paper they could lay hold of, regardless of its being torn in the contest. On these occasions I have often seen a

humploc of gentlemen sprawling on the floor of the room, and riding upon one another's backs like a parcel of boys. After this exhibition there came a universal laugh of the whole company, who did not seem to dislike the fun. It happened, however, unfortunately, that a gentleman in one of these scrambles got two of his teeth knocked out of his head, and this ultimately brought about a change in the manner of delivering the newspapers. None of the subscribers were more active, or entered with more pleasure into this sport, than the Glasgow underwriters, with the exception of Mr. Andrew Gilbert, who always kept himself aloof, and with his usual caution declined taking this risk.

When Mr. Francis Blackie took the management of the Tontine Coffee-room he put a stop to the above mode of distributing the newspapers, and substituted the plan of causing the papers to be delivered in succession to those who were seated on the forms at the head of the room, beginning at the form next the bar. Charles, upon this change, arranged the newspapers so that he delivered all the Tory papers to the first forms, and then the Whig papers to the next forms. In this way all those that held what was called aristocratic or democratic opinions became publicly known, as our members of Parliament came to be known to strangers as Tories or Whigs from their taking possession of the ministerial or opposition benches in the House of Commons.

With regard to the present mode of despatching the mail by railway, as this matter does not belong to Glasgow in olden time, I shall leave this subject to be handled by some of your juvenile readers. I may, however, mention a circumstance which shows that one of our Glasgow citizens had a project in view, not very far distant from the present mode of conveying the mails by an iron road. About the year 1796 Mr John Austin, muslin manufacturer, promulgated a plan of having the mail despatched between London and Glasgow through the medium of iron tubes or pipes, to be laid from the one city to the other. He suggested that a rope should be carried on rollers along the line in the inside of the tubes, to which the waggon containing the mail should be attached; and this rope being at certain stations coiled

round large drums or cylinders, the waggon could be drawn from station to station by fixed steam-engines, now called *stationary engines*. This plan, however, was considered by everybody as so visionary, that little attention was paid to it; indeed, it was spoken of as a mere piece of castle-building, fit only to be laughed at; nevertheless, we have seen more wonderful things accomplished in our time.

WINDMILL CROFT—KINNING HOUSE BURN, ETC.

About seventy years ago there stood a remarkable insulated building on the banks of the Clyde, at the south end of the New bridge (now the Glasgow Bridge), and about a hundred yards to the west of the bridge; its site is now occupied by the bed of the river. It was a solid and substantial piece of masonry, having the appearance of an ancient feudal tower or keep, and was the most picturesque and interesting object to be seen in those days at the Broomielaw. It had a considerable resemblance to the Cloch Lighthouse without the lantern, but was of larger dimensions, and appeared like a solitary ruin standing on a waste, for there was neither a tree nor a shrub near it. It was raised a little above the level of the common river footpaths by being placed on a sandhill, and the ground around it consisted of sand-pits and irregular arenaceous *hillocks*, covered with grass, amidst which various footpaths wended their tortuous course at the pleasure of every straggler.

This building was the once well-known windmill of our ancient city. At the period in question it was without a roof, and consisted merely of the bare walls. The entry was towards the south, by a large semicircular archway, which then was left open, so that there was free admission for the public to inspect the interior of the building. This liberty, however, came to be abused by idle people, who turned the opening into a convenient spot for committing nuisances, in consequence of which the gateway was built up; but otherwise the building remained as before.

There appears to have been originally a considerable tract of

land held in conjunction with the windmill, which land was called the Windmill Croft. It included great part of Tradeston and Kingston, and was bounded on the west by the Kinning House Burn. At present the Windmill Croft consists merely of the enclosed piece of ground to the west of Tradeston, sold by the City of Glasgow to the River Trust. At the period first mentioned there was a small wood at West Street enclosed by a quick set hedge, which separated the arable land from the common river footpaths. The Paisley Road then ran in the line of Morrison Street.

As for the Kinning House Burn, this rivulet seems to have changed its name more than once, for by an old plan in the hands of Sir John Maxwell it is called the "Mile Burn." It afterwards appears to have been called the "Shiels Burn," and the name of "Mile Burn" seems to have been transferred to the burn which enters the Clyde at the western boundary of the General Terminus.

Mr. Graham Gilbert possesses an old right of ferry from the Kelvin to the "Mile Burn;" and he insists that the Kinning House Burn is the burn alluded to in his ancient titles as the "Mile Burn."

None of our Glasgow historians has given us any history of the Windmill and its Croft; neither have we any narrative from them regarding the Kinning House and Mile Burns, although the former burn forms the boundary line of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

About seventy years ago there was a tradition current, that the Windmill and the lands attached to it were once the property of the Boyles of Kelburne, and that the title of Earl of Glasgow was derived from the Glasgow Windmill, the family possessing no other property in the vicinity of Glasgow. This, however, rests merely upon loose tradition, and not upon any authenticated historical record. John Boyle of Kelburn was commissary of Glasgow in the year 1631. In the year 1664 war broke out betwixt Great Britain and Holland, and on this occasion a joint-stock company was formed in Glasgow, who purchased a vessel called the *George* of Glasgow, of sixty tons burden, and fitted her out

as a letter of marque. She carried five pieces of ordnance, and a full complement of small arms. There were no less than sixteen proprietors holding shares in this adventure, and among them was the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the said John Boyle of Kelburne.

Perhaps some of your readers can give us an authentic history of the Glasgow Windmill and its Croft, including the western boundary of the said croft, viz. the Kinning House, *vel* Shiels, *vel* Mile Burn.

(24th March 1851.)

THE ADVENTURES OF A LOT OF TOBACCO.

We have all heard of our great tobacco lords of former times, of their princely mansions and gardens within our city, and of their wealth, most honourably acquired by their activity and industry. Nevertheless it is a curious fact that there exists no regular authentic history of the rise and progress of the tobacco trade in Glasgow, although that trade most assuredly laid the foundation of our city becoming the second in the kingdom in point of wealth and population. It has generally been supposed that the great gains of the Glasgow tobacco merchants during the last century arose wholly from a fair course of trading, and that the suspicions regarding these lords having enriched themselves by defrauding the revenue were without foundation; but from various circumstances which have come under my observation, I am by no means satisfied that the tobacco business of our forefathers was carried on without some of the craftiness having taken place, which none but the initiated understood. Our Glasgow historians have given us a very brief account of the tobacco trade of our city; the last and the fullest statement on this subject is to be found in Mr. Pagan's *Sketches of Glasgow*, p. 79. The magnitude of the trade, however, may be judged of by the circumstance, that in the year 1772, out of 90,000 hogsheads of tobacco imported into Great Britain, Glasgow alone imported 49,000 of these.

The following account of a tobacco transaction which took place in the year 1744 is curious, not only as showing how the public revenue at that period could be defrauded, but also as narrating some occurrences which happened during, the Rebellion of 1745, when all trade in Scotland was stopped, and the country laid prostrate at the mercy of a few half-starved Highlanders.

In the spring of the year 1744 Thomas Ogilvie imported to Dundee, from the Clyde, a quantity of tobacco for which King's duties were fairly paid, and the management of it was entrusted to Henry Patullo, a tobacco dealer, then a bankrupt. Patullo had also at that time the charge from Ogilvie of a parcel of *old tobacco* (most probably damaged or adulterated), which he did not venture to export from Dundee, as the Custom-house officers there would probably have seen through the intended transaction, but he sent it to Alloa, a port of little note, with the intention of obtaining for it certificates of other tobacco from some of the Glasgow merchants, for the purpose of receiving the drawback on exportation. Accordingly, Patullo came to Glasgow, and purchased from Buchanan and Co., on Ogilvie's account, twelve hogsheads of tobacco lying at Glasgow, and forty-three hogsheads lying at Leith,¹ getting certificates for the same. In the summer of 1744 Patullo loaded some part of the tobaccos at Alloa for exportation, but, as alleged by the Custom-house officers there, he relanded part of the said tobacco at Alloa, which no doubt was the fine qualities, leaving the old trash of tobacco on board for drawback, and substituting the certificates of the Glasgow tobacco as the proper certificates of the said old tobacco. He also attempted a shipment at Dundee of the rest of the tobacco lying there, but he clandestinely relanded part of the same. The Custom-house officers there, however, being more conversant with tricks on the revenue than the officers at Alloa, seized the whole parcel. The Commissioners of Customs now getting information of these transactions, ordered the whole tobaccos belonging to Ogilvie to be seized.

Of the tobaccos seized at Alloa, 69 hogsheads were seized on

¹ The Glasgow merchants at this time were accustomed to keep large quantities of tobacco in bond at Leith, that port being more convenient for making shipments to the Continent than the ports of Clyde. The Forth and Clyde Canal was not then formed.

account of having been relanded, and nineteen hogsheads for non-payment of duties—12 of the hogsheads, which had been purchased at Glasgow and brought to Alloa, were seized on the allegation that these being part of the tobaccos specified in the certificates intended for exportation, had not been really and *bona fide* shipped and exported—43 hogsheads of the same Glasgow tobacco were seized at Leith, for the same reason that the 12 had been seized at Alloa, as not being really and *bona fide* shipped and exported; other 24 hogsheads were seized at Leith for alleged non-payment of duty; and 8 hogsheads more, still remaining in the hands of the Glasgow merchants, of the parcel purchased from them, were there seized for penalties. Thus, in all, 223 hogsheads of tobaccos, belonging to Ogilvie, were seized. The 12 hogsheads from Glasgow, seized at Alloa, were first brought to trial in the Exchequer, and were condemned. The next parcel brought to trial was the 69 hogsheads seized at Alloa; but Ogilvie, seeing no likelihood of these hogsheads escaping condemnation, entered into a compromise with the Commissioners of Customs, whereby he was to be allowed to get back the said tobacco at an appraised value, which was always understood to be greatly under the market value. Walter Groset, the collector of customs at Alloa, then proceeded to bring on the trial of the other parcels of tobacco, and had got the 8 hogsheads of tobacco which were seized at Glasgow condemned, when a second compromise with the Commissioners of Customs was set on foot. It was proposed that Ogilvie should consent to his tobaccos being condemned; but that he should get them back again at an appraised value. Here, however, Groset, the collector, stepped in and objected to this arrangement, saying that he did not refuse to let Ogilvie get back the King's moiety of the tobaccos at an appraised value, but he refused his consent to give up the officers' moiety at an appraised value, the same being so greatly below the market value. Groset accordingly claimed the profits which would have arisen upon the officers' moiety had the tobacco been fairly sold by auction. In this state of matters Ogilvie, being anxious to get back his tobaccos, gave Groset the following cautionary obligation:—

“THOMAS GROSET, Esq.—Sir,—In consideration of your not opposing the 69 hogsheads of tobacco, and the 8 hogsheads, and the 43 hogsheads, claimed by Mr. Ogilvie, to be delivered up at the appraised value, I do hereby oblige myself that these tobaccos shall be *immediately* sold, at public or private sale, at your sight and contentment, and one half of what they shall give more than the appraised value shall be paid to you.
THOMAS KID.”

Matters being thus far compromised, Ogilvie, on the 26th July 1745, obtained an order from the Court of Exchequer for delivery of his tobaccos, upon *making payment of the appraised value*. Ogilvie, however, having been tardy in tendering payment of the appraised value, received an intimation from the Crown, and from Groset, that the tobaccos would be sold forthwith, unless the agreed-upon price was instantly paid. Ogilvie was then in the country; but, on receipt of these letters, he came immediately to Edinburgh. As the Highland rebels, however, were by this time making great progress, Ogilvie found himself unable to raise the cash, and therefore, upon the 11th September 1745, he preferred a petition to the Board of Customs, whereby, upon recital that the tobaccos were in great hazard in consequence of the approach of the rebels, and that it was proper to take cautious measures to save the tobacco from falling into their hands, he offered four gentlemen, each of them of undoubted credit, to be jointly bound for the appraised value; and therefore prayed that they would order the tobaccos to be delivered up. The Commissioners of Customs, however, thought proper to reject this proposal. In the meantime the approach of the Highland rebels put a stop to all further business, public or private. They entered the city of Edinburgh on the morning of the 17th of September 1745, and immediately thereafter took possession of the Custom-house at Leith. They had the whole country benorth the Forth under their power, particularly Alloa, and had published placards advertising the sale of the goods found in the Custom-house there. If Ogilvie's tobaccos had been sold to just avail they would have produced a large sum of money to the rebels; but as the rebels had hitherto signified a disposition not to violate private property, Ogilvie considered that, by claiming the tobaccos as belonging to him, they might possibly be redeemed for a much less sum than they would have yielded if exposed to sale.

At this time Henry Patullo, seeing how serious matters were turning out, and fearing lest a warrant would be issued for his apprehension and incarceration, on account of his concern in these fraudulent transactions, thought his best course was to join the Highland rebels, which he accordingly did. Immediately after Patullo had thus taken part in the rebellion, it was notified to Ogilvie, by a letter of the 1st October 1745, from Patrick Seton, a secretary of the rebels that a resolution was then taken of exposing the tobaccos to sale the very next day, unless prevented by the immediate payment of £1000 sterling; but as Ogilvie did not incline to risk so great a sum, he applied to Patullo for his interposition with the rebel chiefs, and, by his strenuous exertions, it was agreed that the whole tobaccos claimed by Ogilvie, both at Leith and at Alloa, should be restored upon the payment of £500 sterling—a sum infinitely short of what the rebels must infallibly have drawn for these tobaccos if they had been exposed to public sale. The £500 was accordingly paid, and thereupon an order from the rebel authorities was sent to Ogilvie for getting up the tobaccos. Immediately on receiving this order Ogilvie removed the tobaccos from the Custom-house at Leith, and lodged them in a private cellar there, in order to get them more quickly shipped off; but, before he could accomplish this, the rebels had left Edinburgh for the south, and the King's officers had resumed their former duties at the Custom-house.

Ogilvie, seeing that he could not ship off the tobaccos without the knowledge of the Custom-house officers, voluntarily gave up the keys of the private cellar to the collector's clerk, who took possession of the tobaccos for behoof of the Crown; and, under the procurement of Grosset, the collector at Alloa, these tobaccos were publicly sold. The tobaccos at Alloa, however, had a different fate.

Patullo now appears to have acquired considerable influence with the rebel chiefs; for he wrote Ogilvie that Secretary Murray had notified to him that Lord George Murray had given orders to carry away the tobaccos from Alloa to Perth—the latter place being occupied by a strong body of Highlanders, while the former town was insufficiently protected. Ogilvie, alarmed at this in-

formation, proceeded with all expedition to Alloa, to prevent the danger threatened. At this time the rebels had a force at Alloa merely sufficient to command the passage over the Forth, although they had flying detachments up and down the whole country north of the Forth. They, however, had few parties on the south side of the Forth about Borrowstounness.

When Ogilvie arrived at Alloa he found that his friend Patullo had had the charge of the tobacco, by orders of the rebel chiefs, but he also found that the Highlanders had just evacuated the place, though it was still under their control in consequence of their large force lying at Perth. Patullo by this time had marched away south with the main body of the rebels; but he had left the keys of the warehouse where the tobacco lay in custody of a person named George Haig, to whom he had committed the management of the department allotted to him by the rebels.

Ogilvie, upon presenting to Haig the order of delivery of the tobacco, received from him the keys of the Custom-house, where it lay, and forthwith hired a boat to transport the said tobacco across the Forth, from Alloa to Borrowstounness; he had actually got 16 hogsheads of the tobacco put on board of the vessel, when lo! a party of the King's forces, despatched from Stirling Castle by General Blakeney, made their appearance, and not only seized the tobacco as *honestia spolia*, or booty fairly taken in the regular course of hostilities, but also made poor Ogilvie a prisoner of war, alleging him to be a person in league with the Pretender.¹ The 16 hogsheads of tobacco were immediately unshipped, and replaced in the King's warehouse, until further instructions were received from General Blakeney. The General, understanding

¹ It may here be mentioned that the only descendant of the Pretender was also the descendant of one of our Glasgow tobacco lords. This was Charlotte, daughter of Charles Edward by Clementina Walkinshaw, daughter of John Walkinshaw of Barrowfield. This lady was *legitimised* by her father, and created Duchess of Albany. She assiduously attended the Prince in his last moments, and finally closed his eyes. By the will of Charles Edward, which was dated in 1784, the Duchess of Albany was left his sole *Heiress* and *Executrix*. At the death of the duchess in 1789, her movable estate was valued at £26,740, and her uncle, the Cardinal of York, succeeded to her estate. It would have been a curious thing, if Charles had been successful, to have seen a maiden of Glasgow descent filling the throne of these realms. I remember about seventy years ago that we had a bust of the Pretender ornamenting the lobby of our house. Charles appeared by it to have been a handsome young man.

that all Ogilvie's tobaccos, both in Leith and in Alloa, had been purchased from the rebels for £500, and being afraid that the portion in Alloa might again fall into the hands of the enemy, or rather being determined to make a lawful prize of it *jure belli*, sent the very next day an additional detachment of King's troops, from Stirling Castle, who seized the whole 69 and 19 hogsheads lying in the warehouse; and to make sure of his capture, he instantly carried off all the said tobaccos, and also his prisoner Ogilvie, and lodged them both safely in Stirling Castle, under his own control.

Ogilvie remained a prisoner in Stirling Castle till early in 1746, when he was transferred to Edinburgh Castle, as a person connected with the rebellion, and taken under suspicious circumstances.

In the meantime Groset, the collector of customs at Alloa, hearing of the capture made by General Blakeney, and being unwilling to lose his moiety of the dues of his former seizure of Ogilvie's tobacco, bethought himself of a cunning stratagem to obtain the control of the said tobacco, then safely lodged in Stirling Castle. Groset was fully aware that the General would keep possession of the said tobacco, and that it would be in vain for him to attempt getting it out of Stirling Castle without Blakeney's consent. Groset therefore, in a polite manner, solicited liberty from General Blakeney to inspect the tobacco, so as to be able to make a report regarding it. The General, never suspecting Groset's motives, very readily agreed to give him access to the 69 and 19 hogsheads deposited in the castle. Groset, having thus got the handling of the tobaccos, privately carried off samples of every hogshead, in order to make them the rule of another appraisement, and of a sale *by sample*; and accordingly, with these samples in his possession, and unknown to General Blakeney, he made application to the Court of Exchequer, and obtained an order from the Barons for a new appraisement, and sale of the said tobaccos. General Blakeney, however, in the nick of time, having received intelligence of these proceedings, caused enter a protest thereanent, at the very time when the auctioneer was proceeding with the sale, which had the effect

that no regular buyer would give a bode for the tobaccos, though many had come to the sale for the very purpose of purchasing. Groset, however, had been fully prepared for an occurrence of this kind, for he had, previously to the sale, entered into a clandestine agreement with a partner, who was to buy the tobaccos in his own name, but upon their joint account; and the profits which should arise from this transaction were to be equally shared between them. Accordingly, as no person made an offer for the tobaccos except Groset's partner, the tobaccos were knocked down to him.

General Blakeney now lodged a petition and complaint to the Barons of Exchequer against the conduct of Groset, and in the course of the proceedings thereanent the Court found that the sale by Groset of the 69 and 19 hogsheads of tobacco was illegal and highly culpable; and further, that it was altogether *a sham and fictitious sale*;—that the tobaccos were, in reality, purchased for Groset's behoof; and further, that it was irregular to expose them to sale by sample when the tobaccos themselves could not be inspected. The Barons therefore quashed the sale by Groset.

If Patullo and Ogilvie are to be considered as fraudulent persons, certainly Groset was much worse, for he was attempting to trick all parties.

It may perhaps be satisfactory to take notice of the value of tobacco at the period in question. By the original appraisement, the 69 hogsheads, weighing 61,385 lbs. weight of tobacco, were appraised to be worth £1214:18:2 $\frac{3}{4}$ sterling; and the 19 hogsheads, weighing 16,883 lbs. weight of tobacco, to be worth £334:2:10 $\frac{1}{2}$ sterling, being at the rate of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

It appears that there must have been considerable embezzlement of these tobaccos while in possession of the Highland rebels, for upon another appraisement, after they had been replaced in the King's warehouse, the 19 hogsheads were found to weigh only 10,626 lbs., being a loss of 6257 lbs. upon these 19 hogsheads alone; and there was a defalcation in the 69 hogsheads in extent similar in proportion to what took place with regard to the 19 hogsheads, so that John Highlandman must have had a respectable share of *shnieshen* from the said tobaccos.

These tobaccos were afterwards sold by order of the Barons of Exchequer, and the price laid aside to wait the issue of the case. This was in consequence of the conflicting claims of Groset and General Blakeney—Groset claiming the tobaccos for the Crown and himself in consequence of his original seizure, while General Blakeney claimed them as a legal military capture made from the rebels. The case came frequently before the Barons of Exchequer, and was much entangled by Ogilvie (who had now got out of Edinburgh Castle) making claims also in virtue of his original missive agreements with Groset, who, on the other hand, claimed damages from Ogilvie for the difference which took place in the value of the tobacco betwixt the first and last appraisement. I am sorry, however, that it is not in my power to give the ultimate decision in this case, as my narrative here fails me; but I rather think that a general compromise took place through the intervention of the Lord Advocate.

At this period, and for many years afterwards, the mode of transacting business by our great Glasgow merchants was very different from what it is at present. In making purchases for shipments to the colonies by the Virginia merchants no fixed term of payment was agreed upon; but there was a tacit understanding between the buyer and the seller that the vessel on board of which the goods were shipped should return, and the return cargo be disposed of before the sellers were to receive payment of the goods furnished, and if any seller should dare to demand payment of his account before he received a circular letter from the great merchant that the latter was prepared to pay for the goods shipped, the poor seller could never expect to be afterwards favoured with the merchant's custom. In my younger days the following narrative was given to me by a relation who died in 1788, and who was present at one of the scenes which took place upon the arrival of a Virginia ship. This gentleman had sold Provost French (Lord Provost in 1778) some trifling articles for shipment, amounting to about £37, and upon the arrival of the ship in the Clyde, and after the return cargo had been sold, my relation received a circular from the Provost requesting his attendance at the Provost's

counting-house on a certain day, and at a fixed hour, when payment would be made to him of his account. My relation, accordingly, was punctual at the appointed place and hour, when he was astonished to see about thirty persons in waiting, all sitting on forms in the room where the Provost's clerks were writing. The Provost himself was in an adjoining room, the door of which was ajar, and my relation said that ever and anon he beheld the Provost *peeking* through the opening, to see if the whole parties summoned had arrived. At last, after a considerable delay, the Provost (who was an excessively pompous and consequential man) threw open the door of his private room, and after taking a glance of the parties waiting for payment of their accounts (but without deigning to speak to any of them), called out to his clerk with a loud voice, "John, draw for £3000 and pay the accounts." His lordship then, with a most dignified strut, re-entered his own apartment. This farce was concocted in order to astonish the natives at the magnitude of the sum drawn from the bank ; but, most unfortunately for the Provost, it had quite the contrary effect, for it afterwards became a standing joke among these very sellers, when any one was calling upon them for payment of a small account, to bawl out to their youngsters, "John, draw for £3000 and pay this account."¹

Since I have got upon these gossiping anecdotes of olden time, I may mention another story which was told to me by a gentleman long since gathered to his fathers. Mr. S., the greatest of all our tobacco lords (and the largest importer in Britain of the fascinating narcotic in question during the halcyon days of the trade), had a son called Peter. Now, although Peter was not at all deficient in abilities, nevertheless, either from carelessness, or perhaps from not possessing the knack of learning languages, it so happened that Peter was always at the bottom of his class in the Grammar School.² In this school there were four forms

¹ Provost French was originally a clerk with William Cunningham and Co., but in course of time he received a small share in that extensive concern. He afterwards left it, and commenced business upon his own account in the same line.

² My informant was in the same class with Peter. The late Earl of Cathcart was in the oldest class, called the *cocks*, when Peter was in the youngest class, called the *chuckies*.

ranged along the walls of the schoolroom, on which the pupils took their places according to their acquirements. One day Peter's uncle was bantering him about being so bad a scholar, and said to him, "I will tell you what, Peter, whenever you become a dux in your class, I will make a present to you of a nice pony." Peter said nothing; but his uncle's speech made a deep impression upon his mind, so that he resolved, if possible, to gain the pony. He therefore set most assiduously about learning his lessons, and, in the course of a few weeks, Peter came up to his uncle and said to him, "Uncle, did not you promise to give me a nice pony whenever I became a dux in my class?" To which his uncle replied, "Certainly I did, Peter, and I will be happy to find you able to gain the pony." "Well then," said Peter, "I am now a dux in my class, and I claim the pony according to your word." "Indeed!" said his uncle, with surprise; "is it quite true, Peter, that you are really a dux?" "Yes it is," replied Peter, "it is quite true." "Well then," said his uncle, "Peter, thou shalt have the pony; and I will go just now and tell your father the news, as I am sure that he will be quite delighted to hear them." Accordingly, the uncle communicated to old Mr. S. the unexpected intelligence of Peter being now dux of his class. The old gentleman could not contain his delight on the occasion, and said that he would instantly send an invitation to Mr. Barr,¹ the master of the school, to meet them at dinner, when they would drink Peter's health in a bumper of claret. Accordingly, the invitation was duly sent to Mr. Barr, who accepted it, and all parties met at the splendid mansion of old Mr. S. in Virginia Street. After dinner, when the cloth was removed, and the magnum of claret set upon the table, old Mr. S. addressed Mr. Barr, saying—"Mr. Barr, we are now going to drink a bumper to Peter's good health and success, as he informs us that he is now the dux of his class." Mr. Barr looked at Mr. S. with astonishment, and said, "Peter dux of his

¹ Mr. Barr built the large tenement called Barr's land in the High Street (opposite the college church), in the centre of which he placed a bust of Cicero, with the letters *M. T. Cicero* placed below it. A countryman passing by, and examining the fine sculptured head, asked some of the neighbours "Who Mr. Thomas Kikero was?" The bust has been taken down, but the niche where it was placed is still to be seen.

class, sir?" "Yes," replied old Mr. S., "so he says." "Nonsense," said Mr. Barr, "Peter was never within sight of it." All eyes were now turned towards Peter, as much as to say, "Is it possible that Peter could be telling a lie." Peter's uncle here addressing him, said, "Peter, did not you tell me that you were now the dux of your class." Peter, not in the least abashed, answered and said, "No, uncle, that was not what I said to you, I did not say that I was *the dux* of my class. You know, uncle, that you promised me a nice pony whenever I became *a dux* in my class, and I am now dux of the dolts' form; and, being *a dux*, I claim the pony." Here the laugh was turned against the uncle, and the whole company declared that Peter had fairly gained the pony, which was afterwards honourably presented to him by his uncle.¹

(1851.)

OLD HOUSE IN ROTTEN ROW.

I beg leave to send you a trifling addition to your Dean of Guild notices.

When I was at the Grammar School here in 1782 there stood upon the north side of the Rotten Row an old-fashioned house, two storeys in height, about six houses distant from the High Street. Upon the front of this house there was cut upon the lintel-stone the following words—DOMUS AEDILIUM. I remember that we young grammarians were rather puzzled to translate these words; but after consulting our dictionaries, and after a very learned antiquarian debate amongst ourselves, we fixed that this house must in former times have been specially appropriated by the city of Glasgow as a place of residence for the Deans of Guild of the burgh; and my present impression is, that our boyish conjecture was not altogether without foundation,² although I have never been able to find any certain evidence

¹ Certain readers will have no difficulty in identifying "Peter" with the late Peter Speirs, Esq., of Culcreuch.

² Query—Might not this house have been our ancient Dean of Guild Court-house? [We have not been able to clear up the point mooted by "Senex."—J. P.]

whether or not the city of Glasgow anciently really did gratuitously provide a place of residence for their Deans of Guild. But perhaps some of your correspondents who have access to the city records may be able to ascertain the fact; and who knows but our present active and intelligent Lord Dean of Guild may find that he has a just and lawful claim to be provided, scot free, by our civic rulers with a mansion-house suitable to the dignity of his lordship. At all events, I would feel obliged if your friend "Aliquis," or you yourself, would give us a more satisfactory explanation of the above Latin words, and for what purpose they were inscribed upon the front wall of this house.

(12th May 1851.)

MY FIRST TRIP TO THE COAST.

It was at the close of the spring in the year 1778 that an elderly gentleman announced to his family, consisting of five sons and four daughters, that he had taken a house for them during the summer season in *Rosa* (as *Rothesay* was then called), and that mamma was to conduct them all there in three weeks. Great was the joy on this occasion, and universal was the bustle in every department of the house, preparing for leaving Glasgow:—the boys making up their fishing lines, twisting hair-snoods, and hooping their hooks, in anticipation of catching baskets full of fish: the girls in turning over and examining their respective wardrobes, to see what gowns and what dresses would be most suitable for this out-of-the-way place. Mamma was an excellent housewife, and having considered that any kind of apparel was good enough to wear in *Rosa*, she hired a tailor to come to the house at eightpence per day and his meat, and she then gave him all the elder boys' old clothes to clout and to mend; but it happened unfortunately for one of the boys (afterwards called "Senex") that he was the youngest of them all, and that he had outgrown his old clothes; it therefore fell to his unhappy lot to get his papa's old clothes made down to him, and as mamma told

the tailor "to be sure to make the laddie's clothes wide enough, as he was a fast-growing callant," poor "Senex" came out of the tailor's hands a perfect little Dutchman; but this did not signify, as anything then was considered good enough to wear in Rosa. As for the dress of the misses, mamma had a rule that she would never give them a new gown, or a new bonnet, unless they made up the same themselves, for (besides the economy of the rule) she said that this was a most useful piece of education for a young lady, whatever her after lot in life might happen to be; but this general rule was not strictly enforced in the case of a ball dress or expensive silk bonnet, there being some risk of these valuable articles being *sticked*, if the misses made them themselves; therefore, in such cases, a clever sempstress was hired at sixpence per day and her meat, who came with a profusion of fashionable patterns ready cut out in paper, and all that was necessary was to lay the paper on the cloth, and so to shape the gown or bonnet. Mamma had also another rule, viz. that the misses should knit worsted stockings for their brothers, and in lieu of each pair so knitted, that they should receive for themselves a pair of fine white linen thread stockings, bought from a hosier's shop; the old lady declaring, that if ever they came to be married, they would then see how necessary it was to be good knitters of stockings; and she was very particular in learning them all to put new heels to old stockings, which she declared made them as good as new ones. At this time there was no such thing worn in Glasgow as cotton stockings, which have now altogether driven out the manufacture of linen stockings. With regard to the servants, the old lady expected them to be up every morning (except Sunday) by six o'clock, and never to be seen idle; for if they had a moment to spare, they must take up the spinning wheel, and prepare linen yarn for household sheeting and table napery; which yarn the old lady gave out to a customary weaver, and when the cloth was brought home in a brown state, it was laid aside till summer to be home-bleached. Many a well-filled press the old lady had of sheets and table-cloths of her own manufacture, beautiful and white. The old lady also, amongst her other economical schemes, had an outhouse fitted up with

a boiler, which she called "the brew-house," and having purchased malt and hops, she there brewed her brown stout ale and small beer, and truly nice sparkling drink it was, which would have done credit to Tennent himself.

But to return to the preparations for our sojourn in Bute (besides our respective wardrobes), they consisted of carpets, mattresses, beds and bedding, crockery, crystal, and various kitchen utensils; in fact, they amounted to a kind of household plenishing: for except a few heavy articles of standing furniture, little more was then expected to be found in a house let for salt-water quarters. Information having been obtained that there was no such personage at that time in the whole island of Bute as a baker, mamma bought a large barrel of sailors' brown sea biscuit, another of finer sea biscuit, and further, a barrel of bere-meal for making warm scones for breakfast. As for oatmeal for the boys' porridge, this could be got from some of the Bute farmers, as well as fowls and eggs; but as little butcher-meat was expected to be got on the island, the old lady laid in a large stock of the prime pieces of her winter mart, with a *quantum sufficit* of hams and kippered salmon, all of her own curing. We depended upon getting fish from the Rothesay bay, and certainly fish were more plentiful there at this time than they are at present. Why this occurs I cannot say. Tea and sugar, of course, were not forgotten; but no coffee, which was little drunk in Glasgow at this time.

All things being thus prepared for the excursion, I shall now resume the first person, and say that at this time there was little communication between Rothesay and Glasgow. The River Clyde was then very shallow, and obstructed with hirsts, in consequence of which a voyage between the Broomielaw and Bute was frequently tedious and uncertain.¹ Owing to these circumstances, the principal intercourse of Rothesay was then with Greenock. The Bute farmers sent their produce there, viz. sheep, fowls, eggs, butter, etc., but no pigs, which were not generally reared at that

¹ The improvements upon the River Clyde by Golbourne had just commenced. There were a few jetties erected near the Broomielaw, but none lower down: the long dyke at Dunglass was not then in existence.

time in Bute. These were purchased by the Greenock merchants to supply the shipping of the Clyde, and were usually forwarded by half-decked vessels of about fifteen tons burden, called Rothesay packets, which sailed twice a week from their respective ports. Amongst the articles of export from Bute to Greenock at this time, poultry formed a large item ; for these could be reared very cheaply by any person who was disposed to be industrious : all that was necessary to be done was to gather from the sands of the sea-shore the small shell-fish called *Echines* (which shell-fish were then found in abundance in every sandy bay of the island), and after having boiled them, to throw them in a heap to the fowls (shells and all). The fowls readily picked out the fish from the shells, and throve greatly upon this kind of food. The herring trade also was almost exclusively confined by the Rothesay people to the port of Greenock as a port of sale.

Over the whole island of Bute at this period the Gaelic language was spoken, although most of the inhabitants also understood English.

Having learned that a small half-decked wherry was loading at the Broomielaw for Rothesay, a passage was engaged in her for us all, bag and baggage ; and accordingly, having shipped on board of her all our household plenishings and other necessaries, we stepped on board on a fine summer morning, and set sail for Rosa. I do not recollect anything particular happening to us on the voyage, only that it was tedious, as we did not arrive in Rothesay till three o'clock next morning. The quay of Rothesay was then in a very rude state, and scarcely sufficient for the accommodation of even fishing-boats ; we, however, got a pretty good berth, and after a little delay, we got every part of our luggage safely landed, and then carted away to our summer lodgings, which was a farm-house at the Bogany Point. We had the whole of this house to ourselves, but the furniture in it was merely that of a rough farm-house. At this time few Glasgow people resorted to Rothesay for summer residence, as it was a place difficult of access, and the Gaelic language¹ generally spoken

¹ It is singular that the inhabitants of Cumbræ did not at this time understand Gaelic, while it is the vernacular language of the old inhabitants of Bute and Arran.

by the lower orders ; but the rent of the houses (such as they were) was very low, for we paid only fifty shillings for the season for our farm lodgings, which, however, accomodated all our family, consisting of fourteen souls, including the old couple and three servants. It was curious to see how much amusement arose from the want of many of our little Glasgow comforts. Limpet-shells became mustard-pots, and roaring buckies pepper dishes ; no one complaining of discomfort, for the comforts of home were never expected by any of us to be found in Rosa. I must say that I look back to the days of the Bogany House as days of mirth and pleasure, which finer lodgings, perhaps, can never confer, for the pleasure consisted in the contrast. During last summer I had the curiosity to visit our old quarters at the Bogany, and sure enough there still stood the identical farm-house, and also trees of former days, but all in a miserable state of decay ; still the recollections of the place were pleasant, and I could not refrain from visiting the well of fine fresh water on the beach, where we all used to assemble with our brown sailors' biscuits for our *pieces*, which ever and anon we cracked with stones, and dipped them in the limpid brook to soften them ; for however keen was our appetite, these biscuits were often too hard for our young teeth.

The leading men in Rothesay at this time were Bailie Muir (father of the late Archibald Moore, Esq.,¹ afterwards Colonel of the Bute Volunteers), and Bailie Robertson (father of the late George Robertson, Esq., of Greenock). Both of these gentlemen were in Lord Bute's interest, which was fortunate for the town, as they prevailed on his lordship to interest himself in getting the harbour improved, both by money from his own funds, and by obtaining a grant from Government.

The next personage of consequence within the town of Rothesay at that time was the Rev. Dr. M'Lea (who married a sister of Lord Bannatyne of Kames), and truly he was a worthy son of the Church, for he kept his flock in prime order. There was no
This probably has arisen from Millport having been the station of the Government Revenue Cutters, and from marriages having taken place between the seamen and native maidens.

¹ Colonel Moore changed the spelling of the family name from Muir to Moore.

Sunday desecration in Rothesay in these days, for the Doctor did not condescend to reason or expostulate with transgressors, but issued his commands with the authority of a sovereign pontiff; and woe to the parishioner who dared to disobey this clerical autocrat. But notwithstanding of the Doctor's great love of power, he was a good worthy man.

At the period when we arrived in Bute the most of the grounds around Rothesay were unenclosed—the hills above the town on the east, called Canada Hills, were covered with heather, and the lands between the quay and the Bogany were swampy paddocks, then called the *Cow-ward*. The west bay was in the same state. Rothesay at this time (1778) contained 1500 inhabitants, most of whom might be said to have been in *bein* circumstances, for whenever a man had saved a little money, he laid it out in a share of a herring buss. These joint concerns were in general successful. There was no such personage to be seen in Rothesay as a beggar, nor even in the island. As for the town prison, it was generally empty. I had been accustomed to look up to the gloomy windows of our Glasgow prison with awe, seeing them secured by massive iron stanchions, and above all, at beholding the veritable iron hooks facing the High Street on which the heads of traitors were formerly stuck up. To a child, these seemed like stories of raw heads and bloody bones; but great was my surprise to see the Rothesay prison a snug old-fashioned house, with the prison windows on the ground floor. As I passed it one day I saw a prisoner confined there (and he was the only inmate), but he seemed quite comfortable and unconcerned; for although the window of his room was secured, nevertheless it readily opened for air and conversation, and at this time his companions were chatting familiarly with him from the outside, and mutually exchanging their snuff-mulls through the window, in a free and easy way. The present town-house or hall, county buildings, and prison, were built in 1832, upon the site of the old prison above mentioned.

The Custom-house was established in the year 1765. It was in the year of our arrival in Bute (1778) that the cotton mill in Rothesay was erected, being the first cotton mill erected in Scotland. This establishment made a great change in the town; for

before the period in question, the wages of a labourer were only from sixpence to eightpence a day, but after this time they rapidly rose to one shilling, and then to eighteenpence. I cannot say the exact date when the post-office was established in Rothesay, but in 1778 the salary of the postmaster was only five pounds. As is the case in all small towns, a great deal of gossip and scandal went on in Rothesay amongst neighbours, and whatever a person did in his own family was sure to be known to the whole town in a few days. The inhabitants also were accustomed to give one another nicknames, such as the Howlet, the Hawk, the Greyhound, etc., and the parties so named came to be as well known by their nicknames as by their proper surnames. About this time a gentleman of the name of Gordon, who was born in Rothesay, had returned from India with a large fortune. He built an elegant house on some high grounds not far from the parish church, and gave it a fine high-sounding name, which I forget, but the Rothesay folks were not satisfied with the name, and in spite of him always continued to call it "The Folly." It was afterwards purchased by Lord Bute,¹ and occupied by Colonel Moore, who, wisely humouring the whim of the Rothesayans, called it "Foley House."

Mr. Gordon had a natural son, James, an East Indian, remarkably good-looking, and extremely clever. Now Jemmy one day took it into his head to take a trip to England by way of Edinburgh, unknown to his father, but after having satisfied his travelling curiosity, he was stopped short at Haddington, on his return from England, owing to his funds being quite exhausted. Jemmy was aware that it was in vain to write to his father for a fresh supply of cash, as he had gone away contrary to his father's wishes, and he knew of no one else to apply to. What, then, was to be done? After pondering long upon the subject, a bright idea struck him. He made inquiry if there were many Methodists in Haddington, and found that they were pretty numerous there; he then inquired for the name of one of the leaders of that religious connection, whom he found to be a

¹ The great-grandfather of the present Marquis, being John, the celebrated Earl of Bute, Prime Minister in 1762.

blacksmith. Jemmy accordingly called on this personage, and announced himself as a young Methodist minister, who intended to preach a sermon in the open air, and he said that as he was going about the country preaching the Gospel, his funds had run short, and he proposed that a collection should be made for him after the sermon. The blacksmith entered warmly into the scheme, and undertook to send the bell through the town, giving notice of a sermon to be preached by a young minister. Jemmy, however, was at a loss for a precentor to commence the service of the psalms ; but this difficulty was soon got over by the blacksmith agreeing to act as precentor. Again, another difficulty occurred : Jemmy had no black clothes, and his coat, most unfortunately, was a bright pea green. Here again the blacksmith came to his relief, and told him that it did not signify a straw whether he preached in a green or a black coat, if he only preached the Word of God. All matters being thus satisfactorily arranged, and notice of the intended sermon having been given by the bellman, Jemmy contrived to borrow some religious books from the blacksmith, which he studied in the interval with great diligence and care, and when the important day arrived, Jemmy was quite prepared with his sermon. He accordingly at the appointed time appeared upon an open lawn in the outskirts of Haddington, and being mounted upon a chair for a pulpit, commenced the service. As he was rather a clever speaker, he delivered his sermon with so much propriety and earnestness that it met with the universal approbation of his audience, which was pretty numerous—being attracted by the report of a sermon about to be delivered by a boy preacher. After the sermon the blacksmith went round the congregation with hat in hand, and made a collection for Jemmy of about three pounds, which brought him back safely to Rothesay.

I have little to say regarding our amusements while residing in the Bogany House, as nothing remarkable took place amongst us, except one of our youngsters pushing himself off to sea in a large washing-boyme, which he attempted to navigate with a pair of little oars of his own making ; but the machine soon *whumbled*, and tossed him headlong into the deep ; this caused a sad crying

and squealing from us all ; but some person ran into the sea and dragged him ashore, without his being much the worse of his ducking, but dreadfully frightened. With regard to the old gentleman, papa, he only visited us now and then, and on these occasions he took what was at that time considered the most comfortable way of getting to Rothesay. He bought a ticket in the Greenock coach, the price of which was 5s. 6d. The coach travelled upon the old road over the hills, and stopped at Bishop-ton for one hour to allow the passengers time to dine. When the coach arrived at Greenock the old gentleman was accustomed to take up his night's lodgings with an intimate friend, the father of a late member of Parliament for Greenock, and next morning he stepped on board the Rothesay packet at the east quay head.

As for the Castle of Rothesay, which then was, and still is, the great lion of the town, I have little to say, being too young to take much notice of the venerable ruin. I remember, however, that the ground around it was mostly open and exposed, and I think that the inhabitants were not prevented from pasturing sheep upon it. On my visit to Rothesay last summer it struck me that the castle grounds were not so extensive as they were in 1778, and that some of the proprietors of the contiguous grounds must have encroached a little upon the royal domain when they fenced in their own boundaries. It is certain that at the period in question Lord Bute paid very little attention to the castle or its grounds, although he was hereditary keeper of it. I believe that before he died his lordship delegated the charge of the castle grounds to Bailie Robertson, whose garden joined the said castle grounds. When Lord Bute came to the island he generally on the way stopped at Largs, where he had a coach-house and stables near the reading-room there. From Largs his lordship was usually conveyed across to Mount Stewart House in his own pleasure boat, which was kept in waiting. Two English gentlemen once arrived at Rothesay on a visit to Lord Bute, and immediately on landing, they ordered out a chaise to carry them to Mount Stewart. "A chaise," exclaimed the landlord of the inn with amazement ; "Why, gentlemen," said he, "such a thing was never seen or

heard of in the island, but you may get a cart or riding horses, if you please ;” the latter of which were accepted.

While resident at the Bogany House I was invited to the annual county ball, but I cannot remember in what building of Rothesay this ball took place. There were present the magistrates of Rothesay and their ladies, the sheriff of the county, Lord Bute’s factor, the Lamonts of Lamont,¹ Mr. Gordon, and the Stewarthall family, etc., and all the *élite* of Bute and Cowal. I was too young to take any share in the dance, and therefore was merely a spectator of the gay scene. What, however, interested me most was a side table, on which was spread a profusion of almonds and raisins, sugar-cakes, and fancy confections. I remember that a stranger gentleman took me by the hand and brought me up to this table, saying to me, “Here now, my little fellow, help yourself to what you please,” and immediately left me to take his share in the dance. This was a sad temptation thrown in the way of a young boy, but although I was left alone at this heap of sweetmeats, I somehow or other thought that I was placed on honour, and therefore did not abuse the liberty.

Having spent a very pleasant summer at the Bogany House, we all returned to Glasgow in the fall of the year (1778), delighted with the kindness and attention of the inhabitants of Rothesay. I shall say nothing regarding our voyage home, as no circumstance occurred worth mentioning, only that we arrived at the Broomielaw all safe and sound.

(19th May 1851.)

MY SECOND TRIP TO THE COAST.

We had all been so amused with our sojourn in Bute during the summer of 1778 that every possible scheme was set on foot to

¹ Old Castle Toward was formerly the residence of the Lamonts, who at one time possessed the whole of Cowal, which must have then been a very bleak country. By the last statistical account it is mentioned that Kirkman Finlay, Esq., planted five millions of trees on the Toward estate alone. Now, if Mr. Finlay’s heirs get one shilling per tree for this plantation, it will amount to the sum of £250,000.

induce papa to take us back there again the next summer ; but we could get no decisive answer from him till the end of April 1779, when he informed us that he had taken a house for us during the summer season at Dunoon. This was a great surprise to us all, as Dunoon was then considered a Highland wilderness, which nobody ever thought of visiting for salt-water quarters ; however, as it was a change from Glasgow to the coast, we were quite content and happy at the prospect of being again at the seaside for the season, wherever that might be.

I shall not repeat the account of all the bustle and preparations which now took place in the house, as they were on pretty much the same scale as occurred previously to our departure for Rothesay the former season ; only, we laid in a larger stock of eatables than formerly, as we could place no dependence on getting provisions, not even fish, in such an out-of-the-way place as Dunoon then was. We also took with us nearly a complete household plenishing.

There were no vessels at that time trading between Dunoon and Glasgow ; the old lady, mamma (who still took the management of these matters), however, hired a wherry at the Broomielaw, in which we all embarked, bag and baggage, early in the season.

We had a pretty fair passage down the river till the tide met us at Dunglass ; our progress now became slow, and a little below Dumbarton Castle we fairly stuck fast upon a sand-bank. Here we remained for several hours till the tide flowed, when we again got under sail. We did not touch at Greenock, but bore right on to Dunoon, where we arrived late in the same evening.

The residence which was taken for us was a farm-house, close upon the village of Dunoon, and was called Deling. It was pretty much of the same character as our abode at the Bogany, and was covered with thatch. The rent, I think, was the same as the Bogany House, viz. fifty shillings.

I suspect that the house of Deling has been taken down and replaced by one of the splendid mansions of some Glasgow merchant, for being lately in Dunoon, I could not even recognise the

site of our old salt-water lodgings. At this time we were the only strangers in Dunoon ; indeed there were no furnished lodgings to be got there to rent capable of accommodating a large family. When I now look around the shores of Dunoon, from the Holy Loch to the point of Toward, and see them studded with the splendid villas of my fellow-citizens, it appears curious to recall to my recollection the bygone days when these lands were lying in a state of nature, and when our family was the only one spending in amusement the summer months on the whole line of that coast.

As for the society of Dunoon at this time, it was very limited indeed, the principal personages of the village being the minister, the gauger, and the ferryman ; a considerable intercourse, however, regularly took place in consequence of travellers passing to and from the West Highlands by the ferry of Otter ; but these were mostly farmers or drovers. Even at a considerably later date Dunoon was little resorted to by our Glasgow pleasure-seeking folks ; for I remember, when on a boating excursion about the year 1790, of touching at Dunoon, and there dining at the ferry-house. We got an excellent dinner of salmon and fowls, and having called for a bottle of port wine, we found it so very good that we were induced to order in another bottle before commencing with the small-still whisky toddy. When the landlord was drawing this second bottle of port, we asked him where he got such nice wine ; he answered that when he took a lease of the ferry-house, about a dozen years ago, he laid in a dozen of port wine from a Greenock dealer, and he added, " I have still eight of these bottles to the fore."

We found Dunoon a very pleasant retired spot, but, with the exception of the road to the ferry of Otter, there was at that time no other road about the village. The shore lands, from the Holy Loch to the point of Toward, lay in a state of nature. Even between Gourock and the Cloch, there was, at the period in question, no made road ; it was merely a rough cattle track along the rocky shore. It is surprising that no regular road had then been made here, seeing that the distance was so short, and that the materials for a substantial road were just at hand ; and, particularly, seeing

that this was one of the principal entries into the Western Highlands, and indeed before the great military roads were made it was the principal West Highland track. So little were the shores of Cowal disturbed by the tread of man in 1779 that numerous seals might have been seen swimming about in all directions, and basking themselves in the sunshine upon the rocky shores of Dunoon and the Kirn,¹ and the little loch behind Dunoon was the resort of numerous flocks of wild ducks. At this time the Cloch Lighthouse was not erected, neither was the present ferry-house near it in existence; there was, however, an old decayed thatched bigging occupied by the ferryman. He sold the best of small-still whisky, and also foreign spirits. A great smuggling trade was then carried on, not only in small-still whisky, but in running foreign spirits and tobacco from the ships coming up the channel. I was one day crossing to Dunoon in the ferry-boat, in which were several passengers, when one of these, addressing another, said to him, "Well, Dougall, how are you coming on now?" "Oh," replied Dougall, "I have given up the trade, for they caught me at last, and took from me every farthing I had gained—a body gets on very well at first, but somehow or other he is always nabbed at last. It is a bad trade." Passengers crossing the firth by the Cloch ferry generally stopped at the ferry-house and took a glass there, of which it was always understood the ferryman was to get a share; the said ferryman, however, was oftentimes very unwilling to rise from the table and to launch his ferry-boat, which was commonly drawn up upon the beach. The hire of the boat was one shilling, or if more than three passengers, it appeared the fare was threepence each. The ferry across the firth here forms part of the feudal tenure of Mr. Campbell of Dunoon.

As at Rothesay, so at Dunoon, the castle is the lion of the place. The view from this ruin, or rather from this mound of ruins, is very grand, extending seaward to the islands of Cumbrac, and to portions of Bute and Arran. The ground on which the village stands appears from old records to have been originally

¹ The last seal that was shot upon the rocks of the Kirn was in the summer of 1796.

included within the bounds of the castle lands. Queen Mary visited this castle in the year 1563. It is supposed to have been burned during Argyll's rebellion; but some authors say that it was demolished by Cromwell's soldiers.

At the time of our arrival in Dunoon the houses of the village were all what is called Highland clachans, and the vernacular language of the place was Gaelic; in fact, Dunoon was then truly a Highland village.

Shortly before we had come to this place an attempt had been made to erect a harbour near the castle, but ere it was finished the swell from the Atlantic broke down the parts that were built, and as the funds were small the scheme was abandoned. The most valuable stones were then carried off by the villagers to build their clachans. The tide rises and falls in spring-tides about fourteen feet perpendicular, and in neap-tides from nine to ten feet.

I have little to mention regarding the society of Dunoon at this time, as our communication with the inhabitants was very limited, many of them not understanding English. I remember, however, of some of them rowing our party to the Gantocks at low water, where we gathered a load of sea-urchins and shell-fish.

One of our visitors at Dunoon was the late Daniel M'Arthur, afterwards one of the masters of the Grammar School. He was then a young man, and had been assisting the elder boys of our family at their Latin lessons. He had never before seen the sea, neither had he seen a ship under sail. I remember calling him up one morning early to see a ship passing up to Greenock and his delight was great at beholding a large vessel with all her canvas spread to the winds. Some years after this I became his pupil in the Glasgow Grammar School, then situated in the Grammar School Wynd.

The other day taking a stroll in the Ramshorn burying-ground, I stumbled upon poor Daniel's grave. His many living scholars will perhaps be pleased to read the following inscription on the stone which covers his remains:—

The Burial Place
of the late
REV. DANIEL MACARTHUR,
For Twenty-five years
One of the
Masters of the Grammar School
in this City,
Who departed this life February 9th,
1808,
Aged 61 Years.

Also, of
ELIZABETH ORR,
His Wife,
And Two of their Children.

There is also interred here
ALEXANDER MACARTHUR,
late Merchant in Glasgow,
Who died February 18th, 1826,
Aged 61 Years.

The old gentleman, papa, as before, paid us visits only now and then, and upon these occasions he took his seat in the Greenock coach and after its arrival in Greenock he proceeded directly on foot to the Cloch, where he stepped on board of the ferry-boat, and crossing the firth, he reached Dunoon in one day.

As to our voyage home in the fall of the year, a wherry was again hired, which, in the course of one tide, brought us all safely up to the Broomielaw, with our luggage and furniture. A quick passage was then easier made up than down the river, and I believe that this is still the case.

(26th May 1851.)

MY THIRD TRIP TO THE COAST.

Our family spent the summers of the years 1780 and 1781 at

a country-house near Cathcart, but as the present gossiping details are intended to embrace merely certain trips to the coast, I shall say nothing regarding the occurrences of the above-mentioned two years.

It is so easy nowadays to proceed to the coast by railways and by steamers, that many of your young readers will scarcely believe how serious a matter it was to transport a large family of children from Glasgow to the coast in olden time; neither will they readily see how a dozen or more individuals could possibly have been accommodated in lodgings, the rent of which did not amount to the tithe of the rent of our present coast lodgings; but such was universally the case at this time; and after all I am not sure but that the salt-water-going folks of last century were every whit as happy in their homely lodgings as the present generation in their splendid mansions. But to my gossiping story: We all got tired of an inland country-house for summer quarters, and so resolved, if possible, to prevail on papa to take a house for us at the seaside for the ensuing season; and as I believe that the old gentleman was as tired of going out to Cathcart as we ourselves were, he readily consented to our wishes, and accordingly took Hely House, near Largs, for the season of 1782. This was not the present Hely House, but the old one, which was subsequently taken down, and the present building erected upon its site.

It was a good old-fashioned slated house, and the standing furniture, though not modern at the time, was very tolerable; it, however, was not furnished with feather beds or bedding, and it had rather a scanty supply of crockery, crystal, and kitchen utensils; but it was roomy and sufficient to accommodate us all comfortably. The rent was only five pounds.

Now came the grand question, How we were all to get to this place with a load of feather beds, bedding, and other articles of household plenishing? The old gentleman, as usual, rolled over on mamma's shoulders the task of looking over this matter, and truly he never could have put the burden on shoulders more fit to carry the load. The old lady was not quite satisfied with her former plans of going to the coast in sailing packets and half-

decked wherries, and therefore she resolved to try a new plan of conveyance to the coast this season ; and, accordingly, she hired James Neilson, with his large covered Paisley caravan, to take us and all our plenishing to Hely House, through the muir, by Kilbirnie.¹ Matters being thus far arranged, and the day of our departure being fixed, the caravan (which was painted a brilliant blue) arrived at our domicile at the appointed time, and its bottom was quickly filled with feather beds, mattresses, bolsters, pillows, and blankets, etc., and the other articles of plenishing were stowed away in various parts of the vehicle, as was thought most suitable and convenient. We then all in succession entered this ponderous machine, which put me in mind of Noah and his children entering the ark.

I yet remember with what delight I jumped and tumbled about upon the soft and downy bedding, when I first entered this capacious Paisley caravan. We were truly a formidable company, consisting of no less than thirteen souls.

Our progress was very slow, for James Neilson took special good care of his horse, and allowed the animal to take its own time upon the road ; but as we had plenty of good things with us to eat and to drink, the journey did not appear so very tedious as might have been expected. It happened, however, unfortunately, that one of our maid-servants, on the very morning of our departure, had been attacked with a sickness which had just got the name of influenza : till this year nobody in Scotland had ever heard of such a complaint as influenza ; but we are all familiar with it now. We halted a short time at the end of three or four hours to give the horse a rest, and afterwards proceeded as before upon our journey. It was about three o'clock when we arrived at Kilbirnie, where we all alighted, and went into the inn, which was situated near the public road, upon a rivulet called the Garnock. This rivulet ran close under the windows of the inn, and though it was very shallow at this time, it is often in rainy weather a deep and rapid stream.

While we were all enjoying ourselves in the inn at Kilbirnie,

¹ In 1506 the Archbishop of Glasgow annexed the vicarage of Kilbirnie to the University of Glasgow.—*Mun. Alm. Univ. Glas.*, p. 42.

James Neilson had been making inquiry regarding the state of the road through the muir, from Kilbirnie to Largs, and to his great dismay he learned that, properly speaking, there was no road at all from Kilbirnie to Largs; that it was just a precipitous descent over loose stones and rough rocks, and that he would require often to take the bed of some mountain stream in lieu of a path; in short, he was told that the Paisley caravan was a vehicle totally unfit to travel that way, and that if he attempted the journey his caravan would be shattered all to pieces, or capsized on the way. On receiving this information James came in to the old lady with a most rueful countenance, and told her that his horse had *rested*, and that nothing he could do would make him stand still, as he kept always kicking and plunging, and that he was afraid to harness him to the caravan, lest he should run off and upset it. The old lady, however, suspected the manœuvre, and said that the horse would perhaps be better after taking his corn, and getting a short rest: but James obstinately refused to proceed any farther, and so put up his horse for the night. Under these circumstances, there was no help for us, so we all contentedly took up our night's lodgings in the inn of Kilbirnie, in the expectation that James Neilson's horse, after a long rest and a bellyful of corn, would be cured in the morning of his *resting* fit. When the morning came, however, and the old lady had again begged and entreated James to proceed with us to Hely, agreeably to his bargain, she found him as obstinate as ever, for I suppose that he had had the first statement regarding the badness of the muir-road confirmed to him by further inquiries; and therefore he now most pointedly refused to move a single step farther, saying that he was not going to be answerable for the lives of the children.

But by this time another mishap had overtaken the old lady, for she had now discovered that in the hurry of leaving Glasgow she had forgotten her purse, which she had left behind her lying on the dining-room table. What, therefore, was now to be done? Here she was in a strange place, with nine children and three maid-servants, without a farthing in her pocket.

After many deep cogitations with herself how she should now

proceed, it accidentally occurred to her that she had heard the gudeman say that a certain person in Kilbirnie owed him an account. She therefore put on her bonnet, and immediately bent her way to this person's dwelling. She fortunately found him at home, and after explaining to him her dilemma, he at once paid her five pounds of his account. Coming back to the inn with this happy supply in her pocket, she instantly paid off James Neilson and dismissed him. She then hired two strong country carts, with men and horses accustomed to travel on the muir-road, and having loaded the carts with our household plenishing, and placed us all the best way she could on the top of the carts, we proceeded on our journey through the muir. I must confess, after all, that James Neilson was not far wrong in refusing to risk his caravan upon this muir-road, for it was just a track of deep mud-holes, slippery rocks, and loose stones and boulders. In some parts it was very steep, and undoubtedly dangerous; in fact it required the strictest attention of our new carters to keep the carts from being capsized. The country farmers who had occasion to lead peats from this muir at the period in question used sledges with long trams, which are not easily overturned.

After a good shaking we at last got to the high hill immediately above Hely House: here the beautiful view of the firth broke upon us, with the islands of Cumbræ, Bute, and Arran lying expanded right in our front, and three or four fine ships resting at anchor in the Fairlie roads. At the lapse of seventy years I still remember with pleasure the first impression of this enchanting scene; for the ships, viewed from the heights, seemed to me as small as my own toy ships, and the sea between the Largs and Cumbræ appeared like a fine pool of water, so apt is the human eye to be deceived upon a first impression of distance. We soon descended this hill, which bears the name of Achenbranchen, and found ourselves all safe and sound at the door of Hely House.

I shall say nothing about the bustle that then took place in arranging and in putting in good order all our various articles of household plenishing, as such scenes must be familiar to every coast-going person.

At this time there were few Glasgow families that took lodgings in the Largs for the season. The lodging-houses were all small, most of them merely single rooms, and none of them self-contained. The inhabitants of Largs had not yet learned how to turn the penny by letting lodgings, and seemed to regard with the utmost indifference any applications by our Glasgow folks for furnished apartments; indeed, they appeared to consider it a favour to give up any part of their own houses to strangers. At this time there were scarcely any houses in Largs fronting the sea. Brisbane Place, which is now covered with villas, was then a waste piece of ground, extending from the lands of Hely to Largs. Often have I rambled over this part of the sea-shore when going from Hely to the Gogo Burn to fish. The whole space from Mr. Underwood's house (including it) to the Gogo Burn, embracing the site of the reading-room and other buildings in that direction, was then a common. In some old writings it is called "The Common of Largs." How it came to be sold for building purposes I cannot say; but I have seen every part of it, at the Fair of St. Colms, crowded with merry Highland lads and lasses tripping it on the light fantastic toe to the drone of the bagpipes. The only building at this period which was erected upon this, the Largs Common, was a coach-house and stables belonging to Lord Bute.

The most amusing sight to be seen at Largs in these bygone days was St. Colm's Fair. Soon after our arrival at Hely this great annual gathering took place at Largs, and really it was a most entertaining spectacle; for I am sure that there could not have been less than 400 vessels, either lying at anchor before the town or drawn up upon the beach. It was a beautiful sight to see the arrival of these numerous vessels, and the bustle of landing their cargoes. The communication between the lowlands and the highlands being then very troublesome and uncertain, St. Colm's Fair brought vast numbers of Highlanders to the spot, either to buy or to sell. It appeared to me that there were as many black cattle brought to this market for sale as at the same date were brought to our market at the Fair of Glasgow; for the whole common, from the present quay to Noddle Burn, was a condensed mass of Highland cattle.

While staying at Hely we made up a pic-nic party to view the lighthouse on the Little Cumbræ, which was then situated on the highest part of the island. The light was given from a large coal fire, placed on the top of the edifice. This building is yet visible from the firth, and is rather a picturesque object, giving some relief to the barren aspect of the little isle. We were most interested in examining the massive iron poker with which the keeper stirred up the fire. It was eleven o'clock at night before we returned to Hely House.

One day three of us, the eldest not more than ten or eleven years of age, seeing a wherry lying at the old stone quay at Largs, thought that we might take a short sail without the proprietor knowing anything about the matter. We accordingly got on board, and with great difficulty contrived to hoist up the sails; but we soon found ourselves quite unable to manage the vessel, which rapidly carried us over to the shore of the greater Cumbræ, amongst the rocks. After much trouble we got the wherry's head turned round; but instead of taking us back to Largs it bore away directly down the firth, so that we lost all command of it. By this time the proprietor of the wherry had espied us, and immediately got into a quick sailing boat, and set out in pursuit of us. We were all in a most terrible fright, expecting to get a sound whipping, for we saw the boat approaching us, and knew its object. We were overtaken about Hunterston Sands, and to our great joy the proprietor never said an angry word to us; he seemed to be thankful that we were not all drowned, and his wherry shipwrecked. I doubt if we would have escaped so well if we had run off with a boat from the Broomielaw.

At the time of our sojourn at Hely House the late Lord Glasgow, then a young man, sixteen years of age, was upon his travels in Germany, and during his absence we made many excursions amongst the woods and plantations of Kelburne and Fairlie Castle¹

¹ In the Puritones, page 91, it is stated that Fairlie Castle "is a strong tower and very antient, beautified with orchards and gardens. It belongs to Fairlie, *de eodem cheiffe* of their name. (It was sold to David, first Earl of Glasgow, about 150 years ago.)—Kelburne Castle, situated on a rivulet of the same name, is a goodly building, well planted, having very beautiful orchards and gardens, and in one of them a spacious rome with christaline fontane, cutt all out of the living rocke. It belongs heritably to John Bell, Laird thereof."

a bird's-nesting, and there was a small burn which ran through the plantations, in which we sometimes caught trouts; but the principal fishing burns about Largs were the Gogo and Noddle, which then were free to any sportsman, man or boy.

A short time before our arrival, our landlord, Mr. Wilson, had opened a tumulus upon his lands, which was called "Margaret's Lau," in which he found some stone coffins and decayed bones, supposed to have belonged to the Norwegians who fell at the battle of the Largs in 1263. With the stones of this tumulus Mr. Wilson built a large proportion of his dykes. The lands of Hely at one time belonged to a person of the name of Blare; but it appears from "Robertson's Cuningham," p. 101, that in the year 1483 these lands were in possession of the family of Wilson.

As Hely was above a mile from Largs, we had little communication with the villagers, and knew nothing of their leading men. I just remember one person who was called the "Laird," who had his dwelling near the thorn tree which stood in the middle of the main street. I think the minister's name was Gilbert Lang. The old church stood on the site which is now occupied by the Brisbane Arms Inn. The former manse also stood there, but it had been sold by the minister and heritors shortly before our arrival at Hely House.

As formerly, the head of our family paid us only occasional visits, and when he did come, he followed his usual comfortable plan of taking a seat to Greenock in the stage-coach. At Greenock he hired a horse for Largs, and a boy was sent forward to bring back the horse from Largs to Greenock.

In conclusion of these rambling jottings, I have only to say, that in returning to Glasgow from Hely House, we eschewed again hiring the Paisley caravan; but we engaged the Largs packet, which brought us all up to Glasgow, after a fine passage of twelve hours.

P.S.—Since the above was written, I may mention that when the late William Harley, of Glasgow dairy notoriety, became unfortunate, he retired to Dunoon, and took a farm there. Mr. Harley having observed that the streets and paths in and about

Dunoon were in a shocking state of dirt, and formed perfect sloughs of despond, from the accumulation of filth for ages, immediately set about cleansing them. The villagers at first were mightily delighted at seeing their door-sides put in such nice clean condition, without any expense to them; but when they observed that Mr. Harley carted away all this nastiness, and laid it upon his farm for manure, they raised a perfect outcry against him for taking away what did not belong to him, and each villager then claimed a right to all the filth opposite his own clachan; and refused to let Mr. Harley any longer become the public scavenger of Dunoon.

(1851.)

SKETCHES REGARDING M'KEAN, THE MURDERER.

Immediately after the murder became known, the public authorities advertised a reward for the discovery and apprehension of M'Kean, but for two days no accounts were received regarding his movements, and it was doubtful whether he lay concealed in Glasgow, or had fled south, with the intention of leaving the country; but on the third day information was obtained that a man answering M'Kean's description had been seen at the Mearns, travelling on the Kilmarnock road; it was therefore conjectured that the murderer had taken the route to Ireland, with the intention of getting there on board of some of the coal vessels which sail regularly from Irvine or Saltcoats. Acting upon this conjecture, the Magistrates of Glasgow instantly despatched Mr. James M'Rone, messenger, a bold and active man, to the above-mentioned town, with a warrant for the apprehension of M'Kean. When Mr. M'Rone arrived at Saltcoats, he there learned that a vessel, coal laden, had sailed for Dublin two days previously with a cabin passenger; but as the wind shortly after the vessel's departure had become contrary, that it was likely it would be obliged to return to Lamlash Bay. Mr. M'Rone, upon receiving this intelligence, instantly hired a light boat, and set off for Lamlash, which he reached without much difficulty. On his

arrival there he saw the vessel that he was in search of lying at anchor in the bay, and he then ran alongside it. The captain of the collier was at that time walking the deck, and upon Mr. M'Rone stepping on board and communicating to the captain the object of his visit, he was informed that the passenger who had taken his berth in the vessel at Saltcoats was then below in the cabin. Mr. M'Rone now drew out a pistol from his pocket, which he put on the cock, and directly descended to the cabin, where he saw M'Kean sitting at a table reading. Mr. M'Rone seized him by the neck, and presenting the pistol to his breast, told him he was a prisoner, apprehended for murder. M'Kean made no resistance whatever, but calmly allowed the officer to handcuff him; he was then put on board Mr. M'Rone's boat, which instantly set sail to return to Saltcoats. Mr. M'Rone¹ brought his prisoner safely back to Glasgow, and lodged him in the prison there. The circumstances connected with his trial are well known. M'Rone was accompanied in the above mission by John Graham, the chief town-officer.

I remember being in the town-hall when M'Kean was led out for execution. Before being brought upon the platform he was introduced to the town-hall, where the public authorities were in attendance. After being seated, a glass of wine was handed to the criminal, who appeared calm and collected, but pale in the countenance. I felt much surprise at the manner in which he drank the glass of wine; for he received it, and took it not in a vulgar clownish manner, but like a person accustomed to genteel company, bowing to the Magistrates and other officials, as if he had been exchanging salutes with them at the dining-table.

After M'Kean had hung the usual time, his body was taken down and given to Dr. Jeffray for dissection. Some gentlemen in Glasgow being anxious to preserve part of the remains of this notorious murderer, asked the Doctor to give them the skin of

¹ Mr. M'Rone possessed considerable property in Glasgow. He purchased the tenement immediately west of the Argyll Arcade from Bailie John Morrison for £10,000. Mr. M'Rone afterwards resided in the Isle of Man, where I believe he was not very comfortable, having got into some disagreeable situation in the course of a lawsuit. He was unfortunately killed a few years ago, in consequence of having been thrown from a carriage, the horses of which had taken fright.

M'Kean's back, with which request he very obligingly complied. These gentlemen then sent it to a tan-pit to be tanned, and what was very curious, the king's duty was demanded and paid for thus tanning M'Kean's hide. When the tanning operations were finished, the skin had much the appearance of a common piece of *ben-leather*. I had a small piece of it in my possession, about the size of a crown-piece, and much about the same in thickness.

M'Kean was a shoemaker by trade, and was a member of a Dissenting congregation. About a fortnight before the murder took place a gentleman, a member of this congregation, and I believe the father of the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, had occasion to call on him to pay a trifling account for shoes. In paying this account the gentleman took from his pocket a bunch of small notes, amounting to about £25, to select one for payment to M'Kean. He observed him to eye the notes very particularly, and was surprised at being invited to take a seat for a short time in the back shop. The gentleman declined the invitation, although repeatedly urged by M'Kean to step into the back apartment and take a seat for a few minutes. The visitor thought little of the circumstance at the time, but when the atrocious murder of the poor carrier became public, he then felt quite satisfied in his own mind that if he had complied with M'Kean's invitation, and had taken a seat in the back shop, he would have been the murdered man in place of the carrier.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

(1st February 1850.)

EXECUTIONS IN GLASGOW.

AS the interesting contributions of "Senex" have been wound up by a short chapter regarding M'Kean, the murderer, whose pseudo-sanctified aspect specially attracted the attention of Sir Walter Scott, who was present at the trial, it may not be out of place to give a few details regarding former executions in Glasgow, albeit the subject is a repulsive one.

After noticing the execution, on 31st January 1850, of an unfortunate woman, named Margaret Lennox or Hamilton, for the murder of her sister-in-law by poison, the narrative prepared for the *Glasgow Herald* of the following day proceeds as follows:—

We trust the day will be long and distant ere the painful exhibition of yesterday is repeated; and in the hope that capital executions here will be few and far between, it may not be out of place to give some statistics regarding executions in Glasgow for a lengthened bygone period, especially as we can thereby contrast the mild administration of the law in our day as compared with its harsh and stringent application in times not long since past.

We believe that for some time subsequent to the beginning of the present century every burgh in Scotland, in which a Circuit Court of Justiciary was held, had in its pay a hangman as a permanent official. At the present time there is not a single functionary of this kind in Scotland. Tam Young, the Glasgow hangman, died about fifteen years ago, and the public thereby

saved a salary of fifty-two guineas per annum, and at the same time got rid of the stigma of keeping such a person regularly in their pay. Murdoch, the old man who officiated yesterday, took up the odious though necessary trade some eighteen years ago, at a time when he was very ill off, and has been a sort of peripatetic finisher of the law ever since—having done business in his own peculiar walk over all Scotland, and in some towns in England. He is eighty-two years of age, and has a nerve like steel. Yesterday he had to mount the steps of the gallows by the help of a staff, but he did his duty with perfect coolness and composure. That the minds of the authorities may be kept perfectly easy as to no accident taking place at the eleventh hour—for in this case, according to the old notion, the youngest Bailie must do the work—old Murdoch lodges himself in prison a week or ten days before the event, where he has bed and board at the public expense, and is thus sure to be forthcoming when needed. Edinburgh was the last place which kept a regular functionary of this kind, and a friend has informed us that on one occasion he observed the curious scene of the late Principal Baird drawing his stipend at one end of the Chamberlain's counter, and the hangman receiving his dole at the other.

While on this subject we may recite an anecdote which was communicated to us the other day by an official gentleman. Very many years ago, while the Glasgow hangman was either sick or when there was a vacancy, the Edinburgh fellow was called in to officiate, and in giving in his charge to the Magistrates, the account contained an item of a few shillings for a "padlock and hasp." As the Magistrates could not see what the padlock had to do with the execution, an explanation was demanded, when the "headsman," so to speak, stated that he had the misfortune to be cursed with a drunken wife, and when he was called into the provinces on any "professional" business, which generally took him three days, he was wont to secure his wife inside his house, and leave her enough of provisions to support nature till his return. Thus the necessity for the padlock was accounted for.

It is nearly seven years since the last execution took place in Glasgow, viz. the case of M'Kay for the murder of his wife, who

was hanged in May 1843. If we consider that there are fully 700,000 inhabitants within the bounds of the Glasgow circuit, we would fain take this infrequency of capital punishments as an index that atrocious crimes are not of frequent occurrence amongst us. The last three females who have undergone the final sentence of the law here have all suffered for murder by poisoning, viz. Mary Steel or Byers, who was executed along with her husband, in October 1831, for killing a man by laudanum in a spirit cellar in High Street, and then robbing him; Mrs. Jeffrey, who was executed in May 1838, for killing a man and woman in the parish of Carluke by arsenic, with the intent of securing their property; and finally, the unfortunate creature who expiated her crimes on the gallows yesterday.

Since the year 1765 till the present time (February 1850) there have been 107 executions in Glasgow, of whom 7 were of women.

From 1765 till 1781 the executions took place at the Howgatehead, where the Monkland Canal Basin now stands, and within the period specified 7 men suffered here. One of them named Andrew Marshall was hanged for a cruel murder in October 1769; and his body was the last which, in these parts, furnished the barbarous spectacle of being hung in chains.

The place of execution was then removed to the Castle-yard, upon the site of which the infirmary now stands; and here, in the brief space from 1784 till 1787, 12 individuals—viz. 10 men and 2 women—suffered, the two latter for housebreaking and theft, a crime which nowadays is met by a punishment varying from nine months' imprisonment to fourteen years' transportation.

The gallows was then shifted to the Jail at the Cross, and from 1788 till 1813 inclusive, 22 individuals—viz. 21 men and 1 woman (the latter for murder)—were executed. Amongst this wretched batch was the self-sanctified murderer, James M'Kean, who slew the Lanark carrier with a razor, in his (M'Kean's) own house, under extraordinary circumstances. He suffered for it in January 1793. In the case of William Scott, who was hanged in 1788 for housebreaking and theft, we find in an old MS. book in the Council Chambers, from which the above facts are compiled,

the note that "this criminal was tried and condemned by the Sheriff." We were not aware that Sheriffs of counties exercised a capital jurisdiction so recently, although it is undoubted that they sentenced to death-punishments in the preceding generation. We suspect there must be some inaccuracy in this note.

The place of execution was then removed to the front of the "New Jail," where it still continues. Exclusive of two murderers who suffered in the neighbourhood, on the line of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, 64 unhappy beings were hanged at this place from 1814 up till yesterday, viz. 60 men and 4 women.

Of the above total of 107, 27 suffered for murder, leaving 80 for other offences, a great portion of which, in our own comparatively humane times, would have been met by imprisonment or transportation. It is only in aggravated cases of murder that the last punishment of the law is now inflicted. Since 1831 there have been 16 executions, of which 12 were for murder, 1 for a bank robbery, 2 for aggravated robbery and assault, and 1 for throwing vitriol, by which a man was maimed for life. When we contrast the paucity of these spectacles with our vastly augmented population, we may take comfort at the comparatively mild administration of the law. One of the town-officers (viz. William Crawford, the Dean of Guild officer), on the scaffold yesterday, has officiated at no fewer than 58 executions.

At one time, when the gibbet was often seen in our streets, it was found to be a very serious infliction on the Magistrates of Glasgow to oversee these executions—even although the crimes were committed far away from the city—and pay the expenses into the bargain. Yesterday's case was one of this sort, with which the city of Glasgow had no earthly connection; and yet the Magistrates had to fulfil the painful duty of being present, and the common good must pay the expenses, amounting to between £30 and £40. In former times, when the grievance was more keenly felt from the frequency of these executions, the Magistrates made an effort to get quit of the onus. The following is one of their memorials on the subject, which we give, as containing some curious matter:—

“ 1st December 1773.

“ MEMORIAL FOR THE MAGISTRATES OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW.

“ The Circuit Court of Justiciary, held at Glasgow, having, about four years ago, condemned one Andrew Marshall to be executed at Glasgow, for murder, committed by him in the parish of Old Monkland, in the county of Lanark ; and also in October last, condemned William Mitchell and Christopher Jordan, to be executed at the same place, for five robberies committed by them—one of which on Mearns Muir, in the county of Renfrew, one near Edinburgh, and three in the City of Glasgow—the memorialists and their predecessors in office were ordained by the Court to see these sentences put in execution, which, in obedience to the Court, they accordingly did, at a considerable trouble and expense : having, after pronouncing each of these sentences, remonstrated to the Honourable Judges that they considered it as a hardship to impose this task upon them, especially as none of the criminals resided within the liberties of the City of Glasgow, and that the crimes were committed, for the most part, in different counties, without the liberties of the city. But being told by the judges who pronounced the above-mentioned sentences, that the Court of Justiciary had resolved to order the Magistrates of Royal Burghs to see the sentences of their Circuit Court carried into execution, the memorialists, in the two instances before mentioned, submitted to and obtempered the decree of the Court.

“ The memorialists, however, hope that, upon considering the circumstances of the City of Glasgow and its Magistrates, the Honourable Judges of the Court of Justiciary will vary their resolution, with respect of obliging the memorialists and their successors to oversee the execution of criminal sentences against persons convicted of crimes in their City ; and that for the following reasons among others to be suggested by the Memorialists’ Counsel to the Court of Justiciary :—

“ The City of Glasgow was part of the Regality which belonged to the Archbishop of Glasgow, and that jurisdiction, with the revenues payable out of the Bishop’s lands within the Regality, fell to the Crown by the Act of Parliament abolishing Episcopacy in Scotland ; and the Crown, from that time downwards to the year 1748, appointed Bailies of the said Regality, who had both a civil and criminal jurisdiction, and regularly held courts every week in the City of Glasgow, and as the Bailie of the Regality (which all lies in the County of Lanark) had a cumulative jurisdiction with respect to the cognisance of crimes with the Sheriff of the County, so the Sheriff and Bailies of the Regality did always in person attend the execution of criminal sentences pronounced by them, and saw them carried into execution ; and until the execution of the said Andrew Marshall, the Magistrates of Glasgow were never troubled with overseeing the execution of any criminal sentence whatever—that duty, when the convictions were before the Circuit Court, being always imposed on the Sheriff of the County.

“ Since the year 1748 the Crown has never thought proper to appoint a

Bailie to the Regality of Glasgow, which is a jurisdiction still vested in the Crown, and was not abolished by the Jurisdiction Act, not being in the person of a subject; but as in consequence of that Act his Majesty did appoint Sheriff-Deputes for each county in Scotland, who were all gentlemen of the law, it might be thought that these Sheriff-Deputes were sufficient for the administration of justice in their respective counties, and that therefore the appointing a Bailie for the Regality of Glasgow was unnecessary.

“ Sheriffs, in their respective counties, are the King’s Lieutenants, and have always, till of late, been in use to oversee the execution of criminal sentences. To their offices is annexed annual salaries from £200 to £250 per annum. The Magistrates of Glasgow are not Sheriffs within themselves, as is the case with several other burghs, particularly Edinburgh, Stirling, Ayr, and Dumfries; the Magistrates have no salary or gratuity for discharging these offices; and particularly in Glasgow, where the office of a magistrate is attended with great labour and toil, the gentlemen accept of the magistracy purely for the service of the public, and spend their time in execution of their office, without fee, gratuity, or reward; and therefore it is thought it will appear to every discerning person that the imposing the overseeing of criminal sentences on the Magistrates of Glasgow, who laboriously spend their time in the service of the public, without the smallest pecuniary advantage—while the Sheriffs, who receive an annual salary for the discharge of their offices are exempted from that duty, is a hardship which ought not to be laid upon the memorialists.

“ For the above reasons, and what further may appear to the learned Counsel for the City of Glasgow, the memorialists desire their Counsel will draw a petition in their name to the Honourable Court of Justiciary, praying their Lordships will vary their resolution, before mentioned, regarding laying the memorialists and their successors in office under the disagreeable necessity of attending the execution of criminal sentences, which, if continued, will have this bad effect, that no gentleman for the future will accept of the office of magistracy, and of consequence the affairs and police of the city will inevitably go into disorder and confusion. And as the memorialists, from the equity of their case, are satisfied the Honourable Court will give them relief, yet, if contrary to their expectation, they shall be disappointed, they are determined to apply to his Majesty and Council for relief in the premises.”

The great Henry Dundas, however, put the extinguisher on the Glasgow Magistrates in the following brief terms, and they have submitted with a bad grace ever since:—

“ *10th December 1773.*—As it is my duty to support the resolutions of the Court of Justiciary in the execution of the criminal law, and my inclination not to lay any additional trouble upon the Sheriffs of the Counties, whose salaries are very inadequate to the labour, I cannot, in this matter, act as counsel for the memorialists; and I am not of opinion their application will be successful, in whatever shape they may think proper to make it.

“ HENRY DUNDAS.”

(1851.)

"GLASGOW"—A POEM.

BY JOHN MAYNE.

[I have much pleasure in introducing here this pleasing poem, illustrative of the homely manners of our fathers, and the aspect of Glasgow and its environs, in an age which has passed away. Strange it is that so little is known here of the ablest of all our local laureates, or of the very graceful verses which he has written in honour of the City of St. Mungo. I only became aware of the existence of the poem accidentally—a poem of which Lord Woodhouselee and other able critics have spoken highly. I was unable to procure a copy of it in Glasgow, however, although I searched the libraries of some friends who have cause to pride themselves for having gathered together much that is rich, rare, and curious regarding Glasgow, both in prose and rhyme. Neither were these friends more successful in the inquiries which they made for me. I do not say that the little book is not to be found in Glasgow, although I could not find it; but undoubtedly it has been long out of print. The copy which I have handed to our printer was procured from the representative of a gentleman in Dumfries, to whom it had been presented by the author. In that edition, which is published at London in 1803, Mr. Mayne says that the poem first appeared in the *Glasgow Magazine* in December 1783, but having been noticed in very flattering terms by Dr. Geddes in his Epistle to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1792, he was induced to revise and extend it. I am not aware that any edition has been published since. From the fact of Mr. Mayne having then long ceased to be connected with Glasgow, it is not likely that many copies of the extended edition of 1803 travelled to the banks of Clyde; nor is it surprising that the brief outline of the poem which appeared in the *Magazine* should be almost unknown to the present generation of Glasgow readers.]

Mr. Mayne is best known in connection with the “Siller Gun,” a poem which, in the words of Sir Walter Scott, “surpasses the efforts of Ferguson, and comes near to those of Burns.”¹ Yet he is not known so well as he deserves; and this may be so far accounted for by the fact that he was cotemporary with the inspired peasant bard, before whose genius the intellectual fire of every humble votary of the muses paled. Mayne’s beautiful and well-known song, beginning—

“By Logan’s streams that rin sae deep
Fu’ aft, wi’ glee, I’ve herded sheep,”

which was written and circulated in Glasgow in 1781, will take rank with those lyrics which posterity will not willingly let die.

When Mr. Mayne visited Scotland for the last time, in June and July 1833, after partially recovering from a severe and dangerous illness, he abode for a short period in Glasgow; but his strength was not sufficient to enable him to undergo the excitement of a pilgrimage to his native Dumfries, the town which he loved so well, and regarding which he has sung so sweetly. This amiable man died in 1836, and a brief biographical sketch appeared in the May number of the *Gentleman’s Magazine*, which is appended. By the kind offices of my respected friend Mr. M’Diarmid, of the *Dumfries Courier*, the sketch alluded to has been revised for this book by Mr. Mayne’s only son, a gentleman who has long filled a highly-important station in the India House, London; and it is to be hoped he may yet realise the intention hinted at in the last paragraph of the memoir.—J. P.]

Died on March 14th [1836], in Lisson Grove, South, at an advanced age, JOHN MAYNE, Esq., author of “The Siller Gun,” and other Poems. A biographer has, indeed, a pleasing task to perform when he can, at the same time, raise memorials both to genius and to virtue; and such a task is ours at the present moment, while penning this brief notice of the life and writings of the author of “The Siller Gun.”

¹ Notes to fifth canto of “The Lady of the Lake.”

Mr. Mayne was born in Dumfries, on the 26th March 1759. He received his education at the Grammar School of that town, under the tutorage of the learned and venerable Dr. Chapman, whose memory he has thus eulogised in the third canto of the already-mentioned poem.

“ Nor is it only classic lair,
 Mere Greek and Latin, and nae mair ;
 Chapman, wi’ fond parental care,
 Has lair combined
 With a’ the gems and jewels rare
 That deck the mind !”

On leaving school he was apprenticed for the usual period to Provost Jackson, printer, who conducted a weekly paper called the *Dumfries Journal*, on which Mr. Mayne wrought as a compositor.

While a youth he found time, “ ere care was born,” to cherish native Scottish feelings, or in other words, to breathe the breath of poetry—for in Scotland these two are akin. Her grand and lovely scenery, her high hills and lakes, together with the warm-heartedness of her lads and lasses, form a garden wherein poetry has been destined to take root and flourish. These “ feelings” ripened with his years : nature was his study—if nature may be called a study : it was a happy choice.

Even prior to the dawning of the muse of Burns, now more than half a century since, Mr. Mayne first earned his goodly reputation as a poet ; and it is remarkable that from a little piece of his entitled “ Hallowe’en,” Robert Burns was undoubtedly led to write his admirable poem on the same subject. This circumstance was truly gratifying to our bard ; his general tone of sentiment, and measurement of verse, having been closely followed, or rather adopted, by the highest chief that ever warbled Scottish song.

In 1777, the original of the “ Siller Gun ” was written ; it consisted of only twelve stanzas, printed at Dumfries, on a small quarto page, which were shortly afterwards extended to two cantos, and reprinted there. It became so popular that other editions quickly followed ; it increased to three cantos,

and was again put forth in 1808, with material alterations and additions, extending it to four cantos, with notes and glossary. Another elegant edition, enlarged to five cantos, has been published by subscription within the present year (1836). This poem describes the celebration of an ancient custom, which was revived in 1777, of shooting for a silver gun on the king's birthday. It exhibits many exquisitely-painted scenes and sketches of character, drawn from life, with the ease and vigour of a Hogarth or a Burns.

For some time after the first publication of the "Siller Gun," Mr. Mayne corresponded with *Ruddiman's Magazine*, a weekly miscellany, in which his "Hallowe'en," and other minor efforts, won him favour; and exchanged verses in print with Telford, the late Civil Engineer, who was a native of Dumfriesshire, and in his youth much attached to the rustic muse.

After completing his apprenticeship, Mr. Mayne removed from Dumfries to Glasgow, where his parents then resided. He there engaged himself with Mr. Andrew Foulis, Printer to the University, and the course of his employment led him occasionally to London, Dublin, and Edinburgh. This engagement terminated in 1787, Mr. Mayne being then in London. In the year 1789 he was appointed printer of the *Star*, evening newspaper, then recently established; in 1790 he became a joint proprietor; and in his share of the conduct of this paper commenced an active and honourable career, which he did not relinquish till a comparatively late period in life. In the *Star* not a few of his most beautiful ballads first appeared. He also corresponded with the magazines; and amongst others, the *Gentleman's Magazine* was indebted to him for several pretty little poems, interspersed in the volumes from 1807 to 1817.

Beside the "Siller Gun," his only other work of length is a descriptive poem, of considerable merit, called "Glasgow." The original outline, which the author states to have been the hasty effusion of the moment, was first printed in the *Glasgow Magazine* for 1783; but the poem, in a revised and extended form, was published in London in 1803. In the same year he printed "English, Scots, and Irishmen," a patriotic address to the in-

habitants of the United Kingdom. His other works are ballads, etc.

As a poet of Scotland, though Burns alone surpassed him, Mr. Mayne was modest and unambitious; he has written little, and that little well. In writing largely, many, instead of increasing, have materially lowered their reputation. Mr. Mayne deserves greater praise for having, as far as possible, perfected the "Siller Gun," than if a more eager ambition had prompted him to offer to the world another poem, and both had been left unpolished and unfinished. Perhaps where he most of all excelled was in his ballad effusions; such as his "Logan Braes," which is a general favourite.

It is melancholy to consider that a man whose love for his country was bound by the dearest ties of sentiment and feeling, whose heart was ever in his native Dumfries, "the bonniest toun that Scotia kens," and whose utmost wishes may be judged of from the annexed passages:—

"And O! may I, ere life shall dwine
 To its last scene,
 Return, and a' my sorrows tine
 At hame again!
 And—though it's mony a langsome year
 Since, fu' o' care, and scant o' gear,
 I left thy banks, sweet Nith sae dear,
 This heart o' mine
 Lowps light whene'er I think or hear
 O' thee or thine!"

Siller Gun.

—should never, such are the crosses in this life, have held himself in circumstances to return; but Mr. Mayne was happy, and attained a ripe old age, an age indeed few poets have numbered—happy, not because he had less troubles to contend with. The reason is obvious, he was a worthy and religious man; and if there is a blessing on earth, John Mayne has had it—his memory is blessed. He was kind to every one, and universally beloved. Allan Cunningham, of kindred spirit, has told us of him, that "a better or warmer-hearted man never existed." Another pleasing writer very truly says, "He never wrote a line the tendency of

which was not to afford innocent amusement, or to improve and increase the happiness of mankind.” What a character is this! To him the words of Shakspeare may be well applied—

“His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, ‘This was a man!’”

We have learned, with great pleasure, that it is the intention of the poet's son to give to the world a memoir of his father, with a reprint of “Glasgow,” and some hitherto unpublished poems.

GLASGOW.

I.

HAIL, GLASGOW! fam'd for ilka thing
That heart can wish, or siller bring!
May peace, wi' healing on her wing,
Aye nestle here;
And plenty gar thy children sing,
The lee-lang year!

II.

Within the tinkling o' thy bells,
How mony a happy body dwells;
Where they get bread, they ken them—
But, I'll declare [sels;
They're aye bien-like; and what pre-
Ha'e fouth to spare! [cels,

III.

If ye've a knacky son or twa,
To Glasgow College send them a';
Wi' whilk, for gospel, or for law,
Or classic lair,
Ye'll find few places here awa,
That can compare!

IV.

There ane may be for sma' propyne,
Physician, lawyer, or divine;
The gem, lang bury'd in the mine,
Is polished here,
Till a' its hidden beauties shine,
And sparkle clear!

V.

Nor is it students, and nae mair,
That climb, in crowds, our College
stair:
Thither the learn'd, far-fam'd, repair,
To clear their notions;
And pay to ALMA MATER there,
Their warm devotions.

VI.

Led by a lustre sae divine,
Ev'n GEDDES¹ visited this shrine!
GEDDES! sweet fav'rite o' the Nine!
Shall live in story;
And, like yon constellation, shine
In rays o' glory!

¹ The Rev. Alexander Geddes, LL.D., celebrated for his extensive learning, and eminently qualified for the laborious and important work in which he had for a series of years been engaged—that of giving an English version of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments—was at Glasgow in 1786, for the purpose of collating a valuable and well-preserved *Octateuch* belonging to the University; to which circumstance the author of these verses was indebted for the commencement of a friendship which terminated only with the Doctor's life.

VII.

O! LEECHMAN, HUTCHESON, and
 REID fu' of intellectual light! [WIGHT!
 And SIMPSON,¹ as the morning bright!
 Your mem'ries here,
 Tho' gane to regions o' delight,
 Will aye be dear!

VIII.

'Mang ither names, that consecrate
 And stamp a country guid or great,
 We boast o' some that might compete
 Or claim alliance,
 Wi' a' that's grand in Kirk or State—
 In Art or Science!

IX.

Here great BUCHANAN learnt to scan
 The verse that makes him mair than
 man!
 CULLEN and HUNTER² here began
 Their first probations;
 And SMITH, frae Glasgow, form'd his
 plan,
 "The Wealth o' Nations!"

X.

In ilka house, frae man to boy,
 A' hands, in GLASGOW, find employ;
 Ev'n little maids, wi' meikle joy,
 Flow'r lawn and gauze,
 Or clip, wi' care, the silken soy³
 For Ladies' brows.

XI.

Their fathers weave, their mothers
 spin,
 The muslin robe, sae fine and thin,
 That, frae the ankle to the chin,
 It aft discloses
 The beauteous symmetry within—
 Limbs, neck, and bozies!

XII.

Look through the town, the houses here
 Like noble palaces appear;
 A' things the face o' gladness wear—
 The market's thrang,
 Bis'ness is brisk, and a's asteer
 The streets along!

¹ The Rev. Principal Leechman, and Dr. Wight, Professor of Divinity, were great ornaments of this University. The merits of Dr. Hutcheson, as a moral philosopher, are well known. Those of Dr. Reid, who filled after him the chair of Moral Philosophy, author of *An Inquiry into the Human Mind*, and of two *Essays on the Active and Intellectual Powers of Man*, can never be sufficiently admired. Dr. Robert Simpson, F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics, author of a new *Translation of Euclid*, and other mathematical writings, is justly ranked as the first mathematician of the age in which he lived. Mr. Burke was once a candidate for the Professorship of Logic, but did not succeed. He was afterwards elected Lord Rector—an honour of which he always spoke as one of the greatest he had ever received.

² The elegant Latin poet and historian, Buchanan; Drs. Cullen and Hunter, the former the first physician of his day, the latter surpassed by none for his knowledge in anatomy; Dr. Adam Smith, famed throughout Europe for his *Inquiry into the Causes of the Wealth of Nations*; together with other illustrious names, a particular enumeration of which would far exceed the limits of this publication, received here the rudiments of that learning by which they soared to the most elevated heights of fame.

³ The words *silken soy* are in reality a tautology, they being the English and French terms for silk, connected together; but are employed in Scotland to denote, simply, silk.

XIII.

Clean keepit streets! sae lang and
braid,¹
The distant objects seem to fade!
And then for shelter or for shade,
Frae sun or show'r,
Piazzas lend their friendly aid,
At ony hour!

XIV.

O! for the muse o' BURNS sae rare,
To paint the groups that gather there!
The wives on We'n'sdays wi' their
The lads and lasses, [ware—
In ferlying crouds, at Glasgow Fair;
And a' that passes!

XV.

But, oh! his muse that warm'd ilk clod,
And rais'd up flow'rs where'er he trod!
Will ne'er revisit this abode!
And mine, poor lassie,
In tears for him, dow hardly plod
Thro' Glasgow causae!

XVI.

Wond'ring, we see new streets ex-
tending,
New squares wi' public buildings
blending!
Brigs, stately brigs, in arches bending
Across the Clyde:
And turrets, kirks, and spires, ascending
In lofty pride!

XVII.

High ow'r the lave, ST. MUNGO rears
His sacred fane, the pride of years;
And, stretching upwards to the spheres,
His spire, afar,
To weary travellers appears
A leading star.

XVIII.

O! happy, happy were the hours
When first far off on Crawford moors,
I hailed thee bright thro' sunny show'rs,
As on I came
Frae murr'ring Nith's romantic bow'rs,
My native hame!

XIX.

Blythe days! ow'r happy to remain!
The Sire wha led my steps is gane!—
Yet wherefore shou'd the Muse com-
In dirge-like lines, [plain
When HEAVEN has only ta'en its ain,
For wise designs!

XX.

Still happy, happy be their hours
Wha journey, Clydesdale, thro' thy
bow'rs!
And, blest amang th' angelic pow'rs—
Blest be the man
Wha saved ST. MUNGO'S hallow'd
Frae ruin's han!² [tow'rs

¹ The principal street in Glasgow, running east and west, is nearly a mile and a half long, and is adorned throughout with handsome houses, which, for a certain length, are built over *arcades*, supported by pillars—the admiration of strangers, on account of the beauty they add to the city, and of the shelter they afford to the inhabitants who have occasion to be in the streets in wet weather.

² This venerable and magnificent Gothic structure, the only one in Scotland which has, without injury, survived the Reformation in 1578, was preserved from the fury of a rabble collected on purpose to destroy it by the judicious remonstrances of a person, who, pretending to enter into their views and prejudices, diverted them from their purpose. It is to be lamented that the name of this true patriot is lost in the wreck of time.—[The honour of saving the Cathedral from destruction has generally been attributed to the Trades of Glasgow. Where Mr. Mayne obtained this version of its preservation we have not been able to ascertain.—J. P.]

XXI.

And, O ! ETERNAL TRUTH ! all hail !
 May thy pure dictates aye prevail !
 But ne'er sic times let SCOTIA wail,
 When Reformation,
 Mad wi' a Kirk-destroying zeal,
 Spread devastation !

XXII.

The Muse, whom ev'n the thought
 appals,
 Hies aff where contemplation dwalls ;
 And fighters round yon ivy'd walls,
 Where rooks are cawing—
 Round sacred Blantyre's roofless halls,
 To waste fast fa'ing !¹

XXIII.

And thence to kindred ruins winging,
 Where a' the Arts their heads are
 hinging,
 Bewails sad Genius fondly clinging
 Around Melross !—
 But, hark ! the music-bells are ringing
 At Glasgow Cross !²

XXIV.

'Tween twa and three, wi' daily care,
 The gentry to the Cross repair ;
 The Politician, wi' grave air,
 Deliberating :
 Merchants and Manufact'ers there
 Negotiating.

XXV.

It's not by slothfu'ness and ease
 That GLASGOW'S canty ingles bleeze :
 To gi'e her inland trade a heeze,
 As weel's her foreign,
 She's joined the East and Western Seas
 Together, roaring !³

XXVI.

Frae Forth, athort the land, to Clyde,
 Her barks a' winds and weathers, glide ;
 And, on the bosom o' the tide,
 Wi' gentle motion,
 Her vessels, like a forest, ride,
 And kiss auld Ocean !

XXVII.

Nor only hers what trade imparts—
 She's great in arms, as weel as arts !
 Her gallant sons, wi' loyal hearts,
 A' tak' the field ;
 Resolv'd, when knaves would scatter
 Their KING to shield. [darts,

XXVIII.

And yet, tho' arm'd they thus appear,
 They only arm while danger's near ;
 When peace, blest peace ! to them maist
 Dispels the gloom, [dear,
 They for the shuttle change the spear,
 And ply the loom !

¹ Opposite to Bothwell Castle, on the summit of a rock, rising perpendicularly from the river Clyde, are the ruins of the Priory of Blantyre, of the history and origin of which no authentic accounts can now be obtained.

² The music bells of Glasgow are proverbial for their excellence, and for the superior style in which they are played every day at 'Change hours, Saturdays and Sundays excepted—the Cross being to Glasgow what the Royal Exchange is to London, the place of daily rendezvous for merchants and gentlemen of all denominations.

³ The great canal between the Firths of Forth and Clyde, begun in 1768, and opened on the 29th July 1790, displays, in a striking view, what can be effected by the art and perseverance of man. . . . By this amazing work, a tedious and dangerous navigation of between 800 and 1000 miles round the north of Scotland is avoided ; and in war or in winter a short, easy, and certain trajet is effected.

XXIX.

Hail, Industry, thou richest gem
That shines in virtue's diadem ;
While Indolence, wi' tattered hem,
 Around her knee,
Sits, chitt'ring, like the wither'd stem
 O' some boss tree !

XXX.

To thee we owe the flocks o' sheep
That glad Benlomond's cloud-capt
 steep
The pregnant mines that yield yon
O' massy coals— [heap
And a' the tenants o' the deep
 Caught here in shoals !

XXXI.

And a' the villas round, that gleam
Like spangles i' the sunny beam ;
The bonny haughs that laughing seem,
 Wi' plenty growing ;
And a' the bleach-fields on ilk stream
 Thro' Clydesdale flowing !

XXXII.

Hence, Commerce spreads hersails to a'
The Indies and America ;¹
Whatever makes ae penny twa,
 By wind or tide,
Is wafted to the Broomielaw,
 On bonny Clyde !

XXXIII.

Yet, shou'd the best exertions fail,
And fickle fortune turn the scale—
Shou'd a' be lost in some hard gale,
 Or wreckt on shore—
The Merchants' House makes a' things
 As heretofore.² [hale

XXXIV.

Wi' broken banes shou'd Labour pine,
Or Indigence grow sick and dwine,
Th' Infirmary, wi' care divine,
 Unfolds its treasure,
And turns their wormwood cup to wine,
 Their pain to pleasure !

XXXV.

O ! blessings on them and their gear
Wha thus the poor man's friends appear,
While mony a waefu' heart they cheer,
 Revive and nourish—
Safe thro' life's quicksands may they
 Like GLASGOW, flourish ! [steer !

XXXVI.

Wow, Sirs ! it's wonderful to trace
How Commerce has improved the
 place !
Changing bare house-room's narrow
 And want o' money, [space,
To seats of elegance and grace,
 And milk and honey !

¹ “The origin of foreign trade in this great city,” says Mr. Pennant, “is extremely worthy of attention. A merchant of the name of Walter Gibson first laid, by an adventure, the foundation of its wealth. About 1668 he cured and exported, in a Dutch vessel, 300 lasts of herrings, each containing six barrels, which he sent to St. Martin's in France, where he got a barrel of brandy and a crown for each. The ship returning, laden with brandy and salt, the cargo was sold for a great sum. He then launched further into business, bought the vessel and two large ships besides, with which he traded to different parts of Europe, and to Virginia. He also first imported iron to Glasgow ; for before that time it was received from Stirling and Borrowstounness in exchange for dyed stuffs ; and even the wine used in this city was brought from Edinburgh. Yet we find no statue, no grateful inscription, to preserve the memory of Walter Gibson.”

² The Merchants' House is one of the many well-endowed charitable institutions for which Glasgow is remarkable. From its peculiar funds, decayed members, their widows and families, are provided for, by annual pensions, at their own houses, in proportion to the rank which they held in society.

XXXVII.

But, to the philosophic mind, [join'd,
 What's mair than wealth and grandeur
 Man now meets man a' frank and kind
 Wi' ane another,
 And is, what PROVIDENCE designed,
 His friend—his brother !

XXXVIII.

On Saturdays, the afternoon,
 When, for the week, their cares are doon,
 They dine, and set their heart aboon,
 And tak' their coggie ;
 And fix another meeting soon,
 They're a' sae voggie !

XXXIX.

O ! while they're a' carousing there,
 Let me to Kelvinside repair ;¹
 Or Bothwell banks that bloom sae fair,
 Where LADY ANN,
 Ow'r her sweet bairn, lamented sair
 The wiles o' man !²

XL.

Or at Langside past scenes review,
 And round yon thorn my sighs renew,
 Where, when the vanquished squadrons
 That came to fend her, [flew
 Lorn MARY bade a lang adieu
 To regal splendour.

XLI.

Aft, Crookstone, frae thy castle wa' ;³
 The bugle-horn was heard to blaw !
 Again she cast a look, and saw
 Thy stately towers—
 Lang ling'ring till the last huzza
 O' rebel pow'rs !

XLII.

Nae troops to guard her in her flight ;
 Nae friends that durst assert her right ;
 Nae bow'r maids now, wi' fond delight,
 Their cares employ,
 To cheer at morn, or soothe at night,
 Her great annoy !

¹ Kelvinside, lately one of the sweetest retreats in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, is now the busy haunt of men and ships. Over the deep and romantic vale of Kelvin, whose streams have often murmured to the poet's song, the great canal between the Firths of Forth and Clyde is carried by an aqueduct bridge, which may be justly reckoned one of the most stupendous of its kind in the world.

² Few readers of taste are unacquainted with the old ballad of *Lady Ann Bothwell's Lament*. Bothwell Castle, the scene of her sorrows, is a magnificent ruin, most enchantingly situated on the banks of the Clyde, a few miles from Glasgow.

³ Crookstone Castle, once a place of great magnificence, now a mere fragment, is situated on the summit of a little hill, at a short distance to the left of the road from Glasgow to Paisley. To this place Henry, Earl of Darnley, retired with his beautiful and enamoured queen. Indeed it is on account of her connection with Darnley that the place is rendered peculiarly venerable to the feeling mind. Hence, we traverse its ruins with those mixed sensations which are at once pleasing and mournful to the soul ! Hard by the castle stands the once famous yew-tree, now a sapless trunk, under whose branches Mary, it is said, first resigned herself to the arms of her beloved ; but no loves would smile on joys commenced beneath the shade of this funereal tree ; the hour was inauspicious :

Ille dies primus lethe, primusque, causa fuit.

To perpetuate the remembrance of her first endearments with Darnley, while her love for him intermingled itself in all her thoughts, Mary, unconscious of events, had the figure of this tree impressed upon her coins. In examining the interior part of Crookstone Castle, we still distinguish the lofty hall where the tender Mary, among a race of

XLIII.

To where Dundrennan Abbey lay,
Far in the wilds o' Galloway!
Ow'r moss, ow'r moor; up bank and
The mourner goes; [brae,
Nae mair frae that disast'rous day
To taste repose!

XLIV.

Still, at Langside, in hillocks green,
The traces o' the camp are seen:
Still, Fancy paints the conflict keen:
And figures there,
The angel-form o' SCOTLAND'S QUEEN,
In deep despair!

XLV.

But come, my muse! O, come wi' me,
And drap a tear at Ellerslee!
Where patriot WALLACE, bauld and
Begood to bloom— [free,
Where Freedom still, wi' weeping e'e,
Laments his doom!

XLVI.

O, SCOTIA! where was virtue then?
Say, was her influence a' withdrawn?
To let a twa-faced villain's han',
O! endless shame!
Betray the godlike, glorious man,
And stain thy name!

XLVII.

It's late, ow'r late, to tak' a stride
To Leven's water's bow'ry side—
To scud across the Frith sae wide,
Where ships come in—
Or paint Barncluith, the Falls o' Clyde,
And Corra-Linn!

XLVIII.

O! cou'd I, wi' the ev'ning's beam,
Hie off where Lanark's turrets gleam!
Thro' birks and wild-flow'rs, frae her
Awaken Flora; [dream,
And woo the genius o' the stream,
Romantic Corra!

XLIX.

Some other time, when burdies sing,
And gowans deck the teeming spring,
The Muse shall spread her eager wing,
Their charms to see—
And Clydesdale's banks and braes shall
Wi' her and me! [ring

L.

Whae'er has dauner'd out at e'en,
And seen the sights that I ha'e seen,
For strappan lasses, tight and clean—
May proudly tell,
That search the country, Glasgow Green
Will bear the bell!

LI.

There ye may find, in sweetness rare,
The blooming rose—the lily fair—
The winsome look, the gracefu' air—
The taste refin'd—
And a' that can the heart ensnare,
In womankind!

LII.

Yet, what avails't to you or me
How bonny, gude, or rich they be;
If, when a lad, wi' langing e'e,
But mynts to woo,
They, scornfu', toss their head ajee,
And crook their mou'?

barbarian and ruffian lords, displayed the refinements of France and the charms of Venus. Her favourite apartment may also be traced, where she dedicated the soft hours of her retirement to the loves and graces. The Countess of Glasgow, much to her praise, has lately contributed to the preservation of this interesting ruin by a well-timed support to its decayed foundations.

LIII.

Wae's me for him, in life's sweet morn,
 The youth by hopeless passion torn !
 Toils, pains, and plagues, are eithly
 And seem but sma', [borne,
 Till Beauty tips the rankling thorn
 Wi' bitter ga' !

LIV.

Gin only simple lover chuse
 In humble verse his joe to rooze,
 The eident porters ne'er refuse,
 For little siller,
 To bear the firstlings o' his muse,
 Discreetly till her.

LV.

But when the youth, wi' meikle care,
 Has penn'd a sonnet on his Fair ;
 O ! but it grieves his heart right sair,
 When she, grown vain,
 Flings his epistle, GUDE kens where,
 In proud disdain.

LVI.

Hame, ere the grass is wet wi' dew,
 Hame as our belles are flocking now,
 Sair, sair the lazy chairmen rue,
 Wi' heavy granes,
 That e'er our streets had ought to do
 Wi' braid plane-stanes.

LVII.

Nae lady wants a chair to hire !
 Nae skelping now thro' mud and mire,
 Wi' coaties kiltit high and high'r
 Mid-leg at least—
 Enough to warm wi' young desire
 The aged breast !

LVIII.

And, what relieves the Poet's care,
 When, wi' his joe, he taks the air,
 His lugs will now be deav'd nae mair,
 When siller's doon,
 By chairmen bawling, "Shuse a shair,
 "She'll fyle her shoon !"

LIX.

Nae tongue can tell the taunts and
 rubs [snubs,
 That he maun thole whom poorth
 Aft times frae rich unfeeling scrubs,
 Wha're meanly willing
 To trail their lasses thro' the dubs,
 To hain a shilling !

LX.

O, GLASGOW ! fam'd for ilka thing
 That heart can wish or siller bring !
 May nowther care nor sorrow ding
 Thy children dear,
 But Peace and Plenty gar them sing
 Frae year to year !

DESULTORY SKETCHES,

BY

A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF PROCURATORS IN
GLASGOW, AND OF THE SOCIETY OF SCOTTISH ANTI-
QUARIES, EDINBURGH.

THE SHAWFIELD MANSION.

THIS fine old edifice, which formed a prominent object in the principal street of Glasgow during the greater part of last century, and excited the admiration both of citizens and strangers, has long been numbered with the things of the past. Nearly sixty years have winged their course since "The Shawfield Mansion" was ruthlessly demolished. But memory still cherishes its antique outline, and invests the locality with more than ordinary interest. A few points in its history seem therefore entitled to a niche among the *Memorabilia* of "Old Glasgow."

The Shawfield Mansion, as it was popularly named, was built in 1711 by Daniel Campbell, Esq. He was the son of John Campbell, an eminent notary in Glasgow, whose office was in the then fashionable locality, rejoicing in the euphonious appellation of the Goosedubs. He had amassed considerable wealth, and was proprietor of the lands of Shawfield, near Rutherglen.

The position of his son's great mansion was on the north side of Trongate, directly opposite to, and looking down, Stockwell. A retrospect of the locality immediately before the house was erected seems necessary. At that time this was the farthest west part of the town. There was no Argyll Street. Glasgow had not gone so far out. A "port," or gate, stood across the road

nearly opposite the point where the Black Bull Inn was many years afterwards built, and closed the town in that direction. What is now Argyll Street was then quite open, with a few malt kilns and thatched houses scattered at wide distances along the line, and was commonly called "the Dumbarton Road." Two "Crofts" stretched along the north and south sides. The south-most was called "St. Enoch's Croft," and extended from the backs of the houses on the west side of Stockwell, westward, as far as the modern Jamaica Street. The other was named the "Long Croft." It originally stretched from about Candleriggs (not then opened) west to the "Cow-Loan," now Queen Street. These crofts were principally occupied as gardens or cornfields. On St. Enoch's there was scarcely one single house. It was perfectly rural. But in regard to the Long Croft, the space between what is now called "Spreull's Land," and where the old guard-house stood, at the bottom of Candleriggs, had been long built upon, along its southern verge, and facing the Trongate. The farthest west house on that side was an antique mansion belonging to the old Glasgow family of Spreull, held under an entail, and erected near the end of the seventeenth century. It very much resembled the fine quaint-looking mansion still existing at No. 31 Stockwell, east side, near the top. Immediately to the east of Spreull's old family house stood Hutcheson's Hospital, built in the reign of Charles the Second; and from thence to near the cross the buildings on both sides of Trongate were mean and inconsiderable.

Behind these Trongate houses, on the north side of the street, a large section of the Long Croft lay in gardens and small patches, reaching northwards to what was called the "Back Cow Loan" (now Ingram Street), which was a mere country road between hedges, and ran from the High Street, at the old Grammar School Wynd, west to the Main Cow Loan, then occupied by a few mail-gardeners and cowfeeders. But of all the Long Croft gardens, that of Hutcheson's Hospital was by far the largest and most important, occupying a broad space all the way up to the Back Cow Loan, and planted with apple and other fruit trees.

The four streets which centre at the Cross had on each side a row of piazzas, starting from the point of junction—viz. the High

Street, as far north as Bell's Wynd ; Saltmarket, south to Gibson's Land ; Trongate, west to the Tron steeple ; and Gallowgate, eastward a few hundred yards ; all which had an imposing effect.

The eastern limit of the town, like the westmost extremity, was closed by a port, which stood across the Gallowgate, at the ruins of the ancient chapel of Little Saint Mungo (a sort of chapel-of-ease to the Cathedral, built shortly before the Reformation), with its deserted and eerie kirkyard, enclosed by a curious stone wall, with "boles," within which the nettles and foxglove grew in wild luxuriance.¹

The centre of business was the Bridgegate, where the Merchants' House was situated, and a number of notable people resided.

Such was the general aspect and character of the main part of the district, at the western termination of which Mr. Campbell resolved to erect his splendid town mansion.

The ground on which he thus proposed to build stretched from the Trongate northwards, to the line of the present Ingram Street. It was bounded on the east by Mr. Spreull's house and orchard, as far north as the present post-office ; beyond which the garden of the hospital carried on the eastern boundary. Again, on the west, Mr. Campbell was bounded by several small proprietors, all the way from north to south, the principal of which was a family named Scott, that appear to have long been owners of a considerable section of ground, now forming part of Virginia Street.

This property of Mr. Campbell's he acquired, partly by succession and partly by purchase, from some of the old crofters, or small lairds ; and having thus become owner of a pretty extensive tract of ground, comprehending the whole of modern Glassford Street, he laid it out with much taste into orchard, shrubbery, and ornamental gardens, surrounding the whole with walls, and on the southern extremity built, as already said, in 1711, the mansion facing Stockwell, which, from the circumstance of Mr. Campbell being also proprietor of Shawfield estate, was either named by

¹ The writer is in possession of the great key of this ancient Glasgow gate. It is in good preservation, and was found, in 1812, during the formation of a common sewer which cut through the foundation. It is about a foot in length, very massive, with a long solid point for entering deeply into the ponderous city lock ; the wards are large, and remarkably well cut.

himself, or had the appellation given to it by the towns-people, of "The Shawfield Mansion."

It stood a short way back from the line of Trongate, and had a very grand appearance. It was of a square form, and consisted of a half sunk, and two main floors. The south or principal face was divided into three exterior compartments, the centre one projecting a little beyond the plane of the other two. The edges of this middle division, as well as the outer corner of the house, were ornamented from the eaves downwards with short parallel rows of chequered stones, similar in character to those yet visible on the tenement at the south-east corner of Glassford Street. The spacious doorway, surmounted by a handsome entablature, was approached by a flight of broad stairs. The second and third storeys had each seven windows towards the street. The shape of the roof was what is termed "pavilion," tapering inwards from the eaves. It was of a steep pitch, and very deep—a common feature in old family mansions—and the whole was surmounted by a double row of ornamental chimney-stalks, prominently rising from the middle of the roof. The internal dimensions of the building, number and arrangement of the apartments, have not been preserved.

The space in front of the house was separated from the street by a high stone parapet, carrying an iron railing. A massive gate of solid oak, thickly dotted with iron studs, gave admission to carriages between two lofty stone portals, which equalled in height the points of the railing. At the south-east and south-west corners of the parapet were columns of equal height and character with the portals; and all of these supported curious pieces of sculpture, representing clusters of human heads looking outwards round the edges of the horizontal tablets, and having above them, at the portals, human busts; and at the south-east and south-west corners, sphinxes facing each other.

Such was Shawfield Mansion, when fresh from the builder's hands one hundred and forty years ago.

So far as the writer is aware, no complete¹ drawing of this cele-

¹ A picture of the Shawfield Mansion, from a source discovered subsequently to the above being written, accompanies this work.

brated old Glasgow house is extant. But a bird's-eye view of its shape is to be seen on "the Plan of Glasgow," published about 1780 by James Barry, the well-known land surveyor of last century; and a very good representation of the west part of Trongate, a portion of the mansion and the gateway, appears on a rare and curious engraving in 1792 (just before the edifice was taken down), by Kent and Son, who had their place of business close alongside, designed as a burlesque on the procession for laying the foundation stone of the Trades House that year.¹

After Mr. Campbell had occupied this princely mansion for fourteen years, during part of which he was member of Parliament for the city, he incurred the displeasure of the Glasgow populace, by voting for the extension of the malt tax to Scotland, and, as is well known, a riotous mob broke into and sacked his house. But he received from Government very ample compensation—viz. £6400 for damage to the mansion, and £2600 more for minor items, making £9000; which enabled him afterwards to make the magnificent purchase of the island of Islay.

Two years after this outrage (26th April 1727), Mr. Campbell sold the mansion-house and grounds to Colonel William M'Dowall, formerly of St. Christopher's, then of Castlesemple, near Lochwinnoch. M'Ure, who wrote his grotesque history of the city in 1736, speaks of it as "the great and stately lodging, orchyard, and gardens, belonging to Colonel William M'Dowall, on the north side of the Trongate."

When Charles Edward Stuart, "the Pretender," visited Glasgow in 1745 he took up his quarters in this house, as the principal one in the city. He ate in public twice a day, without any ceremony, along with some of his officers. The table was spread in a small dining-room, and he was waited upon by a few Jacobite ladies, to whom he gave several entertainments in Mr. M'Dowall's mansion. He is described as having been very clever and witty, and wore while in Glasgow sometimes a dress of fine silk tartan, with crimson velvet breeches; at others, an English court coat, with the blue ribbon, star, and other insignia

¹ For access to this curiosity the writer is indebted to his friend, Dr. Mathie Hamilton, himself a large contributor to this book, and deeply versed in Glasgow antiquities.

of the order of the Garter.¹ He occupied the house from 26th December 1745 till 3d January 1746, a brief period of eight days.

Again, when the immortal Wolfe was stationed in Glasgow in 1749 he was a frequent visitor to Colonel M'Dowall, at the Shawfield Mansion. Wolfe had been aide-de-camp to General Hawley at Culloden shortly before; but at the period now referred to was Lieutenant-Colonel of Kingsley's Regiment, then quartered in Glasgow. We can imagine the two colonels, in this ancient mansion, commenting on the rash enterprise of Charles Edward;—the veteran, on the one hand, recounting the recent invasion of the city by the "Highland Host," and the forcible occupation of the very house they were then sitting in; while, on the other hand, the young English colonel may have detailed the plan and incidents of the battle which for ever crushed the hopes of the Stuarts.²

¹ *Chronicles of St. Mungo*, p. 123.—The thorn tree in the Green, under which Charles Edward stood when reviewing his troops, and which was well known as "Charlie's tree," was cut down and removed within these last three years; though, when the writer saw it the year before it was quite fresh, and giving out hawthorn blossoms. The writer has conversed with a person who was present at the review—heard Charles giving the word of command—and saw him going out and in the mansion several times. Nay, it is not many years since an old woman died, aged upwards of 100, who was a servant in Colonel M'Dowall's house at the time, and as she herself said, "baked cakes for Charlie," and remembered him distinctly.—*Chronicles of St. Mungo*, p. 132.

² It is worth recording that Wolfe's own residence at this time was in the now droll-looking village of Camlachie, one of the eastern suburbs, about two miles distant from Colonel M'Dowall's mansion. He rode a gray charger. His silver spurs are yet preserved. The house this brave young officer occupied is still standing. The writer is in possession of a small packet of his letters, lately discovered in an old military chest at Glasgow. The first of the series is dated Glasgow, April 2, 1749, and his seal is still adhering; the last was written immediately before his embarkation for the ever-memorable capture of Quebec, where he fell in the arms of victory. In the Glasgow letter to his brother officer and bosom friend he tells him that his education had been much damaged, in consequence of his father (an old general of Marlborough's) having removed him from his studies at the early age of fifteen to join the army; that he was now (1749) endeavouring quietly to repair this disadvantage, by having a Glasgow schoolmaster to instruct him, two hours daily, in Latin and mathematics. Wolfe seems to have had a very indifferent opinion of the Glasgow people. He says in one letter:—"The men here are civil, designing, and treacherous, with their immediate interests always in view. They pursue trade with warmth, and a necessary mercantile spirit, arising from the baseness of their other qualifications." But hear what he says about the ladies:—"The women are coarse, cold, and cunning, for ever inquiring after men's circumstances; they make that the standard of their good-breeding. You may imagine it would not be difficult for me to be pretty well received here, if I took pains, having some of the advantages necessary to recommend me to their favour; but——"

While Colonel M'Dowall was proprietor he purchased an additional piece of ground at the south-west angle of the mansion. By this time the old West Port had been removed, and symptoms of an extension of the town beyond its ancient limit had begun to be exhibited. His purchase carried him as far west as the mouth of Virginia Street (not then opened), and northwards as far as the site of the present office of the City of Glasgow Bank. The Colonel did not long survive this purchase.

He was succeeded in 1755 by his son, William M'Dowall, also of Castlesemple. He sold in 1760, to the Highland Society, the westmost portion of the ground his father had last bought, on which that respectable body built the Black Bull Inn. Hitherto the Shawfield Mansion had stood quite detached, without wings. But about the time of his sale to the Highland Society Mr. M'Dowall built, at the south-east and south-west corners of the property, in line with Trongate, two tenements of three storeys each, harmonising with the architecture of the old mansion, and appearing like wings to it; and then in July 1760 he sold the mansion proper, garden, and all the grounds behind, to John Glassford, Esq., at the price of seventeen hundred guineas; reserving to himself the two newly-built wings. In the eastmost of these, which is still standing at the south-east corner of Glassford Street, Mr. M'Dowall resided for a number of years, and it was afterwards sold off in lots. The westmost wing he sold in 1776 to the Ship Bank, of which he was then a retired partner.

Mr. Glassford, the fourth owner of the old mansion, was one of the most extensive foreign merchants then in Glasgow. He had a fleet of no less than twenty-five ships of his own, with all their cargoes, and turned over annually upwards of half a million sterling. He was also one of the largest importers of tobacco in Britain. Previous to purchasing the Shawfield Mansion, Mr. Glassford had been proprietor of the fine old country house of Whitehill, on the ancient road to Carntyne (now Duke Street), which he sold to John Wallace, Esq., of Neilstonside, on 14th December 1759; and came, seven months afterwards, to his new residence, vacated by Mr. M'Dowall.

Mr. Glassford occupied the old town mansion till his death in

1783, when he was succeeded by his son, Mr. Henry Glassford, under whose directions it, and the whole ground behind, consisting of about 15,000 square yards, were sold in 1792 to William Horn, builder, at the great increase of £9850; and in the summer of that year this fine old edifice was demolished, after it had graced the locality eighty-one years, to make way for a new street, named after the princely merchant who had so long been the local proprietor. The last person who resided in it was John Stirling, Esq., who rented it from Mr. Henry Glassford, several years immediately before its demolition.

Some minor relics of this celebrated old Glasgow house are still preserved as memorials. The two sphinxes are to be seen at Woodend House, belonging to Mr. Barclay, near Cathcart. Part of the stone balustrade, and a couple of globes of the same material, are at Slatefield, Gallowgate Road, and were placed there in 1792 by the late Mr. William Miller; and part of one of the busts which stood on the gateway is in the possession of the writer of this sketch.

BANKING IN GLASGOW DURING THE OLDEN TIME.

(1862.)

SECTION I.

THE OLD NATIVE PRIVATE BANKS OF ISSUE IN GLASGOW.

IN the present era of Joint-Stock Banks which have driven off the field every private bank from the one end of Scotland to the other, it is interesting to look back on the beginnings of Banking in this now great city, and on its old Private Banks.

Prior to 1750 there were no banks in Glasgow. A certain description of monetary accommodation, however, had long prevailed. Merchants of known wealth and reputation dealt in bills of exchange, and received money from small traders and others on deposit, for which interest was allowed, according to bargain. In these transactions, specie was chiefly employed, the notes of the three Edinburgh banks then existing being comparatively little known, and paper-money not popular in the West country. Besides these first-class merchants, money was received on deposit by most of the joint-stock companies which carried on business in Glasgow, of which there were a number. These companies were composed of merchants of high standing, including many of the tobacco lords, or Virginia Dons, who associated themselves for carrying on, apart from their ordinary business, the refining of sugar, tanning leather, manufacturing soap, and the like, under the immediate charge of practical managers. Some of these joint-stock companies had been formed before, others soon after, the Union of the two kingdoms, and gradually increased in

importance with the expansion of trade, consequent on the passing of that politic measure. M'Ure, in his gossiping history of the city, published in 1736, gives a list of some of these associations. Thus there were the "Soaperie," in Canon Street; the Wester Sugarwork (where Stockwell Place now is); the Easter Sugarwork in Gallowgate; the South Sugarwork; the King Street Sugarwork (corner of Prince's Street); Bell's Tannarie; the Old Tannarie, etc.

The semi-banking transactions referred to, carried on by these merchants and companies, led to the employment of money-brokers, who acted as middlemen. A curious advertisement by one of these, named John Blair, who had a shop at the head of Saltmarket, is cited by Mr. Robert Chambers, in the last volume of his interesting *Domestic Annals*.¹ It is taken from the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* for July 1730, and states that at his (John Blair's) shop "all persons who have occasion to buy or sell bills of exchange, or want money to borrow, or have money to lend on interest, or have any sort of goods to sell, or want to buy any kind of goods, or who want to buy sugar-house notes, or other good bills, or desire to have such notes or bills discounted, or who want to have policies signed, or incline to underwrite policies in ships or goods, may deliver their commands."

It was customary, too, for some of the merchants and shopkeepers to issue, on their own responsibility, and for convenience to themselves and those dealing with them, notes for small amounts under a pound, and Cleland states that this practice existed from 1730 till about 1770. The following is a copy of one of these in my possession:—

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| G. K. C. | No. 137 | GLASGOW, 3rd October 1764. |
| | WE, GEORGE KELLER & COMPANY, <i>Merchants in Glasgow,</i> | |
| | <i>do</i> promise to pay to JOHN NICOLS or the Bearer on demand at our Office | |
| | <i>do</i> here TEN SHILLINGS STERLING, for value received in Goods. | |
| | | GEORGE KELLER & Co. |
| | L.6 Scots. | |

¹ This John Blair married in October 1732 a grand-daughter of John Alexander, who was probably the first postmaster in Glasgow, having held that office in 1684, and for some time previously.—(*Old Deeds*.)

This old note is very well engraved. The granters were wine and spirit merchants in Spreull's Land, near Hutcheson's Hospital, which then faced Trongate.¹

The following is another specimen of the advertisements of one of the old Glasgow money-dealers:—"David Watson, merchant in Glasgow, takes in Ayr, Dumfries, Perth, and British Linen Bank notes, at a discount of one penny a pound: or, if there is a hundred pounds of one kind, at a discount of a quarter per cent, and pays the value in Edinburgh or Glasgow notes."—(*Glasgow Journal*, May 1767.)²

¹ Some of the small merchants, jealous of the advantages which the issue of these notes conferred, endeavoured to excite public prejudice by printing and issuing lampoon-notes. Here is a copy from one now before me:—

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| No. 32. | GLASGOW, January 16, 1765. |
| WE SWARM. [Figs. of Three Wasps.] | |
| I, JOHN BRAGG, <i>Cashier for</i> ANDW. WHITECOCK, DUNCAN, DICK, & COMPANY, <i>Bankers in Glasgow, having powers from them, Promise to pay to</i> THOS. TAILOR <i>or the Bearer on demand, ONE PENNY STERLING, or in option of the Directors, THREE BALLADS, Six Days' after a demand; and, for ascertaining the Demand and Option of the Directors, the Accountant and one of the Tellers of the Bank are hereby ordered to mark and sign this note on the back thereof. By Order of the Court of Directors.</i> | |
| ANDW. WHITECOCK. | JOHN BRAGG. |

This squib is well printed, and surrounded by figures of eleven large wasps chasing each other. It is in the style of the note of the Edinburgh banks, which contained what was called "the optional clause," whereby they were payable in the bank's option, on demand, or six months afterwards, with interest at five per cent. This was abolished by Act of Parliament, just about the date of the squib above quoted.

² The advertiser was the father of Messrs. James and Robert Watson, the highly respectable private bankers in aftertimes. He was proprietor of the lands of Stobercross, on the river-side, the quaint-looking old mansion on which is still standing near St. Vincent Crescent with its ancient "dovecote." The banks whose notes are alluded to in the advertisement were—1st, "The Old Ayr Bank" of Messrs. John Macadam of Craigengillan, and Company, which began at Ayr on 1st September 1763. 2d, "The Old Dumfries Bank" of Messrs. Johnston, Lawson and Co., which commenced at Dumfries about the same time. Both these banks were bought up in 1771 by the unfortunate banking firm of Messrs. Douglas, Heron, and Co., of Ayr, the former for £18,000, and the latter for £7350. 3d, The Perth Bank, which began in 1766, now merged into the Union Bank of Scotland; and 4th, the British Linen Company, established at Edinburgh 1746, but which had no agent in Glasgow till near the end of last century.

The deposits received by some of the joint-stock companies before referred to were of large amount, and remained with them long after the establishment of banks in Glasgow. From old papers in my possession I am enabled to state some particulars regarding one of the oldest and most extensive of these companies. I allude to the Glasgow Tanwork. This is the same concern designated by M'Ure "Bell's Tannarie." It was situated on the north side of Gallowgate, on the banks of what that queer old chronicler calls "the brook, or rivolet, Molendinar," near the point where the fragrant stream, now tunnelled over, crosses the street. He describes "the tannarie" as "a prodigious large building, consisting of bark and lime pits, store houses, and other high and low appartments, with all other conveniences whatsoever for carrying on that great work; the buildings are so considerable that it is admired by all strangers who see it," and he adds, that James Lowden is their clerk, "Ryce Jones¹ is their overseer, with thirty servants." This was in 1736. The partners at that time were the well-known Andrew Cochran, who was thrice Provost, Robert Bogle of Shettleston, his brother Bailie George Bogle, William Gordon, and John Luke, merchants. Subsequently, the partners were increased, and included Provost John Bowman of Ashgrove, Lawrence Dinwiddie of Germiston, John Campbell of Clathic (Perthshire), James Luke of Claythorn (a fine portrait of whose father is still to be seen in the Directors' Room, Merchants' House), James Dunlop of Garnkirk, Thomas Peter of Crossbasket, Alexander Spiers of Elderslie (then one of the largest importers of tobacco in Britain), Walter Monteith, William Bogle, James Douglas, George M'Intosh, and Robert Marshall, merchants. I possess the signatures of all these gentlemen, which are in the fine old Roman hand. Cleland states that in 1773 this Tanwork Company employed nearly 300 shoemakers for home and export trade. They had a shop on the north side of the Tron-gate, close to what is now Glassford Street, for the sale of shoes, under the charge of Mr. George M'Intosh, one of the partners, and father, I believe, of the late Mr. Charles M'Intosh of Dunchattan.

¹ This Ryce Jones was father of Nathaniel, who published the second Glasgow Directory in 1787, and was keeper of the Tontine Coffee-Room.

This most respectable old company had large deposits. In 1765 these amounted to upwards of £40,000, lodged during a series of years by sixty-seven parties, including several of the nobility, the Merchants' House, Hutcheson's Hospital, etc. In these cases the documents issued were either bills or personal bonds, to the depositors, subscribed by all the partners of the Tanwork Company. The rate of interest allowed was a shade higher to the parties who took bonds, these being considered a more permanent class of depositors. The following is a copy from an original list in my possession, dated nearly a hundred years ago, showing the names of the depositors, the amount lodged by each, and rate of interest :—

ACCOMPT of CASH BORROWED by GLASGOW TANWORK COMPANY,
on Bonds and Bills, from following persons, viz. :—

| Ledger Folios. | | Sums. | Rate of Interest. |
|----------------|--|----------|-------------------|
| 5. | John Shaw, in Glasgow . . . | £300 0 0 | 4½ |
| | James Shaw, in Slammanan (bill) | 160 0 0 | 4½ |
| | George Leckie, in Caltown of Glasgow (bill) . . . | 100 0 0 | 5 |
| | Girzall Hamilton, in Glasgow . . | 330 0 0 | 5 |
| | Borough of Ayr | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | Thomas Hamilton, Minister of Holywood | 230 0 0 | 5 |
| 6. | Agnes Lockhart, in Ayr | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | James Yeaman, in Dundee | 555 0 0 | 5 |
| | Jannett Luke (deceased) | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Glasgow Merchants' House | 900 0 0 | 5 |
| | Jas. Waddell, of Hothouseburn (bill) | 140 0 0 | 4½ |
| | Lillias Grahame, in Glasgow . . . | 700 0 0 | 5 |
| 7. | Alex. Cuninghame, for Parish of Symingtoun | 100 0 0 | 4¾ |
| | Francis Kennedy, of Dunure | 800 0 0 | 5 |
| | William Flint (deceased) | 770 0 0 | 5 |
| | Andrew Cochran, for Hutcheson's Hospital | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Alex. Hogg, in Edinburgh | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | Kath. Wood, in Glasgow | 540 0 0 | 5 |

| Ledger Folios. | | Sums. | Rate of Interest. |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------|
| 8. | Girzall Curry, in Glasgow . . . | £200 0 0 | ... |
| | John Russell, in Drumduff (bill) . . | 50 0 0 | 4½ |
| | John Belches, of Invermay . . . | 900 0 0 | 5 |
| | John Shanks, New Monkland parish (bill) | 60 0 0 | 4½ |
| | John Murray, of Blackbarrony . . . | 900 0 0 | 5 |
| 9. | Donald Campbell, of Airds | 50 0 0 | 5 |
| | Wm. Addie, of Drumilzie | 470 0 0 | 4½ |
| | John Kingan, Minister at Crawford | 200 0 0 | 5 |
| | Jas. Home, of Gamlishiels | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | John Shaw, in Edinburgh | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | Christian Govan, in Glasgow | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| 10. | Mrs. Dick, in Glasgow | 200 0 0 | 5 |
| | Jno. Boyd, at Barleyside (bill) . . . | 45 0 0 | 4½ |
| | Margarett and Girzall Sprewls, Glasgow | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Provost John Alexander, in Peebles . | 400 0 0 | 5 |
| | Robert Bailie, of Mayvile | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | William Wemyss, of Cuttlehill . . . | 1200 0 0 | 5 |
| 11. | Michael Luke, in Dundee | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | William, Duke of Montrose | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | James Hunter, in Ayr | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | Dr. John Erskine, of Carnock ¹ . . . | 1400 0 0 | 5 |
| | Wm. Stewart, in Edinburgh | 200 0 0 | 5 |
| 12. | Gavin Ralstone, of Ralstone | 200 0 0 | 5 |
| | John Barker, at Kirkaldie | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Dame Ann Kennedy, of Dunskey . . . | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | Wm. Fullarton, of Carstairs | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | George, Earl of North Esk | 700 0 0 | 5 |
| | Thomas Rigg, of Mortone | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| 13. | Margarett, Countess of Stair | 2000 0 0 | 5 |
| | John Campbell and others, in Edinburgh | 1300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Richard Somner, in Haddington . . . | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | Lord Stair | 220 0 0 | 5 |
| | William Cunninghame, of Achan-skeith | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | Robt. Hunter, of Thurstone | 1000 0 0 | 5 |

¹ This was the eldest son of John Erskine of Carnock, author of the *Institutes of the Law of Scotland*, and so graphically described in Lord Cockburn's *Memorials*, under the *sobriquet* of "Creepie."

| Ledger Folios. | | Sums. | Rate of Interest. |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 14. | Wm. Wood, of Gallowhill | £1500 0 0 | 5 |
| | John Bryce, in Cairmuirs (bill) | 610 0 0 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| | Isobel Jamieson, in Glasgow | 500 0 0 | 5 |
| | Robert Buchanan, of Drumakill | 450 0 0 | 5 |
| 15. | Barbara and Eliza Scotts, in Glasgow (bill) | 300 0 0 | 5 |
| | James Coulter, in Glasgow | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | James Coats, of Blantyre farm (bill) | 417 9 4 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | John Thomson, in Edinburgh | 1000 0 0 | 5 |
| | Heirs of Thomas Peters | 1913 8 4 | 5 |
| | Hew Stewart, East Indies | 900 0 0 | 5 |
| 16. | Alexander Spiers, Trustee for Jas. Dunlop's ¹ creditors (bills) | 3000 0 0 | 5 |
| | Creditors of Rt. Macmurich | 11 7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 4 |
| | Wm. Bogle, Jas. M'Dowall, and Robert Marshall | 254 16 10 | 4 |
| | John Young, in Calderside (bill) | 120 0 0 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 17. | John Kincaid, in Cairmuirs (bill) | 100 0 0 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | L.40,192 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |

Such was the state in which monetary matters were generally conducted in Glasgow prior to 1750. Two attempts had been made by the Bank of Scotland to plant a branch there, viz. in 1696 and 1731; but on both occasions they had to withdraw. This is scarcely to be wondered at, when it is considered how contracted the directors were in their mode of transacting business amidst a rising mercantile community. They would not, for example, deal in bills of exchange. It was ruled at one of the annual meetings of the shareholders, or "adventurers," as they were then designated, "that the exchange trade was not proper for a banking company"! that, after a trial, "the bank found it very troublesome, unsafe, and improper." Another reason given

¹ This James Dunlop was a merchant in Glasgow, and about 1764 was accessory to a series of frauds on Government, in connection with the weighing of tobacco. The Crown issued a Writ of Extent against his estate, and made a large seizure of his tobacco. Dunlop executed a trust-deed, and Mr. Spiers was the trustee. It turned out a very bad concern for the ordinary creditors.

was, that, "there is so much to be done in that exchange business without doors, at all hours, by day and night, with such variety of circumstances and conditions as are inconsistent with the precise hours of a public office"!¹

At length the rapidly-increasing trade of Glasgow determined some of the most wealthy and influential merchants there to establish a local bank to meet the monetary exigencies of the city. Accordingly, six gentlemen formed themselves into a company for carrying on the trade of banking, including the issuing of notes. These were—William M'Dowall of Castlesempie; Andrew Buchanan of Drumpellier; Allan Dreghorn of Ruchill; Robert Dunlop, merchant; Colin Dunlop of Carmyle; and Alexander Houston of Jordanhill. The social firm was Dunlop, Houston, and Co., and the descriptive was that of the afterwards well-known "Ship Bank." The notes bore the figure of a ship under full sail, and were very plain. They were originally signed by Mr. Colin Dunlop and Mr. Houston.

The office was in the east end of the Bridgegate, then a place of importance, in which, among other edifices of note, the Merchants' House was situated. Their first cashier was Arthur Robertson, in whose property was the bank. The business commenced in January 1750. The office hours were from 10 till 12 forenoon, and from 3 till 5 o'clock afternoon, except on Saturdays, when the bank was open only from 9 till 11.

The commencement was announced in the *Glasgow Courant* of January 1750, in the following terms:—

"That Colin Dunlop, Alexander Houston & Company, bankers in Glasgow, have opened their office at the house of Arthur Robertson, in Bridgegate, their cashier, and to acquaint the public that the persons concerned in the said Company, are, William M'Dowall, of Castlesempie, Andrew Buchanan, Robert

¹ The Bank of Scotland was formed by John Holland, a retired London merchant. He was their first manager, and in a curious pamphlet published by him in 1715, he has given a graphic description of the difficulties and vexation he underwent. The bank began business in the Old Parliament Close, Edinburgh, and the paid-up capital was only ten thousand pounds. They removed from the High Street to their present office in 1805. The first person who discounted bills in Edinburgh before the Bank of Scotland came into existence was Mr. Patrick Macdowal, merchant, uncle to Lord Bankton, author of the excellent *Institute of Scotch Law*.

Dunlop, Allan Dreghorn, Colin Dunlop, and Alexander Houston, merchants in Glasgow, who have given in, Bond and Obligation jointly and severally for the payment of their Notes current, in the name of said Colin Dunlop, Alexander Houston & Company, and the said Arthur Robertson, and which Bond is registrate in the Town Court Books of Glasgow, to be seen by any who pleases.

“N.B.—Attendance to be given on lawful days, at above office from 10 to 12 forenoon, and from 3 to 5 afternoon, excepting Saturday, and that day only from 9 to 11 o'clock.”

The first cashier, Mr. Robertson, died about three years after, and Mr. James Simson was appointed his successor. The following is a copy of one of the Notes, dated 108 years ago, signed by him and two of the partners.

L.12 Scots.

No. 111

GLASGOW, 2d January 1753.

I, JAMES SIMSON, *Cashier, appointed by* Colin Dunlop, Alexander Houston & Company, *Bankers in Glasgow, pursuant to powers from them, Promise to pay to* John Brown, *or the Bearer, Twenty Shillings Sterling, the date, number, and creditor's name, are inserted by me, and these presents signed by me, and the said* Colin Dunlop, and Alex. Houston.

JAMES SIMSON.

COLIN DUNLOP.

ALEX. HOUSTON.

The population of the city at that time was about 23,000.

This first of Glasgow banks was, from the very outset, most successful, and could hardly fail to be so, from the influential character of the partners. The town mansions of these gentlemen are worth noticing. That of Provost Colin Dunlop, the leading partner of the banking firm, and great-grandfather of the present James Dunlop, Esq., of Tollcross, was the fine old edifice still standing, though much disfigured, immediately to the east of the Buck's Head Hotel, Argyll Street. Dunlop Street was named after him and carried through his garden behind the mansion. The residence of Mr. Houston was a little farther west, nearly

opposite the bottom of Queen Street then "the Cow Lone." It was built of very dark-coloured stone, and stood a short way back from the line of Argyll Street, with a small grass plot in front, and circular walk, laid with white gravel. A parapet wall and iron railing separated the plot from the street, and there was a large brass knocker on the gate. Mr. M'Dowall's was the princely edifice, so well known in Glasgow story, which stood across the bottom of comparatively modern Glassford Street, looking down Stockwell, built in 1712, and popularly known as "The Shawfield Mansion," in which Prince Charles took up his quarters in 1745. What is now Glassford Street was Mr. M'Dowall's garden, which stretched all the way back to the modern Ingram Street, then known as "the Back Cow Lone," a mere byroad. The garden was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, with greenhouse and shrubbery. Mr. Dreghorn's residence was a large square-shaped house, in what is now Clyde Street, a short way west from the bottom of Stockwell. Provost Andrew Buchanan of Drumpellier opened Virginia Street, and intended to erect his town mansion at the head of it, which his death prevented; but the design was carried out by his second son, George, of Mount Vernon, who built a splendid edifice, known as "the Virginia Mansion," on the site of which the Union Bank now stands.¹

The success of the Ship led to the formation of a second bank within the same year. The partners were twenty-six in number, and equally respectable. Their names were—Andrew Cochran, John Murdoch, George Murdoch, James Donald, William Crawford

¹ Mount Vernon is about three miles to the eastward of Glasgow, and was so named after a great tobacco plantation in Virginia, on the banks of the Potomac River, which belonged to Laurence Washington, elder brother of the celebrated George Washington, first President of the United States. This plantation was originally called "Hunting Creek," but about 1743 the name was changed by Laurence Washington to "Mount Vernon," in compliment to Admiral Edward Vernon, who had been Commander-in-Chief on the West India station, and under whom and General Wentworth Laurence Washington served in the expedition against Carthage in 1740, so graphically described by Smollett in *Roderick Random*. The Admiral was a great favourite of Washington, and was son of James Vernon, Secretary of State to William III. The House of Mount Vernon in Virginia is still standing, and was long the residence of George Washington, after the death of his brother Laurence, to whose child George was guardian. Mr. Buchanan's large importations of tobacco were from this plantation of Washington's. Hence the name given to the property near Glasgow, and also to Virginia Street.

sen., William Crawford jun., Robert Scott sen., George Carmichael, Robert Christie, Thomas Dunmore, Archibald Ingram, John Campbell, John Jamieson, James Ritchie, John Murdoch jun., John Bowman, Archibald Buchanan, Laurence Dinwiddie, John Brown, Thomas Hopkirk, John Hamilton sen., John Glassford, and James Spreull, all merchants; Robert Findlay, tanner, Robert Barbour, weaver, and John Wardrop, writer, all in Glasgow.

Of this influential company, seven gentlemen successively were Provosts of the city. The opening of the bank was announced in the *Glasgow Courant*, of 5th November 1750. The social firm was Cochran, Murdoch, and Co., and the name, "The Glasgow Arms Bank." The notes bore that emblem, and the city motto, rather tastefully executed. Their first cashier was Mr. Laurence Scott. The bank was opened on Tuesday, 6th November 1750, in the second floor of Smith's Land, north-east end of Bridgegate, next Saltmarket, and the bank hours were the same as those of the Ship. The partners, whose names appeared in the firm, were Provost Andrew Cochran, already referred to, and his brother-in-law, John Murdoch. The former was an extensive merchant in this city upwards of half-a-century, and is described by Sir John Dalrymple as of great sagacity and experience. Cochran Street is named after him. His exertions as Provost in procuring from Government compensation to Glasgow for the exactions by Prince Charles during the Rebellion, and other favourable characteristics of Mr. Cochran, are well seen in the volume, titled "*The Cochran Correspondence*," printed by the Maitland Club. He is also prominently alluded to by Smollett in *Humphry Clinker*. Mr. Murdoch, like Mr. Cochran, was elected Provost three several times. He was the son of Peter Murdoch, merchant, who was Provost in 1730. His mother was a daughter of John Luke of Claythorn, an old Glasgow family. Mr. John Murdoch was father-in-law of Sir Thomas Miller, Bart., of Barskimming, Lord President, and grandfather of the late Lord Glenlee. Mr. Murdoch's town mansion was what is now the Buck's Head Hotel, the oldest edifice extant in Argyll Street, and giving a good idea, altered though it is, of the style of residence of the tobacco lords who ruled Glasgow in the days of these old banks.

Without commenting on the whole of the original partners of the Arms Bank, a few are selected, as having occupied very prominent positions in old Glasgow society, and must not be passed over—viz. John Glassford, then of Whitehill, after whom Glassford Street is named, and whose fine old mansion still exists on the north side of Eastern Duke Street, now the property of Mr. Dennistoun of Golfhill; Alexander Spiers of Elderslie, whose town house was long at the head of Virginia Street, built, as already stated, by George Buchanan of Mount Vernon, the brother-in-law of Mr. Spiers, and purchased by the latter after Mr. Buchanan's death; Thomas Dunmore, whose antique mansion at Kelvinside, built in 1750, still stands, now the property and residence of Matthew Montgomerie, Esq.; Provost Bowman of Ashgrove, an estate of 300 acres, near Kilwinning, whose father had also been Provost in 1715 and 1719; Provost Archibald Ingram, after whom Ingram Street is named; Provost Laurence Dinwiddie of Germiston; James Ritchie of Busbie, in the parish of Kilmaurs, whose splendid mansion on the west side of Queen Street will be well remembered by old citizens as subsequently the residence of Kirkman Finlay, and on the site of which the National Bank now stands, etc. etc.¹

¹ Mr. John Glassford and Mr. Archibald Spiers are especially worthy of being commemorated, for they, along with other two—viz. Mr. William Cuninghame of Lainshaw, and Mr. James Ritchie of Busbie—were the persons who laid the foundation of the future mercantile greatness of Glasgow. They were all active, clever young men, and at their start had not £10,000 among them. This is alluded to by Sir John Dalrymple in his *Memoirs*, and he had the information from Provost Cochran, who thoroughly knew their history. All these four enterprising young merchants made large fortunes, chiefly by tobacco, and purchased estates.

Mr. Glassford was born in 1715, and died 27th August 1783, aged 68. He was thrice married. I am uncertain of his first wife's name. The second was Anne, second daughter of Sir John Nisbet of Dean, Bart. The marriage took place at Edinburgh, in November 1752, and the *Glasgow Courant* of that date describes the bride as "a young lady of great virtue and merit." She died 8th April 1766. Mr. Glassford's third wife was the Right Honourable Lady Margaret Mackenzie, daughter of George, last Earl of Cromartie. She died 24th March 1773. Mr. Glassford's second surviving son by the second marriage, named Henry, succeeded to his father, and died unmarried, 19th May 1819, aged 54. The eldest son of the third marriage, named James, succeeded, and died 28th July 1845, aged 74. Old Mr. Glassford, his wives, and several of his descendants are interred in Ramshorn (St. David's) churchyard.

Mr. Spiers was born in 1714, and in March 1755 married a daughter of Provost Andrew Buchanan of Drumpellier, one of the founders of the Ship Bank. The newspapers of that day announced that "Mr. Alex. Spiers, merchant, was married to Miss

Such was the class of men who formed the first two banks in Glasgow, or in the provinces of Scotland, all of them highly respectable in character, and substantial in means. In fact, some of these gentlemen laid the foundation of the future greatness of Glasgow. The mode they adopted for making the public aware who the partners of the bank were, and fixing their liability, was by advertising in the newspapers all their names, and intimating that joint personal bonds by all of them for payment of the notes, had been lodged with the Town-Clerk.

These substantial banks had scarcely been established when they were fiercely attacked by the Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank.¹ These last had long had a bitter feud between themselves,

Mally Buchanan, a very agreeable young lady, with a handsome fortune." Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Spiers grace the walls of the Directors' Room, Merchants' House, Glasgow, to which institution this amiable lady and her daughters made a very handsome bequest. Mr. Spiers purchased the estate of Elderslie soon after his marriage, and built the existing spacious mansion. He died 10th December 1782, aged 68, and a monument was erected by a number of his particular friends in the Episcopalian Chapel of St. Andrew, facing the Green, commemorating his great talents and high character.

In this old Glasgow Arms Bank, the father of the distinguished Indian officer Sir Thomas Munro, Bart., was at one time a teller. His name was Alexander Munro. During many years previously he had been a Virginia merchant, and resided in Stockwell, then a place of some note. "Munroe's close," off that street, was named after him. In summer, the family resided in North Woodside House, still standing, on the banks of the Kelvin. This respectable old merchant was ruined, like many others, by the first American war. The future Sir Thomas was his second son, and the school-fellow of Sir John Moore, in Barr's class, Grammar school. Being originally destined to mercantile pursuits, young Munro entered the counting-house of Sommerville and Gordon, West India merchants, Glasgow, in 1777, but the father's misfortunes having altered his son's prospects, the latter went to India as a cadet in 1779, where his lengthened and brilliant services acquired for him a baronetcy and imperishable renown. It is recorded of him that, such was his strong attachment to the scenes of his youth, on occasion of his return to Glasgow, after an absence of 27 years, he went out alone to the old house at Woodside, though all his friends had long left it, examined the well-remembered spot, bathed in the dam, wandered in the woods, and climbed an aged, favourite tree, among whose branches he had often sat when a boy. He also went through several of the Stockwell closes, and remarked to the friend who accompanied him, that he used to "jink" his companions there. One of old Mr. Munro's daughters married Mr. Harley Drummond, banker, London, and another became Lady Buchan.

The antique country-house of Mr. Broadie Wylie, who was many years the accountant of the Arms Bank, and of singularly methodical habits, is still standing, on the east side of the "Byres Road," Partick, near the bottom, and may be recognised, though sorely changed in the occupancy, by its "corbie-steps," steep-pitched thatched roof, and peculiarly quaint aspect. He was accustomed to ride a pony between this suburban domicile and the bank office in Miller Street. After the bank's misfortunes, Mr. Wylie was some years in the Thistle Bank, Virginia Street.

¹ The Royal Bank commenced on the floor of a house in St. Mennan's Wynd, or

and tried to drive each other off the field in Edinburgh, the particulars of which may be seen in the pamphlets printed by their respective partisans, and in other publications of the day. But now that Glasgow had presumed to act for herself, in a field peculiarly her own, and which these Edinburgh strangers had not chosen properly to cultivate, the latter, full of jealousy at the Glasgow banks, quashed their disputes, and resolved if possible to crush the two new competitors. With great arrogance, therefore, the Edinburgh banks insisted on Provost Dunlop and Provost Cochran, and the other gentlemen associated with them, immediately discontinuing the business of banking, under threat of their notes being protested. This unwarrantable request was firmly refused, whereupon the two Edinburgh stranger banks employed an agent, named Archibald Trotter, to collect as many notes of the Ship and Glasgow Arms as possible, and suddenly present these at the banks for payment. This was the plan the former had long adopted, during their own feud against each other; and now, as friends, they resolved to try it on the two young Glasgow banks. Trotter accordingly came west on his despicable mission, and took up his abode in Glasgow.¹ But he completely failed in his object. The Glasgow banks stood their ground manfully, backed by the voice of public opinion, against the tyranny attempted towards them, and met all demands. As a specimen of Trotter's tactics, he insisted that the Ship and Arms Banks had no right to fix their hours of doing business, but were bound to pay their notes at any time these were presented—from seven

Steil's Close, High Street, Edinburgh, afterwards a police office. The capital was £111,000, and they began to issue notes in January 1728. Their first secretary was Mr. James Bogle, whose father and grandfather had successively been merchants of note in Glasgow as far back as the reign of Charles II. The secretary died in November 1742, but he had left the bank some time previous, and was deputy remembrancer in the Exchequer, Edinburgh, at his death. His daughter *Charles* married Mr. John Lockhart of Castlehill, Lanarkshire, and took up her father's succession.

¹ Trotter had been a partner of Coutts, Son, and Trotter, private bankers in Edinburgh; but, having disagreed with his copartner, left the concern, and commenced as an accountant there. It is recorded of him that neither in person nor manners was he calculated to gain respect, and that the clerks used to put a live mouse under his inkstand in the mornings before he came to the office, that they might enjoy the start he got when the cover was taken off. He did not succeed as an accountant, and readily undertook the unenviable task assigned to him by the Edinburgh banks. He latterly fell into religious melancholy.

o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night, and he therefore made his demands often at the most untimeous hours. In order, however, to punish Trotter, some of the payments were made to him in sixpences, to his no small vexation, from the time it took to count, but this was just what the Edinburgh banks had done themselves during their feud with each other, and, moreover, silver was a legal tender. This opposition lasted some years, and ended in a lawsuit before the Court of Session at Trotter's instance, against Cochran, Murdoch, and Co., the pleadings in which reveal the whole conspiracy. Latterly, Trotter was glad to compromise the case, after having spent about £600 in law expenses.¹ The Glasgow banks continued to prosper, and none of the Edinburgh banks ventured to place a branch here for upwards of twenty years after their repulse.²

Eleven years after the starting of the Ship and Arms Banks, a third was established. The original partners were—Sir Walter Maxwell of Pollok; James Ritchie of Busbie; William Mure of Caldwell, one of the Barons of Exchequer; John Glassford of Dougalston; John M'Call of Belvidere; and John Campbell, merchants in Glasgow. The firm was Sir Walter Maxwell, James Ritchie, and Co., and the name of the bank was the Thistle. The notes bore the emblem of the Scottish Thistle, and the well-known motto at the top. Their first cashier was David Cross, and they began on 3d November 1761. Their office, for the first few years, was in the Bridgegate, beside the other two banks. But in 1765 they removed to the east side of Virginia Street, having

¹ Vide *Memoirs of a Banking House*, by the late amiable Sir William Forbes, printed for private circulation; and the *Scotsman* newspaper of 5th April 1826.

² The Royal was the first stranger bank which seated itself in Glasgow. This was in 1783. They did so in a very humble manner. Their first office was on the one side of a small shop in "Hopkirk's Land," east side of High Street, five doors north from the corner at the Cross. Their agent carried on his ordinary business of a linen draper on the other side of the shop. The rent paid by the bank was £2:10s. annually. The agent had been originally a herd-boy, afterwards a weaver in Paisley, Hamilton, and Cambuslang, thereafter a clerk to a silk mercer in Glasgow, and at the time the bank employed him he was, as already said, a linen draper on his own account. The Bank of Scotland did not repeat their experiment of a branch here for many years after the Royal. They had only a bill-collector, Mr. Gilbert Hamilton, agent for the Carron Company, west side of Queen Street, and had a room in his place of business. Their first regular office was in Miller Street, the agent being Mr. Archibald Hamilton jun. Afterwards they bought the old Star Inn, Ingram Street, and built their present office on the site in 1826.

purchased a house there from Peter Buchanan of Silverbanks, at the price of £810. Like the Ship and Arms Banks, the partners of the Thistle lodged a bond with the Town-Clerk for payment of the notes, and advertised this.

Eight years after the commencement of the Thistle, a fourth bank started. The firm was "The Merchant Banking Company of Glasgow." It was composed principally of small traders, and the title gave great umbrage to the Merchants' House, lest they might be supposed partners, and induced them to put an advertisement in the newspapers explaining that they had nothing to do with the bank. It began in the spring of 1769. The first office was on the east side of Saltmarket, near the bottom; but when Stephen Maxwell of Morriston—an extensive coppersmith, and a principal partner of the bank—opened Maxwell Street (named after him), in 1771, the bank office was removed to the tenement at the north-west corner, facing Argyll Street (taken down in September 1858), and remained there while the bank existed. Their first cashier was John Auld. The notes bore the figure of a globe, and were originally signed by him, and by Robert M'Lintock and Andrew Carrick, two of the partners. In the advertisement by the bank, in the *Glasgow Journal* of 4th May 1769, it is stated that "the company have agreed to discount bills, at common interest, payable at a short date, in Edinburgh or Glasgow, on being endorsed to the satisfaction of the directors or their cashier," and that "any who become creditors to the company may be satisfied with respect to their security by applying at the company's office."

A small bank was opened on 4th October 1785 by Messrs. Andrew, George, and Andrew Thomson. The premier in the firm was father of the other two. The youngest son, Andrew, acted as cashier, for which he received some training as a teller under Mr. Hog in the Paisley Bank. The office was originally on the west side of Virginia Street, near the bottom, but afterwards in Queen Street, west side. The staff consisted of a cashier, teller, two clerks, and a porter.¹

¹ A remarkable robbery of notes of this bank took place. On Friday night, 29th October 1791, a mahogany box containing £1600 in guinea and twenty-shilling notes, of

The last private bank opened in Glasgow for issuing notes was the Glasgow Bank. It began in May 1809, and was originally composed of seventeen partners—viz. The Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird, Messrs. James Dennistoun, John Tennant, Peter Macadam, Robert Blair, Robert Brown, William Taylor, all merchants in Glasgow; William Burrige Cabbell, Samuel Nicholson, Thomas Haydon, William Morland, Henry Boase, all of London; Walter Fergus, Kirkcaldy; John Baxter and William Roberts, Dundee; Alex. M'Gregor, Liverpool; and John Grundy jun., Bury, Lancashire. Other partners joined subsequently, among whom were Messrs. James Oswald of Shieldhall, James Ewing of Strathleven, James Buchanan of Dowanhill, Henry Monteith of Carstairs, and others, highly respectable and influential. The notes bore the emblem of the City Arms, and were signed by W. B. Cabbell, the cashier, and Robert Brown, the accountant. Their first office was in the edifice still standing at the south-west corner of Montrose and Ingram Streets, built in 1800, formerly the town residence of Mr. Buchanan of Ardenconnel, and now occupied by the School of Design. This bank was under the able management of Mr. James Dennistoun of Golhill, the principal founder of it, upwards of twenty years; and a very large business, perhaps the largest of all the banks, was transacted there.

Such is a list of the whole native private banks which issued notes in Glasgow during the last 112 years. It seems worth while briefly to mention what became of them.

1. The Ship Bank existed from 1750 till 1836, a period of 86 years, under that descriptive title. But during that time several changes of the social firm took place, in consequence of the death or retirement of partners, and the assumption of others

Messrs. Thomson's issue, and twelve bills, which had been put in a small sack and sent on a carrier's cart by Mr. Gavin Stewart of Cumnock, addressed to the bank, was stolen off the cart in going along the streets. A reward of £200 was advertised, and "no questions asked." On the 17th November following the box was found by a country lad while clearing out a dunghill in Saltmarket, where it had been hid, and never opened. The reward was promptly paid to the lucky finder.

In 1793, an attempt was made to form a Joint-Stock Bank in Glasgow, and a number of gentlemen subscribed for shares. Several meetings were held, but, after some discussion, the scheme was abandoned. It was to have been called "The Royal Bank of Glasgow." [*Vide* particulars in *Glasgow Courier*, 10th August 1793.]

in their places. The first contract of copartnery was for twenty-five years, and expired in 1775.¹ All the original partners then retired, and eight new ones carried on the business of the Ship, under the firm of Moores, Carrick, and Co. The new partners were George Moore, Ballamore, Isle of Man; James Moore, merchant in Glasgow (relations of the celebrated Sir John Moore, who fell at Corunna); Robert Carrick, merchant; Thomas Brown, formerly surgeon in London, then residing at Aitkenhead, near Glasgow; Andrew Thomson of Faskin; John Brown of Langfine; Thomas Buchanan of Ardoch; and William Craig, merchant. As Mr. Carrick was so much, and so long, identified with the Ship, a few words may be said about him. His father had been a tutor in the family of Provost Andrew Buchanan of Drumpellier, one of the founders of the Ship Bank, and through the Provost's influence the tutor obtained the parish church of Houston, in Renfrewshire. He married a Miss Paisley, from Ayrshire, and Mr. Robert Carrick was born in the manse. When the latter was about fourteen years of age, Mr. Buchanan got this son of his old tutor appointed a junior clerk in the office of the Ship Bank, then in the Bridgegate, and he rose gradually, by his talents and usefulness, till he became the acting partner in the second firm of Moores, Carrick, and Co., above mentioned.² This new firm removed the bank office in 1776 from the Bridgegate to the antique-looking tenement, so well remembered, which faced Argyll Street, at the south-west angle of what is now Glassford Street, where the business was carried on during half-a-century. They purchased the tenement for £1700. About eight years after this second change of partners, a third took place (1783), and the firm was altered to Carrick, Brown, and Co. There were four partners,

¹ Here is one of the bank's advertisements towards the close of the first contract of copartnery:—"Messrs Dunlop, Houston, & Co., bankers in Glasgow, desire those who have money lodged with them at four per cent., that they would call at their office, as soon as possible, to receive payment."—[*Glasgow Journal*, 30 Nov. 1775.] There was a glut at that time in the money market; the Edinburgh banks were then giving only 3 per cent on money deposited with them for a full year, and 2½ per cent if for six months.

Mr. Colin Dunlop, the premier in this first banking firm, died on 13th August 1777.

² The death of Mr. Carrick's father was thus announced:—

"Died, 1st May 1771, in an advanced age, the Rev. Mr. Robert Carrick, Minister of the Gospel at Houston."—*Glasgow Journal*, May 1771.

viz. Robert Carrick, then of Braco ; John Brown jun., of Waterhaughs ; Thomas Buchanan of Ardoch ; and William Craig, merchant, Glasgow. This firm was continued to the very last, although some subsequent changes occurred among the partners. Thus in 1803 the partners were—Robert Carrick ; John Buchanan of Ardoch ; David Buchanan of Drumpellier ; Nicol Brown of Langfine ; and Michael Rowand, the cashier.

The bank used to be closed from one till two o'clock daily ; and it was part of the duty of the youngest apprentice to protect the treasure during the night, for which purpose he was armed with a gun, powder-horn, and a few charges of slugs, and locked in till morning, a "box-bed" being fitted up in the telling-room for his convenience. A bugle lay beside him to sound an alarm. For this dangerous service he received a present, at the annual balance, of £1:10:6. From a list of cash credit accounts in the Ship Bank for 1789 (*vide* Appendix), it appears that £33,500 were lent out in this manner, among eighty merchants, with two or more cautioners each, in sums generally from £300 to £1000, which was the highest amount ; and many of those in this interesting list thus accommodated became well known for their successful career. Mr. Carrick died in his house above the bank on 20th June 1821, after having conducted the Ship through many perilous times, with no ordinary sagacity and prudence, and with great success, nearly half-a-century. For many years his salary as manager did not exceed £100 annually. After Mr. Carrick's death, the business was conducted by Mr. Rowand, and a new office built on the vacant ground in Glassford Street, behind the old bank, which last was demolished in 1825. Its queer interior, the awe inspired by the grave aspect and solemn demeanour of the venerable chief as he sat in the public room surrounded by his staff, all of whom were more or less peculiar, will no doubt be well remembered.¹ Lastly, in 1836 the Ship

¹ I think I see them all, particularly Mr. Carrick, with his wrinkled face and keen piercing eyes. He was usually attired in a brown-coloured coat, queerly made, with deep flaps on the outside pockets, the broad skirts reaching down nearly to his heels, and adorned with large brass buttons ; drab knee-breeches ; a striped woollen waistcoat, of hotch-potch tinge, allowing a very moderate display of "ruffles" at the breast ; white neckcloth, with longish ends ; ribbed white worsted stockings, and buckles in his shoes ;

joined the Glasgow Bank, under the new firm of "The Glasgow and Ship Bank." The manager was Mr. Robert Findlay of Easterhill. This terminated the independent existence of the Old Ship.¹

2. The Glasgow Arms Bank existed from 1750 till 1793, a period of forty-three years. Like the Ship, it changed partners repeatedly, all of whom were of high respectability. The firm of Cochran, Murdoch, and Co. became altered about 1763, by the retirement of some of the early members,² to Spiers, Murdoch, and Co., the leading partners being Alexander Spiers of Elderslie, Peter Murdoch, Provost Bowman, and Andrew Blackburn, grandfather of the present chairman of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. About 1756 they removed the bank from Bridgegate to King Street, east side, immediately below Prince's Street. The tenement is still standing. After being there about twenty-two years, the bank was again moved (1778) to Miller Street, east side, near

while a small brown wig covered the pate of this singular-looking, but able old financier. Mr. Carrick was fond of music, and accustomed in the evenings, as a relaxation, to play the violin, often with an old friend who performed well on that instrument, in the queer, and very plainly-furnished house above the bank. This old musical friend laid Mr. Carrick's head in the coffin, by special request of the ancient virgin who so long superintended the old banker's household.

Another elderly and prominent personage in the bank had charge of the books, and noted the bills. He had a tall, lean figure—legs resembling a spider's, longish, plooky visage, approaching the hue of a peony, shrunken baggy cheeks, small peering gray eyes, nose long, thin, and leaky, bestrode by massive spectacles, which would inevitably have escaped over the tip but for the judicious restraint of a fragment of twine at the back of the ears; his hair, of grizzly white, was little acquainted with the barber's craft, but left pretty much to itself—a freedom which not unfrequently caused it to indulge in the freak popularly known as "a cow's lick." The raiment consisted generally of a rusty black suit, oddly made, the inexpressibles reaching only to, and scarcely covering the knee, the spindle shanks being encased in black worsted stockings. A whitish-coloured cravat, inclining to saffron, protected the crane-looking neck of this ancient native of Lesmahagow, while, in cold weather, a brown "spencer" worn above the coat, and a thimbleful of cordial between one and two o'clock while the bank was shut, tended to render his tabernacle comfortable.

¹ The cashiers of the bank successively were—Messrs. Arthur Robertson, James Simson, Robert Carrick, and Michael Rowand. The latter died at Linthouse, 17th January 1858, aged 86.

² Provost Andrew Cochran, the leading partner of this old banking firm, died childless on 9th July 1777, aged 85, and a monument to his memory, exquisitely formed in white marble with a Latin inscription, and in fine preservation, may yet be seen at the west end of the nave of the Cathedral. A fine old portrait of Provost John Murdoch, the other chief partner, may be seen in the Directors' room of Stirling's Library, Miller Street.

the bottom.¹ They purchased one of the fine edifices, then newly built, for £1340. The street was long the most aristocratic in Glasgow, and the houses on both sides were chiefly the town residences of a number of the ancient Virginia Dons. Mr. Spiers died on 10th December 1782; and a further change in the firm took place to Murdoch, Robertson, and Co., Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Donald having retired. Thus, only four partners were left—viz. Provost John Bowman; George Murdoch, late comptroller of customs, Port-Glasgow; Peter Murdoch, merchant, Glasgow; and John Robertson, the cashier. The disastrous year 1793 brought ruin on the bank, which failed on 28th March, for £113,000, but paid every one in full. The trustee was Walter Ewing M'Lac, merchant, Glasgow, father of the late James Ewing, Esq., of Strathleven.² The Commissioners were, Archibald Graham, banker in Glasgow, Robert Scott of Aitkenhead, and John Leitch, merchant, Glasgow. The bank-tenement was sold to the great West India firm of Alexander Houston and Co., on 11th November 1794, for £1500. The person who negotiated for them in this transaction was Mr. Alexander Warrand, merchant, King Street, a gentleman of much integrity and shrewdness.

3. The Thistle Bank existed about seventy-four years. Several changes of partners took place. In 1782 the partners were—Sir James Maxwell, Bart., of Pollok; James Ritchie of Busbie; John Glassford of Dougalston; John M'Call of Belvidere; and John Campbell of Clathic. By 1802 all of these were dead except Mr. Campbell, who in that year assumed Robert Scott of Aitkenhead; Henry Ritchie of Busbie; James Rowan of Bellahouston; and Archibald Graham, formerly writer in Glasgow, father of the late Mr. Archibald Graham, the talented Parliamentary solicitor in London. In 1806 the partners were—Henry Ritchie of Busbie; Archibald Colquhoun of Killermont; William Hozier of Newlands; Robert Scott of Aitkenhead; John Alston, John Gordon, and Stephen Rowan, all merchants in Glasgow. In 1826 the partners consisted of John Gordon, George Alston, Robert Scott, James

¹ Three banks have since had their offices successively on this site of the old Arms Bank in Miller Street—viz. the Bank of Scotland, the Western, and the Clydesdale.

² The cashiers of this bank in succession were—Messrs. Lawrence Scott, Michael Harris, and John Robertson.

Fyffe, Charles Stirling jun., all merchants; and Richard Duncan, father of the present manager of the National Bank, Edinburgh. To these were subsequently added Robert Douglas Alston, merchant, and Sylvester Douglas Stirling. Latterly, Mr. Scott and Mr. Duncan had the joint management of the Thistle, the office of which continued in Virginia Street, upwards of seventy years. Finally, in 1836 this most respectable old bank merged into "The Glasgow Union Bank" (now the Union Bank of Scotland), which took over the Thistle premises at the sum of £5100, and pulled down the old tenement, erecting on the same spot the fine edifice which subsequently became the office of the City of Glasgow Bank.¹ This is the oldest banking site in Glasgow, a succession of banks having carried on business there during the last ninety-six years.²

4. The Merchants' Bank, after carrying on business about twenty-four years, failed, but paid in full.

The outstanding debts due to this bank were purchased by the late Mr. Robert Thomson of Camphill (who, along with the late Mr. Crum, father of the present member for Paisley, were two of the partners), and by Mr. Andrew Templeton, then an insurance agent in King Street, and afterwards agent for the Paisley Union Bank. This turned out very favourable for the purchasers.³

¹ The cashiers in succession of the Thistle Bank were—Messrs. David Cross, David Elliot, Archibald Graham (writer), John Alston, Richard Duncan, and Robert Scott—the last two being joint-cashiers.

² Four banks have successively been owners of what is now the City Bank Office, thus:—Early in 1844 the Union sold the edifice, by missives, to a new joint-stock concern called "The Glasgow Bank," whereof the late Mr. Andrew Ranken was manager, and they took possession; but as the latter was nipped in the bud by the operation of Peel's Act of that year, which forbade license for issuing notes to banks formed after a certain date, it amalgamated in July with the Western Bank, which accordingly took over from the Glasgow Bank the Virginia Street premises as part of the assets. The Western Bank having, however, an office of their own, sold the one thus acquired by them from the incipient company to the City of Glasgow Bank, on 20th August 1844, for £9450, realising a profit of £500. To save expense the Union Bank gave a formal conveyance direct to the City Bank, at request, and with consent of the Glasgow and the Western, on a narrative of these transactions.

³ The cashiers of the Merchants' Bank in succession were—Messrs. John Auld, Andrew Dewar, and William Armstrong. The late Mr. William Furlong, wine merchant, Garthland Street, known by the *sobriquet* of "The Duke" from his lofty air, was a clerk and teller in this bank, and marked the notes as entered in the Note-Register, to guide the cashier in signing the issue.

5. The Messrs. Thomson's Bank failed on 5th November 1793 for about £47,000. The trustee was Mr. John M'Caul, merchant, Glasgow, son of the Rev. Dr. M'Caul, minister of the Tron Church. They paid in full. The senior partner of the firm died in London on 28th February 1797, aged 78. Mr. Andrew Thomson, the junior partner and cashier, settled in that city, and married a sister-in-law of the late well-known Mr. Thomas Watson, of Messrs. Watson, Young, and Co., of Glasgow. Mr. George Thomson, the middle partner, had subsequently a large tea warehouse, many years, at the south-east corner of Hutcheson Street and Trongate. He was father-in-law to a brother of Mr. Kirkman Finlay of Castle Toward, and also to Mr. M'Gregor, the first agent which the Bank of England had in Manchester. Mr. George Thomson was a fine old man, and will be well remembered. His son, Mr. Andrew Thomson, carried on an extensive business in Glasgow as a bill-broker many years, and was father-in-law to Mr. John Scott, the eminent shipbuilder in Greenock. Another brother of Mr. George Thomson, named John, built, in connection with Mr. Robert Smith, part of the new town of Glasgow, on speculation, which did not turn out favourably. Mr. John Thomson afterwards held the appointment of secretary to the old Gas Light Company in Virginia Street, till his death.

6. The Glasgow Bank existed about thirty-five years. Mr. Dennistoun retired from the active management in 1829, on which occasion the merchants of Glasgow entertained him at a magnificent banquet in the great hall of the Royal Exchange, and had his portrait painted in token of their esteem. To this day fine engravings of Mr. Dennistoun's likeness are to be seen in many an old merchant's house, to testify their respect for this most worthy man. He died at Golhill, 11th October 1835. After Mr. Dennistoun's retirement, Mr. Roberts of Dundee, and, subsequently, Mr. Robert Findlay of Easterhill, became managers of the bank; and the Ship having, as already stated, joined the Glasgow, under the title of "The Glasgow and Ship Bank," the amalgamated establishment pulled down in 1840 the ancient "Virginia Mansion," at the head of Virginia Street, which had been purchased in 1828 by the partners of the Glasgow Bank, and erected on the

same site the spacious edifice which is now the office of the Union Bank of Scotland. To this new building the Glasgow and Ship removed in 1842; and in the course of the year after, these united companies in their turn merged into the Union Bank, which then moved its office from the site of the old Thistle to the premises vacated by the *first* and the *last* of the private Banks of Glasgow.

SECTION II.

SOME OF THE PRIVATE BANKS BELONGING TO OTHER TOWNS WHICH HAD BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN THIS CITY.

In the previous section the native banks of Glasgow have been handled. It may not be uninteresting to pursue the subject a little farther by noticing some of those private banks belonging to other towns which had branches or agencies, and issued their notes, in this city. Like the old private banks of Glasgow, these stranger companies have long passed away. In their day, however, they took a considerable part in our monetary transactions, and seem entitled to a niche in retrospect.

1. The first which sent a branch here was the Paisley Bank, or, as it was familiarly called, "The Old Paisley." This took place in 1784. At that period the population of Glasgow was about 47,000, and of Paisley about 21,000. The bank itself had been established at Paisley only the year previous, having commenced there on 1st October 1783. Up till that time all the banking business of Paisley was transacted in Glasgow. There were nine original partners—viz. Messrs. Andrew Thomson of Faskin; George Thomson and Hugh Niven, merchants, Glasgow (the latter being the "Strap" of *Roderick Random*); John M'Kerrell of Hillhouse; Robert Fulton, John Wilson, Claud Neilson, James Lowndes, and Robert Corse, merchants in Paisley. The descriptive firm was "The Paisley Banking Company." The first cashier at Paisley was Mr. James Hog, son of Mr. Walter Hog, who was many years manager in Edinburgh of the British

Linen Company. Following the example of the Glasgow banks more than thirty years previously, the partners granted a bond for payment of the notes, which was registered in the Burgh Court books of Paisley on the same day the bank commenced. This was the first bank in Renfrewshire. About the close of last century Mr. Hog was succeeded in the office of cashier at Paisley by Mr. Adam Keir, who had been a partner of the firm of Messrs. Bertram, Gardner, and Co., bankers, Edinburgh, which failed on 10th November 1793. He held the appointment a great many years, and is no doubt well remembered.

As already said, a branch of this bank was opened at Glasgow in 1784. The office was in a small flat of two rooms in the antique tenement still standing on the south side of Trongate, opposite the Tontine, up one stair. Three small windows faced the street. The entrance was by a close so narrow that two persons could scarcely pass abreast, and up an equally narrow, corkscrew stair; both so dark that people had to grope their way up and down the best way they could, with no small risk of being robbed. This locality was then, and for many years after, the centre of business. In this quaint old office the branch continued about forty-four years.

The first agent was Mr. Archibald Hamilton of Overton, who was also collector of the Land-Tax for Lanarkshire. He had been a Virginia merchant, and was highly esteemed. He resided on the west side of Dunlop Street, near the house at one time possessed by Sir John Moore's father, but Mr. Hamilton latterly lived in Hutcheson Street. The agency some time afterwards was conducted by Messrs. Archibald Hamilton and Son.

A pretty large business was transacted at this Glasgow branch. Mr. Keir was generally to be found there, one day each week, at stated hours. The bank had small agencies besides, in different parts of the country, such as Irvine and Stranraer.

It was the practice of the old banks in Glasgow to discount only twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. Bills were left a day or two before, in a small locked box, with a slit, fastened on the bank counter. It was a wholesome rule, and enabled the banker deliberately to look over the customer's discount and general accounts,

and make any necessary inquiries about the obligants. In the case of the Old Paisley, the agent generally sent out the bills thus left to the cashier for inspection.

The old bankers had a predilection for issuing guinea notes. These were put up in parcels of nineteen, so that a person wanting £20 got one of these parcels and one shilling. This induces the remark that throughout the British coinage no mintage has ever surpassed, or even equalled, in artistic taste and beauty, that of the fine old "gold guinea" of George III., long ago out of circulation. The modern sovereign is a poor-looking coin in comparison.

After Mr. Keir, Mr. Arthur Welsh held the cashiership at Paisley, and in 1814 Mr. Alexander Brown became the agent in Glasgow. Both remained till the close of the bank.

In 1828 the bank purchased from the trustees of Messrs. George and Robert Dennistoun and Co. the small tenement at the north-west corner of Wilson and Virginia Streets, then entering from the latter. The price was £2700. The negotiator on the part of the bank was the well-known Mr. James M'Queen, then editor of the *Glasgow Courier*. To this Virginia Street office accordingly the branch was removed, from the dingy old one in Trongate.

By this time many changes had taken place among the original partners. The number was reduced from nine to five, and of these only two of the original body remained. These five partners were Messrs. William Lowndes of Arthurlie; Robert Fulton of Hartfield; Claud Neilson, merchant in London; Alexander Gardner, and Adam Keir jun., bankers, Paisley. After carrying on business in the new branch office in Virginia Street nine years, the Paisley Bank was dissolved, by the expiry of their contract of copartnership, on 20th November 1837. The British Linen Company assumed their liabilities and took over their assets, part of which last consisted of the Virginia Street property. But having then an office of their own on the west side of Queen Street (now No. 71), the British Linen soon after re-sold the former property to "The Glasgow Insurance Company," at a profit of £500. The latter was a short-lived concern, and they in their turn sold the Virginia Street tenement in 1842 to the City of Glasgow Bank, which had

its first office there. But the latter having, as already explained, purchased from the Western Bank, on 20th August 1844, their present elegant tenement farther down Virginia Street, at the price of £9450,¹ sold the old Paisley property in 1851 to the National Security Savings Bank, which altered the entrance from Virginia to Wilson Street, and now occupies the premises. Thus, four banks—the Paisley, British Linen, City of Glasgow, and the Savings Banks—have successively been owners of this Virginia Street tenement, which was built by Mr. John Leckie, writer, in 1800, on part of old Provost Bowman's garden.

At the time the Paisley Bank ceased, Mr. Welsh was, as already said, the cashier. He was, however, appointed agent at Paisley for a branch of the British Linen Company, which was then opened in that town, and they also adopted the branch agents, Mr. Montgomerie at Irvine, and Mr. C. Morland at Stranraer. Thus the Paisley Bank became extinct, after existing fifty-four years.

2. The next private bank which placed a branch in Glasgow was Messrs. Dunlop, Houston, Gammell, and Co., bankers in Greenock, better known as the "Greenock Bank." They did so on Thursday, 28th July 1785. The bank commenced in Greenock on the previous Monday. The original partners were four in number—viz. Messrs. James Dunlop of Garnkirk (son of Provost Colin Dunlop, one of the founders of the Old Ship Bank); Andrew Houston of Jordanhill; James Gammell, merchant in Greenock, partner of Messrs. James Hunter and Co., of that town, and of Messrs. Andrew Thomson and Co., Newfoundland;² and James M'Dowall, merchant in Glasgow. The latter gentleman was a son of Mr. M'Dowall of Garthland (another of the founders of the Ship Bank), and twice Lord Provost of Glasgow. Garthland Street was named after him. The firm, for the first eight years, was Dunlop, Houston, Gammell, and Co. Their first cashier at Greenock was Mr. James Miller. He acted only one year, and subsequently became Professor of Mathematics in the College of Glasgow. He was son of the celebrated John Miller, Professor of

¹ This City Bank edifice was built by the Glasgow Union Bank in 1839, and originally cost £18,000. The design is from the Temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome.

² Mr. Gammell long resided in the antique mansion on the shore, at "Gammell's Point," near Greenock, and died in 1825, much respected.

Civil Law in the same University, and father-in-law of the present Dean of the Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow. The first office of the bank in Greenock was in the tenement west of the Town Hall, from which it was removed to the Bank Buildings, West Breast, where it continued till September 1820, when other premises were erected in Cathcart Street, where it continued till the last. The notes bore the representation of an old oak tree and the first issue was signed by Mr. Miller, the cashier, and made payable to Alexander Shannon. The usual bond by the partners was also recorded.

The first agent in Glasgow of this banking firm was the leading partner, Mr. James Dunlop, a gentleman of great business talent, and then one of the principal merchants. Besides his fine estates of Garnkirk, Bedlay, and others, in the vicinity of Glasgow, yielding a rental in these old times upwards of £4000 per annum,¹ he was proprietor of and resided in the splendid edifice called "The Virginia Mansion," already alluded to,² which last he had

¹ It is worth recording the names of the numerous estates and properties which belonged to this great merchant-banker, Mr. Dunlop. These were—Garnkirk, Bedlay, Davidston, Gartferry, Auchenloch, Johnston, Shankramuir, Druncavil, Robertson Hall, Garnqueen, Chryston, Gartcosh, Craigmuir, Gartsheugh, Cardowanmuir, in the parishes of Cadder, and the Barony of Glasgow; Ryding, Gartmillan, Kipps, Blacklands, and Gunny, in the parish of East Monkland; and one half of the fine estate of Barrowfield, on which the greater part of Calton, Mile-End, and Bridgeton now stand—the other half then belonging to Mr. Robert Scott of Aitkenhead. Mr. Dunlop purchased his half of Barrowfield in 1788 for £8000. In fact, he was one of largest landowners then in Glasgow.

² The "Virginia Mansion" stood at the head of, and looked down Virginia Street. A flight of broad stairs, without balustrade, tapering inwards, led to the entrance-hall in the first storey, the spacious lobby being inlaid with mosaic. A large open space in front, reaching down nearly as far as what is now Wilson Street, was laid off in shrubbery, with a circular carriage drive. A parapet wall, with ornamental iron railing, crossed the street, and a handsome gateway in the centre admitted carriages. At each side of the gate was a small lodge, one of which was Mr. Dunlop's counting-house—a favourite arrangement in the town mansions of that day. Grape and peach houses occupied what is now the recess on the west side of the street, at the top, and pine-apple stoves and greenhouse were in the eastern recess. There was a large green behind the mansion, enclosed on three sides by stone walls, one of which ran along what is now Ingram Street, but then called the "Back Cow Lone," a dirty, unpaved road, full of holes, and a perfect puddle in rains. A door in this north wall allowed egress to "the Back Lone," to throw out garden weeds, take in coals, etc. What a change now! The Union Bank stands partly on this old back green, and partly on the site of the "Virginia Mansion," but faces north instead of south.³ There was originally no outlet by either end of the

³ The six statues on the top of the Union Bank represent—1. (the eastmost) Britannia; 2. Wealth; 3. Justice; 4. Peace; 5. Industry; and 6. (the westmost) Glasgow. They were sculptured by Mr. John Mossman of Glasgow, and placed on Wednesday, 6th December 1843.

purchased in 1787 from Mr. Peter Spiers of Culcreuch, second son of the first Mr. Spiers of Elderslie. Mr. Dunlop's counting-house was attached to the mansion, and it was there that the branch of the Greenock Bank in Glasgow was first opened. Mr. Dunlop transacted the branch business in that counting-house eight years.

In the disastrous 1793, Mr. Dunlop became unfortunate, and the bank held his obligations to the extent of £25,387. A severe run took place on the bank in Greenock; but such was the confidence in the stability of the company, that many of the influential people in that town voluntarily came forward and endorsed the bank-notes on tables placed on the street, which allayed the panic.¹

The title was thenceforth altered from Dunlop, Houston, Gammell, and Co., to the Greenock Bank, by which this establishment was so long and so favourably known. New partners were also introduced at different times, such as Messrs. James Dennistoun of Camiseskan; James Hunter, of Messrs. Hunter, Robertson, and Co., Greenock; John Scott sen., the eminent shipbuilder; Robert Caldwell Hunter of Hunterston; General Andrew Gammell; George Robertson, merchant,² Greenock; William Forsyth, etc. The second cashier was Mr. Robert Caldwell, who held that office from 1786 till 1796, but having then espoused his cousin, Miss Eleonora Hunter, the heiress of Hunterston, near Fairlie, he assumed the surname of that ancient Ayrshire family. The third cashier was Mr. James Patten, from 1796 till 1801. The fourth and last was Mr. Alexander Thomson, who was appointed on 16th July

Mansion to Ingram Street; but about 1797 the gateway and lodges were removed, preparatory to laying off the open ground in front as a continuation northwards of the street, and a lane was then opened along the west side only. By that time the mansion had passed into the hands of speculative purchasers, who let it for various purposes, latterly as counting-houses. At one time it was occupied as a boarding-school by Mrs. Candlish, mother of the Rev. Dr. Candlish of the Free Church, Edinburgh, and of the late Mr. James Candlish, surgeon, Glassford Street, a pupil of the well-known Dr. Corkindale. The lane along the east side of the bank was not opened till 1840. Everything thereabouts is now so completely altered, that the ancient aspect seems worthy of being thus noted.

¹ The Royal Bank held obligations of Mr. Dunlop as a merchant to the extent of £9100, and attempted to make the Greenock Bank liable; but were defeated both in the Court of Session and House of Lords, after an obstinate litigation upwards of five years.

1801, and under whose prudent management the bank was successfully conducted through many perilous times, more than forty-two years. He was also a principal partner of the bank from 1813.

Mr. Dunlop ceased to be agent in Glasgow in 1793,¹ and Mr. Alexander Warrand, merchant, was appointed successor. This gentleman was much respected. He resided in a villa, which he built at St. Rollox Croft, and was son-in-law of the Rev. Dr. M'Caul, of the Tron Church. The Greenock Bank office was removed from Virginia Street to Mr. Warrand's property in King Street, and thence, in 1798, to an office under the piazzas, Tontine, on the west side of the entrance leading to the back buildings. This locality was then the heart of mercantile bustle, the seat of the Exchange, and crowded with counting-houses, especially of underwriters. At that time the unpaid bills of the bank branch were protested by the then Town-Clerk of Renfrew, Mr. David Hutcheson, who had an office in the Tolbooth, and as an instance of the queerish way in which this piece of professional business was managed, Mr. Warrand's clerk was accustomed to leave the bills at night with an old woman, a grocer, named Mrs. Wright, who had the exclusive privilege of selling tickets for "the play-house," and who delivered these dishonoured documents when called for to a young man deputed by the Renfrew notary to receive and present them. This young man was the late Mr. Robert Thomson, a native of Dumbarton, who afterwards became one of the Town-Clerks of Glasgow, and long and worthily held that appointment.

Mr. Warrand died in 1800, and the affairs of the Greenock Bank branch were handed over in perfect order by his active managing clerk to Messrs. James and Robert Watson, private bankers, who acted as agents for twenty-four years. In 1824 the branch was resumed under the agency first of Mr. John Robertson, produce broker, father of the present agent for the Royal Bank, and second of Mr. John Robson. The office was in Antigua Place,

¹ Mr. Dunlop died 21st July 1816, and a beautifully-executed memorial window is in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral, south side, to this most respectable old merchant-banker. He was blind of one eye.

Nelson Street, from which it was finally moved to the east side of Buchanan Street.

The Greenock Bank transacted a large business. Besides Glasgow, they had branches at Rothesay, Lochgilphead, etc., and an extensive and influential connection with the West Highlands. They had also a large circulation in Cumberland, Westmoreland, and the Isle of Man, and for many years were the Government bank at Greenock, for receiving and remitting to London the customs and other branches of the public revenue.

On Sunday, 9th March 1828, the bank was robbed by English thieves of £28,350. One of them, named Henry Sanders, was tried, but acquitted in September following. Most of the money stolen was, however, recovered afterwards.

The bank existed fifty-eight years, viz. from 1785 till 1843. At this latter date the partners were—Messrs. John Scott, shipbuilder, Greenock; Charles C. Scott of Hawkhill, near Largs; James Hunter of Hafton, Dunoon; William Smith of Fullwood, merchant, Liverpool; Alexander Thomson and John Thomson, bankers, Greenock. In November 1843 these partners disposed of their whole interest therein to the Western Bank for a large consideration; the Glasgow branch was then closed, and the Greenock Bank ceased to exist as an independent establishment, although the old name was retained by the purchasers fourteen years longer as a branch of their own in Greenock. *This was the last private bank in Scotland.*

3. The third bank which sent a branch to Glasgow was the Paisley Union. This bank was established at Paisley in May 1788. There were ten original partners—viz. Messrs George Houston of Johnstone; John Semple of Earnock; Charles Maxwell of Marksworth; James Elliot Henderson of Enoch Bank, Glasgow; Charles Addison of Woodhead; John Cochran, Robert Hunter, Robert Orr, and John Christie, all merchants in Paisley; and John Duguid, merchant, Glasgow. The first cashier at Paisley was Mr. David Robertson; the second, Mr. John Likly, from Old Meldrum, who died about 1815; the third, Mr. James Miller; and the last, Mr. John Scott.

In 1789 a branch was opened in Glasgow. The first office

was in a flat up two stairs, at No. 17 High Street. The first agent was Mr. James Elliot Henderson of Enoch Bank, one of the partners. His fine old mansion stood among gardens and open fields, on the north side of what is now Moore Place, and the entrance was from "Anderston Walk," between two rows of beech hedges. It was demolished about thirty-five years ago, when the new streets were forming in the vicinity. Some years after the opening of the branch, Mr. Henderson removed the office to his own premises in Hutcheson Street, and in 1800 to the south-east corner of South Frederick and Ingram Streets, now the counting-house of Messrs. R. and J. Henderson.

In 1802 Mr. Andrew Templeton became the agent, and continued so twenty-seven years. He was a shrewd, sagacious man of business, and had been trained under Mr. Duguid of the Old King Street Sugar-house, one of the original partners of the bank. Mr. Templeton was also agent for the Edinburgh Friendly Insurance Company formed in 1720, and the first of these concerns in Scotland. In conjunction with Mr. Robert Thomson of Camphill, Mr. Templeton purchased the outstanding debts of the Merchants' Bank, which failed some years previously. This turned out a good speculation for the purchasers. When Mr. Templeton joined the Paisley Union, the bank office was at 17 Glassford Street; but in 1805 it was removed to the low floor of the tenement at the north-east corner of Hutcheson and Ingram Streets, entering from the latter. There it remained till the last.

During Mr. Templeton's agency of the Paisley Union, the office in Ingram Street was robbed by three noted London thieves. It made a great noise at the time. The robbery took place early in the morning of Sunday, 14th July 1811, and the amount stolen was £20,000. With this large sum the thieves got clear off to London in a post-chaise and four. The Bow Street officers recovered £12,000 shortly after through the medium of a London boxer, who acted as middleman between them and the robbers, but only a portion of the remaining £8000 was ever recovered, and that under circumstances so singular as to be almost like a romance. It will hardly be credited that the principal robber, James Mackcoul, had the audacity to prosecute the bank for arrest-

ing him a number of years after in Edinburgh, where he had been purchasing from several of the banks drafts on London, in name of a fictitious party, with the very notes he had stolen. The Paisley Union Bank was very nearly cast in that action, and only escaped through the remarkable sagacity and exertions of Mr. Denovan, originally of the Bow Street Office, and afterwards Master of Police in Glasgow, who succeeded in identifying Mackcoul with the robbery, and turned the tables so completely against him, that he was tried and sentenced to death, but died in prison in December 1820. The counsel for the bank were Mr. Francis Jeffrey and Mr. Henry Cockburn; and the present President of the Court of Session was for Mackcoul.

It was altogether a singular case, and a history was published at the time in an octavo volume, with some curious papers, and a portrait of Mackcoul, who seems to have been a thorough villain, cheating even his wretched accomplices out of their share of the spoil, and leaving little reason to doubt that *he* was the person who murdered William Begbie, porter to the British Linen Company in 1806, and robbed him of a bank parcel containing upwards of £4000—a crime long shrouded in mystery. The other two thieves concerned in the Paisley Union Bank robbery were punished for different crimes—one of them, Huffy White, having been hung at Northampton for robbing the Leeds mail; and the other, named Harry French, being transported for a burglary.¹

In the present day, what between Index and Chubb's locks, drop-bolts, and other precautions, such robberies are not likely to occur. Nevertheless bankers should not be too confident, and country agents in particular cannot be sufficiently vigilant, especially on Sundays.

Besides Glasgow, the Paisley Union had many years a branch at Johnstone.

On 15th August 1829 Mr. Templeton died, and his successor was Mr. William Walker, who had been a partner of Messrs. Warden, Walkers, and Hill, manufacturers, Hutcheson Street, and

¹ On 19th October 1791 a parcel containing 500 guinea notes of the Paisley Union Bank was stolen from the mail-coach between Carlisle and Glasgow on its way to the bank. A reward was offered of fifty guineas, "and no questions asked."

whose father—a fine old man—was at one time a teller in the Glasgow Arms Bank, and afterwards session-clerk during a number of years.

On 30th June 1838 the Paisley Union, after having existed half-a-century, merged into the Glasgow Union bank, now the Union Bank of Scotland. Latterly the partners of the Paisley Union were only three—viz. Messrs. Ludovic Houston of Johnstone; Robert Smith of Barshaw, near Paisley; and James Stirling of Glentyan. Mr. John Scott, the cashier at Paisley, was appointed agent for a branch in that town, of the Glasgow Union, and Mr. Walker became sub-manager of the latter in Glasgow, both of which appointments they worthily held during their respective lives.

4. The fourth and last private bank branch opened in Glasgow was that of the Renfrewshire Bank. The social firm was William Napier and Co. Its head office was in Greenock, where it commenced business in 1802. The first office was in the low flat of a house in Hamilton Street, opposite Tan Work Close, but it was afterwards removed to a house built in 1811 in Shaw Place. There were nine original partners—viz. Messrs. Archibald Spiers of Elderslie; Boyd Alexander of Southbar; John Cunningham, merchant, Port-Glasgow (father of the late Lord Cunningham); Alexander Dunlop and John Hamilton, merchants, Greenock; James Patten, banker there; William Napier of Blackston; Charles Stirling of Kenmure; and Peter Spiers of Culcreuch. The first cashier was Mr. James Patten, one of the partners.

A branch was planted at Glasgow in 1803, under the agency of Messrs. Logan and Kennedy, wine merchants, the partners of which were the well-known Mr. Walter Logan, then also of the Canal Office, and Mr. Gilbert Kennedy, son of Mr. James Kennedy of Auchtyfardle, advocate, who was ruined by the failure of Douglas, Heron, and Co., bankers, Ayr. The office was in Buchanan Street. Notice was given to the public that bills for discount were to be enclosed in letters, addressed "Renfrewshire Bank, Greenock," and given in to the Glasgow office on Saturday before three o'clock, and called for between one and three o'clock on Tuesday. In 1805 Mr. Hugh Hamilton was appointed agent,

and the office removed to 132 Trongate. It was thereafter in Brunswick Place, and lastly in a back tenement, east side of Miller Street, northmost entry, where it remained till the close. The last agent was Mr. Archibald Lawson, a much respected old citizen.

This bank had branches also at Rothesay, Inveraray, and Campbeltown.

The original contract of copartnery expired in 1809, when Mr. Archibald Spiers and Mr. Hamilton retired. The contract was renewed by the rest. In 1813 Mr. Cunningham's interest ceased by his death. In 1820 Mr. Roger Aytoun, who had been in the army, was admitted a partner, and latterly became joint-cashier with Mr. Patten at Greenock. In 1825 Mr. Alexander died. In 1829 Mr. Stirling and Mr. Peter Spiers retired. Their example was followed in 1833 by Mr. Patten, and by Mr. Dunlop, then of Keppoch, Dumbartonshire, in 1840. Thus the only remaining partners were Mr. Napier and Mr. Aytoun the cashier.

The Renfrewshire Bank had at one time a pretty extensive business, but it gradually dwindled away. On 1st April 1842 the bank was sequestrated. The trustee was Mr. John Ker, merchant, Greenock. Their liabilities amounted to upwards of £324,000; and the dividend to the general creditors was small. Some of the note-holders and depositors, however, were paid in full by certain of the retired partners, where the obligations were dated prior to 1840.

Besides the four branch banks above described, there were a number of agencies in Glasgow for other private banking companies at a distance. Thus the Falkirk Banking Company, familiarly called "The old Falkirk," established in 1787, transacted a small business in Glasgow a great many years, under the charge of Mr. Charles Walker, grocer, Gallowgate, better known as "Colonel Walker of the Grocers' Corps." The banking operations were carried on in his back shop. He was a fine old man, and much respected.¹ In 1813 Mr. James King jun., writer, was appointed agent, and continued to the last. The office was in the Black Boy Close, Gallowgate, up one stair, and a dismal-looking place it was.

¹ Mr. Walker died 30th December 1837.

This bank had only a few partners, chiefly substantial merchants in Falkirk and the vicinity. One principal member throughout was the late Mr. Adam Dawson of Bonnytown, near Linlithgow, whose prudence, integrity, and high character during a long life are well remembered. Other respectable partners were Messrs. Alexander Ramsay, and J. Walker, merchants, Falkirk (the last being father of the now eminent civil engineer in London); John Meek of Campfield; Charles Walker, the Glasgow agent, a native of Falkirk, and then a wealthy man, etc. The cashier during nearly the whole time, and at the last, was Mr. Alexander Ramsay. The notes were very plain, the only symbol being a small church and steeple at one of the corners. There were several contracts of copartnery, the last of which expired in 1825, when the bank was discontinued, and wound up by Mr. Dawson, Mr. Walker of Falkirk, and the cashier, without difficulty or litigation, after an existence of thirty-eight years. This bank was all along successful, and paid good dividends. When the winding up was completed, each £100 share yielded £1500 to the partners in return. The notes outstanding were retired in Edinburgh by the Royal Bank. It was in the office of this quaint old bank at Falkirk that John Taylor, of Western Bank notoriety, received his early training, being a native of that district.

The Leith Bank, which was established 1st January 1793, had a small agency in Glasgow many years. In 1800, and during fifteen years after, the agent was Mr. Richard Dick, better known as "Justice Dick," whose tall thin figure, with tied-hair profusely powdered, and carrying an old-fashioned green silk umbrella, with a brass ring at the top, under his arm, or a gold-headed cane, will no doubt be remembered as somewhat conspicuous in his regular visits to the "Old Coffee Room." He was a fine old gentleman.¹ The business of the bank was then conducted in his own premises in Hutcheson Street, and consisted chiefly in collecting and discounting a few small bills. In 1816 the agency was transferred to Messrs. J. and R. Watson, Post-Office Court, who retained it till 1832, when the Western Bank became the agents.

¹ Mr. Dick's father was Professor of Civil Law in Edinburgh College, and proprietor of the now well-known lands of Gartsherrie.

In 1810 the directors of the Leith Bank were Messrs. Alexander Alison, Adam White, James Jamieson, J. Pillans, and J. Pattison. In 1829 the partners were fifteen in number—viz. Messrs. James Ker of Blacksheills; John Pattison, W.S., Edinburgh; Robert Grieve, and Abram Newton, merchants, Leith; Alexander M'Donald of Lochans, residing in Callander; William Blackie, Muirhouse, by Stowe; John Gray, merchant, Dalkeith; Archibald Scot, at Langholm; John Bisset, S.S.C., Edinburgh; John Brown, and William Armstrong, both of Carlisle; the representatives of Robert Davidson, Dalkeith; and Mr. Henry Johnston, banker, Leith. These were gradually reduced in number, by death and otherwise, till four only were left. The joint managers for many years, and at the last, were Messrs. James Ker and Henry Johnston, both partners; the latter had previously long been accountant of the bank.

At one time this bank had a considerable business at Leith, and at Galashiels, Dalkeith, and Callander, where they had good agencies. Their branch at the latter place gave them also some hold of the Highland district, and they had a pretty extensive note-circulation there. They were in the practice of attending the Falkirk trysts and other fairs, with money, in a tent, as some of the Edinburgh banks do yet. The Leith Bank had also a branch at Langholm, which turned out unfavourably. They had another at Carlisle, and were consequently registered as an English bank. This was discontinued in 1837. Latterly, the notes had a representation of Leith Pier, and the landing of George IV.—rather a clumsy piece of engraving. They persisted in issuing notes of £2 to the last, after all the other banks had ceased to do so as unsuitable. On 7th May 1842 the bank was sequestrated. The then surviving partners were Mr. Ker and Mr. Johnston; Messrs. George Craig, banker, Galashiels; and John Bisset, S.S.C., Edinburgh. The trustee was Mr. James Brown, accountant in the latter city. The debts amounted to £123,582, whereof upwards of £10,000 were notes in circulation. The dividend was 13s. 4d. per pound.

A third small agency in Glasgow was that of the Falkirk Union Bank. The agent was Mr. Matthew Fleming, from 1805

till 1816. His office for the first four years was at 66 Glassford Street, and afterwards at 95 George Street.

This bank was established at Falkirk in 1803, in opposition to the old Falkirk, already noticed. The partners originally were fourteen, to which six were afterwards added. They were small lairds and farmers, utterly ignorant of business, and the manager had been a clerk in a country writer's office. The original capital was £12,000. The notes, which were poorly engraved, bore at the top, and down the left margin, representations of the Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock intertwined, with the motto "*Tria juncta in uno*," on a wavy scroll across the top. In 1812 these were payable to William Gentles, and signed by James Brown, cashier, and countersigned by William Horn. The business was chiefly with cattle-dealers and farmers. The bank never did any good, and failed in October 1816. Its obligations, including the notes in circulation, amounted to about £51,000. They paid about one-half. The partners at the sequestration were Messrs. James Brown of Broomage; William Coubrough (of Elrigg); James Aitken, writer, Falkirk; Robert Gillespie, residing in Falkirk; William Glen of Mains; and John Glen, Linlithgow. The trustee was Mr. James Russell, writer in Falkirk.

The Fife Banking Company had an agency here in 1807, and several years afterwards, under the charge of Messrs. R. and G. Hill, who were manufacturers. Their place of business was successively in Candleriggs, Melville Place, South Albion Street, and Bell Street.

This Bank began at Cupar in May 1802. It had branches also at Kirriemuir and Kirkcaldy. There were originally forty-seven partners. The capital was £30,000 in sixty shares of £500 each. The manager was George Aitken, writer, Cupar. At one time the bank had an excellent business. The average note-circulation was about £50,000. But afterwards the bank was sadly mismanaged. The accountant, Ebenezer Anderson, was associated with Aitken as a check on his operations, but to little purpose. The bank stopped payment on 15th December 1825. An investigation was made by Mr. Andrew Girvan, accountant in Edinburgh, which exhibited a very unfavourable

result. A trust-deed was executed, and Messrs. J. A. Cheyne, and Lindsay Mackersy, accountants, Edinburgh, were appointed joint managers, to wind up the bank's concerns. These gentlemen acted four years, but gave place to Mr. William Drummond, writer, Cupar, who was elected manager on 21st May 1829, and finally closed this unfortunate company. But what between lawsuits with refractory partners, including appeals to the House of Lords, and other sickening matters, the bank's affairs were not brought to a conclusion for upwards of twenty-five years after the bank's stoppage! The enormous losses fell ultimately on the shoulders of fourteen partners, the only solvent members of the proprietary, and these unlucky fourteen had to pay calls at the rate of no less than £5500 on each share they held, before they got clear, besides losing all their original stock.

But by far the most extensive bank agency in Glasgow was that of Messrs. James and Robert Watson, private bankers. This highly respectable firm commenced near the close of last century, and existed about forty years. Messrs. Watson were agents for a number of banks. Some of these may be noticed—

1. The Stirling Banking Company, which began in 1777, and failed in 1826. Latterly the partners were Messrs. Edward Alexander of Powais; Patrick Connal, merchant, Stirling; John Thomson, manufacturer at Boroughmuir; Robert Thomson, wood-merchant, Stirling; John H. Syme, brewer, Alloa; John Wright, residing in Stirling; and Peter Wright, writer there. The trustee was Mr. Alexander Smith of Glassingall. The bank paid in full, with a reversion to the partners.
2. The Kilmarnock Bank. It commenced business in 1802. The partners were Messrs. James Fairlie of Bellfield; Mungo Fairlie of Holmes; Patrick Ballantine of Castlehill, Ayr; George Douglas of Redinghead; and William Parker of Asloss, the last of whom acted for some time as manager; afterwards Mr. George Rutherford, and latterly Mr. James Fairlie jun., did so. The notes bore the representation of the arms of Kilmarnock—supporters, two squirrels—and the motto, "*Confido.*"

In 1821 the partners of the Kilmarnock Bank transferred the business to Messrs. Hunter and Co., bankers, Ayr, a firm which commenced in 1773, and in its turn merged into the Union Bank of Scotland.

3. The Dundee Union Bank. It began on 22d February 1809, under a contract of copartnery for forty-two years. The original subscribed capital was £100,000, in 200 shares of £500 each, whereof £60,000 were called up in the first instance, but afterwards increased. There were nine directors, chosen by ballot. The first set consisted of Messrs. Gershom Gourlay, John Blair Miller, George Leighton, John Gray, Alexander Balfour, Thomas Mitchell, Robert Thomson, William Powrie, and Walter Newall. The manager from first to last was Mr. David Miln, a gentleman of high professional talents, and author of several excellent banking treatises. The bank had branches originally at Kirriemuir, Stonehaven, Langholm, Auchtermuchty, Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Forfar. The first four were subsequently withdrawn, so also was a branch attempted in London, under the agency of Mr. James Keil. In April 1844 this bank amalgamated with the Western Bank of Scotland.
4. The East Lothian Bank, which commenced at Dunbar on 1st June 1810. The copartnery was to be for twenty-one years; capital £80,000, in 400 shares of £200 each. There were twenty-seven partners, chiefly small landed proprietors and tenant-farmers; nine ordinary and three extraordinary directors.¹ The cashier was William Borthwick, who had been trained in the Falkirk Union Bank, and was highly recommended. The bank never did any good, chiefly from the unprincipled conduct of this

¹ The names of the directors of the East Lothian Bank were—*Ordinary*, Messrs. Christopher Middlemas, merchant, Dunbar; John Gray, tenant in Skaterow; Andrew Taylor, distiller, Westbarns; William Turnbull, tenant in Belton; John Gray, tenant in Peatcocks; William Hume, tenant in Eastbarns; James Waterston, tenant in Eweford; William Lee, tenant in Crawhill; John Brodie, tenant in Scougal; *Extraordinary*, Messrs. John Hume of Westbarns; Thomas Mitchell of Rosebank; and John Dudgeon, tenant in Broomhouse.

cashier. On 10th April 1822 he absconded with £21,000, after having involved the bank, during a series of years, to a large amount, in connection with certain firms of which he was secretly a partner. Sir William Forbes and Co., the bank's Edinburgh agents, assisted the directors in their difficult position, with a credit for £100,000, on ample security over the partners' estates, till the bank's assets could be realised, and until a call of £250 per share, which had been made on the shareholders, was got in. The bank paid in full, and was wound up by Mr. William Paul, accountant, Edinburgh, and a committee of the partners.

After Borthwick the cashier's flight, a singular paper in his autograph was discovered, containing minute instructions for "kidnapping" one of the directors, and the law agent, who were obnoxious to him. They were to be inveigled to a place pointed out, seized, gagged, and thrust into empty puncheons, with air-holes, then shipped on board a vessel at Dunbar, belonging to his brother, about to sail for Dantzic, thereafter to be taken to a remote and desolate part of Prussia, and confined eight or nine months, "without change of clothes or shaving materials," and Borthwick concludes thus:—"I will venture to affirm that at the expiry of that time, they will have repented most sincerely of their conduct" (*Old Session Papers*). Luckily they escaped the snare.

5. The National Bank. The high character of this establishment renders comment unnecessary. The present excellent manager and his father were both trained in the Old Thistle Bank of Glasgow.

Such were some of Messrs. Watson's constituents. But besides acting as bank agents, they transacted a large business of their own as private bankers, both deposit and discount. They did not, however, issue notes by their own firm, but used those of other banks—chiefly the Thistle, and latterly the Bank of Scotland, with which they had accounts. Messrs. Watson had a

regular banking staff, one of whom—Mr. James Turnbull, who had an active charge—will be well remembered.

The first office of Messrs. J. and R. Watson was in Leitch's Court, Trongate. From thence it was removed, in 1800, to large premises in a back tenement, up one stair, Post-Office Court.¹ They remained there till 1828, when they moved to a new tenement built by themselves as a banking house, on the west side of Virginia Street, near the bottom. The office was up one stair, and shops below.

Mr. James Watson, the premier in the firm, died many years before this, but his place was supplied by another brother, Mr. Gilbert Watson, a Writer to the Signet.

This Virginia Street office was robbed by a gang of London thieves on Sunday, 26th December 1831. The thieves escaped with their booty, but one of them, named William Heath, was afterwards captured, tried, and executed. While under sentence of death this villain confessed that he had nearly committed murder. One Sunday before the robbery he was within the bank trying the false keys, and one of the gentlemen of the bank happened to come in unexpectedly. The robber had only time to glide behind a door which stood ajar. He saw the gentleman sit down, read a letter, and afterwards go out. The robber had a drawn dagger in his hand, and declared that if the gentleman had discovered him, he would at once have stabbed him to the heart.

In June 1832 Messrs. Watson became unfortunate. The trustee was Mr. Alexander Gray, accountant in Glasgow. The Virginia Street tenement was sold to the Glasgow Union Banking Company (now the Union Bank of Scotland), which removed thither in 1833 from their first premises on a floor, Post-Office Court, fronting partly Trongate and Candleriggs. They, in their

¹ This court, which is at the head of the first close west from Candleriggs, in Trongate, derives its name from the Post Office having been there nine years, viz. from 1800 till 1809. It was in the low floor of the back tenement, immediately below Messrs. Watson's bank. In 1798 and 1799 the Post Office had been in St. Andrew Street, off Saltmarket. But still farther back, this important public office was long in Princes Street (opened in 1724), south side, near the west end. The postmaster in these three old offices was Mr. James Jackson, who was succeeded in 1809 by the late Mr. Dugald Bannatyne. In 1743 the postmaster was Daniel Montgomery; and in 1684 John Alexander, who was probably the first in Glasgow.

turn, parted with the tenement to the National Bank, which had its first office there; and the property was taken down only two years ago.

An English company commenced an agency here in 1819, under the title of the Exchange and Deposit Bank. The social firm was John Maberley and Co. They professed to do business on terms more favourable to the public than the Scotch banks, and reduced the par of exchange on London to twenty days. The company, however, was unsuccessful, and failed about thirty years ago.

GLASGUENSIS.¹

APPENDIX.

AUTHENTIC LIST OF CASH ACCOUNTS IN THE SHIP BANK, WHILE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF ROBERT CARRICK, ESQ., IN THE YEAR 1789.

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| 1. James Dennistoun of Colgrain, merchant, Glasgow | £1000 |
| Obligants—Andrew Buchanan jun. and Alex. Brown merchants, Glasgow; James Dennistoun, younger of Colgrain, and William Dennistoun, son of the said James Dennistoun, both merchants in Glasgow. | |
| 2. Brown, Carrick, and Co., merchants, Glasgow | 600 |
| Obligants—William Gray of Gartcraig, Alexander Macalpine, John Brown jun., and Robert Carrick, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 3. James Fleming, coppersmith, Glasgow | 500 |
| Obligants—David Hendry, saddler, and Adam Graham, jeweller. | |
| 4. William Craig, merchant, Glasgow | 500 |
| Obligants—John Millar, Professor of Law, University, Glasgow, and William Carmichael, merchant there. | |
| 5. Macalpine, Fleming, and Co., merchants, Glasgow | 500 |
| Obligants—William Macalpine, William Fleming, John Brown jun., Robert Carrick, Charles Scott, and Alexander Macalpine, merchants, Glasgow, and Thomas Cairnie, printer, Dalquharn. | |
| 6. Alexander Brown, merchant, Glasgow | 400 |

¹ "Glasguensis" is the same accomplished antiquarian writer whose contributions are signed "J. B."

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| | Obligants—John Noble of Farm, and James Dennistoun, Colgrain, merchant, Glasgow. | |
| 7. | Robert Hastie, merchant, Glasgow | £400 |
| | Obligants—Cunningham Corbett, merchant, Glasgow, and Gabriel Gray of Scotstoun, Provost of Rutherglen. | |
| 8. | John Grieve and Co., merchants, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—John Grieve, John Tassie, John Boyden, Thomas Pott, and Josias Macmillan, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 9. | John Finlay, writer, Glasgow | 200 |
| | Obligants—William Fleming, coppersmith, and Dr. James Finlay of Bogside. | |
| 10. | Andrew Millar, merchant, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—Stephen Rowand and John Ferguson, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 11. | Colin Rae, Esq., Little Govan | 500 |
| | Obligants—Colin Dunlop of Carmyle, and Alexander Houston of Jordanhill, both merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 12. | Robert Dreghorn, Esq., Ruchill | 500 |
| | Obligants—John Hamilton of Barns, and James Scott, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 13. | Andrew Buchanan, sen. | 500 |
| | Obligants—Walter Brock and James Jamieson, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 14. | George Milne, jeweller, Glasgow | 400 |
| | Obligants—George Anderson, Daniel Campbell, merchants, Glasgow, and John Campbell, jeweller, Greenock. | |
| 15. | James Taylor, merchant | 400 |
| | Obligants—John Buchanan jun., merchant, Greenock, and John Duguid, merchant, Glasgow. | |
| 16. | Kinniburgh and Todd, merchants, Glasgow | 300 |
| | Obligants—George Kinniburgh, Cornelius Tod sen., Cornelius Tod jun., merchants, Glasgow, and John Tod sen., manufacturer, Glasgow. | |
| 17. | James Brown and Co. | 500 |
| | Obligants—James Brown sen., Robert Dreghorn, Esq., and James Moore, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 18. | William Ewing, baker, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—John Reid, wright, and Thomas Reid, linen manufacturer, Glasgow. | |
| 19. | James Finlay, merchant, Glasgow | 300 |
| | Obligants—James M'Call, and John Wallace of Cessnock, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 20. | George Thomson and Co. | 1000 |
| | Obligants—George Thomson, James Johnston, Andrew Thomson, and George M'Call, merchants, and George Baird jun., Finnieston, Glasgow. | |
| 21. | Thomas Snodgrass and Co. | 500 |

- Obligants—Andrew Thomson, William Snodgrass, and George M'Call, merchants, Glasgow, and James and Samuel Crawford, merchants, Greenock.
22. James Wilson, Son, and Co., merchants, Kilmarnock £1000
 Obligants—James Wilson sen. and James Wilson jun., merchants, Kilmarnock, Jonathan Pattenson, tanner there, and Colin and James Dunlop, merchants, Glasgow.
23. Hastie Corbett and Co., merchants, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Robert Hastie, Cunningham Corbett, and David Black, merchants, Glasgow.
24. Fultons, Finlay, Ure, and Co., merchants 500
 Obligants—William Fulton, merchant, Maxwelton, Paisley, and James Finlay, William Davidson, and Alexander Ure, all merchants, Glasgow.
25. Donaldson and Dinwiddie, merchants, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Robert Donaldson, Laurence Dinwiddie, Matthew Donaldson, and Robert Dinwiddie, merchants, Glasgow.
26. Muirhead, Hay, and Co., merchants 500
 Obligants—Robert Muirhead, John Hay, Jonathan Anderson, and George M'Intosh, merchants.
27. Dinwiddie, Martin, and Co., merchants 300
 Obligants—Robert Dinwiddie, William Martin, and Robert Muirhead, all merchants, Glasgow, and Duncan Niven, barber there.
28. John Duguid, merchant, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—John Wallace of Cessnock, and Patrick Clark of Holmes.
29. Patrick Graham of Limekilns 500
 Obligants—John Barns and John Wallace, Cessnock, and John Hamilton, portioner, of Rogerton.
30. James Gray of Dalrnarnock 300
 Obligants—John Gray, merchant, Glasgow, and Andrew Gray at Kennyhill.
31. Thomas Sheddan, manufacturer, Anderston 300
 Obligants—Thomas Buchanan jun., merchant, and William Watson, manufacturer, Glasgow.
32. Andrew Anderson and Co., merchants, Greenock 500
 Obligants—Andrew Anderson, Archd. Crawford, and John Buchanan, all merchants in Greenock.
33. Thomas Buchanan and Co., merchants 500
 Obligants—Thomas Buchanan of Ardoch, Alex. Spiers of Elderslie, and George Crawford, all merchants, Glasgow.
34. Anderson and Lothian, merchants, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Jonathan Anderson, George Lothian, and John Edmiston, all merchants, Glasgow.
35. Corses and Stuart, merchants, Paisley 500

- Obligants—Robert Corse jun., Robert Corse sen., Wm. Stuart, and John Corse, merchants, Paisley.
36. Wm. Gillespie, linen and calico printer, Anderston . . . £400
 Obligants—John Tod and Richard Miller, both merchants, Glasgow.
37. Ramsay and Livingston, merchants, Glasgow . . . 500
 Obligants—Samuel Ramsay, John Livingston, Edward Murdoch, and John Love, all merchants, Glasgow, and John Wilson, merchant, Paisley.
38. John Graham, merchant, Glasgow . . . 300
 Obligants—Donald Macdonald and James Finlay, both merchants, Glasgow.
39. William Clark, merchant, Glasgow . . . 300
 Obligants—Robert Bogle and George Bogle, both merchants, Glasgow.
40. Charles Kemp, manufacturer, Anderston . . . 300
 Obligants—Hugh Niven jun., and John Semple, bleacher, Anderston.
41. John Macauslan, seedsman, Glasgow . . . 200
 Obligant—Geo. Buchanan jun., brewer, Glasgow.
42. Matthew Morthland of Rindmuir . . . 300
 Obligant—John Morthland, younger of Rindmuir, advocate.
43. Adam Good and Co., merchants, Glasgow . . . 500
 Obligants—Thomas Adam, manufacturer, John Good, merchant, and Wm. Watson, manufacturer, Glasgow, and Robert Arthur, calico printer at Crossmill, in the parish of Paisley.
44. John Macdougall of Lunga . . . 300
 Obligants—Alex. Macdougall of Dunollie, and Dougal Macdougall of Gallanoch.
45. Gilbert Hamilton and Co., merchants, Glasgow . . . 500
 Obligants—Gilbert Hamilton, Robert Robb, and Archd. Hamilton, all merchants, and John Aitchison, Esq., of Roughsilloch.
46. John Aitchison, Esq., Roughsilloch . . . 500
 Obligants—Wm. Gray, Gartcraig, and Robert Park, minister, Old Monkland.
47. Walter Weir, manufacturer, Paisley . . . 200
 Obligant—James Maxwell of Castlehead, near Paisley.
48. Robert Morrice and Co., merchants, Glasgow . . . 500
 Obligants—Robert Morrice and Robert Carrick, both merchants, Glasgow, and Robert Barclay of Capelrig.
49. John M'Larty and Co., merchants, Greenock . . . 500
 Obligants—John M'Larty, James and Samuel Crawford, and Hugh Moody, all merchants, Greenock.
50. Hugh Niven, merchant, Glasgow . . . 500
 Obligants—Andrew Miller, merchant, and James Fleming, coppersmith, both in Glasgow.

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| 51. | James Whitlaw jun., merchant, Glasgow | £400 |
| | Obligants—James Whitlaw sen., and Wm. Simpson, both saddlers, and Wm. Fleming, coppersmith, Glasgow. | |
| 52. | John Barns, merchant, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—Dr. Alex. Stevenson of Dalgain, physician, Glasgow, and Patrick Graham of Limekilns. | |
| 53. | Wm. and John Gray, merchants, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—Wm. Gray of Gartcraig, John Gray, James Buchanan of Catter, John Brown jun., and Robert Carrick, all merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 54. | Jos. Ramage, merchant, Glasgow | 300 |
| | Obligants—James Finlay, merchant, Glasgow, and John Wilson, merchant, Paisley. | |
| 55. | Ninian Glen, wright, Glasgow | 250 |
| | Obligants—Thomas Lenox and James Glen, both mer- chants, Glasgow. | |
| 56. | Jas. and John Macilwham, manufacturers, Anderston | 200 |
| | Obligants—Donald Macdonald and David Dale, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 57. | Dunlop and Wilson, merchants, Glasgow | 250 |
| | Obligants—Andrew Dunlop and John Wilson, merchants, Wm. Lang, maltman, and John Wilson sen., wright, all in Glasgow. | |
| 58. | Dr. George Montgomery, physician, Glasgow | 100 |
| | Obligant—Alex. Spiers of Elderslie, merchant, Glasgow. | |
| 59. | John Wilson, merchant, Glasgow | 300 |
| | Obligants—John Ballantine and Wm. Ingram, both mer- chants, there. | |
| 60. | James Blair, writer, Paisley | 200 |
| | Obligants—John and William Barbour, merchants, Kil- barchan. | |
| 61. | M'Creaddie and M'Keand, merchants, Glasgow | 600 |
| | Obligants—Archd. M'Creaddie and Peter M'Keand, both merchants, Glasgow, and Robert Nelson and John Wilson, merchants, Paisley. | |
| 62. | John Walter and Geo. Buchanan, merchants, Glasgow | 500 |
| | Obligants—John Wilson, merchant, Paisley, Jas. Buchanan of Carstown, and John Gray of Ballcown. | |
| 63. | James Walker, merchant, Glasgow | 300 |
| | Obligants—John Ure and Donald Macdonald, merchants, Glasgow. | |
| 64. | John and Humphy. Barbour, merchants, Kilbarchan | 800 |
| | Obligants—Wm. Barbour and John How, merchants there. | |
| 65. | Alex. Campbell, Ormidale | 300 |
| | Obligants—John Lamont of Lamont, and John Campbell of Otter. | |
| 66. | Thomas Pagan, merchant, Glasgow | 300 |

- Obligants—Wm. Pagan, merchant, Glasgow, and Thos. Caldwell, merchant, Paisley.
67. John Wallace jun., merchant, Glasgow £300
 Obligants—Joshua Johnston and John Duguid, both merchants, Glasgow.
68. Cuthbertson and Sym, merchants, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Wm. Cuthbertson, James Sym, and Andrew Sym, all merchants, Glasgow, and Wm. Cuthbertson, brewer, Calton.
69. John Dunlop of Dunlop 300
 Obligant—Major Alex. Dunlop of Callellan.
70. John Buchanan, merchant, Greenock 500
 Obligants—Archd. Crawford and Andw. Anderson, merchants, Greenock, and Geo. Buchanan jun., brewer, Glasgow.
71. John Buchanan, jun., merchant, Greenock 500
 Obligants—Geo. Buchanan jun., brewer, Glasgow, John Buchanan sen., merchant, and John Lindsay, both merchants, Greenock.
72. Hardie, Shirra, and Co., merchants, Greenock 300
 Obligants—Geo. Miller sen., merchant, Greenock, and John Neale, merchant, Edinburgh.
73. Buchanan and Leckie, hosiers, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Thos. Buchanan, hosier; Stephen Maxwell, coppersmith; Geo. Macintosh, merchant; and James Brodie, saddle-tree maker, all in Glasgow.
74. John Phillips, grocer, Glasgow 100
 Obligants—Wm. Clark, merchant, Glasgow, and Geo. Household, sugar-refiner.
75. Provost Lachlan Campbell, writer, Inveraray 300
 Obligants—Dugald Campbell of Kilmartin, James Campbell of Silvercraigs, and John Macneil, writer, Inveraray.
76. James Herdman and Co., merchants, Greenock 300
 Obligants—John Buchanan sen., and John Buchanan jun., both merchants, and Robert Crawford, all in Greenock.
77. Neil MacGibbon, writer, Inveraray 300
 Obligants—Neil Campbell of Auchwillan, and Archd. Fletcher, Bernin.
78. John Macallister, factor to John Lamont of Lamont 300
 Obligants—John Campbell of Otter, and John Lamont of Lamont.
79. George Lothian, merchant, Glasgow 500
 Obligants—Edward Lothian, jeweller, Edinburgh, and Thos. Tod, merchant there.
80. Telfer and Anderson, milliners, Glasgow 100
 Obligants—Jonathan Anderson and John Hay, merchants, Glasgow.

THE TWO OLDEST MANSIONS IN ARGYLL STREET.

This appellation is intended for the two fine old edifices next each other, on the south side of Argyll Street, known as "The Buck's Head Hotel," and "Town Clerk Wilson's Land." Notwithstanding the blemishes which modern "improvements" have effected on their exterior, they are probably the best specimens now extant of the style of architecture which prevailed among the town mansions of the eminent "Virginia merchants" in last century. They seem to stand like two ancient aristocrats among the more unpretending structures; and were not only long the residence of two of Glasgow's ancient Provosts, but, to use a metaphor, are the fathers of Argyll Street edifices. Their history, accordingly, is not without interest.

So late as 1750, what is now the spacious and busily thronged Argyll Street was entirely out of the town. It was a mere suburban road, unpaved, unbuilt, and altogether rural. As stated in a previous article, the then western extremity of Glasgow was at the head of Stockwell, where the "Old West Port" marked the boundary. Immediately outside this ancient gate a market for the sale of cattle used to be held on the open road; and there was a small thatched hostelry, or public-house, for drovers, with the sign of a Black Bull above the door, which preceded the spacious hotel with the same title, built a number of years afterwards by the Highland Society on or near the same spot. A short way farther west (almost directly opposite the present Buck's Head) was a farm-house facing the highway, but placed a little distance back, flanked by byres or outhouses, which stood at right angles to it, and whose south gables projected outwards to, and were in line with, the road. In the recess in front of this humble thatched house the cows were milked, and people are yet alive who have witnessed the scene. A few malt-kilns and barns, with a house here and there, were to be seen along the line of the modern street, which then went by the name of "The Dumbarton Road," or "St. Enoch's Gate." On both sides were open fields. Neither Virginia, Miller, Buchanan, Maxwell, nor Jamaica Streets had come

into being. The only cross-opening into the main road was the "Cow Lone," now Queen Street, between old hedges, and then an almost impassable quagmire. Such was the general aspect of the now spacious Argyll Street within the last century.

The "West Port" had been taken down by order of the magistrates about 1750, and this gave an impetus to improvements outside the gate. The first person who showed the example was Provost John Murdoch. He held that distinguished civic office on three several occasions, viz. in 1746, 1750, and 1758; and effected a number of alterations and improvements in the town during his provostships. He was instrumental in having the "Dumbarton Road" put into something like order, and at length he resolved to build a handsome mansion facing it, for his own residence.

The spot he selected for the purpose was on the south side of the road, nearly opposite the old-fashioned farm-house before mentioned. The open ground on the southern side stretched backwards to the Clyde, and afforded a pleasant prospect in that direction; while towards the north were gardens and cornfields! The piece of ground formed part of St. Enoch's Croft, and belonged to Colin Dunlop, Esq., of Carmyle. He too held the office of Provost some years afterwards. Mr. Dunlop had purchased a large section of the croft—viz. from near the present Moodie's Court, westward, as far as about Maxwell Street, and southwards to near the river—from John Wilson of Shieldhall, in 1748. A more ancient proprietor of a portion was the queer old Glasgow historian, John M'Ure, who purchased it in 1679, and sold it in 1685 to John Alexander, probably the first postmaster in Glasgow.

These two old Provosts, Murdoch and Dunlop, entered into missives of sale, by which the former purchased from the latter the piece of ground before alluded to for his intended mansion. This was in 1750, and the price was £100. The house was finished within the year, and forms the present Buck's Head. The design reflects credit on the taste of the ancient architect, and will stand advantageous comparison with that of the best street architecture of the present day.

Mr. Dunlop very soon followed the example of Mr. Murdoch, and erected the mansion for his own residence immediately to the east of the other, with a narrow interval between. The style of the two houses is almost identical. Such was the origin of these now long familiar objects in Argyll Street. The two Provosts to whom they respectively belonged were also the leading partners of the first two banks opened in Glasgow (that very year (1750)—viz. Dunlop, Houston, and Co. (the Ship), and Cochran, Murdoch, and Co. (the Glasgow Arms); and we can conceive the imposing appearance these twin-mansions presented to the old Glasgow burghers who transacted business at the ancient banks in the Bridgegate, patronised by these two eminent merchants.

After these houses were erected, the street began rapidly to fill up, and by the end of last century it had acquired its present general features, and received the name of "Argyll Street," in honour of one of the principal noble families of the West.

While these improvements were going on a curious lawsuit sprang up between Provost Murdoch and a conterminous proprietor; and as this piece of legal strife reveals the cause of the narrow throat along the west side of the Buck's Head, which has prevented the widening of the northern portion of Dunlop Street, communicating with Argyll Street, a short account of the dispute seems admissible.

When Provost Murdoch purchased the ground from Mr. Dunlop, it happened that the latter was not proprietor of the space fronting the "Dumbarton road," immediately to the west of the piece of ground selected by the former. That adjoining front piece had belonged for more than half-a-century to a respectable old family named Reid, and a malt-kiln and barn existed on the property. At the time of Provost Murdoch's purchase, this malt-kiln and barn were rented from the Reid family by John Miller of Westerton, a maltman. The kiln and barn had been so constructed, as to be a few feet *within* the line of the east march between this property and Mr. Dunlop's, so as to allow of admission on that side to Mr. Reid's tenants going round to the back. The boundary between Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Reid was

crooked and inconvenient, so that when Provost Murdoch commenced to build, the west gable of his mansion was so placed as to be ten feet within Mr. Dunlop's west march; which ten feet the latter reserved for access to the great area of his property of St. Enoch's croft behind; but he allowed Mr. Murdoch the privilege of a servitude over this reserved western passage, for taking in his chaise to the offices behind the house. In this way there were two parallel and independent narrow passages on the conterminous proprietor's grounds, the united breadth of which was rather less than twenty feet. Eight years after Provost Murdoch became proprietor, the trustees under Mr. Andrew Reid's deed of settlement sold the kiln, barn, and passage to Bailie John Shortridge, who was a great improver. The Bailie in 1764 erected the great four storey tenement, still standing at the north-west corner of Dunlop and Argyll Streets; and entered into an agreement with Mr. Dunlop, the principal adjacent proprietor, for straightening the march, and improving the joint reserved passages, which were thenceforth to be amalgamated. The line of demarcation between them was to be occupied by a "syver" for carrying off the water. This was all well enough for Provost Murdoch, and did not interfere with his rights. But soon after (1771), Bailie Shortridge thinking that a still greater improvement on the twenty feet passage might be effected without Mr. Murdoch's consent, filled up the centre syver, and sloped the ground in such a way that the surface-water ran into the Provost's kitchen. An application to the Dean of Guild Court, at Mr. Murdoch's instance, against the Bailie, for restoration of the former state of possession, was the consequence; and after two years sharp litigation the Provost was successful. The papers of this old lawsuit are preserved, and the evidence is not a little curious. Precise information is there obtained of the whole foregoing particulars. The extract of the judge's decision, which, according to ancient practice, contains a recapitulation of the whole procedure, extends over no less than 154 closely-written folio pages, the cost of which to the Bailie was £5:10s.; while the expenses of the Provost's lawyer, which Mr. Shortridge had also to pay, came to £6 more, a moderate sum compared with present

times, for getting out of a very keen litigation on both sides ; and, as is often the case, about a mere bagatelle.

Passing by this episode, the two friendly Provosts continued to reside in their neighbouring Argyll Street mansions till their deaths, which occurred within a short time of each other—Mr. Murdoch having died about 1776, Mr. Dunlop about 1777. Thereafter both properties were sold, and a brief outline of the later owners will suffice.

1. *The Buck's Head.*

Mr. Murdoch's daughter had been married to the Right Hon. Thomas Miller of Barskimming, Lord Justice-Clerk, one of the most distinguished judges of his day. She predeceased her father, leaving a son, the no less celebrated Sir William Miller, Baronet, better known by his judicial title of Lord Glenlee, an admirable judge, a learned scholar, and a most amiable man. By Provost Murdoch's settlement, the Argyll Street mansion was left as a jointure-house to his widow, who was of the ancient family of Bogle of Hamilton Farm, near Rutherglen, and in fee to his grandson, the then rising "William Miller, younger of Barskimming."

But they did not long retain it. In May 1777 the house was sold to Thomas Hopkirk, merchant, Glasgow, another of the original partners of the "Glasgow Arms Bank," who was succeeded seven years afterwards (1784) by his eldest son, James Hopkirk of Dalbeth. The Argyll Street mansion remained in the family of Mr. Hopkirk thirteen years in all. In 1790 it was sold to Colin M'Farlane, vintner, when it became for the first time, and has continued ever since, an inn ; but it is unnecessary to pursue the history of its ownership any further.

2. *The Eastmost Mansion.*

Provost Dunlop had his counting-house behind the mansion. The access was by an entry along the west side. He occupied the house, as already stated, till his death, about 1777. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. James Dunlop, who in the year following sold it to Mr. John Good, merchant, at the price of £1850.

It remained in Mr. Good's possession till his death in 1796; and in 1800 the mansion was sold by his trustees to Collector Clark and John Wilson, the well-known town-clerk of Glasgow; and by agreement between these two gentlemen it became the exclusive property of Mr. Wilson. In 1805 Mr. Wilson died, and his nephew and heir of line, the celebrated Eastern traveller, Dr. William Rae, succeeded, who thereafter took the surname of Wilson. In 1806 Dr. Rae Wilson let the whole back property, forming three sides of a square, known as "Wilson's Court," on a lease for nineteen years to Doctors Cleghorn, Nimmo, Brown, Couper, and Grieve, the partners of the "Old Apothecary Hall." At the expiry of this lease they were succeeded by Messrs. Ewing, May, and Co., and by others. The mansion itself was converted into handsome shops, in which condition it is at present. Dr. Wilson died lately, and the mansion now belongs to his heirs.

Such is a brief history of the two oldest tenements in Argyll Street.

THE OLD VIRGINIA MANSION.

Most Glasgow people remember the spacious and stately old mansion which stood at the head of, and looked down, Virginia Street, lately removed to make way for the elegant office of the Union Bank of Scotland. It was another of the antique edifices of last century, associated with interesting reminiscences of "Old Glasgow," and one of the chief abodes of certain of the far-famed "Virginia merchants," of scarlet-cloak notoriety, who occupied a high and exclusive position in the city of the West, ninety years since. Situated midway between, and long contemporary with, its near neighbours, the Shawfield Mansion and the two Argyll Street houses, described in last article, this princely old edifice far surpassed the latter, and did not fall much short of the imposing aspect of the former, in point both of size and architectural elegance. It should not, therefore, be allowed to pass into oblivion, and an attempt is now made to record its history.

Keeping in remembrance what has been already said regarding the features of Argyll Street one hundred years ago, it is neces-

sary to glance at the aspect of the locality destined to receive the "Virginia Mansion," and to become a street, under that aristocratic title.

Immediately west of the great wall of the Shawfield Mansion gardens were several narrow stripes of open ground, forming transverse sections of the "Long-Croft," between Back Cow Loan and the "Dumbarton Road," formerly mentioned. These belonged to different small proprietors, the principal of whom was an old family named Scott, who were "Lairds" as far back as 1640, long before even the Shawfield Mansion had come into being. When Mr. Campbell was endeavouring to consolidate several of the Long-Croft patches, preparatory to building his mansion in 1711, he purchased from the "Laird Scott" of that day as much of his ground as was necessary to complete and square off the westmost side of what was thenceforth to be the Shawfield Mansion gardens, leaving Scott with a portion outside, or immediately west of the garden wall, which ran straight down the centre from north to south, of what had originally been the Laird's undivided and unenclosed property. On the south end of Scott's remaining stripe (what is now the mouth of Virginia Street) stood a small house, a malt-kiln, and barn, with a "kail-yard" behind. The patches to the west were smaller, and belonged to people named Mitchell. The whole surface was in "corn-riggs," or vegetable gardens, cultivated by these ancient crofters. Such was the aspect of the intended Virginia Street about 1719, when Andrew Buchanan, Esq., of Mount Vernon, afterwards (1740) Provost of Glasgow, conceived the idea of purchasing some of these cross sections of the Long Croft, next the Shawfield Mansion orchard, probably with the ultimate view of erecting a residence on the consolidated purchases, just as Mr. Campbell had originally done.

Accordingly, Mr. Buchanan, at different times, acquired three of these small properties. The first he purchased in 1719 from two brothers named Mitchell, whose father had been a maltman; the second in 1732; and the third and largest in 1740 from Laird Scott. This last lot is described in the ancient title-deeds as consisting of an acre and a half of "arable land, with yard,

stable, and byre, in that croft called the Long Croft ;” and was next the Shawfield garden, then belonging to Colonel M'Dowall of Castlesemple. The price was £322 ; and in order to insure the Provost's title against the risk of challenge, Scott conveyed, in what the lawyers significantly call *real warrandice*, a proportional part of an “annuity of 16 bolls good and sufficient oatmeal, to be uplifted out of the parsonage-teinds, and teind-bolls, due to the University of Glasgow, furth of the lands of Wester Daldowie.”

The Provost did not long survive this last purchase. He was succeeded by his son, George Buchanan of Mount Vernon, a gentleman of great enterprise. He was an extensive foreign merchant and importer of tobacco, then the great staple in Glasgow ; in other words, Mr. Buchanan was “a Virginia merchant.” M'Ure, in his grotesque history, written shortly before the period now alluded to, gives a curious list of these Glasgow Dons, upwards of 100 in number. In his usual ludicrous fashion, he classifies them under the head of “sea-adventurers, trading to sundry places in Europe, Africa, and America,” and as “a great company that arose, undertaking the trade to Virginia, Carriby Islands, Barbadoes, New England, St. Christophers, Monserat, and other colonies in America ;” a pretty wide range allowed by this comical composer.

This ancient “Virginian,” George Buchanan, soon after the Provost's succession opened to him, resolved to carry out what had been his father's design, in buying so much of this suburban croft-land, by erecting thereon a mansion suitable to his wealth and importance. The spot he chose for this purpose was in the centre of the now consolidated lots, and near their northern extremity. The ground in front, down to the “Dumbarton Road” (otherwise called “St. Enoch's-gate”), was cleared of all the old trash of barns, kilns, etc., upon it, and an avenue formed up the centre, to the space where the new mansion was to be built. About the year 1752 the house was completed. It was a very spacious edifice, much larger than those of Provost Murdoch or Dunlop, in Argyll Street, and finely proportioned. It faced south, and consisted of a half-sunk and two main floors, with

pavilion-shaped roof, and chimney stalks in the centre, very much resembling in outline the Shawfield Mansion, but not quite so large. Indeed it is believed that the architect chose the latter as his model. In front, a handsome balustrade ran along the eaves, screening the lower portion of the deep roof; a triangular entablature rose above the entrance-hall; the exterior was divided into three compartments, the centre one projecting a little—while upon sundry pinnacles, elegant stone vases and other ornaments were placed. A flight of very broad stairs, tapering inwards as they ascended, led up to the doorway, the whole structure having a remarkably grand and imposing appearance. On entering the mansion a very spacious square lobby, the floor of which was inlaid with mosaic, met the eye; the roofs and walls of the lofty apartments on either side of this elegant entrance were curiously ornamented with festoons of fruit and flowers, while the panellings exhibited beautifully-painted landscapes, pastoral scenes, and other pleasing objects. A large area in front of the house was allotted to shrubbery, enclosed by a parapet, carrying a massive iron-railing, which ran across the property from east to west, the whole space between Colonel M'Dowall's garden wall on the one side and Mr. Miller of Westerton's ground on the other. This cross wall stood as far south as the line of the present Wilson Street, from which others ran northwards, on both flanks, to the back Cow Loan, where they joined another transverse wall, and completely enclosed the property. Two wings of minor dimensions were built a short way in advance, at the end of an oblique line, from the principal mansion; and in rear of these a range of offices, facing respectively east and west, stood along the eastern and western boundaries. A massive iron gate occupied the centre of the south walls, giving admission to carriages approaching the house along the wide avenue up from the Dumbarton Road; and thence, a broad oval drive conducted to the door of this splendid edifice.

The position of the house within this larger enclosed space is exhibited on the old map of Glasgow, by James Barry, land surveyor, already alluded to.

There was nothing to interrupt the original view in almost

any direction. The front windows commanded a prospect quite across the Clyde ; those behind looked over a wide range of open fields ; the end windows in the east allowed a view of the Shawfield gardens, and those of Hutcheson's Hospital, all the way to the Candleriggs ; while the prospect from the windows in the opposite end was uninterrupted as far as the eye could reach. The mansion was entirely out of town.¹

Some time after Mr. Buchanan had finished the house he resolved to lay off the open area, on both sides of the avenue, for a street, with houses facing east and west. This was accordingly done, and the street opened as far up as near the mansion gate, in 1755, under the appellation of "Virginia Street," after that distant region, with which this great merchant was so much connected. One of the earliest houses in this new street was that built on the east side by Sir James Maxwell, James Ritchie and Co., of the Thistle Bank. It had a considerable garden behind. The south-west corner tenement, still standing, was erected by John Robertson, a wright, under a conveyance from Mr. Buchanan.

During seventeen years Mr. Buchanan resided in his magnificent mansion, and died in 1769. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Andrew Buchanan, then a minor. His curators were—James Buchanan of Drumpellier, Colin Dunlop, James Simson, David Dalziel, and Andrew Buchanan, all merchants in Glasgow. In 1770 they sold the house to another eminent "Virginia merchant," Alexander Spiers of Elderslie. The following is the description of the property in an ancient deed of conveyance :—
"All and whole that large dwelling-house, office-house, and whole pertinents thereof, erected by the deceased George Buchanan of Mount Vernon, with the large area or plot of ground around the said dwelling-house and office-houses ; together with the iron gate on the south of the said ground, and the stone walls around the said area or plot of ground ; and which lands and subjects aforesaid, all lie within the burgh of Glasgow, at the head of that street called Virginia Street, and are presently bounded by the

¹ A note-book, or diary, kept by Mr. George Buchanan, is still preserved among the family papers at Drumpellier, in which is recorded the circumstance of the foundation-stone of the Virginia Mansion having been laid by him.

lands now belonging to John Glassford of Dougaldstoun, merchant in Glasgow, on the east, the lands of John Miller of Westerton on the west, the passage of Virginia Street on the south, and the lane leading from the north-west church, westward, to the Cow Loan, on the north parts."

Mr. Spiers was one of the most extensive importers of tobacco probably then in Britain. From an official return, it appears that in the year 1772 of 90,000 hogsheads imported into this country, no less than 49,000 were by Glasgow merchants alone. These merchants comprehended 46 firms, at the head of which stood Alexander Spiers and Co., and John Glassford and Co., the former as importers of 6035 hogsheads, and the latter of 4506—the largest quantities in the Glasgow list.

In 1777 Mr. Spiers conveyed the Virginia Mansion to his lady, Mrs. Mary Buchanan, in liferent, as a jointure-house; and in 1779 he disposed it, under the burden of Mrs. Spiers' liferent, to his second son, Peter Spiers.

In 1787 Mr. Peter Spiers, with consent of his mother, sold the mansion to Mr. James Dunlop of Garnkirk, and during the time that the latter was agent in Glasgow for the Greenock Bank their office was in the westmost wing of the mansion. A gentleman still living remembers frequently transacting banking business in this office with Mr. Dunlop.

Various successive changes of proprietors took place, which may be briefly summed up, exhibiting a very chequered career.

1. Mr. Dunlop's trustee conveyed the house in 1796 to Collector William Clark of the Customs. About this time both wings were removed, and a passage opened for the first time to the then improved Ingram Street, along the west side only of the mansion. There was no passage by the east side for very many years afterwards.

2. Mr. Clark conveyed the house in the end of 1796 to George Provand, merchant.

3. In 1801 Mr. Provand's trustee reconveyed it to Collector Clark.

4. Mr. Clark in 1803 sold the mansion to Mr. John Gardner, vintner, who held it eight years.

5. In 1811 Mr. William Gordon Mack, writer, became proprietor.

6. By him it was sold to Mr. William Kelly, merchant, in 1818.

7. In 1828 the latter conveyed it to Mr. James Dennistoun and the other partners of the Glasgow Bank, which company in 1842 took down the ancient Virginia Mansion, after it had stood the greater part of a century; and in 1843 erected the present magnificent banking office on its site, which soon after became the property of the Union Bank of Scotland, in consequence of an amalgamation between it and the United Glasgow and Ship Bank Company.

For many years previous to the demolition of the mansion it had ceased to be occupied as a private residence; and early in the present century was converted into merchants' counting-houses and lawyers' chambers. The fine, broad old stairs in front, which added so much to the effect of the original design, were at a comparatively recent period removed, and a mean-looking substitute erected, which encroached less on the street; while a paltry railing ran close along the sunk flat. But the writer well remembers it, about the year 1810, before these disfigurements took place; and was so much impressed with the majestic appearance of the mansion, associated in his mind with many early reminiscences, that a few days before it was demolished he caused to be taken a sketch of its outline, to preserve from utter oblivion the architectural aspect of one of the finest old mansions that Glasgow could boast of.

MILLER STREET.

This originally aristocratic street was opened in 1773. Previous to that time it was mere "corn-riggs" and gardens, and formed another transverse section near the western boundary of the "Long-Croft." So far back as 1720 this portion of the croft belonged partly to two old women, named in the ancient papers "Jonet and Margaret Watson," and partly to John Spreull of Milton. The greater portion was afterwards bought up by John Woodrow, jun., maltman, who about 1740 was succeeded by his grandson,

John Miller of Westerton. Mr. Miller purchased an additional piece of ground, to square the property, from Mr. John Reid, visitor of the maltmen. Mr. Miller was himself a brewer, and his malt-kiln and barns stood across the south end of what is now Miller Street, facing the highway. He had also a quantity of ground on the north side of the Back Cow Loan, stretching towards George Square. But so late as the opening of Miller Street, neither George Street or Square had been formed, or probably even thought of. All was open parks or gardens. George Square was a large "*howe*," or hollow, generally filled with green water, to which the boys made a journey to drown puppies, cats, etc., while on the fragrant banks of this suburban pool dead horses were skinned. This sheet of pungent-scented water was afterwards filled up with the sand and earth dug from the foundation of houses in George and other streets.¹ Where the Exchange now stands in Queen Street was a thatched farm-house, with an enormous "muck-middin" gracefully placed on either side, in rural repose. The town's herd, John Anderson, who lived in Picken's Land in the Rottenrow, used to proceed down the High Street blowing his horn, as a signal to the people to turn out their cows to be put under his charge during the day, and to be driven back in the evening. His course was down High Street, along Trongate, and up the Cow Loan, or Queen Street, to the Cowcaddens, where they were depastured till evening, when he returned by the same route, signalling the towns-folk, as in the morning, to turn out and receive his charge. Sometimes he allowed a boy to drive an odd beast or two by a short cut, along the Back Cow Loan, or Ingram Street. This curious old herd wore a kilt, and his identical *wind instrument* is still to the fore, made out of a cow's horn (fit emblem of his vocation), with an indentation round the mouth-piece to receive a string for the purpose of suspending *the instrument* from the worthy official's neck, in case he might lose it.

¹ On the west side of George Square was an apple garden, enclosed by an old withered hedge, with many gaps. As a proof of the retired and rural nature of this now noisy and crowded part of the town within the memory of man, a person still alive remembers when a boy seeing a hedgehog coming down one of the apple trees, bear-fashion, with several apples stuck on the bristles; the boy made a rush through the hedge, and captured the animal and his spoils.

As already said, Mr. Miller the maltman's barn stood across the bottom of the modern street of that name. But in 1773 he resolved to lay off his section in the Long Croft for feuing. Accordingly, his malt-barns were pulled down, and the line of the present Miller Street staked off, and delineated on a plan, by James Barry, land surveyor, Gallowgate. The first house Mr. Miller built was for his own private residence, in 1774. It formed No. 1, and stood at the south-east corner, entering from the new street. He had a large garden behind, which stretched northwards to the Back Cow Loan, which was the boundary of his property. The street he named after himself, Miller Street. In order to secure privacy to himself and his family in the garden, he introduced a clause into all his dispositions or feu-contracts, that none of the persons building houses on the east side of Miller Street should have right to windows looking eastward into the garden! and this he created a servitude in favour of his corner property in all time coming.

The feu next him, No. 2, was taken off, as well as several others, by Mr. George Ferrie, wright in Glasgow, and grandfather of the present Mr. Ferrie of Blairtummock, who built a number of the fine antique-looking mansions still existing, and sold them from time to time to various gentlemen. Miller Street became one of the most fashionable residences in the city. In it lived the most aristocratic of Glasgow merchants, amongst the foremost of whom was Mr. Walter Stirling, who gifted his mansion-house, and rare and valuable library, for the benefit of the citizens. Even yet there is an air of grandeur about the exterior of these edifices in Miller Street which commands respect. They were then almost on the very outskirts of the city; now they are in the heart of it.

The steading No. 2, where the Western Bank's handsome new office now stands, was acquired by Mr. George Ferrie from Mr. Miller in 1776. In 1778 he sold the house he had built on it to the Glasgow Arms Bank. Mr. M'Lae, their trustee, conveyed it in 1794 to the great firm of Alexander Houston and Co., West India merchants, the partners of which were—Mr. William M'Dowall of Garthland, Mr. Andrew Houston of Jordanhill, Mr.

Robert Houston Rae of Little Govan, and Mr. James M'Dowall, merchant, Glasgow. In the year following Alexander Houston and Co. sold it to Mr. John Smith of Craigend, who resided there till 1817. He then disposed the property to Messrs. James Black and Co., who again in the same year sold it to the Bank of Scotland, which had its office there for about thirteen years. They afterwards conveyed it to the Western Bank of Scotland, by whom the old house was pulled down in 1841, and their present elegant banking tenement erected on the site of it, and of the mansion which stood on steading No. 3, immediately to the north, where latterly the Stamp Office used to be, and, more recently, lawyers' chambers and counting-houses.

These two fine old houses were indeed rare specimens of the favourite style of street architecture among the more aristocratic portions of Glasgow, in the good "olden time;" and their demolition, though necessary, almost caused a pang to passers-by, as they cast a parting glance at the old-fashioned door pillars, wreathed triangular entablatures, ornamental vases perched on every available point, and the quaint-looking windows, all so familiar to Glasgow people; while such of them as had been in the interior could recall the fine old panellings, the curious representations of landscapes, pastoral scenes, etc., painted on the walls, within raised ovals, which had been encircled by gilded lines, sorely faded; black mahogany broad stairs, and massive bannisters; with other remains of "Virginian" grandeur, now long passed away.

It is unnecessary to pursue the history of the other antique mansions in Miller Street. It is now exclusively occupied by places of business, and forms a crowded thoroughfare. But it is not very many years since it was so retired that grass grew on the causeway in many places, and it was considered a somewhat inconvenient distance from the centre of business, then at the Old Exchange, under the piazzas.

GLASGOW, *May* 1851.

J. B.

END OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY A MEMBER OF FACULTY
OF PROCURATORS OF GLASGOW.

HISTORY OF HUTCHESON'S HOSPITAL.

The history of Hutcheson's Hospital must always present much that is interesting to every native and well-wisher of the city of Glasgow. We purpose, therefore, to give some particulars of the early annals of this charitable foundation, condensed from a volume printed by the directors above fifty years ago, and now extremely scarce. The narrative was drawn up by the late Mr. Findlay of Easterhill, who in his lifetime did much to promote the interests of the institution.

George and Thomas Hutchesone were sons of John Hutchesone, an old rentaller, under the Bishops of Glasgow, in the lands of Gairdbreed; their mother's name was Janet Anderson. The father, being a man of substance, feued these lands, when Walter, Commendator of Blantyre, was empowered by the Crown to feu out the Barony of Glasgow, which he generally did to the old rentallers or tenants, by converting the rent into a feu-duty. George, the eldest of the brothers, was the person who acquired so much wealth. He was a public notary and writer in Glasgow, and was reputed to be a very honest man in his profession. He was so moderate in his charges that, it is creditably reported, he never would take more than sixteen pennies Scots for writing an ordinary bond, be the sum ever so large.

It does not appear he ever was married, and he died in 1640. Over and above his mortification to this hospital, and the large sum to which his brother Thomas succeeded by his death, he bequeathed or gave considerable estates to three nephews by his sisters: but a great part of these quickly mouldered away, and the heirs of two of the nephews died poor men in the hospital.

Master Thomas Hutchesone, the brother and successor of George, was also a writer, and keeper of, and clerk to, the Register of Sasines of the Regality of Glasgow and its district.¹ His

¹ Gibson, the historian of Glasgow, says that Thomas was bred a Preacher, but as he produces no authority, and as M'Ure, the other Glasgow historian, who published his history about the year 1735, when in the seventy-ninth year of his age, and had probably better means of information, by having known many people who remembered Thomas, does not mention this circumstance—it has been thought proper to omit it in the text.

wife's name was Marion Stewart ; but it does not appear that they had any children. He died on the 1st of September 1641, in the fifty-second year of his age, and is buried, by his express desire, beside his brother George, on the south side of the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, where his wife is also interred.

Upon his tomb is the following inscription :—

M
TH MS
Conditur hic D. Thomas Hutchesonus, quem semper
Innocentia Sero Opulentia beavit,
Cujus brevem possessionem amplis
In Egenos Largitionibus compensavit.
Humana cuncta ficta, falsa, fabula,
Et vanitatum vanitas. Obiit Kal. Sept.
Anno 1641. Ætatis suæ 52.

Over and above his benefactions to the hospital, he mortified two thousand merks for a Bibliothecary to the University of Glasgow ; and a thousand pounds Scots by the same deed for re-edifying the south quarter of the buildings thereof, which were then in a ruinous state. In the list of the *Laurca Exornati*, or Graduates, in this University, there is a Thomas Hutchesone in the year 1610, most probably the person above mentioned, there being no other of the same name in this list from the year 1578 to the year 1640, while the term *Master*, always prefixed to his name, shows that he had taken his degrees.

The above George Hutchesone of Lambhill, by deed bearing date the 16th December 1639, recorded afterwards by desire of his brother Thomas in the books of the Town Council, mortified and disposed a tenement of land, on the west side of the old west port of Glasgow, with yard and pertinents thereof, for the building of a Hospital for entertainment of as many poor, aged, decrepid men, to be placed therein, as the annual rent of the sums after mentioned would afford, at four shillings Scots to each per day, besides clothing and fuel ; and he also mortified certain bonds, amounting to the principal sum of 20,000 merks, the annual rent whereof, from and after Whitsunday 1640 (which appears to have been then 8 per cent per annum), should go towards their maintenance, etc., after the said Hospital should be built. The

Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, Deacon Convener, and ordinary Ministers of Glasgow, to be Patrons ; and he requests them to see the Founder's will accomplished, and to do their duty therein, as they shall answer to God. The mortification is declared to be for aged, decrepid men, above fifty years of age, who have been of honest life and conversation, and known to be destitute of all help and support at the time of their entry in said Hospital ; being merchants, craftsmen, or any other trade without distinction.

The annual rent of said principal sum, for one or more years was to be applied in building and decorating the Hospital in perfect form ; and when the old men should be placed therein, he calculated that the remainder, at four shillings Scots per day for each, besides clothing, elding (or fuel), and lodging, would maintain eleven of them.

It appears that the said George Hutchesone died within fifteen days thereafter ; but Mr. Thomas Hutchesone, his brother and heir, by a contract betwixt the patrons and him, bearing date 27th June 1640, not only ratified the said deed (which, although written by George himself, had no witnesses thereto, and was probably therefore necessary), but also assigned to the said patrons the whole bygone annual rents of the said 20,000 merks, which was no inconsiderable sum. And in order that the said Hospital might be built large and beautiful, he mortified to the said patrons a barn and barn-yard on the west gable of the said tenement of land.

By this contract the patrons—viz. the Provost, three Bailies, Dean of Guild, Convener, and ordinary Ministers of the town—oblige themselves and their successors in office to fulfil the terms of the mortification in all time coming ; to place as many poor aged men in the Hospital as the annual rents will entertain ; and to give a preference to any poor aged men of the name of Hutchesone.

They further bind themselves and their successors in office to employ the said 20,000 merks, as it happens to be got in, upon land or other heritable securities, and to make choice of any honest man who is an ordinary Councillor of Glasgow, to be Collector to the said Hospital ; which Collector to be chosen yearly in Coun-

cil, by advice and consent of the said Patrons and Council of the said burgh, to whom he shall make compt yearly, in Council, of his intronissions.

The said Mr. Thomas Hutchesone, by his deed dated 9th March 1641, for the maintenance and education of twelve male indigent orphans, or others of like condition, sons of burgesses of Glasgow, likewise mortified certain bonds, amounting to 20,200 merks, the annual rent whereof to be bestowed upon said boys; upon a master to teach them, and upon a sufficient number of women to make their meat ready, wash their clothes, and keep the house clean; the whole of whom to be entertained in the house. The patrons of this mortification are appointed to be four persons out of their own number, to be elected yearly by the Town Council of Glasgow, with four of the ordinary ministers of the town for the time, together with the master of the house, to be elected [upon a day which the deed leaves blank] by the Town Council, out of their own number, and who, upon being elected, must give his oath *de fidei administratione*.

The instructions to the patrons relative to these boys are very particular, and those of the name of Hutchesone and Herbertson are to have a preference.

[The late Royal Charter made certain judicious alterations in the terms of these instructions, which could no longer be beneficially carried out.]

The said Mr. Thomas Hutchesone, by an addition dated 3d July 1641 to the preceding deed, also mortified certain bonds, amounting to 10,000 merks, to the foresaid patrons, as a further help to the twelve boys and old men, here called *twelve*, as the said patrons may find needful; and he authorises the Provost, Bailies, and Council, with consent of the ministers of the town, to lay out the whole preceding sums, mortified by himself and his brother, upon the best and cheapest arable lands they can get to buy near the burgh.

The said Mr. Thomas Hutchesone, by an addition, dated 14th July 1641, written on the back of the original deed of mortification by George Hutchesone, his brother, further mortified certain bonds, amounting to 10,500 merks, for the better

help and supply, in the Hospital then building, called Hutcheson's Hospital, of the eleven poor aged men, in manner contained in said mortification; and constituted the Provost, Bailies, and Town Council of Glasgow, as patrons of the said hospital, his assignees thereunto; with power to them to apply the annual rents for behoof of the said founded persons, and to lend forth, or bestow the principal sums, upon the best and cheapest arable lands they can get to buy near the said burgh.

Thus it appears that these brothers, besides the tenement of land, barn, and yards thereof, for ground to build the Hospital upon, mortified as follows:—

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| George Hutchesone, 16th December 1639, for poor aged men | 20,000 | merks. |
| Thomas Hutchesone, 14th July 1641, as an addition to do. | 10,500 | „ |
| Do. do. 9th March 1641, for poor boys | 20,200 | „ |
| Do. do. 3d July 1641, for men and boys | 10,000 | „ |
| Over and above bygone interest on mortification by George. And it appears by the Sederunt book of date the 12th November 1641, that the said Master Thomas Hutchesone, then deceased, mortified <i>for the use of the Hospital</i> , for which no deed appears, the further sum of | 8,000 | „ |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 68,700 | merks. |

These mortifications were ratified by Janet, Bessie, and Helen Hutchesone, sisters to the deceased Thomas Hutchesone, with consent of James Pollock, cooper, husband to the said Bessie, by their deed dated 15th October 1641.

Mr. Thomas Hutchesone having prepared the materials in 1640, laid the foundation of the Hospital upon the 19th March 1641; and on the 17th August of that year he appointed Colin Campbell, younger, late Bailie, to be Master and Collector, and to take the charge of building the said Hospital. This election was confirmed by the Provost, Bailies, and Council, forming the first minute upon the records; and in November 1642, after Mr. Hutchesone's death, he was re-elected into the same office by the Provost, Bailies, and Council for a year to come; since which time there have been annual, or nearly annual, elections of the Master or Preceptor; and, so far as the records bear, it would

appear that Provost Cochran was the first exception of the said Preceptor's being a member of the Town Council, according to the will of the founder; which is the more remarkable, because his immediate predecessor, Mr. John Robertson, was discontinued from that office owing to his being no longer a Councillor.

The building was accordingly carried on, but was not finished till 1650, having cost, from the time when Mr. Campbell took the charge of it, the sum of £26,194 : 8 : 11, including £99 for two marble stones from London, and £100 for cutting the stone above the entry, all Scots money.

It appears that there then remained due to the Hospital the principal sum of 33,829 merks, besides several years' annual rents (which seems to have been very ill paid) owing on a considerable part thereof; with four rigs of land at the back of the Hospital, and a small feu-duty of twenty merks per annum, owing for nine or ten years bygone. During the period that the Hospital was building, oatmeal was at no less a price than £12 to £14 : 10s. per boll, while the wages of common labourers were no higher than 6s. to 8s. per day, although the wages of sawyers were at 15s. The prices of various articles were as follows:—Lime, 4s. 6d. per load; sand, 16d. per do.; herring, £11 per barrel; beef, £22 per do.; boys' shoes, 22s. per pair, etc.—all Scots money.¹

The Hospital was a very handsome building of ashler work, about 70 feet long, fronting the Trongate, where Hutcheson Street now is; it had a steeple upon it about 100 feet high, and on the north of it, towards the garden, there were two sides of a court on the east and west, finished for the accommodation of the poor placed therein; but the north side of the Court was never built.

¹ For the information of junior readers, who are not much accustomed to calculate in Scots money, we may state that it forms a twelfth part of the same denomination of Sterling money, as is exemplified in the following table:—

| Scots. | Sterling. |
|---|-----------------------|
| A doyt, or penny, is | £0 0 0 $\frac{1}{12}$ |
| A bodle, or twopence, is | 0 0 0 $\frac{2}{12}$ |
| A plack, groat, or fourpence, is | 0 0 0 $\frac{4}{12}$ |
| A shilling is | 0 0 1 |
| A merk, or 13s. 4d., or two-thirds of a pound, is | 0 1 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| A pound is | 0 1 8 |

Above the gate, in the centre of the front, there was a marble tablet, with the following inscription upon it, in gilded letters, to the memory of the founders :—

Gerontocomeion et orphanropheion.
 Duorum Fratrum Georgii & Thomæ
 Hutchesonorum munificentia dedicatum.
 Nobilis Hospitii si forte requiris alumnos,
 Orphanus hic habitat pauper, inopsque senex.
 Tu ne temne Domos ignarus sortis, egestas
 Forte tuum senium progeniemque premet,
 Quis seit an hinc veniant quos publica fama celebret,
 Sive armis surgat Gloria, sive Toga.

Versified in English thus :—

“ These hospitable works exalt the name
 Of George and Thomas Hutchesone to fame ;
 Their princely bounty built this place of rest—
 For whom ? you ask—for those by want oppress'd :
 Twas thus they sought the sorrows to assuage
 Of orphan poverty and helpless age.
 Scorn not this house—unversed in fate's decree,
 Grim want may yet oppress thy sons—or thee :
 While those whom fame shall sing—the brave or wise
 In war or peaceful arts—may hence arise.”

In the north wall of the front building, towards the garden, there were two niches, one on each side of the steeple, wherein were placed the statues of the two brothers, of their full size, with the following inscription on a tablet, in gilded letters :—

Adspicis Hutchesonos Fratres : his nulla propago
 Cum foret, et numero vix caperenter opes,
 Hæc monumenta pii, votum immortale, dicarunt
 Dulcia quæ miseris semper asyla forent.
 O bene testatos ! hæredes scripsit uterque
 Infantes inopes invalidosque senes.—1641.

Versified in English thus :—

“ Behold the brothers HUTCHESON !—who came
 Heaven-sent, the wretched and the poor to bless.
 This home they built, memorial of their name,
 A resting-place of sorrow and distress.

For when no offspring blest their lot,
 And boundless store of golden wealth was theirs ;
 Nobly they chose the sons of want and woe,
 Old men, and helpless orphans, for their heirs."¹

But the building falling into decay, and it being in a very proper situation for opening a new street in the city, the patrons judged it prudent to take it down in 1795, and to sell or feu the ground thereof, and of the garden, for the formation of Hutcheson Street ; and they purchased, at the price of £1450 sterling, and £1 annually to the town (the £1 doubled every 19th year in name of grassum), a steading in Ingram Street, fronting Hutcheson Street, on which the new Hospital was intended to be built. This steading is about 81 feet, from east to west, along Ingram Street, and about 54 feet, from north to south, along John Street. The statues, tablets, clock, bell, weather-cock, and such like, were reserved for the use of the new Hospital.² Upon the foundation stone of the old Hospital there was no inscription, nor did it appear that any coins had been placed therein.

The first pensioners were placed on the funds in 1643, when one old man and one boy were admitted. From that time the number was gradually increased, though sometimes more and sometimes less, until the year 1660, when the number of old men was made up to eleven, in conformity to Mr. George Hutcheson's mortification ; and in 1662 was completed to twelve, agreeably to the mortification of Mr. Thomas, at the pension of £100 each, Scots. In 1667 the boys were completed to twelve, at £50 per annum each, Scots. In 1691, owing to the increase of funds, one old man was added, at 100 merks per annum, and six boys at 50 merks each ; but it was expressly declared that these were only to continue during pleasure, and it does not appear that any were elected afterwards in their place. From the year 1667, with the above exception, the number of old men and boys was regularly continued at twelve each, at the annual pensions of £100 and £50

¹ These metrical English versions are from the pen of Mr. Edward John Gibbs, of Wolverhampton, a student in the Humanity Class at Glasgow University, in Session 1849-50. They were the successful subject of a prize exercise.

² This is the "present Hutcheson's Hospital," although not used for the accommodation of inmates.

respectively for maintenance, Scots money, and when any vacancy happened therein it was immediately filled up by a new election.

In 1723 the number of old men and boys was increased to thirteen each. In 1728, the funds continuing to increase, the number of boys was raised to fifteen ; and in 1734 the number of old men to fourteen.

Upon the 15th September 1737 the Patrons made an Act that, for the reasons therein mentioned, such part of the surplus funds as they may judge convenient (after paying the repairs, etc., of the Hospital, and the stated maintenance of twelve old men and twelve boys, being £100 and £50 to each respectively), should be applied towards the maintenance of poor old decayed women, of fifty years of age or upwards, widows and relicts of persons who had been in credit and reputation in this city, during their widowity, or so long as they are not otherways provided ; and in 1781 poor women of any age were declared eligible, though not widows. They must be resident in the city, and their husbands or fathers burgesses, other than honorary. Each of these women, thereafter named, was to be allowed the like sum as was given to each poor old man.

The pensions to some of the women, however, were soon reduced below £100 per annum Scots, although those to the old men were continued uniformly thereat till the year 1758. After this time no fixed rule appears, either in the number of men and women pensioners, or the sums given them.

It has been seen by the mortifications that Thomas Hutchesone authorised the Provost, Bailies, and Council, with consent of the ministers, to lay out the sums mortified by himself and his brother, upon lands in the neighbourhood of the city. Accordingly they, in 1642, purchased from the College four rigs of land, containing three roods, at the back of the Hospital, for the price of £333:6:8 Scots. In 1650 they purchased from Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerston one half of the lands of Gorbals and Brigend at the price of £40,666:13:4 Scots ; the Town and the Trades' Hospital having purchased the other half betwixt them. The rent of the Hospital's half of these lands, in bere, meal, capons, coals, multures, etc., with a very small sum of silver, produced at

that time no more than £1604 Scots yearly, upon an average of nine years, from 1650 to 1658; there being several liferent tacks upon the lands. Interest of money was then six per cent.

This purchase was for a time the source of much distress to the Hospital, owing in part, no doubt, to the civil war which then raged in Scotland betwixt Charles II. and Cromwell, during which the crops upon the ground were trodden down and eaten up by the different parties, without any recompense being allowed. Not only were the Patrons unable to pay more than £14,000 Scots of the money at the term of payment, from the difficulty of getting in the money owing them, but they were even under the necessity, on the 3d June 1652, of authorising the Preceptor to dismiss the poor boys from the Hospital, upon the best terms in his power.

The Town of Glasgow, however, stepped forward to their relief, and by advancing the remainder saved the funds of the Hospital from ruin. At a final settlement of accounts on the 27th of September 1659 (after having in 1654 taken an assignment from the Hospital of bonds to the extent of £5289 Scots), the Hospital owed the Town £17,876:5:2 Scots, which the Hospital had no means of paying, unless the Town would accept a bond for 10,000 merks, with seven years' interest thereon, due by the Marquis of Argyll to the Hospital, which had been lent by the Patrons at Whitsunday 1643; and other bonds for 8000 merks, with sixteen years' interest thereon, due by the Laird of Lamont and his cautioners, which had also been lent him by the Patrons. "Out of respect to the Hospital," the Town accepted these bonds, and paid the difference to the Patrons.

It is somewhat remarkable, however, that in the minutes of the Town Council of 1st October 1659, being the first minutes after said 27th September, this final settlement of accounts at that time is never mentioned; but only, that the bond for 10,000 merks, with certain bygone annual rents thereon, due by the Marquis of Argyll to the Hospital, had been accepted in part payment of the debt due by the Hospital to the Town, and was ordered to be laid up with the other bond for £10,000 Scots, previously owing by him to the Town; and no notice whatever is taken therein of

the two bonds for 8000 merks, due by the Laird of Lamont, and received from the Hospital by the Town, at the same time. Whether the Town ever recovered their amount does not appear by the books of the Hospital; but it appears from the Council Records that although the Town did at last recover the latter, they never recovered the sums due by the Marquis of Argyll; neither did the Hospital ever recover the sum of £800 which still remained due thereto by the said Marquis.

After the Gorbals lands were paid, in 1659, and all the accounts for building the Hospital cleared, the revenue of the Hospital, from these lands and other sources, was rather under £160 sterling per annum; interest being then six per cent per annum.

In the year 1700 the revenue had increased to about £300 sterling per annum; interest being five per cent.

In 1750 it had increased to about £390 sterling per annum; interest being five per cent.

And in the year 1800 the net revenue (after deducting public burdens, salaries of factor, etc., interest of money, and such like) amounted to about £1400 sterling per annum; the whole of which, or nearly so, was applied in charities to men and women, and for the support of the school; the proportions being at the time as follows:—

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------------|
| To Men pensioners | | about 1-4th. |
| To Women do. | | nearly 2-4ths. |
| And to the School | | about 1-4th. |

The other purchases of land which the Patrons of the Hospital made from time to time were as follows:—

In 1663, from John Gilhagie, an acre and some falls of land in Long Croft, at the back of the Hospital, for £675 Scots, and £20 Scots to his wife.

In 1682, from James Muir, a piece of ground on the east of the Hospital yard, for which they paid £66 : 13 : 4 Scots.

These, together with the four rigs of land, formerly purchased from the College, and the ground on which the Hospital stood, were disposed of as under:—In 1788 the Patrons sold the Hospital garden to Robert Smith and partners, for a principal sum of £1495 sterling, and a ground-annual of £74 : 15s., redeemable at

twenty-five years' purchase. In 1791 they agreed to open said garden to the Trongate, by a street, called Hutcheson Street, upon Mr. Dugal Bannatyne, one of Mr. Smith's partners, paying them the sum of £500 sterling. In 1795 they sold to Robert Smith and partners part of the mortified property, lying upon the east side of Hutcheson Street, at a ground-annual of £147 : 10s.; and to Adam Thompson, the part thereof upon the west side of said street, at a ground-annual of £107; also the materials of the building for the sum of £40. Thus it appeared that the annual revenue to the Hospital, by these sales of the building, and the ground at the back thereof, amounts to £431 sterling, including interest at five per cent upon the principal sum of £2035.

In 1694 the Town of Glasgow purchased, on account of the Merchants', Trades', and Hutchesons' Hospitals, from Ninian Hill of Lambhill, the Lands of Ramshorn and Meadowflat, which had formerly belonged to George and Thomas Hutchesone, the founders of the Hospital, at the price of 20,300 merks; and the Merchants' and Trades' Hospitals having resigned their shares, the whole were made over by the Town to the Patrons of Hutcheson's Hospital, in 1695, under certain burdens and conditions, as to building, etc., upon their paying the above sum of 20,300 merks. The rent of these lands was then 99 1-4th bolls bere, which, at the conversion of the average price of £7 per boll, is £694 : 15s.; money rent, £5; and 25 capons, at 8s., is £10; in all, £709 : 15s. Scots.

In September 1741 the Patrons purchased from Archibald Gilchrist, goldsmith in London, seven and a half acres of garden ground in Deanside, all enclosed, with house and barn thereon, lying contiguous to, and on the north side of, the Hospital's Ramshorn yard, at the price of £369 : 15s. sterling.

In 1743, from the representatives of the deceased Walter Stirling, three and a half acres of land, on Garngad Hill, rented for £58 : 6 : 8 Scots, at the price of £1240 Scots.

In 1757, from Archibald Ingram, about three acres of land in Gallowmuir, for £1695 : 16s. Scots, being twenty-two years' purchase, and a half year's rent.

In 1767, from Walter Neilson, two acres in Cribbs, for £3000 Scots.

The whole of these lands were disposed of by the Patrons as follows, excepting one acre in Garngad, remaining unsold in the year 1800.

In October 1718 they sold to the Town of Glasgow one and a half roods ground, for the Ramshorn Church and Churchyard, at the price of 600 merks, besides sundry other benefits, as mentioned in the Act of the Patrons relative thereto.

In January 1743 they feued to the Inkle Factory Company three roods of ground in Ramshorn yard, at the yearly feu of £33:15s. Scots, or £2:16:3 sterling; besides a grassum of the same sum, payable at the end of each nineteen years; the first grassum being payable at Martinmas 1761.

In September 1763 they feued to the said Company two roods of ground in Ramshorn yard, at the yearly feu of £32:5s. Scots, or £2:13:9 sterling; besides a grassum of the said sum, payable at the end of each nineteen years, the first grassum being payable at Candlemas 1785.

In these two feus, the Patrons omitted to burden the Inkle Factory Company with the same restrictions as to their buildings, etc., that they themselves were burdened with to the Town; which omissions have been productive of much inconveniency. These two feu-duties and grassums are now payable to the Town.

In 1767 they feued to the Town of Glasgow one acre, three roods, and thirty-three falls of the Ramshorn yard, for a new burying-ground, to the north and east of the Ramshorn Church, now enclosed with a stone wall, at the yearly feu of £8 sterling; besides a grassum of £8 sterling, payable every twenty-one years; the first grassum being payable at Candlemas 1788.

In December 1772 they disposed to the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow the whole remaining parts of the Thirty-three shilling and fourpenny Land, of old extent, of Ramshorn and Meadowflatt, *all lying without the burgh*, for payment of the yearly rent of £113:10s. sterling; as also, the two acres called Cribbs, and seven and a half acres of Deanside, both of these being *burgage* lands, for payment of the yearly rent of £32 sterling. And further, the Magistrates and Council granted their bond to the Patrons for £2020 sterling, in name of grassum,

for these lands of Ramshorn and Meadowflatt, bearing interest till paid. The Town to pay the cess, and the Patrons to pay the feu and teind duties on the said lands.

When this sale was made to the Town there was a tack on the lands of Meadowflatt, extending to about eleven acres, which had been granted by the Patrons in January 1743 to James Wilson and William Bryce, gardeners, for three nineteen years, after Martinmas 1744, terminating at Martinmas 1801. The annual rent was £25 sterling, besides six per cent upon the money to be laid out by the Patrons for building two houses; and the tenants, at the end of the tack, were bound to leave the dykes in a fencible, and the houses in a habitable, condition; and also, the garden planted with fruit trees. Previous to the commencement of said tack—viz. in August 1744—Robert Craig was paid £67 Scots, for boring for coal in the Meadowflatt, the account of which is as follows:—"The Hospital's quarry at the Crackling-house, being wrought down five fathom, and it being the opinion of skilled men, that there might be a workable coal, the attempt was made. The Hospital bored seventeen fathom more, and then went through two fathom of coal till mixed with dogar bands; next, one fathom freestone plies about six inches thick, and three plies two inches: last of all, half a fathom freestone. In all, there was bored twenty-seven fathoms from the grass; and from the appearances it was judged proper to give up the search."

In 1792 they feued to James M'Lehose the three acres of land in Gallowmuir, at the yearly feu-duty of £50 : 18s.; besides a grassum of the same sum of £50 : 18s., payable every nineteenth year from Whitsunday 1791, the first grassum being payable at Whitsunday 1810.

In 1798 they sold to John Hamilton half an acre of their land on Garngad, at the price of £55 sterling; and in 1800 they have sold to John and Robert Tennent one and a half acres, and to James Melvin half an acre thereof, at the price of £120 sterling per acre. The remaining acre of these lands on Garngad, which were purchased in 1743 from the heirs of Walter Stirling, was then unsold.

Over and above these various purchases and sales of land

made by the Patrons, which proved so beneficial to the funds, John Bryson, merchant in Glasgow, and grand nephew to Mr. Thomas Hutchesone, in remuneration of the kindness done him by the said Mr. Thomas, mortified to this Hospital for the use and behoof of the poor thereof, by disposition bearing date the 5th of November 1705, three acres of land, lying on the north side of Garngad Hill. These three acres were then rented at six bolls *stocked* (as it is called) at ten merks per boll, amounting to sixty merks; and in 1718 they were let by the Patrons at forty merks per annum, for the first two years, and at fifty merks per annum thereafter, during the tack. In 1766 they were feued out to James M'Lehose at £2 : 16s. sterling of feu-duty, and £90 sterling paid down in money, as a grassum; they are now [1800] possessed by William Thom.

The Gorbals lands were divided, in 1789, betwixt the Town, Trades' House, and this Hospital, according to their respective proportions; and on the 3d November of that year the Patrons agreed to employ Mr. Charles Abercromby to make up a plan of the Hospital's part thereof, which was accordingly done. The division of these lands which fell to the Hospital was let by public roup, at the rent of £613 : 1 : 4 sterling for sixteen years, from Martinmas 1789.

In 1790 the Patrons feued by public roup, to Messrs. James Dunlop and Andrew Houston, a part of these Gorbals lands called Stirling Fold and Wellcroft, containing twenty-nine acres, three roods, and twenty-three falls, at the annual feu-duty of £258. And at the same time they purchased from John Lawson, one acre and twenty falls of ground, at the price of £150; as also a house and yard in Rutherglen Loan, from James Urie, for £250 sterling; and in 1792 they purchased certain houses at the south-east and south-west ends of the Old Bridge, at the price of £698 sterling, besides burdening themselves with the payment of two diferent annuities of £5 each. These purchases were made for the accommodation of a town, which the Patrons had resolved to lay off upon their division of the Gorbals lands, to be called *Hutchesone*, in honour of the Founders of the Hospital, the principal street of which was named *Adelphi* Street, and the next *Hospital* Street.

The Patrons, in November 1792, also agreed to subscribe £2000 on account of the Hospital, towards the expense of building a new bridge across the Clyde, opposite to Saltmarket Street, and to the said town of Hutchesone.

Many feus were accordingly sold therein, at prices from 4s. to 8s. per square yard, convertible into a feu-duty at five per cent; but in 1795 the bridge unfortunately fell, after being nearly finished; and although the Patrons recovered from the contractors the principal sum they had advanced, no steps have been hitherto taken for rebuilding it; and indeed the bed of the river has been so pooled by its fall, that it would be very unsafe to build it in the same spot. This disaster put a stop to any further feuing till the year 1798; but during that year and the following one the feuing has been again going on, and lots to the extent of about £100 of annual feu-duty have been thus sold. In all these feus of Gorbals the double of the feu-duty is payable every nineteenth year in name of grassum; exclusive of which the rents and feu-duties of these lands do now amount to nearly £1000 sterling per annum; and being therefore the principal property at this time belonging to the Hospital, it has been thought proper to annex a plan of them to this history.

The above details, as already stated, have been abridged from a History of Hutcheson's Hospital, written in 1800, by Mr. Findlay (father of Mr. Findlay of Easterhill), during the Preceptorship of Laurence Craigie, Esq. In 1850, during the Preceptorship of David Mackinlay, Esq., a reprint of this valuable record has been issued, with supplementary details, bringing down the chronicle of the proceedings and transactions of the Hospital for a further period of half-a-century. This supplementary work is prepared, we believe, by Laurence Hill, Esq., whose ancestors have worthily and uninterruptedly discharged the offices of factors and legal advisers to the Hospital almost since its foundation. In 1800, as will be seen, the net revenue amounted to £1400. In 1850, including all the foundations, viz. Hutcheson's, Scott's, Hood's, and Baxter's, the net revenue had increased to £4641:11:2. At the same time the value of the free stock was estimated at

£173,389:5:9. As to the sum total which the revenue and stock may have reached, at the next half-century report in 1900, it would be idle to speculate.

The increase of revenue has mainly arisen from the extended feuing of the Hospital's grounds on the south side of the river, by means of which the Barony of Gorbals has risen from an obscure and not over-nice suburb, to a most handsome integral portion of the city of Glasgow, with a population of 61,482. Into the particulars of these pecuniary transactions it is not necessary to enter, further than to state, that the original rate of 4s. per square yard, has been increased to 14s. and 16s., and in one or two cases to 20s.; but looking to the price of feus on the north side of the river, even the latter rate cannot be deemed expensive.

The building operations of the Patrons during the half century may be summed up as follows:—In 1805 the Hospital, with its handsome spire in Ingram Street, at the head of Hutcheson Street, was erected from plans by Mr. David Hamilton, at an expense of £5200. From the name of "Hospital" strangers may assume that this erection was intended for the accommodation of the poor persons who are nourished by the bounty of the foundations. No part of the Hospital buildings, however, is fitted up as an almshouse—the charity of the Patrons being dispensed in pensions, which the recipients enjoy while they reside with their own friends in the character of ordinary citizens. The hall of the Hospital was used for the meetings of the Patrons, and here also Stirling's library was accommodated, until the directors of that institution removed to buildings of their own in Miller Street, in 1844. This hall is now occupied at the yearly rent of £105, by the various banks in the city of Glasgow, as a clearing room. The Patrons now assemble for business in the Council Chambers. When it was the custom for the Magistrates to go in state to the city churches on Sundays, they were wont to retire, during the interval of public worship, to the committee room adjoining the hall; but this wholesome practice on the part of our civic authorities has now been discontinued.

The statues of the brothers Hutchesone, the founders, alluded to in the former report, were erected in niches designed for them in front of the Hospital buildings, in 1824.

Part of the Hospital building above the large hall was used for some time as a schoolroom ; but having been found quite insufficient and inconvenient for the purpose, the present school buildings, in Crown Street, Hutchesontown, were completed in 1841, from plans by Messrs. David and James Hamilton, at an expense of £4236, exclusive of the value of the ground, which, if disposed of, would have realised £1057. It may be added that the total number of boys in the school in 1849 was 164, and the sum expended on the maintenance and education in the same year was £1044. In the same year the sum expended in the relief of old persons, principally women, amounted to £3337.

The greatest building operation, however, which the Patrons promoted during the half century was the erection of Hutcheson's Bridge, which was opened to the public on 6th June 1834. It was erected after plans by Mr. Robert Stevenson, at a cost, including various accessories and miscellanies, of nearly £30,000. From the failure of the building contractor, and other untoward causes, the structure was not reared without much difficulty ; and after all it has not been found sufficiently capacious for the traffic. From this cause it has now (March 1851) been resolved to increase its width by the addition of tasteful iron footways. By the Act 21st July 1845, for the rebuilding of Stockwell Bridge, it was arranged that £20,000 should be paid to the creditors, or holders of borrowed money on Hutcheson's Bridge, and that it should then be consolidated with the other bridges over the Clyde at Glasgow. This arrangement has been carried into effect, and the Patrons of the Hospital are now relieved from the management of the bridge, the erection of which was owing to their exertions.

On the whole, this charity has been managed with a degree of zeal, discrimination, and economy which is above all praise ; and it has been truly remarked, that with limited funds it has done more good to the humbler classes in Glasgow than has been derived from similar foundations in other cities which enjoy its revenue three times told.

LIST OF PRECEPTORS.

| Date of Elections. | | Date of Elections. | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1641, Aug. 17. | COLIN CAMPBELL Jun. Appointed by Mr. T. Hutchesone. | 1677, Apr. 13. | ROBERT CROSS. |
| 1642, Nov. 12. | COLIN CAMPBELL Jun. Elected by the Patrons. | 1679, Apr. 25. | JON GOVEANE. |
| 1648, Jan. 22. | JAMES HAMILTON. | 1680, Apr. 16. | JOHN BRAIDIE. |
| 1650, Oct. 26. | THOMAS ALLAN. | 1681, May 2. | JAMES CORBETT. |
| 1651, Oct. 11. | JAMES HAMILTON. | 1683, May 3. | JOHN M'URE. |
| 1652, Apr. 18. | COLIN CAMPBELL. | 1685, July 3. | JOHN AITCHISON. |
| 1654, Jan. 14. | JAMES TRANE. | 1687, Apr. 22. | JAMES STIRLING. |
| 1655, Dec. 29. | JAMES BARNES. | 1688, May 24. | JOHN GRAY. |
| 1659, Sept. 13. | HENRY GLEN. | 1689, July 1. | DUNCAN M'LACHLANE. |
| 1661, Dec. 17. | ROBERT RAE. | 1690, June 28. | JOHN STIRLING. |
| 1663, Feb. 27. | JOHN WALKINSHAW. | 1691, June 12. | GEORGE MUIRHEAD. |
| 1664, Feb. 14. | COLIN CAMPBELL. | 1693, July 24. | MATHEW CUMING. |
| 1665, Feb. 28. | DONALD M'GILCHRIST. | 1700, Sept. 24. | JAMES SLOSS. |
| 1666, Mar. 20. | JOHN CALDWELL. | 1709, Sept. 27. | WILLIAM DONALDSON. |
| 1667, Mar. 7. | JAMES KER. | 1713, Aug. 7. | ROBERT ALEXANDER. |
| 1668, Mar. 6. | JOHN JOHNSTON. | 1729, Nov. 4. | JOHN ROBERTSON. |
| 1669, Apr. 20. | ROBERT M'URE. | 1736, Nov. 11. | ANDREW COCHRAN. |
| 1670, Mar. 4. | MARCUS MARSHALL. | 1777, July 24. | JOHN CAMPBELL. |
| 1671, Apr. 1. | JOHN GILHAGIE. | 1800, Apr. 1. | LAURENCE CRAIGIE, Lord Provost. |
| 1672, Apr. 2. | JOHN BRYSON. | 1805, Feb. 28. | GILBERT HAMILTON. |
| 1675, Mar. 18. | JOHN BARNES. | 1809, Feb. 17. | NICOL BROWN. |
| | | 1813, Feb. 18. | JOHN HAMILTON. |
| | | 1815, Feb. 15. | DANIEL MACKENZIE. |

SINCE DATE OF ROYAL CHARTER 3^D FEBRUARY 1821.

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1821, Apr. 4. | DANIEL MACKENZIE. | 1824, Feb. 12. | WILLIAM SMITH, Lord Provost. |
| 1822, Feb. 21. | ROBERT FINDLAY. | 1827, Feb. 23. | ROBERT DALGLISH. |
| 1823, Feb. 27. | JOHN THOMAS ALSTON. | | |

SINCE DATE OF MUNICIPAL REFORM ACT, 28TH AUGUST 1833.

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1834, Feb. 18. | ROBERT GRAHAME, Lord Provost. | 1836, Mar. 8. | WILLIAM MILLS, Lord Provost. |
| 1834, Nov. 20. | WILLIAM MILLS, Lord Provost, pro temp. | 1838, Mar. 16. | WILLIAM GILMOUR. |
| 1835, Mar. 31. | ROBERT DALGLISH. | 1840, Mar. 31. | JOHN LEADBETTER. |
| | | 1843, Nov. 17. | ALEXANDER HASTIE. |

SINCE DATE OF MUNICIPAL EXTENSION ACT, 27TH JULY 1846.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1846, Nov. 25. | JAMES ANDERSON. | 1848, Nov. 26. | DAVID MACKINLAY. |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|

By the kindness of J. B., we are enabled to present this picture of the original Hutcheson's Hospital.



THE CITY AND BARONY PARISHES OF GLASGOW IN ANCIENT
TIMES.

[We take leave to make the following abridgment from the article on Glasgow, in *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, published at Edinburgh in the beginning of 1851. This valuable work is the contribution to the Bannatyne Club of (the late) Lord Jeffrey, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Bart., and the Hon. Charles Francis Stuart; and it has been edited by the learned antiquary Cosmo Innes, Esq.]

This name appears in the earliest authentic record which we now have regarding the place, the Inquisition of David I. while Prince of Cambria; but traditions of an older appellation may be traced. Jocelin of Turnes mentions "Cathures" as now called

“Glasghu,” and also says that St. Kentigern’s Cathedral see was in the village “Deschu,” which meant “cara familia,” and was the same as Glasgow.

The ancient parish of Glasgow comprehended all the city churches and districts, with the Barony parish, but it did not include the Gorbals.

Of the foundation of a Christian settlement and a church at Glasgow by Saint Kentigern, or Mungo, in the middle of the sixth century, there is no reason to doubt. But of the subsequent government, and even of the continued existence of St. Kentigern’s establishment, we have no certain evidence till the period of the Inquest directed by David, prince of Cumberland, in 1116. That deed establishes equally the current tradition of the ancient history of the bishopric and the existence of the church at that time, and would seem to presume its possession of the adjacent territory (known in later times by the name of St. Mungo’s Freedom), since it does not enumerate it among the other possessions belonging to the see.

The Church.

The seventh day of July 1136 is the date of the consecration of the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, built by John, the first bishop after the restoration of the bishopric by King David I. It was rebuilt by his successor, Herbert, and re-consecrated in 1197 by Jocelin, with two assisting bishops. Bishop Bondington, who died in 1258, is said to have completed the Cathedral as planned by Herbert and Jocelin. Bishop Robert Wishart had obtained timber from King Edward I. for making a steeple, but used it for constructing engines against that king’s castles. The steeple was built of stone, as it now stands, by Bishop Lauder, who died in 1425. He added the battlements to the tower, built previously, and made the crypt under the chapter-house. Bishop Cameron, who died in 1447, built the chapter-house. The crypt of an intended southern transept, the beautiful rood-loft and decorated stairs, were the work of Bishop Blacader, who died in 1508. The Cathedral was never completed.

Other Ecclesiastical Foundations.

It would seem that in 1170 there were churches or chapels in the villages of Shedinston, now Shettleston, and Conclud (afterwards called Kyncleith); but there are no traces of them in the subsequent records of the diocese. A place marked on old maps as Chapelhill, to the eastward of the city, may perhaps indicate the site of a chapel connected with the prebend of Barlanark. But the great number of dependent churches, chapels, and religious houses of this parish were within the city.

The Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, or Our Lady Chapel, was situated on the north side of St. Thenaw's Gate, not far from the Market Cross. It is ascertained to have been built before 1293, and was in ruins in the beginning of the sixteenth century.

St. Thomas' Chapel, in St. Thenaw's Gate, not far from St. Thenaw's Chapel, was dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, archbishop and martyr. In 1320 Sir Walter Fitz-Gilbert, the progenitor of the Hamiltons, bequeathed a suit of vestments to the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, under the condition that they might be borrowed, if need were, four times every year, for the service of St. Mary's Chapel at Machan (Dalsersf), and twice yearly for the use of the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, at Glasgow. This chapel was in existence in 1505.

The Chapel of St. Thenaw, matron, the mother of St. Kentigern, was situated near the church, now corruptly called St. Enoch's, at the western extremity of St. Thenaw's Gate. It is mentioned as early as 1426. King James III., in confirming an ancient grant of wax to the Cathedral of Glasgow, directed that one half stone of it should be given for the lights at the tomb of St. Thenaw, "in the chapel where her bones lie," near the city of Glasgow. There was a cemetery beside the chapel, and a spring, which is still called St. Thenaw's Well.

The Chapel of St. Mungo without the walls, called also little St. Mungo's Kirk, was built and endowed in the year 1500, by David Cuninghame, archdeacon of Argyll and provost of the collegiate church of Hamilton. It stood on the Dowhill, on the north side of the Gallowgate, on the eastern bank of the Molen-

dinar, immediately without the Port. Certain trees which grew there were called St. Mungo's trees; a well beside it had the name of St. Mungo's Well; and a way which led to it still retains the name of St. Mungo's Road. It was surrounded by a church-yard.

The Chapel of St. Roche the confessor was situated on the common moor on the north side of the city, near the place now corruptly called St. Rollox. It was founded about 1508, by Thomas Mureheid, canon of Glasgow, and prebendary of Stobo. The patronage of the priest, or chaplain, was vested in the bailies and council of the city, with whose consent the benefice was, about 1530, incorporated with the collegiate church of St. Mary and St. Anne; the chaplain being constituted a canon of that church, but under provision that he should, twice every week, say mass and other offices in St. Roche's Chapel, for the soul of its founder. There was a cemetery attached to it.

A convent of Dominicans, or Friars Preachers, popularly known as the Black Friars, was founded by the bishop and chapter on the east side of the High Street, on or near the site of the present College Kirk. Their church, which was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. John the Evangelist, was begun to be built before 1246, when Pope Innocent IV. issued a bull of forty days' indulgence to all the faithful who should contribute to its completion. It was surrounded by a cemetery. The adjoining "place," or convent of the friars, was large and richly endowed. When King Edward I. of England remained at Glasgow for a fortnight, in the autumn of 1301, he was lodged at the Friars Preachers.

The Church and "Place" of the Franciscan, Minor, or Grey Friars, were situated in an alley on the west side of the High Street, a little above the College. They are said to have been founded in 1476, by Bishop John Laing and Thomas Forsyth, rector of Glasgow. No records are preserved of the foundation; nor of its property, which, as the brethren followed the strict or reformed rule of the order, was probably very small. Jeremy Russel, a friar of this house, was burned for heresy in 1559.

St. Nicholas' Hospital, or Almshouse, near the Bishop's Castle

and Palace, is commonly said to have been founded by Bishop Andrew Mureheid, 1455-1473. It was endowed with lands, houses, and annuities, within the city and its territory. In 1476 it is called "Hospitale pauperum;" in 1487, "Hospitale Glasguense;" and in 1507 it is styled "Hospitale Sancta Nicholai." In the years 1528 and 1550 it is spoken of as consisting of two houses or chambers, "Pauperes Hospitalis Sancti Nicholai de utraque domo;" and "Pauperes Hospitalis Sancti Nicholai de domibus anteriori et posteriori." This may, perhaps, have happened by its union in some way with the following.

About 1503 Roland Blacadyr, the sub-dean, founded a hospital for the poor and indigent casually coming to the city of Glasgow, "*prope Stabyllgreyn*," the master of which was appointed by him to be also chaplain of the altar to St. John and St. Nicholas, which he had founded and endowed in the Cathedral. He directed that six beds should be furnished and kept in readiness for receiving the poor, and made several minute and curious regulations for the management of the house.

The Collegiate Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anne (sometimes called Our Lady College, and the New College), was situated on the south side of St. Thenaw's Gate, now known by the name of the Tron-gate. It was founded about the year 1530, by James Houston, sub-dean of Glasgow, for a provost, arch-priest, sacristan, master of a song school, five other prebendaries, and three choristers. Subsequently, other three prebends were added, one by Nicholas Witherspoune, vicar of Strathaven, the remaining two by Sir Martyn Reid, chaplain of the altar of St. Christopher in the Cathedral Church of Glasgow. The patronage of the provostry was vested in the abbot and convent of Kilwinning; that of the arch-priest and sacrist in the prioress and convent of North Berwick; of the other canons, in the bailies and council of the City of Glasgow. The endowments of the college were from the fruits of the parish churches of Dalry, in the deanery of Kyle and Cunningham; and of Mayboill, in the deanery of Carrick; and from lands, tenements, and annuities in the city of Glasgow and its neighbourhood. There was a cemetery beside the church, and a song school stood on its west side.

The City and Burgh.

Glasgow had been a village of some note since St. Kentigern's age; and in the earliest records (1175-99) which we have of the tenure of property, it seems to have been managed like other Saxon villages. The bishop's men were either "natives" and serfs, or they were burgesses, free tenantry, and vassals. In 1174-89 William the Lion gave to Jocelin the bishop and his successors, Gillemachoy de Conglud, with his children, and all his descendants—"cum liberis suis et tota ejus secta que de ratione eum sequi debuerit.") In 1175-99 Raan Corbeht, Master of the Temple in Scotland, gave to *his man*, William Gley of Glasgow, for a reddendo of 12 pence, a plenary toft, which Jocelin the bishop had given to himself in the burgh of Glasgow, and which was the same as Gillel had held before it had been his, together with a net's fishing in the Clyde, given him also by the bishop, and with all the common easements of the territory. Alexander II. granted, in 1235, to the bishop's men, natives and serfs, (nativi et servi) freedom from toll, as well in burghs as without, for their own chattels, and what they bought for their proper use.

The burgh of Glasgow rose by gradual and well-marked steps out of the Episcopal village and city which, from the earliest period, surrounded the Cathedral. About 1175 King William the Lion granted to God and St. Kentigern, and to Bishop Jocelin and his successors, that they should have a burgh at Glasgow, with a Thursday market, and with all liberties and customs of one of the king's burghs; and the same king granted to the bishop a right of fair there annually for eight days following the octaves of St. Peter and St. Paul (6th July), and gave his "firm peace" to all attending it. Bishop Jocelin, who had formerly been Abbot of Melrose, granted to his old abbey a toft in the burgh of Glasgow, "namely, that toft which Ranulph de Hadintun built in the first building of the burgh," expressions which seem to mark that the town was at least extended by new buildings about the time of receiving the royal privileges. We next find the bishop's burgh resisting the claims of the more ancient and royal burgh of Rutherglen, which King Alexander

II. declared should not levy toll or custom "within the town of Glasgow," but only at the cross of Schedenestun (now Shettleston), as they used formerly to be levied. The same king, after erecting Dumbarton into a royal burgh, by a charter in 1242, preserved to the bishop's burgesses and men of Glasgow, the rights of trade and merchandise through Argyll and Lennox, which they had anciently enjoyed. At a later period, some encroachments of Renfrew and Rutherglen produced an order from King James II. (1449)—"That nane of yhour said burrows na nane vtheris cum wythin the barony of Glasgw na wythin ony landis pertenand to Sant Mungois Fredome to tak tol or custom be watter or land." In 1450 the bishop's city and territory were erected into a regality; and the burgh, hitherto a burgh of barony, thus rose one step in dignity and privilege. The bishop was permitted to appoint a sergeant for making arrestments and executing the edicts of his court, who was to bear a silver staff, having the royal arms blazoned on the upper end, and the arms of the bishop on the other. The increased consequence of the magistrates is immediately apparent. An indenture between them and the Friars Preachers, dated in 1454, runs in the name of "an honorabyll mane, Johne Steuart, the first provost that was in the cite of Glasgw." Whether as a burgh of barony or a burgh of regality, the appointment of magistrates was in the bishop; and one instance is recorded, in the year 1553, when on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, when the new bailies were wont to be elected, an honourable man, Andrew Hamyltoun of Cochnocht, provost, and the whole council, in the inner flower-garden beside the palace, where the archbishop was engaged in conversation with several of the canons of the chapter, presented to his lordship a schedule of paper with the names of certain of the most worthy and substantial men of the city, from whom the archbishop selected the bailies for the following year. In 1561 the council, first protesting that search had been made in vain for the archbishop (who had withdrawn on the breaking out of the Reformation), proceeded to elect their magistrates themselves. Glasgow sent representatives to Parliament in 1546; but it was only in 1636 that a charter of Charles I., ratified in Parliament,

declared the burgh duties payable directly to the Crown. The Protestant archbishops, from time to time, and also the family of Lennox, as heritable bailies of the regality, long claimed the right of nominating the magistrates, and even in 1655, Esme, Duke of Lennox, was served heir to his father in "the title of nomination and election of the proveist, baillies, and uther magistrates and officers of the burgh and city of Glasgow." In 1690 Parliament ratified a charter of William and Mary, giving the city of Glasgow and town council, power and privilege to choose their own magistrates, as freely as Edinburgh, or any other royal burgh.

The more ancient city of Glasgow consisted of the cluster of residences collected round the Cathedral and Bishop's Castle, extending westward for some way along the Rotten Row, eastward along the Drygate, and down the steep part of the High Street. When the bishop acquired for his city the privileges of burghal trade, the Cross was placed on the more convenient plain ground, midway between the city and the river port. The way connecting the upper city with the Market Cross was gradually built upon, and preserved the name of the Great or High Street. From the Cross, three other streets branched out:—(1.) A continuation of the High Street, leading to the South Port or Nether Barras Yett, bore the name of the Walcargate (superseded about the middle of the seventeenth century by that of the Saltmarket); while a farther prolongation of the same road leading from the Port to the river, came, after the erection of the bridge over the Clyde, about the middle of the fourteenth century, to be called the Briggate. Another street in the same neighbourhood, if, indeed, it is not to be identified with the Briggate, was designated the Fishergate, probably from the occupation of the persons who dwelt in it; and a third, apparently of more modern date, had the appellation of the Stokewell. (2.) Westward from the Market Cross stretched a road called St. Thenaw's Gate, spanned not quite half-way between the Cross and St. Thenaw's Chapel, by a gate called the West Port. The portion of this street lying within the Port, took, about the middle of the sixteenth century, the name of the Trongate; the outer portion, about two centuries afterwards, received the appellation of Argyll Street. (3.) From the Market Cross eastwards

extended the Gallowgate, intersected by the Molendinar Burn, and crossed near its eastern extremity by the East Port. A road which led from the Gallowgate to the Chapel of St. Mungo without the walls, was thence called St. Mungo's Gate.

Besides the Ports which have been enumerated (namely, the South Port or Nether Barras Yett; the West or St. Thenaw's, afterwards called the Stokewell Port; and the East or Gallowgate Port), mention is made of the Subdean's Port, between the Gyrthburne and the Drygate, in the year 1410; and notices of other ports, some of which may, however, perhaps be identified with the above, occur at later periods. The walls of the city are often spoken of in descriptions of property ("infra muros civitatis Glasguensis; extra muros civitatis Glasguensis"); but it may, with some reason, be doubted if any regular or continuous rampart encircled the whole town, at least so late as the fifteenth century. John Major (who taught for some years in the University of Glasgow), writing in the year 1521, speaks of Perth as being the only properly walled town in Scotland. The municipal ordinances of the city prove sufficiently that Glasgow was not in later times what is now called a walled town. On the last day of October 1588, "It is statut that euerie persone repair and hauld cloiss thair yaird endis and bak sydis, swa that nane may repair thairthrow to the toun bot be the common portes."

Mention is found of the Bishop's lands of Ramnishorene in the year 1241; of the Broomielaw ("campus de Bromilaw") about the year 1325; of the Meadow Well in the Denside in the year 1304; of St. Ninian's Well, on the south side of St. Thenaw's Gate, in the year 1433; of the Stabillgrene in the year 1430; of the Market Cross in the year 1418; of the Gyrthburne, not far from the Drygate, in the year 1410; of the Castle or Bishop's Palace about the year 1290; of the Bishop's garden about the year 1268; of the Tolbooth of the burgh ("Pretorium Glasgense"), beside the Cross, at the corner of St. Thenaw's Gate and the High Street, in the year 1454; of the Black Friars Wynd, or Vennel, about the year 1300; of the West Cunye in 1498, near the Cross in the Walcargate; of the Conyhee, near the Cross, in the year 1435; of "the gate frae the Wynd hede to the Gray

Freris" in the year 1534; of the Troyne Gait in the year 1545; of Rounaldis Wynd, on the north side of St. Thenaw's Gate, in the year 1488; of Maynis Wynd, in the year 1548; of the Commownjet (near the Gallowgate) in the year 1433; of the "Quadrevium" or carfoix in the High Street, in 1494, and of the Densyde, near the monastery of the Minorites, 1494; of the Gallowmure and Borrowfield in the year 1529; of the Dowhill or Gersum land; the Provansyde; of the Common Green in the year 1487.

The manses and orchards of the thirty-two canons of the Cathedral, as arranged under Bishop Cameron, about 1435, as well as the residences of the choral vicars, and, doubtless, of all the other officers of the Cathedral continued, even after the extension of the burgh, for the most part in the principal streets of the old city, the High Street, the Drygate, and the Rotten Row. In a supplication to Parliament (1587) by certain of the inhabitants, it is stated, that before the reformation of religion, their city was "intertynit and uphaldin" by the resort of the parsons, vicars, and other clergy, but is now become ruinous and for the most part altogether "decayet;" and that "that part of the said cietie abone the gray frier wynd is the onlie ornament and decoratioun therof, be ressonne of ye grite and sumptuous build-ingis of grite antiquitie, varie proper and meit for ye ressait of his hieres and nobilitie at sic tymes as they sall repair therto."

Legends and History.

Glasgow is the scene of several legends recorded of St. Kentigern. It was here he is said to have buried St. Serf, his master. No remain of this saint, however, is mentioned in the inventory of relics belonging to the church in 1432. An altar was dedicated to him in the Cathedral before 1446. It was on revisiting Glasgow that St. Kentigern is said to have preached to King Redrath, and to a great number of the chiefs and people of the place, elevating himself on a little mount, whence he could be seen by all, and where a celebrated chapel was afterwards dedicated to his honour; indicating plainly Little St. Mungo's Kirk beyond the walls. It was here, too, he met St. Columba of Iona, and conferred with him

at the Molendinar. And it is affirmed, with much probability, that the bodies both of his mother St. Thenaw, and of himself, were here preserved, and long held as objects of great veneration and of devout pilgrimage, by the people.

Glasgow took a distinguished part in the wars of the succession, under its patriotic bishop, Robert Wishart, who was elected to the see in 1271. From the favourable disposition of the inhabitants, the district became the resort or place of refuge of several of the Scotch patriots. It was at Glasgow ("in domo cujusdam Rowe Ra") that Wallace was captured. Edward I., who remained in the city during a part of August and September 1301, for the purpose of overawing a hostile district, some years later, accused the bishop to the Pope of not only failing to excommunicate Bruce for the slaughter of Cumin, but of giving him absolution for the deed five days after it was committed, and of providing him, from his own wardrobe, with the garments and robes in which he was crowned at Scone. He was also charged with going about the country preaching to the people that it was more meritorious to fight for the new-made king than against the Saracens. The bishop having been taken prisoner at Cupar in Fife, was kept in prison for eight years in England, and only liberated after Bannockburn, when he had become blind. He died on the 26th November 1316, and was buried in the Cathedral, it is said, between the altars of St. Peter and St. Andrew.

The bishops' chief residence was their castle or palace adjoining the Cathedral Church, the ruins of which remained till last century; but from the beginning of the fourteenth century the bishops of Glasgow are found frequently residing at their manor-house or castle of the lake, called also Lochwood, six miles north-east of the city, in the vicinity of their ancient forest, and near a small lake called Bishop's Loch. Though now a little way beyond the boundary, it was then within the parish. Several of their charters are dated from this place. It contained a chapel. On 30th April 1325 Bishop John Lindsay, while living at his manor of the lake (manerium de lacu), took a protest before John de Quincy respecting his seal used for attesting charters, which had been lost by Robert del Barkour, near the chapel of St. Mary of Dumbarton,

and found and presented to him by James of Irwyn, monk of Passelet. The seal is minutely described as exhibiting his patron St. Kentigern, and his emblems or cognisances of the fish, bird, and ring, which plainly refer to the then popular legends of the life of St. Kentigern, and which Bishop Robert Wishart first introduced on his seal. His successors followed his example, and the modern arms of the city are only a modification of those old symbols of St. Mungo and his miracles. Bishop Cameron died at the castle of Lochwood on the Christmas Eve of 1447, with a popular rumour of some supernatural horrors, which Buchanan has thought it necessary to record. At the Reformation the Duke of Chatelherault took possession of the manor-place of Lochwood, as well as the episcopal palace and castle of Glasgow.

On the 12th of September 1241 King Alexander II. granted to the bishops of Glasgow (the bishop at the time was William de Bondington, Chancellor of Scotland) to hold their lands around Glasghu, namely, Conclud, Schedinistun, Ballayn, Badermonoc, Possele, and Kenmor, Garvach, Neutun, Leys, Ramnishoren, the land of the burgh, and the other lands pertaining to the manor of Glasghu, in free forest, fenced with the usual penalty of ten pounds, for offences committed against the vert or venison.

The mill of the bishop's manor, on the little stream which flows past the Cathedral, gave its name to the Molendinar Burn.

Govan and Gorbals—Deanery of Rutherglen.

The ancient parish of Govan was separated from the parish of Glasgow by the Kelvin on the west. It lay on both sides of the Clyde, and comprehended the present parish of that name and what is now Gorbals, which was erected into a separate parish by the Court of Teinds in 1771.

Some time before the year 1147 King David I., with consent of his son Henry, granted Guen to the see of St. Kentigern of Glasgow, in pure alms; and soon afterwards Herbert, the bishop, erected into a prebend, in the Cathedral, the church of Guvan, with all its ecclesiastical rights and pertinents, and with "the islands between Guvan and Perthec, together with that part of

Perthec which David the king gave to the Church of Glasgow at its dedication, and that other part of Perthec which the same king afterwards gave in pure alms to Bishop John and his successors."

This prebend was bestowed at the time of its erection on Help', the bishop's clerk, and the patronage continued in the bishop till the Reformation.

The church was dedicated to St. Constantine. Fordun says, "he was a King of Cornwall who accompanied St. Columba into Scotland, and preached the Christian faith to the Scots and Picts." He adds, "that he founded a monastery in Govan near the Clyde, over which he presided, and converted the whole of Cantyre, where he suffered martyrdom, and was buried in his monastery at Govan."

At Polmadie (the name of a rivulet on the left bank of the Clyde, said to denote the wolf's burn) there was a hospital for men and women. It was founded before 1249, and was dedicated to St. John.

The hospital of St. Ninian stood at a little distance from the south end of the old bridge of Glasgow. It was called "Hospitale leprosorium degentium prope pontem" in 1494; "Leprosorium S. Niniani trans pontem" in 1505; "the puir lipper folkis house beyond the brig" in 1587. It is said to have been founded by a lady of the family of Lochow about 1350, which is also the era of some other similar erections. It had a burying-ground and a chapel near it. The latter, it is said, still stands in the Main Street of the village of Gorbals. And between this and the bridge, at a place where an old building called the Lepers' Hospital formerly stood, a quantity of human bones, lately discovered, seems to point out the site of the cemetery. The ground on which the whole was placed is still called St. Ninian's Croft. The following ordinance of the Town Council of Glasgow, of 6th October 1610, shows the condition of the poor leper even at that comparatively recent period: "Item, it is statut and ordanit that the lipper of the hospital sall gang onlie upon the calsie side near the gutter, and sal haif clapperis, and ane claith upon their mouth and face, and sall stand afar of, quhill they resaif almous or answer, under the payne of banischeing thame the toun and hospital."

In 1494 William Stewart, canon of Glasgow, and rector of Kilerne, refounded a Chaplainry in the Chapel of St. Ninian, at the Lepers' Hospital near the bridge, which had formerly been constructed and of new rebuilt by him. He gave for the sustentation of the chaplain and the reparation of the chapel several tenements and annual rents in the neighbourhood, and he ordained that on the anniversary of his death the chaplain should annually assemble in the said chapel twenty-four poor scholars skilled in singing mass, who should sing for him, and for the souls of all the faithful deceased, the seven penitential psalms, with the "de profundis;" and after the mass distribute 2s. of Scotch money, 1d. to each, and to the lepers, not members of the hospital, 12d. He also ordained that the lepers should, at a fitting time every night for ever, ring the bell of the chapel and convene at the "salve," and devoutly pray for their benefactors, and especially for him the founder; finally, he ordained that the chaplain, being master of the grammar-school, should, after his decease, commend him every night to all his scholars before their separation, and make them devoutly pray for his soul and for all the faithful dead.

It seems probable that before 1152 Govan and Perthec, which were distinct manors, were also distinct parochial territories; the latter lying on the north, and the former on the south side of the Clyde. The islands in the river then existing between them have now disappeared, or have become a part of the mainland. The bishops of Glasgow had a residence at Perthec before 1277. In 1362 the compromise of a dispute between the lord bishop and his chapter took place at the manor-house of Perthec. It is supposed to have stood on the bank which overlooks the junction of the Kelvin and the Clyde. There were several free tenants or vassals on both manors.

(1850.)

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRAPS.

SIR,—Having read, with much pleasure, your communications from "Senex and Aliquis" regarding the old Memorabilia of Glasgow, and its rise and progress during the last sixty years,

permit me to add my mite as to a few matters which seem to have escaped their memory, or not come under their notice in the quarter of the city where they resided. This I consider almost a duty, feeling confident that the notes of these gentlemen will, before long, furnish a noble quarry for a copious history of Glasgow, yet to be written by some one competent to the task. Had we a similar deposit to extract from, for the preceding three or four hundred years, how interesting would be the details.

I gave you my few reminiscences almost at random, having had no time to recollect all the ups and downs I have witnessed in Glasgow, or to put them in shape.

Your correspondent "Senex" mentions a "big tree" that grew in the Green, but the real "big tree" of the town was one which stood in the Old Vennel, outside of the College garden wall, and supposed to have been planted hundreds of years before the erection of the College, by the Dominican or Black Friars, who had a monastery in the neighbourhood, part of the foundation of which I saw when the ground was dug up for the erection of the houses in Regent Street. The late Rev. Dr. Heugh's church stands on the spot where the "big tree" of Glasgow, *par excellence*, spread its branches for a thousand years.

There were numerous thatched houses in every street in the town in 1798, and many spaces unoccupied, which are now filled up. At the south-east corner of Stirling Street we had a large show of wild beasts, where houses are now built. In the mouth of a monstrous tiger the unfortunate Major Munro was crammed, and his position in the picture drew tears and sighs from many a young and feeling heart. The old monkey in the red jacket was there also, just as he is at the present day.—Boys are always inquisitive, but I got a fright at this time which I shall never forget. I do not know how I was induced to do the thing, but somehow or other it happened that I went up a stair in Blackfriars Street, and entered a room, the door of which was unlocked. My terror may be imagined when I found that the only occupants of the apartment were myself and an immense ugly black bear, which lay stretched on the floor. My stay, as may be imagined, was not prolonged unnecessarily, and the only courtesy shown by Master

Bruin was a grunt and a growl, as I slammed the door on my retreat, and darted down the stair. I suppose the bear had been placed in the empty room, as not being ornamental to the show adjoining.

Well do I remember the dearth in 1800. That was a fearful time. There was then a real scarcity, and people, although they had money, could not get meat for it. Every Saturday night some meal-dealer's shop or other was gutted, and his provisions thrown to the starving people outside. The meal-market was then situated a little above College Street, on the same side, and I think I see the old mongers seated in surly state, in their several sections, the benches in front being at least five feet in height, to protect them from the crowding and famishing people, while they dispensed their musty meal to favourites at four shillings a peck. They were sometimes put in bodily fear, however, and I recollect one Sunday seeing a crowd waiting all day at the door of a dealer of the name of Russell, in High Street, with a halter fixed to the lamp-post opposite, ready to hang him had he come out—and ten to one they would have done it—as there were no police in those days; at least I suppose not, judging from the impunity with which the mob conducted their proceedings. About this period the meal store of a man of the name of Macintosh, in Bell Street, was plundered on a Saturday night. On the Monday morning, a respectable female went to request a peck of meal as a great favour. Instead of complying, or condescending to turn his head to look at her, he replied, "Na, na, nae meal for you here; brazen-faced besom, to come here seeking meal after breaking into my shop on Saturday!" It was in vain to protest that she had no hand in the transaction; the final answer being, "Weel, weel, if it wasna you it was some o' your breethren, and it's a' ane to me. Gang awa, ye jaud, oot o' my shop, or I'll gi'e you a neive fu' o' peasemeal in your een!" The porridge made with Indian corn at this time was detestable; and what with hunger and terror of Bonaparte coming over, our lives were pretty well embittered.

At this date there were many heart-burnings and riotings about stealing the bodies of the dead from their graves. One

Saturday a man of the name of James Farrel was interred in the High Church-yard, and during the night his body was carried off by some reckless snatchers, who, instead of putting things to right, left the grave open, and the dead-clothes in the empty coffin. The place was visited by hundreds of people during the day, and their minds being naturally inflamed at what they had witnessed, a crowd collected opposite the college in the afternoon, whither it was said the body had been carried. A stone was thrown at one of the windows, and before an hour had elapsed there was not a whole pane of glass in any window along the High Street front of the building. On Monday morning the mob began to congregate and proceed to other extremities, but they found a troop of cavalry in front, who, with their drawn sabres dashed along the pavement, and were not at all slack in giving a smack with the broad side of their weapons to any unlucky wight who could not get out of their way with sufficient celerity.

Before the introduction of police, there were many strange and unlawful scenes exhibited upon our streets, and it was no uncommon thing to be alarmed in the night with the cries of "Murder," there being no one to render assistance.

The lamp-lighters about the beginning of the century were a strange-looking race of men, and they rushed about with their ladders and flaming torches at a great pace, always annoyed, of course, by a parcel of boys, who courted a chase by the constant cry of,

" Leerie, leerie, light the lamps,
Lang legs and crooked shanks ;
Kill a midge, and hang a flea,
Cast the Leerie o'er the brae."

About the year 1799 I recollect of getting a jaunt to Bridgeton along by the Serpentine Walk in the Green. It was then very beautiful, there being a high hedge luxuriantly covered with blossoms running across the Green at King's Park, and the Serpentine Walk was cool and delightful. Umbrellas could not have been very common at this time, as I remember a lady walking through Bridgeton that day with her umbrella up, and a crowd

of urchins after her, bawling out, "Gentle Jean, haud up your coats and let the rain rin by ye."

At the commencement of the century the whole road from Jamaica Street to Anderston was skirted by a hedgerow and green fields on both sides. It was customary in those days to have frequent tent preachings in a churchyard there, and the "buns and yill" during the interval were never forgotten. Many thatch houses in Argyll Street, and green plots before the door. A thatched thrashing-mill on the site of Messrs. Stewart and Macdonald's, and gardens, with a high brick wall running up on the west side of Buchanan Street. I had two or three birds' nests in a beech-row on the site of Mr. Robert Lamond's writing chambers, in St. Vincent Place.

When King George III. had reigned fifty years, there was a grand jubilee throughout all the nation, and it was not forgotten in Glasgow. Besides other demonstrations, there was a display of fireworks at the Laigh Kirk, on the roof of the shop occupied by Mr. Webster, one of the worst places in the town for the purpose. It was in relation to this jubilee that the Ettrick Shepherd wrote the fine verses addressed to the good old king, and beginning—

"I'm fifty years shepherd, you're fifty a king!"

When the news of the battle of Trafalgar arrived, mixed as they were with pride and grief—pride at the success of our arms, grief at the loss of the hero—that very day the following lines appeared in one of the Glasgow papers:—

"Bold on the deck this morn the hero stood,
Let every Briton do his best, he called aloud;
To gain immortal glory next he tried;
He fought, he gained it, then he fell—he died!"¹

¹ The above is equalled by the sentence which the London Cobbler stuck up in his window on the night of the illumination for the victory of Trafalgar:—

"Nelson, though dead,
Lives in each British heart:
Hear that, and tremble,
Master Bonaparte!"—J. P.

And afterwards every description of poetry, of which the following pithy lines are a sample :—

“ For while a Mack deserves the rack,
And Bonaparte — fire, man ;
Great Nelson’s name, the trump of fame
Shall sound till a’ expire, man !”

Next year the monument was erected in the Green, with masonic honours. It was struck by lightning on a Sunday, some years after, during a terrible storm of thunder which made all the windows in the town to rattle with violence. Some bold lines were afterwards written in chalk upon the pedestal. The two first I have forgotten, but these are the concluding portion :—

“ Stern Jove has darted thunders on my head ;
Even gods are envious of Nelson’s fame !”

There has been so much said about the Clyde, and the improvements which have been made upon it, that it is almost impossible to say anything new and true upon such a subject. I shall only state that I have sailed in the “ fly-boat ” from the Broomielaw to Greenock, and taken twelve hours to perform the feat ; and also in the Comet of 1812 and managed the task in six hours, although lying on the bank at Erskine for a couple of them.

I recollect the last procession of King Crispin in Glasgow, noticed by “ Senex,” and allow that it was really a grand affair of the kind, but he forgets the beautiful young woman who acted so gracefully as Queen that day. The lady is still alive, and has passed an honourable life as the wife of a worthy Gorbals bailie, lately deceased. I entirely disagree, however, with him in his attack upon the Eglinton tournament. Did he ever read Lord Eglinton’s own defence of that gorgeous exhibition ? It is capital.

About the year 1799 I mind of being over the water at Tradeston to see a famous itinerant tumbler, who gave out prizes of fat sheep and spinning-wheels for the deposit of a shilling. The ground was all covered with corn and grass fields in those days. At this show two Irishmen (a rare thing) were discovered,

and a hunt after them immediately took place. They flew through the standing corn like hares: and after they had been well thrashed by their *gallant* assailants, the triumph was celebrated by a drummer and fifer, at the head of the mob, playing

“Down, down, croppies lie down.”

There was always an antipathy amongst the working classes of Glasgow against the Irish, caused by the fact that they were ever ready to take work at any price, to the injury and damage of our own townsmen, but with all this ill-usage and contemptuous treatment, they have now wormed themselves amongst us to the tune of some thirty or forty thousand.

No one can have any idea (unless they witnessed it) of the constant fun and rejoicing, the illuminations, the bon-fires, and the blazing away, when Bonaparte, who had so long kept us in terror, began to lose his battles. His success had been so constant and long-continued, that some people seemed to think it would never have an end—but when the “*Corsican callan*” tottered, the joy of the citizens, as he gradually fell, knew no bounds, and every plan they could devise to show their satisfaction was put in requisition.

In more modern times a great riot was caused one evening by a parcel of drunken soldiers of the 13th regiment, then lying in our barracks. About twenty of them, all Irish, came sallying up the Saltmarket, with drawn bayonets, running and ramming at every one they met. A crowd was soon collected, and the coffee-room doors were shut up and barred for fear of a visit from the ruffians. The fight then began in earnest, and while looking over a window in the *Courier* office at the Cross, with the late Mr. William Reid, we saw one of the soldiers struck dead with a blow from a stone on the head, just as effectually as if it had been done by a cannon-ball. At last the soldiers were completely beaten, and many of them wounded, the number being made up by others who took share in the affray after the battle began. Not a few of the citizens were quaking with fear that night, being afraid that their comrades would have escaped from the barracks to take vengeance on the inhabitants. Fortunately the officers were suc-

cessful in preventing this. One of them, Ensign Tinling, who had gone out to try and get the men into their quarters, met with a little obstruction. He was in the act of drawing his sword, when a well-known citizen, Mr. William Scott, thinking the officer was about to use it on the people, rushed forward and bent it over his knee in the scabbard. For this offence Mr. Scott was afterwards tried by the Circuit Court of Justiciary, and sentenced to imprisonment, by Lord Meadowbank, for a month or two. No inquiry was ever instituted as to the person who killed the soldier. The whole matter was allowed to drop, and the regiment was marched out of town in a few days after.

The porch in front of the Almshouse, situated near the gasworks, was lately removed. For centuries its bell had tolled on the passing of a funeral, and there was a money-box, or "penny-pig," in it, with the following inscription;—"Give to the pivor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." Who has that inscription, I should like to know; as well as the "jugs," and many other ancient remains which have totally disappeared?

When the workmen were digging the foundation in North Albion Street, where the Rev. Dr. Dick's church now stands, a great number of human bones were found, all apparently of young people, the teeth in the heads being quite white and fresh. As there were no remains of coffins, the opinion at the time was that the bodies were those of men who had been slain in battle at the spot.

Some time since when two workmen were engaged in the renovation of the nave of the Cathedral, they lifted one of the paving-stones close to a pillar, and immediately a shower of golden pieces, of the most beautiful workmanship, fell into their hands; amongst them, gold rose-nobles of Edward the III., and other coins. These coins, or at least the most of them, eventually found their way to the Exchequer, and were sold to a Glasgow gentleman for £150.

A few years back a piece of unpardonable barbarism was perpetrated in the vicinity of the city. The fine old ruin of the Bishop's Palace, which had stood as a landmark for hundreds of years, at the junction of the Clyde with the Kelvin, was removed,

almost in a night, no one knew by what authority or by what means, to form dykes to the neighbouring fields. The Goths who committed this outrage were never looked after, and the only voice raised against the unhallowed deed was that of one of the Glasgow newspapers ; but as no support was given by its "esteemed contemporaries," the matter was allowed to drop. J. M'N.

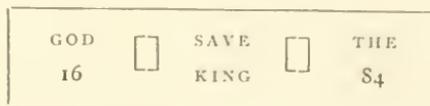
THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FREEMASONS.

The Old Oak Chest.

The following paper has been supplied by an able gentleman and enthusiastic freemason, the late Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights. We have seen the "old oak chest" alluded to, and can bear testimony to the accuracy of the description.

We had lately an opportunity of inspecting a curious old chest belonging to the Incorporation of Masons in this city. It is about eighteen and a half inches long, thirteen and a half wide, and twelve deep. The massive oak of which it is composed would amply suffice for the construction of three modern cabinets of like dimensions, which, together with the double locks and ponderous iron bands with which it is provided, indicate the precious character of the articles of which it was doubtless the depository. The top, formed of solid oak, originally from three to four inches thick, is elaborately carved in high and bold relief. In the centre is a clustered group of the implements of the craft—the square, the compass, the level, plumb-rule, and twenty-four inch gauge ; and the base of a column, emblematic of durability and strength, is enclosed between the legs of the compass, and the stock and blade of the square. To the right is a wreath of foliage attached by the extremities to two projecting scrolls, and to the left is the boldly relieved head, neck, and breast, with the expanded wings of a venerable cherub. A similar figure, also cut out of the solid oak, adorns each end. The lid is bordered with something between the Norman or early English billet moulding, and the carved head so common in the enrichments of

Grecian architecture, and a leaf on an ogee profile. The front is divided into two compartments by the same carved beading, or billet moulding, the undermost forming the front of a drawer, also secured by two locks. Within these compartments are inscribed, in projecting Roman letters, of somewhat irregular form and arrangement, so as to accommodate themselves to the fastenings—



The bottom, of considerable thickness, projects beyond the sides and ends, and finishing in a *cyma reversa*, forms a solid base. It is altogether a unique and venerable object, redolent of archaeological associations, and doubtless intended for the safe keeping of the Royal Charter, and the jewels and mysterious insignia of the Brethren. What rare and precious records of the "ancient mysteries" may have been secured under the quadruple locks of this iron-bound ark, and what hieroglyphic symbols of word, sign, and grip, incommunicable to ears profane, have lurked within its sacred crannies!

The incorporated masons of Glasgow are a very ancient body. So early as 1057, the same year that Malcolm III. ascended the Scottish throne, a complaint was made to him by the masons of this city, even then foreshadowing a degree of prospective importance, that the inhabitants had been imposed upon by a number of unskilled and unscientific workmen who had come to work at the Cathedral, and other parts of the city, and had erected lodges contrary to the rules of masonry, irregularities which they were desirous of having his authority to put a stop to. His Majesty was graciously pleased to accede to their reasonable request, and granted to his Lovites, the masons, a Royal charter, conveying a right to incorporate themselves together in an incorporation, and "strictly discharging any mason to work in the city until he

had served his time as an apprentice for the space of seven years, or be married to a freeman's daughter, and been examined anent his skill and knowledge in the mason craft, by three of the ablest of the mason trade ; and if he be found of cunning and knowledge to be received into the 'Incorporation,' he shall pay twenty pounds Scots to the common funds, and three pounds to the altar, and clerks and officers' dues." "Item—that the Free Incorporated Masons of Glasgow shall have a Lodge for ever at Glasgow, and none in my dominions shall erect a lodge until they make application to the St. John's Lodge, Glasgow, and they, considering their petition, grant them a charter conform to their regulations"—and so on. This ancient charter is still in the possession of the Incorporation, and although not a little indistinct from age and accident, is not quite illegible in all its parts.

In the beginning of the twelfth century, when Johannes Achaius, private chaplain to David, Prince of Cumberland, afterwards King David the First, of pious memory, was, through his influence, preferred to the Bishopric of Glasgow, he commenced the erection of a new church, which was consecrated in 1136, in presence of the King, who, in commemoration of the auspicious event, presented to the see certain lands at Perdyk—the Partick of modern days. This church having been destroyed by fire about the year 1192, during the incumbency of Bishop Jocelin, he had recourse to the Freemasons, as the only parties competent to its reconstruction. William the Lion, with whom Jocelin was in great favour, evinced his sympathy on the occasion by granting them a confirmatory charter, of which a copy is to be found in Hamilton of Wishaw's descriptions of the Sherifffdoms of Lanark and Renfrew. He received them into his royal favour, strictly commanding his bailiffs and servants throughout the kingdom to grant them every assistance and protection, on pain of his highest displeasure.

The Masonic Fraternity included all such artists and craftsmen as were necessary to the designing, constructing, and decorating a cathedral. Among these were many ecclesiastics, high in station, and distinguished for taste and skill in architecture. To it we are indebted not only for the preservation, but for the advancement

of painting and sculpture during the dark ages, and for bringing the art of constructive masonry to a degree of perfection to which it had never attained before, and which it can scarcely be said has been maintained since.

It was an object of ambition for the skilful craftsman to be admitted into the association, because it afforded a certain guarantee of worth and ability. Tradesmen who were not connected with it were called by the opprobrious name of "Cowan," and subjected to much contumely and insult.

James the First, who had a fondness and taste for music and the fine arts, naturally attached himself to this catholic body, and occasionally did them the honour to preside at their communications. At his recommendation, the Brethren chose a Grand Master Mason of Scotland, to whose decisions in masonic matters they were bound to submit; and, in order to maintain the dignity and respectability of the office, none but noblemen or clergymen of acknowledged merit, and approved by the Crown, were eligible to it. A small sum was paid to him annually by every Master Mason in the kingdom, and he had wardens or deputies in every county to whom his authority in ordinary cases was delegated. In the following year, William, Earl of Orkney and Caithness, one of the noblest scions of the "Lordly line of high St. Clair," was appointed to the office, and it was afterwards confirmed to him and to his successors, Barons of Rosslyn, for ever. It was this nobleman who built the beautiful, but somewhat bizarre and fantastic Chapel of Rosslyn, so well known to the lovers of romantic scenery in Edinburgh.

The office of Grand Master Mason remained in this family until the year 1736, when William St. Clair, the last of the Rosslyns, being under the necessity of alienating his estate, and having no family, lest the office might become vacant by his death, resolved to resign all title to it, which he then possessed, or which his successors might claim, either under successive grants from the kings of Scotland, or from the favour of the Brethren; for when it became known to the Masons of Scotland that the "Writtis of the Lairdis of Rosling" had been "consumet and brunt in ane flame of fire within the Castle of Rosling in an"—Date awanting

—the craft resolved that—“Forasmikle as from aidge to aidge it has been observet amangis us and our predecessors, that the Lairdis of Rosling has ever been patrons and protectors of us and our privileges, likeas our predecessors has obeyit, reverencet, and acknowledget them as patrons and protectors,” etc., apprehensive lest by their slothfulness “not only wald the Lairdis of Roslin lyne out of their just richt, but also our hail craftis wald haif been destitute of ane patrone, protector, and oversear, quhilk wald engenner monyfold imperfectionis and corruptionis baith amangis ourselves and in our craft, and give occasione to many persones to conceive evil opinioun of us and our craft, and to leave af many and great enterpryces of policie whilk wald be vndertaken if our great misbehaviour were suffered to goe on without correctioun. For remeid qrof, and for keeping of good ordour amangis us in all time coming, and for advancement of our craft and vocatioun within his Hienes Kingdom of Scotland and furduring of policie yairintill, the maist pairt of our predecessors for themselves, and in name and behalfe of our bretherene and craftsmen, with express advice and consent of William Schaw, Maister of wark to Hienes umqle darrest father of worthy memorie, all in ane voce agreit consentis and subscrivet that William Sinclair of Rosling, father to Sir William Sinclair, now of Rosling, for himself and his airis, should purches and obtain at the hands of his Majestie, libertie, freedome, and jurisdictioun upon us and our predecessors, deacons, maisteris and freemen of the saidis vocatiouns, as patrons and judges to us and the haill professors thereof within the said kingdom qrof they had power and commission, sua that they and we might yairafter acknowledge him and his airis as patrone and judge under our Soverane Lord, without any kind of appellation or declinatour from their judgment forever, as the said agreement subscrivet by the said Mr. of Wark and our predecessors at more length proportis. In the whilk office, priviledge, and jurisdictioun over us and our said vocatioun, the said William Sinclair of Rosling ever continuit to his going to Ireland, qr he presently remanes, sen the quhilk time of his departure furth of this realme there are very many corruptiones and imperfectionis risen and ingennerit, baith amangis ourselfis and in our saidis vocatiounes, in defect of

ane patrone and oversear over us and the samyn. Sua that our saidis vocatiounes are altogether likely to decay, and now for safety thereof we have full experience of the efauld good skill and judgement, whilk the said Sir William Sinclair, own of Roslyn, has in our craft and vocatioun, and for reparation of the ruines and manifold corruptiounes and enormities done by unskilful persones thercintill. We all in ane voce have ratified and approven," etc.

Among the lodges which by their office-bearers subscribed this charter, and second in order, the Lodge of Edinburgh being the first, is the Lodge of Glasgow, represented by "John Boyd, deakin, Robt. Boyd, ane of the mestres, and Robert Caldwell in Glasgow, with my hand at the pen, led be the notar, under subscriyvand for me, because I cannot writt myself. J. Henrysone, notarius asseruit." This fact is important, for on reference to the chronological record of the deacons of the different incorporations, in Cleland's *Annals of Glasgow*, we find that John Boyd was deacon of the Incorporation of Masons in 1627 and 1628, on one or other of which years we ascertain from other sources that the charter was granted, by which the identity of the present incorporation, the proprietors of the ancient ark, and the lodge of 1628, is completely established. Robert Caldwell, his calligraphic deficiencies notwithstanding, appears also to have attained to the rank of deacon in 1633.

On the resignation of William St. Clair, the Grand Lodge, which is composed, on the same principle as our Trades' House, of the masters and wardens of the subordinate lodges, was remodelled, and the grand master and other grand office-bearers elected by the members, from year to year, at the grand communication held annually on the festival of St. Andrew, in the metropolis of Scotland.

Towards the close of the sixteenth century several of the crafts desired to be freed from masonic jurisdiction, and to obtain distinct letters of deaconry for themselves. Among these the wrights of this city made application to "Schir Mathew Steward of Mynto, Knegt., Prouest of ye burght and citie of Glasgw; Robert Rowat, James Tempell, Thomas Glen, baillies thairof, and senatores and counsale of ye samyn," in the year 1600.

The craft was on this occasion represented by "James Mayne, wrecht, dekyne ; William Reid, elder ; Robert Pettigrew, William Miller, Robert Corf, John Lecht, Martene Pettigrew, George Elphinstone, George Graye, Henry Colquhone, John Pyncarton, Dawid Aiken," and several others, "maisteris of the wricht craft for thamselvis and the remanent craftismen of the said wricht craft and als Glasng wrichts, boat wrichtis, payntores, bowaris, and sawers," who presented their "bill and supplicacione" to the "tenor"—"That quhair of auld oure craftis was joynt togedder in ane letter of Dekynheed, with the masones and others, yair adherentis. At ye quhilk tyme there was nocht sik nüber of craftsmen induellars in yis towne, as yae ar pntlie ; and for evading of confusione of ye multitude quairof. And consederand wther inconenentis croppin in amang ws, in yat ye said masones culd not juge vpon our work, nor we vpon yairis perfytlie, and secluding of ptialite yat yai nicht have to yairis, as we to oure craftsmen, and contentiones amāg ws gif we remaine togedder"—and many other reasons, good and cogent, in consideration of which they there and then obtained their object, and were erected into a distinct incorporation, under good and salutary regulations.

The following charges or ordinances, selected from the general statutes by which the masonic fraternity was regulated, will give a favourable idea of the just and honourable principles by which they were guided, and will account in some degree for the respect paid to, and the confidence reposed in them, in the olden time ; and we do not think matters have greatly mended since their influence has become less considerable, and their operations more speculative than practical. Even yet, it is an association which links together all ends of the earth in a chain of brotherly love, and spreads over it a mantle of charity ; and sadly as it has been abused and disgraced by unworthy associates, its principles are so genuine, and so strongly recommend themselves to the best feelings of our nature, that its vigorous permanence is not to be wondered at.

Charges.

"Every man that is a mason take good heed to these charges, wee pray

—that if any man find himselfe guilty of any of these charges, that he may amend himselfe, or principally for dread of God; you that be charged take good heed that you keepe all these charges well; for it is a great evil for a man to forswear himselfe upon a book.

“The first charge is, that yee shall be true men to God and the holy church, and to use no error or herisee by your understanding, and by wise men’s teaching.

“Allso, That yee shall be true liege men to the king, without treason or any falsehood, and that yee know no treason or treachery, but yee shall give knowledge thereof to the king, or to his counsell; also that yee shall be true one to another—that is to say, every mason of the craft that is mason allowed, yee shall doe to him as yee would be done unto yourselfe.

“Yee shall keep truely all the counsell that ought to be kept in the way of masonhood, and all the counsell of the lodge, or of the chamber. Allso, that yee shall be no thiefe nor thieves to your knowledge free; that yee shall be true to king, lord, or master, that yee serve, and truely to see and worke for his advantage.

“Yee shall call all masons your fellows, or your brethren, and no other names.

“Yee shall not take your fellow’s wife in villainy, nor deflower his daughter, nor servant, nor put him to no disworship.

“Yee shall truely pay for your meat or drinke wheresoever yee goe, to table or bord; allso, yee shall doe no villainy there, whereby the craft or science may be slandered.

“That no mason take on him no lord’s worke, nor any other man’s, unless he know himselfe well able to performe the worke, so that the craft have no slander.

“Allso, That no master take worke, but that he take reasonable pay for itt; so that the lord may be truely served, and the master live honestly, and to pay his fellows truely. And that no master or fellow supplant others of their worke—that is to say, that if he hath taken a worke, or else stand master of any worke, that he shall not put him out, unless he be unable of cunning to make an end of his worke. And no master nor fellow shall take no apprentice for less than seaven years; and that the apprentice be free born, and of limbs whole as a man ought to be, and no bastard; and that no master nor fellow take no allowance to be made mason without the assent of his fellows, at the least six or seaven.

“That no master or fellow put away any lord’s worke to taske that ought to be journey-worke.

“That every master give pay to his fellows and servants as they may deserve, soe that he be not defamed with false workeing, and that none slander another behind his backe to make him lose his good name.

“That no fellow in the house or abroad answer another ungodly or reproveably without a cause.

“That every master mason doe reverence his elder; and that a mason be no common plaier at the cards, dice, or hazard; or at any other unlawfull plaies, through the which the science and craft may be dishonoured and slandered.

“That no fellow goe into the town by night, except he have a fellow with him, who may bear him record that he was in an honest place.

“That every master and fellow shall come to the assemblie, if itt be within fifty miles of him, if he have any warning; and if he have trespassed against the craft, to abide the award of masters and fellows.

“That a master or fellow make not a mould-stone, square, nor rule, to no *Cowan*, nor let no *Cowan* worke within their lodge, nor without, to mould stone.

“That every mason receive and cherish strange fellows when they come over the countrie, and set them on worke if they will worke, as the manner is; that is to say, if the mason have any mould-stone in his place, he shall give him a mould-stone and sett him on worke; and if he have none the mason shall refresh him with money unto the next lodge.

“That every mason shall truely serve his master for his pay.

“That every master shall truely make an end of his work, taske, or journey, whitherso it be.

“That all Maisteris enterpriseris of warkis be verrey carefull to se their skaffoldis and futegangis surelie sett and placit to the effect that throw thair negligence and sloth na hurt nor skaith cum unto ony personis that warkis at the said wark, under the paine of dischargeing of thaim yr after to wirk as maisteris havand charge of ane warke, bot sall ever be subject all the rest of thair dayis to wirk under or wt ane other principall maister havand charge of the wark.

“That all the Maisters that sal happin to be send for to ony assemblie or meitting shall be sworne by thair grit aith that they sall hyde nor conceill na fawltis nor wrangis done be ane to ane other, nor zit the faultis or wrangis that ony man hes done to the awneris of the warkis that thay haif had in hand sa far as they knaw, and that under paine of ten pundis to be takin up fra the conceillars of the saidis faultis;”—And so on.

JAS. MILLER.

SUPPLEMENT TO DEAN OF GUILD COURT REPORTS.

(1851.)

BOTHWELL STREET NEW BUILDINGS.

WE observe that these buildings, which are the most magnificent which have ever been devoted to business purposes (excepting the banking-houses) in Glasgow, have now been, as near as may be, completed (May 1851). They have been erected for James Scott, Esq. of Kelly, one of the Magistrates for the city, and form a terrace about 300 feet in length, on the north side of a square, opposite which the arcade, after the plan of the *Palais Royale* in Paris, is intended to be put down by the same gentleman. The Bothwell Street range consists of five tenements, all purely Corinthian in their details. The entrance to the street floor of each is by a flight of steps, ornamented by very handsome stone balusters. The height of the buildings is three storeys and sunk floor—the latter having an entrance from the front by a handsome flight of steps running along the whole length of the buildings. The whole of the windows fronting Bothwell, Hope, and Wellington Streets are finished with plate-glass—this being the first occasion on which this lightsome material has been used so extensively in Glasgow. We may mention that the street floor windows consist each of one pane of glass, measuring upwards of six feet by ten feet; and these, combined with the beautiful details of the Corinthian order, impart a degree of elegance pleasing to all, and highly creditable to the liberal spirit of Mr. Scott. The corner building

to Hope street is fitted up as counting-houses; the entrance is beautiful, and all are lighted, ventilated, and finished off in the most complete and handsome manner. The adjoining westward building is fitted up as a warehouse for light goods; and we understand that the whole is let to one firm. On the street floor of this tenement there is a back saloon of about 52 feet by 40, divided into two compartments—the beam in the division being supported by two fluted Corinthian pillars, and the whole lighted by six glass domes, each in one piece, measuring seven feet in diameter. All these were expressly made for the purpose; and, if we are not mistaken, they are the largest window castings in the kingdom. The plaster work of the ceiling is highly ornamental, and quite in keeping with the other internal decorations. The ground floor of the centre building of the compartment is differently finished from that last described, in so far as the back wall of the front building is supported on four fluted Corinthian pillars, bearing a saloon of sixty-two feet by about sixty, the division partition between the front room and the back being of glass. The ceiling of the saloon is formed into five arches, two being glass; the others of highly ornamental plaster-work, having lights from the top. This commodious “land” is also let wholly as one warehouse. The next westmost building is finished in the same style; and the westmost of all, which is not yet quiet ready, is to be completed, we understand, with a saloon in the same style as that first described. In all these large saloons we observe that great care has been taken in securing first-rate ventilation; and although every inch of ground has been built upon, there is not a single corner in these vast warehouses but is provided with the finest lights. The sunk floor, for instance, which is often useless in other buildings, from its dark and dismal character, is in these tenements admirably lighted.

The solum of this commercial terrace, as well as that of the intended arcade, formed the ground in Blythswood Holm, which in the daft days was acquired to form the grand central terminus for the railways branching from the north and south banks of the Clyde—a connection which is not likely to be formed in the present day and generation. Mr. Scott acquired this eligible site for about £37,000. The buildings already set down will have cost

at least £20,000 ; and it is not expected that the *Palais Royale* Arcade will cost less than £40,000. From the buildings already finished a handsome rental has been secured ; and when the Arcade is completed, the total revenue drawn from a small patch in Glasgow will exceed that from a Highland parish. These gorgeous business premises contrast strangely and well with the dismal unhealthy dens in the "Golden Acre," and other parts of the old town, in which our forefathers did their trading, and in which they realised fortunes which enabled their descendants to take rank with the landed aristocracy elsewhere. The fortunes, we trust, will be made as heretofore ; but the only difference is, that they will now be made in a handsome saloon, in the light of day instead of in a black-hole in a back court.

Our townsman, Convener York, is the contractor for these fine buildings, and he has done himself infinite credit in working out the able plans of Mr. Alexander Kirkland, the architect.

(1851.)

STOBCROSS LANDS—ST. VINCENT CRESCENT.

This is an important, useful, and ornamental addition to our city, called into existence within these last twelve months. The Stobcross lands have now been laid out with streets, terraces, and crescents, underlaid with splendid common sewers, which have no connection with any other property, at an expense to the proprietors of £7000. Since the operation of forming the lands was begun, a considerable portion of the ground has been feued by a company, and shaped into a beautiful crescent. Last year buildings to the value of more than £30,000 were erected thereon, and it is expected that an addition to nearly the same amount will be made this year (1851). In the front of the crescent two acres, enclosed with a highly ornamental railing, have been laid out as pleasure-grounds for the tenants. The architectural style of the crescent is Italian ; the height of the houses three storeys ; and they are let in flats, varying each from ten rooms and kitchen

to five rooms and kitchen, with, of course, all the modern improvements. The rents of these fine middle-class dwellings range from £70 to £40 each. This is the first crescent erected in Glasgow and subdivided into flats, to which the advantage of pleasure-grounds has been attached.

The original name by which this handsome range was known was Stobcross Crescent; but a few weeks since some of the highly genteel people who have the management of the matter, transmogrified "Stobcross" into "St. Vincent." What these folks have to do with the island of that name in the West Indies, or with the victory which raised Sir John Jervis by that title to the peerage, we do not know; but we think they would have shown good taste in retaining the name by which the locality was known in the days of their fathers. Moreover, we have so much stone and lime designated by the term "St. Vincent" already, that this assumption of the title may sometimes lead to mystification. Another company has feued a considerable portion of these lands along a street entering from the Dumbarton road at Sandyford, which is to receive the name of Corunna Street. This, at least, will be held to be in good taste, so long as the memory of Glasgow's great military hero is cherished in his native town. The houses are of the same description as those in the crescent, with the exception that the ground-floors of the buildings fronting the Dumbarton Road have been formed into handsome shops, for the purpose of supplying viands, vivres, etc., to the adjoining tenants. Since the month of January nearly £4000 have been expended in building operations, and we learn that the same company mean to expend an equal sum during the summer in extending Corunna Street towards the crescent. From combining the pleasures of a country residence with the advantage of proximity to the city, and from the liberal manner in which the grounds have been laid out, there is no doubt that this will soon become a favourite location for a desirable class of tenants. The whole of this fine place has been laid out by and built from plans by Mr. Alexander Kirkland, architect.

(1851.)

OLD GLASGOW DANCING ASSEMBLIES.

When sending the last sheet of this volume to press, our attention has been drawn to an old MS. book, recently presented to Stirling's Library, and containing a list of subscribers for the building of the Glasgow Assembly Rooms, about the middle of the last century. We think it worth while to print the document, as exhibiting the *elite* of Glasgow society in days long before Directories were known. Many of the present generation will, no doubt, recognise the names of their sires and grandsires in the list. The first subscription is dated November 1757, and the work of realising a fund seems to have been gradually in progress for some years afterwards. An entry appears, under date, Glasgow, 27th April 1763, to the effect, that having examined the preceding accounts of the Treasurer's "receipts and disbursements on building and finishing Assembly Room, we find the balance in his hands nine pounds, fourpence, sterling, to be brought to his debit in next account." This minute is signed by Robert Barclay, Michael Bogle, James Ritchie, James Dunlop, and John Barnes. Comparatively recent though this date may be, however, it is not easy to define the locality of this Assembly Room. About the time in question the fashionable places of the kind were the Merchants' Hall, in the Bridgegate, the Hall attached to the Saracen's Head Inn, and the Town-hall at the Cross, built in 1740, which is said to have been occasionally used for the purpose. We have called in the aid of "Senex," and he, in turn, has conferred with a venerable relative, a lady, ninety-seven years of age, who, all her life, has mixed with the highest Glasgow society; but still the matter is in doubt, and, from certain circumstances, it would too long delay the issue of this publication to wait till it is fully expiscated. The list of names will be not the less valuable as exhibiting the higher classes of Glasgow society of that day.¹

¹ Gibson, one of the chroniclers of Glasgow, writing in 1777, notices an Assembly Hall, which may possibly be that which has now dropped out of sight. Under the head

While on this subject, "Senex" has given us the following reminiscences of his dancing days :—"When I was at the dancing school there were just three public places for holding assemblies, so far as I recollect—viz. 1st, Fraser's Hall, in King Street, built by Robert M'Nair, grocer, from the stones of the Black Quarry. This was not a fashionable place ; but the price for a night's use of the room being small, secondary dances were frequently held there ; Katterfelto, Herman Boaz, Breslau the Ventriloquist, and other itinerant performers of the like class, generally displayed their tricks in this hall. 2d, The Hall of the Merchants' House in the Bridgegate. This hall, in my young days, was beginning to become unfashionable, and I think that I attended the last dancing assembly which was held in that hall. 3d, An Assembly Room in connection with the Town-hall. When I was at the dancing school this was the most fashionable assembly room in the city, both for general dancing assemblies and for dancing-school balls, and there I have figured away as Jacky Tar, in the full dress of a young sailor, while attending Mr. Campbell's classes, who was the most fashionable teacher in town. The Tontine Coffee-Room was begun to be built at the close of 1780, or beginning of 1781, and was finished early in 1782, when a grand ball took place in it at its opening that year. I recollect very well when this building was in the course of erection. St. Enoch's steeple was building at this time, and Cunningham's House, now the Royal Exchange, was finished about the same period. The old Tontine, as you know, was built by subscription. There were 107 shares of £50 each. Provost Patrick Colquhoun was the principal promoter of the scheme."

of "The Town-House and Assembly Hall," he says—"The Assembly Hall is a neat room, and is finished in a good taste, though too small for the city ; its length is forty-seven feet, breadth twenty-four feet and height twenty-four feet." Gibson then describes our beautiful Town-hall as it at present exists. May not this be the Assembly Hall in question? The venerable lady above alluded to states that in her young days the Assembly Room was situated a little to the west of the Cross, and above piazzas. In fact, there is no doubt that a large apartment to the west of the Town-hall, and in connection with it, was used as an Assembly Room in former times. It has long since been thrown into the late Tontine Hotel ; but how to connect it with these subscriptions we cannot say.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Sir John Maxwell . . . | £10 10 0 | James Coulter . . . | £5 5 0 |
| George Zuill . . . | 5 5 0 | Colin Dunlop . . . | 10 10 0 |
| James Spreull . . . | 5 0 0 | John Crawford, Milton . . . | 10 10 0 |
| William Cross . . . | 5 0 0 | Hugh Brown . . . | 10 10 0 |
| James Colhoun . . . | 4 0 0 | Andrew Blackburn . . . | 5 5 0 |
| Thomas Miller . . . | 6 6 0 | Thomas Dunmuir . . . | 5 5 0 |
| Archibald Robertson . . . | 5 5 0 | Robert Dreghorn . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Dunlop . . . | 10 10 0 | John Alston . . . | 6 6 0 |
| Robert Bogle sen. . . | 10 10 0 | George Anderson . . . | 5 5 0 |
| George Buchanan jun. . . | 10 10 0 | James Douglass . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Dougall . . . | 10 10 0 | Robert Young . . . | 5 5 0 |
| John Barnes . . . | 10 10 0 | William Coatts . . . | 6 6 0 |
| Peter Murdoch . . . | 10 10 0 | Alexander Stevenson . . . | 4 4 0 |
| John Glassford . . . | 10 10 0 | Alexander Wood . . . | 4 4 0 |
| James Ritchie . . . | 10 10 0 | John Maxwell . . . | 4 4 0 |
| Alexander Houston . . . | 10 10 0 | Michael Bogle . . . | 5 5 0 |
| Allan Dreghorn . . . | 10 10 0 | John Hamilton . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Simson . . . | 10 10 0 | John Gordon . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Matt. Henderson . . . | 10 10 0 | George Bogle . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Pat. Bogle . . . | 10 10 0 | Ebenezer Munro . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Archibald Buchanan . . . | 5 5 0 | William M'Dowall . . . | 21 0 0 |
| John Wallace . . . | 10 10 0 | John Graham . . . | 10 10 0 |
| James Buchanan . . . | 10 10 0 | John Murdoch . . . | 10 10 0 |
| John Pagan . . . | 4 4 0 | John Baird . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Donaldson . . . | 4 4 0 | Robert Bogle jun. . . | 5 5 0 |
| George Dainziel . . . | 5 5 0 | John Hamilton . . . | 5 5 0 |
| Robert Wardrop . . . | 5 5 0 | John Campbell . . . | 6 6 0 |
| Thomas Hopkirk . . . | 5 5 0 | Boyd Porterfield . . . | 10 10 0 |
| Andrew Aiton . . . | 5 5 0 | James Hamilton . . . | 10 10 0 |
| James Whytlaw . . . | 5 5 0 | James Baird . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Dennistoun . . . | 5 5 0 | Thomas Dunlop . . . | 5 5 0 |
| James Scott . . . | 5 0 0 | James and Robert Berries . . . | 4 4 0 |
| John Jamison . . . | 5 0 0 | Andrew Sym . . . | 3 3 0 |
| William Dunlop jun. . . | 5 5 0 | Colin Rae . . . | 3 3 0 |
| John Wilson . . . | 2 2 0 | Thomas Peter . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Walter Brock . . . | 3 3 0 | Robert Marshall . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Arthur Connell . . . | 3 3 0 | Hugh Blackburn . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Robert Barclay . . . | 5 5 0 | David Dalziell . . . | 4 4 0 |
| John Crawford . . . | 5 5 0 | George Kippen . . . | 2 2 0 |
| Andrew Cochran . . . | 6 6 0 | John Cross . . . | 3 3 0 |
| James Donald . . . | 6 6 0 | John Graham . . . | 2 2 0 |
| John Bowman . . . | 6 6 0 | Thomas Johnson . . . | 4 4 0 |
| James Luke . . . | 6 6 0 | John Wilson . . . | 2 2 0 |
| William Anderson . . . | 5 5 0 | Alex. Wilson . . . | 6 6 0 |
| William Bogle . . . | 6 6 0 | John Ingram . . . | 3 3 0 |
| Andrew Ramsay . . . | 5 5 0 | Pat. Nisbet . . . | 3 3 0 |

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|------------------------------|----|----|---|------------------------------|----|---|---|
| David Cross | £2 | 2 | 0 | Thomas Finlay | £4 | 4 | 0 |
| Peter Blackburn | 2 | 2 | 0 | Jos. Angus | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| William Stirling | 2 | 2 | 0 | Walter Brisbane | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Robert Christie | 10 | 10 | 0 | James Anderson | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Alexander Spiers | 10 | 10 | 0 | James Hill | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Alexander Campbell | 5 | 5 | 0 | Walter Maxwell | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Dan. Munro | 2 | 2 | 0 | John Craigie | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Archibald Ingram | 5 | 5 | 0 | George Montgomery | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| James Witherford | 2 | 2 | 0 | James Berner | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Andrew Kere | 2 | 2 | 0 | Alexander Hamilton | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Thomas Atchinson | 4 | 4 | 0 | Hector M'Lean | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Robert M'Nair | 2 | 2 | 0 | William Maxwell | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Thomas Buchanan | 2 | 2 | 0 | Alexander Stewart | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| James Bogle | 2 | 2 | 0 | Thomas Miller (additional) | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Andrew Stalker | 2 | 2 | 0 | Daniel Campbell, of Shaw- | | | |
| Robert Glen | 2 | 2 | 0 | field | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander Walker | 3 | 3 | 0 | John Colvill | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| John Shortridge | 3 | 3 | 0 | General Campbell | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| William Crawford | 5 | 5 | 0 | James Milliken | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Finlay | 4 | 4 | 0 | William Lennox | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| John Finlay | 3 | 3 | 0 | Alexander M'Millan | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| James Dougall | 1 | 1 | 0 | Charles Dalrymple | 2 | 2 | 0 |

(2d June 1851.)

TRIPS TO THE COAST, BY "SENEX."

To the Editor of the "Glasgow Herald."

SIR,—I have received through you a letter from Mr. C. H., correcting some mistakes in my late notice regarding Largs; I beg leave to annex a copy of Mr. C. H.'s communication on the subject, as I believe that what he states is correct. I have omitted the complimentary part of his letter, for which I return him my best thanks.—I am, your obedient Servant, SENEX.

*(Copy.)**"May 26th, 1851.*

"SIR,—In the notice of Largs, in this morning's *Herald*, there is an inaccuracy, which it may be as well to state to you. Prob-

ably the *Manse* at Largs *was* in the position you assign to it ; but the Church was in the centre of the present churchyard, considerably in the rear of the Brisbane Arms Inn. The burial-place of the Montgomeries, which still stands, formed a recess or transept to the old Parish Church, to which it adjoined.

“ To SENEX.

(Signed)

“ C. II.”

[The matter referred to above will be found at page 432.]

END OF VOL. I.

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