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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., &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

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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 every-day 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 impressed 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.



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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 Glammis, 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.* 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 haill 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 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 7,644. 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

* 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."

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 lynning 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 conveneer."

"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 unlauded 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-conveneer, 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 town's dennar on the first Tysday of June next, to be made reddie in Thomas Glenis' hous, and the Dean of Gild to have ane 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 seck now cellered 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 seck," 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 burghess, who enters hereafter, to be burghess, and becomes not a gild-brother, to tap* any silk, or silk-work, spices or sugars, drugs or confections, wet or dry, no lawns or cambridge, 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 or quart, great silk, wax, waid, grain, indigo, nor any other kind of litt;† 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 allenarly; 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, effeiring. 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 sells Scots cloth, bonnets, 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,

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

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

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 above-mentioned, he shall try the same before the dean of gild, who, after trial, shall compel 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 centered 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 burghess "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 73, 74, and 75 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 unanimouslie that the haill poor belonging to the towne be maintained," and "it was determined by a pluralitie of votes, that a general stente thorow 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 £5,500, 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.*

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 multifarious "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

* 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.

was passed on 23d April, 1747, which was ratified by the Magistrates 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 1000.

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.* 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, &c., 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 allenarly.’ 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 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

* The ancient “Burrowe Lawes,” prescribe the Lyners' duty as follows:—“Of Lyners within Burrowe. The Provost, with the Counsail of the Communitie, should 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 sweare 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*.

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 artizans."

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 burgess 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 the 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 Capt. 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 sum is 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, 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 Laurence, 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 £1,375.

In the year ending 31st August, 1850, the receipts of the Merchants' House, exclusive of the Speirs' gift, amounted to £3,152 13s. 2½d. In the same period, the sums expended in pensions was £1,517 13s. 3d.; and there was this year an increase of £1,824 4s. 11d. made to the free stock of the House. Of this amount £1,500 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 £1,500, 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 8s. 11d.; but, including mortifications, the total sum is £44,020 4s. 9d.

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. It is copied from the M.S. records of the Merchants' House:—

1605-6,.....Mathew Turnbull.	1631-32,.....John Barns.
1607,.....Archibald Faulds.	1633-34,.....Henry Glen.
1608,.....William Sommer.	1635-36,.....John Barns.
1609,.....George Master.	1637-38,.....James Hamilton.
1610-11,.....James Bell.	1639-40,.....Walter Stirling.
1612,.....William Weems.	1641,.....James Bell.
1613-14,.....James Bell.	1642-43,.....John Barns.
1615-16,.....John Lawson.	1644-45,.....Henry Glen.
1617,.....John Rowat.	1646,.....Andrew Cunningham.
1618-19,.....Colin Campbell.	1647,.....James Hamilton.
1620-21,.....John Rowat.	1648-49,.....William Dunlop.
1622,.....Colin Campbell.	1650,.....John Graham.
1623-24,.....Mathew Turnbull.	1651-52,.....William Dunlop.
1625,.....Patrick Bell.	1653-54-55,.....James Hamilton.
1626,.....Mathew Turnbull.	1656-57,.....John Bell.
1627-28,.....Colin Campbell.	1658-59,.....James Campbell.
1629-30,.....Patrick Bell.	1660,.....James Barns.

1661-62,	Frederick Hamilton.	1753-54,	Robert Chrystie.
1663-64,	John Barns.	1755-56,	John Bowman.
1665,	Frederick Hamilton.	1757-58,	Archibald Ingram.
1666,	James Pollock.	1759-60,	Colin Dunlop.
1667-68,	John Walkinshaw.	1761-62,	Archibald Ingram.
1669,	John Anderson.	1763-64,	George Brown.
1670,	Frederick Hamilton.	1765-66,	Arthur Connell.
1671,	Robert Rae.	1767-68,	John Campbell.
1672-73,	John Walkinshaw.	1769-70,	Archibald Smellie.
1674,	John Caldwell.	1771-72,	George Brown.
1675-76-77,	Frederick Hamilton.	1773-74,	James Buchanan.
1678,	Ninian Anderson.	1775-76,	John Campbell.
1679-80-81,	Robert Campbell.	1777-78,	Hugh Wylie.
1682-83,	Hugh Nisbett.	1779-80,	Alexander M'Caul.
1684,	John Fleming.	1781-82,	John Campbell.
1685,	Robert Cross.	1783-84,	James Macgrigor.
1686,	George Johnston.	1785-86,	Alexander Brown.
1687-88,	Robert Campbell.	1787-88,	William Coats.
1689-90,	William Napier.	1789-90,	Alexander Low.
1691,	James Peadie.	1791-92,	Gilbert Hamilton.
1692-93,	John Leckie.	1793-94,	John Dunlop.
1694-95,	John Cross.	1795-96,	John Laurie.
1696-97,	John Aird.	1797-98,	Robert Findlay.
1698-99,	Robert Rodger.	1799-1800,	Archibald Smith.
1700-1,	John Aird.	1801-2,	John Laurie.
1702-3,	Robert Zuill.	1803-4,	Robert Carrick.
1704-5,	John Aird.	1805-6,	John Laurie.
1706-7,	John Bowman.	1807-8,	James Black.
1708-9,	Thomas Peeters.	1809-10,	John Hamilton.
1710-11,	Thomas Smith.	1811,	Robert M'Nair.
1712-13,	Robert Zuill.	1812-13,	Daniel Mackenzie.
1714-15,	Thomas Smith.	1814-15,	John Guthrie.
1716-17,	Adam Montgomery.	1816-17,	James Ewing.
1718-19,	Thomas Thomson.	1818,	Henry Monteith.
1720-21,	James Peadie.	1819-20,	Robert Findlay.
1722-23,	Gilbert Buchanan.	1821-22,	William Smith.
1724-25,	John Stark.	1823-24,	Mungo N. Campbell.
1726-27,	James Peadie.	1825-26,	Robert Dalglish.
1728,	Hugh Rodger.	1827-28,	Alexander Garden.
1729-30,	Andrew Buchanan.	1829-30,	Stewart Smith.
1731-32,	William Cunningham.	1831-32,	James Ewing.
1733-34,	Andrew Ramsay.	1833-34,	James Hutchison.
1735-36,	Arthur Tran.	1835-36,	James Martin.
1737-38,	John Gartshore.	1837-38,	William Brown.
1739-40,	James Robertson.	1839-40,	James Browne.
1741-42,	George Bogle.	1841-42,	William Gray.
1743-44,	Mathew Bogle.	1843-44,	Hugh Cogan.
1745-46,	George Bogle.	1845-46,	John Leadbetter.
1747-48,	John Brown.	1847-48,	James Bogle.
1749-50,	George Bogle.	1849-50,	Andrew Galbraith.
1751-52,	George Murdoch.	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 an 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 14 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 600 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 £2,119. 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 £1,140.* After payment of interest, the funds are expended in donations to pensioners, bursars, the Trades' Free School, &c.

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

* 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 £1,726, 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 £4,000. 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	Fleashers,.....	4,000
Maltmen,.....	24,000	Masons,.....	2,000
Weavers,.....	4,000		
Bakers,.....	2,000		
			£124,000

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 discontinued 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 £8,500, 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 3,200; 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 £7,207 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 £3,300, 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, £1,600 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.

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;* 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 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

* The catastrophe here referred to was the fall of a sugar-refining house in Alston Street, on the morning of Monday, October 20, by which 13 workmen were killed in the ruins, and one afterwards died in the Infirmary.

classes. For the last 40 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 over-hauled. This tenement obtained its singular name from the proprietor having taken 20 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 30 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.

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."

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, were 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 ricketty 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-repudiation, 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 as 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 Bridge-gate), Old Wynd, Saltmarket, Stevenson Street, (Calton), &c., were ordered to be removed without delay. Amongst these was a three-story 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 piece-meal, 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.

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, 5 feet in width, with a four story 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.* 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

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

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 lees 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, 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 over-crowded 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 wout 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.

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 Blythwood 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, &c. 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, &c. 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, &c., 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 200 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, &c., 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 Hôtel. 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 tympanny 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.

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 merchants, who, fleeing from the plebeian localities of the High Street, Salt-market, 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 Blythwood 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 Blythwood 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 Blythwood 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 fish-wife 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 30 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 appropriate 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, &c., 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, &c. 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 of Stobcross in 1770, and was named in honour of his chaplain, Mr. Finnic. 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.

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

THIS Court held its fortnightly sitting on Thursday, February 22.

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 alter-

ing 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 late 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 scathless—the Irish 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, &c.; 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 80 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 existence, 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 head-quarters 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; * in consequence of which, certain altera-

* 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 65 persons of both sexes, and various ages, were smothered on the stair.

tions 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 of houses from which not one single farthing of rent has been lifted for the last 20 years. Having the responsibility of poors' 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 residenter 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, &c., were ordered to be repaired; and houses were ordered to be taken down, or renovated, in Anderston, Drygate Street, the Vennel, &c.

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.

COWCADDENS—PINKSTON BURN.

ABOUT 20 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. Tennents' 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, &c.—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 20 or 30 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 Building 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 12 to 20 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.

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 eventfully 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. Alex. Smith, setting forth that, with consent of the proprietors, he proposed to erect a range of one-story shops in Great Clyde Street, to be used as furniture warehouses, &c. 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, 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 mid-dings 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.

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 & Company, is no more. When we trace the lines of these piazzas, which stretched from the Cross along the Trongate, 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 stories, 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.

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

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-story 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 stories 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," &c. Gibson further remarks, that "these markets are well paved with free-stone—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 25 or 30 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'-down" of the Cathedrals at the Reformation, or since pig-styes were built out of the ashler 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 26 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 deceased 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 stories 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, brokerries, &c. 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, &c. 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 threttned, or beatt & smittin by his master, in revenge whereof settis his workhous on fyre in the night tyme, being in the backsides of that fore street, and flyes 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 fyes 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 tenaments 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 Prince's 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, &c., 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.

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

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 building 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 virtue 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 Ludovick 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 *cannaile* 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 rectors 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 Commissariat 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.”*

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 dyveris induellaris of ye citie of glasgw abone ye gray frier wynde yrof, makand mentioun that qr yt pt of ye said citie 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 possessoris yrof greitly depauperit, wanting ye moyane not onlie to vphald the samin Bot of the intertenement of yame selfis yr wyffis bairnis & famelie.’—” And seing yat prt of ye

* 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 actiones under the paine of	0 4 0
Item that nather pror nor servand be clatering wtin 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 <i>toties quoties</i> utherways non to be heard in any uther caus, &c.	

said cietie abone the said gray frier wynde is ye onlie ornament and decoratioun yrof be reesone of *ye grite and sumptuous buildingis of grite antiquitie* ; varie proper and meit for ye resait 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 repairs 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.**
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, fecti, 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

* Come, that ye may learn holy doctrine.

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 whole will be kept cleanly, decently, and in order.* 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, &c., 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 cess-pool 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.

* 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.

RENOVATION AND CHANGES IN THE CITY—"VILLAGES" OF ANDERSTON, TRADESTON, GRAHAMSTOWN, BROWNFIELD, &c.

AT the meeting on Thursday, April 26, the business was multifarious, but was generally of an important character, as affecting 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 story 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 by-gone 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 per centage 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, &C.

"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 christal 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, alack-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 "birzed 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 net-work 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 wharfs 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) 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.

JAMAICA STREET, BUCHANAN STREET, GALLOWGATE, &c., 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, 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 & 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, &c. 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 Broomielaw, 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-story 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-stye 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 hôtel 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, &c. The breweries and sugar-house have long departed; but the Gallowgate is a head-quarters of skinners 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. James 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 dees 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 fire-side 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 Church 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 September, 1643. Godfathers James Peadie & Thomas Findlay. This extracted by William Andersonne, Clark to the Seshiowne. Shoo departed this lyfe Saturday the 28. day of May, 1687. Ane 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 Maister Neill Gillis on of the towne ministers. Scotstowne said shoo was 17 years 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 & nine in the morning, my wife brought forth a son & 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.

PARTICK MILLS, CLAYSLAP MILLS, BAKERS' INCORPORATION, &c.

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. Autho-

rity 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 characterized the proceedings of the Court for some time, the outskirts, as well as the centre of the city, have been cared for. Sometime 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 Prince's 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 tippling 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, baillies, 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 outtentowneris bread be sauled at ye said mercat croce bot vpon ye samyn three dayes. And it sall not be lesum to nayne traweller that brings breid to the mercat to sell ye samyn to nayne outtentowneris 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 allanerlie, and that (yat) na traweller bring breid to the (ye) towne to sell bot iiij. 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 outtentowneris breid befoir xii houris, and viij. to the trone. And that the Dekin of the baxteris under ye baillies 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 council 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	do.	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 7½ 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.

WOODLANDS TERRACE—SAUCHIEHALL STREET—BLACKBULL HOTEL
—GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETY—ASPHALTE PAVEMENT, &c.

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, &c. 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 Asphalte 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, &c., 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 asphalte first laid down here stands like adamant. Other parts, of much more recent date, have become so frush and ragged, 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, "Drum-over-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 20 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 story. 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 Cranston-hill; which means that this spot would in future years occupy the centre of the city. This has generally been considered an idle freight; 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 Hôtel," known over the whole kingdom, and far beyond it, for nearly 90 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 hôtels 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 17 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 11s. 6½d. 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 Hôtel establishment was soon afterwards erected. But the first grand lift which the Highlanders received is thus described by a very venerable gentleman 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 (*more*

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 1760, 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 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 Poors' Rate Assessment. Some of these details we give :—

“After being incorporated as a regular corporate body, the Society purchased from Mr. M'Dowall of Castlesempole, in the month of May, 1760, a piece of ground lying on the north side of Argyll Street, at the price of £260 11s. 6d.,* 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

* 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 8 to 10 guineas per square yard, and we may perhaps find that the forethought of the Highlanders secured it for a shilling per do.

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 12s. 6d. 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, &c.; but its mainstay has all along been the hôtel, 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 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.

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

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 blows 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

boothly was situated on the lands of Willowbank, which, before the formation of Blythwood 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-foot 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 Blythwood 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. Blythswold 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 further 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 Hôtel; but from some opposition on the part of conterminous proprietors, the case was delayed till next Court day. The Buck's Head Hôtel 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 stories 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 Bailie Hamilton, the lodging belonging to the heirs of John Luke, Thomas Calder of Shirva's lodgings,* the great and stately lodging belonging to Thomas Orr, writer, being

* Thomas Calder of Shirva married Antonia Mure, niece of Sir Hugh Montgomerie of Skelmorlie. 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.

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 baillie, 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 Baillie Bryson, the tenement belonging to the heirs of Andrew Craig, James Hamilton of Aitkenhead's tenement, Baillie 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 18 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 hôtel 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 were specially selected for their handsome appearance] with embroidered coats, red plush breeches, and powdered hair, to welcome the passengers to the comforts inside. When the Judges, or the sporting Duke of Hamilton, were expected, the waiters got themselves up in a still more ornate style, and even mounted silk stockings; and on these occasions they were looked up to with awe, wonder, and respect, by all the urchins in the neighbourhood. Here was to be got the only post-chaises or gigs which the city could boast of. Things have greatly changed since these old times, but we are not aware that travelling is more pleasant, even though a man may breakfast in his own house in Glasgow, and sup the same evening in London. The departure of a return chaise was

a matter of import in these days, and as such publicly announced to the citizens. We find it thus noticed in the biography of Dougal Graham, the old Glasgow bellman, in M'Vean's notes to M'Ure:—

“Before the year 1780, the office of bellman was of great importance, compared with what it has become in this age of handbills and advertisements. Before the introduction of stage-coaches to so many parts of the country, it was the custom to send the bellman through to proclaim return-chaises.

‘The Bull Inn, and the Saracen,
Were both well serv'd with him at e'en,
As oft times we have heard and seen,
Him call retour,
From E'nburg, Greenock, and Irvine,
At any hour.’

As Dougal was an important character in his day, both as a rhymster and town-crier, it may not be amiss to give the following character of him from the same authority:—

“It has been said that Dougal was engaged in the rebellion in 1745; but of this we have not sufficient evidence. He informs us himself that he had ‘been an eye-witness to most of the movements of the *armies*, from the rebels first crossing the ford of Frew, to their final defeat at Culloden.’ It is the opinion of an old man who knew Dougal well, that he was only a follower of the army, and carried a pack with small wares. It is evident from his own writings that he had been a privileged person, and had witnessed the excesses of both armies.

‘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 haet,
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 nouthir 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 school-house, situated in David Dale's garden, fronting the Green, is now roofed in—have resolved also to erect a spacious school-house 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 school-house, 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 re-

creation. 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 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 Bridge-ton 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, & 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.

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 fraternization 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, &c. First, the congrega-

tion 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,” &c.

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 of such fine architecture, as well as painting, produces upon the imagination, is universally admitted. And we trust that when any individual, or body religious or commercial, have a few thousands 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-story 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.

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

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 Briggait;" 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 reasons 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, thesaurer, 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 freestone, and well illuminated with the inscription after-mentioned, finely gilded.

“ΑΠΟΕΜΠΟΡΟΔΟΧΕΙΟΝ hoc, civitatis Glasguanæ mercatorum, pia liberalitate et impensis fundatum, Æræ vulgaris cioioci. Denuo munificentia reedificatum, auctum, et ornatum est cioioclix [1659.]

Mutuat 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.”*

* 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 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 merchant, 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 re-

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. 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

main 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 part upon demande, to the Collector of the said hospital." &c.—*Hist. of the Merch. Hosp.* 1817.

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 Blythwood, 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 decypher their meaning. "To what base uses may we come at last !" The ground floor of Blythwood'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" Hôtel 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 story 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, &c., 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, &c., 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 hôtel; 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-eriers, 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 drunk 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 stories. 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 day-light 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 quantities 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 20 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.* This house, we may

* 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 stories—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

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 mid-day two of the arches of the bridge, then recently erected at the foot of Saltmarket, fell down with a crash, and the displacement of 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 August 18, 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 17 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.

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 30 years after this flood, but no doubt the height was accurately measured before the plate was inserted.

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 tubfulls 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.

DUNLOP STREET—TRONGATE—BUCHANAN'S SOCIETY—
THEATRES, &c.

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 Hôtel 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 Moodie's Wynd, where the street is 60 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 Hôtel.

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 Roehead, 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 story 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, &c., 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, James 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 Sheila, 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 Gemmell, writer, the tenement of John Armour, late baillie, the tenement of the heirs of Ninian Gilhaig 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 Castlesempole,* 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 fleshmarket† and shades within the same belonging to the city of Glasgow, the lands belonging to — 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

* 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 Dec., 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*.

† 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*.

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, &c., 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 foot 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 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, &c. &c. 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 rate-payer, 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 improvement of the *cannaile* and young Red Republicans of the Bridgegate, 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.]

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

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, &c. The noted Buck's Head Hôtel 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 tene-

ment 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 20 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 70 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 story, 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. & M. Robertson. Their shop was the fifth below London Street. They used to publish almanacs, sermons, primers, &c., 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'Lellan; then Mr. M'Connell; 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 & 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 time-keepers. 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, &c. The Court adjourned after a sederunt of four hours.

FREE CHURCHES—HIGH STREET—HUTCHESONS' HOSPITAL, &c.

The Court held its meeting on Thursday the 6th 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 mostameleon 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 Hôtel; 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 hôtel, 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 Murynon's Close, 66, High Street, was again under consideration; and another ricketty 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 "*garde 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 rope work. 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.

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

SINCE our last report of the proceedings at this Court, three seditious 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 common-place character, as not to call for specific notice. The "dings 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 over-crowding, 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-depôt, for the Airdrie and Monklands Junction line, while the College itself was to re-appear 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 Havanah 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, &c. About forty years ago, St. Andrew's Square was in its heyday, 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 free-stones 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*, &c. Mr. More became unfortu-

nate, 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 realized. 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 fertilize 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 air 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 story, 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'oeil* 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.

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

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 Fiddlers' 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 Hôtel, 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 glaring Californian hue of the front, the unsteady state of the building, and the character of the company expected to patronize 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.*

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 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 Kinning-house 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. Steele. 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 stack by means of a real buck's head placed on the summit.† 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.

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

† This refers to the sign of the Buck's Head Hôtel.

Our forefathers, with their quaint gables and crow steps, were, however, far-a-head 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 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.

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 or 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 Stir-

lingfold 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 life-rents 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*, 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 two-penny 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 in the city.

The Kinning House 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 Callender 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 sixty-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 decern 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.

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

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, &c. 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. Jas. Taylor, for authority to build a double tenement of houses at the corner of Surrey Street and Cumberland Street, Huthesontown, upon ground acquired from Mr. Laurie of Laurieston, being part of the large feu obtained by that gentleman from Hutheson'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 Wellerroft, 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 Gorbaldonian 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, &c., 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 wont 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 100 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 stories 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 & Co., iron merchants, &c., 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 birth-place 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 vivers 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 out houses. These cottages were chiefly occupied by maltmen; 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-steeds in front of their several holdings, by heaping up straw and other refuse in the very line of the water-course 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 heart-burning 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.

NEW BUILDINGS—BUCK'S HEAD—STIRLING FOLD.

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 Hôtel 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 inst., where you will find it stated that, in 1790, the lands of Stirlingfold and Welleroft 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 Government 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."

SHAMROCK STREET—SMOKE CASES—ST. GEORGE'S ROAD—NEW
BUILDINGS—GORDON STREET, &c.

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 bye-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 60 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 20 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-a-head 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 "realized" so foolishly.

The opening up of this street will be of great advantage to the residents in Queen's Crescent, &c. 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 bleach-field, which was situated in North Street, Anderston. The bleach-field 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 themselves 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 debris 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 fertilizing matter. It is said, that if well mixed up with a hitherto barren soil, the debris 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 re-build 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.* We have heard that the secret of the failure is, that the proprietor and those advising him were afraid

* 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.

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 bye-gone times, was the rural residence of Lord Provost Black, and was last occupied by the eminent firm of Thomson & Macconnell, has already, we are informed, found a tenant for the whole fabric. It has been leased by a Haberdashery Company, viz., Arnot, Cannock & 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, 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, &c., 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.

STIRLING'S ROAD—THE TRONGATE—ST. ENOCH'S BURN AND SQUARE
—CARRON IRON COMPANY, &c.

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 story 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 fifteen 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 pre-

mises, 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 amongst 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*, &c.; 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.*

* In reference to this subject, we re-publish 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 pas aut nefas*, I got released, possessed of a goodly number of

Even at the comparatively recent period, within the memory of those still living, our iron trade had scarcely an existence, and the Clyde formed the medium of imports, rather than that of ex-

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 fé* 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:—Many loose papers in stripes, 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.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

GABRIEL NEIL.

Glasgow, 29th January, 1850.

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 Lanark-

ports. So late as the year from 5th January, 1771, till 5th January, 1772, there were imported into the Clyde 835 tons, 18 cwt., 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

shire, 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.

were already celebrated for their iron manufactures, workmen were procured from them to set a-going 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 Wedgewood'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, so 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 bothers, 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 30 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, &c., 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 16th century; that is, about 60 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 "*Odingstoune*," 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.* The present Tron, or St. Mary's, is built on the same site.

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 modernized 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 Sauchie-

* See the letters of "Aliquis."

hall 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 sub-divided 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 head quarters; 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 30 or 40 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 assem-

ble 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 burned down about the year 1810, when several lives were lost. The premises were, at that time, occupied by the Messrs. Reid, as an upholsterywarehouse.

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, &c., 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 burgeon 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.

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.* Pity it is, that when the

* Dr. Black of the Barony, who died at Florence, on 15th January, 1851.

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 & 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 & 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 inclose 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 $4\frac{1}{2}$ 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 ballustrade 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, like 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 conse-

quence, 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 & 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, &c. (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 28 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 100 years as a foot bridge; while all the horse, cart, carriage, and waggon traffic could be safely accommodated, as it is now, for 10 or 15 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, merry-Andrews, 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 rang 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 II., 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 descendent, 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 five hundred feet long, thirty 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 3rd 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 & 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 five hundred and sixty feet in length, and sixty feet wide over the parapets, including two footpaths, each twelve 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 twenty-six 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 thirty-six feet wide within the parapets.

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-Convenor 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 inclosed 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 lair 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 dove-tailed 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 cabinet-maker 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 sub-

jected 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 observed 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.

	Span of Arch.	Width of Pier.
4th Arch.....	41 ft. 9 in.	13 ft.
5th do.	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 lyklie 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 10 feet to the width of the original structure of 12 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 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 forty

feet six 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 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.* 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 ft. 2 in. in width, by 2 ft. 10 in. 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 fire-place, 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 in. 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 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, lovemaking, bargaining, polemics, and perhaps strife. But we suspect not one of the countless thousands who passed along Adelphi Street, to or from Stockwell

* 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.

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.

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 Ruthergloan 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 monopolized 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 Sauchiehall Road.* 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 every thing 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 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

* Although we have frequently had occasion to mention Sauchiehall 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.

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.*

In connection with Willowbank, we may here mention that we have received a courteous note, stating that our friend "Senex," in his sketch of the Campbells of Blythswood,† 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

* The project of this "West-end Wynd" was eventually abandoned.

† See article, "Campbells of Blythswood," by Senex.

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.

"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 harmonize with the feelings of the fashionable residents in the adjacent localities of Queen's Crescent, Windsor Terrace, Clarendon Place, Balmoral Place, &c., who pay all local assessments, tolls, &c., 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 authorized to be altered; after which the Court adjourned.

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 school-house. 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.*

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

* 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 *fama*.

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 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 douceurs, 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 forty shillings or five pounds 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-story 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 authorized, 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 twelvemonths 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, &c., 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.

MORE CHURCHES—ALTERATIONS, &c.

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 bogling 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, &c., and discussions as to additional prison accommodation at the Duke's Lodging, made as queer a compound almost as that mixed up in the cauldron 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, Hutche-

sontown, 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 Dochaneysfaulds. 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 de-

nuded 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 authorized, the Court adjourned, after a sederunt of three hours.

MURDOCH'S CHARITY SCHOOL, &c.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the Court was held on Thursday the 23d May.

At this Court no fewer than 14 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-story 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 stories 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 Molen-dinar 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 Hutchesons' 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 school-house 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 £3,500, 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 haill parts, pendicles, privileges, and pertinents belonging thereto—all lying contigue 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 James', 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 school-houses are from eighty to ninety feet long, with a width of from 26 to 52 feet, and are two stories high fronting Rottenrow, and at back three stories, 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 intrusted 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.

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 Hahnan, 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,* 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 story is to be divided into small lock-ups or receiving cells, capable of holding three or four persons each; and the third story 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

* 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.

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 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 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 story 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 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 tatterdemallions 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 story, which is at present mainly occupied by lamp-lighters, 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 *détenus*, 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 54 separate single cells, and 23 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 £3,400. 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 7s. 1d., 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 a-head 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 dolé 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 great-coats 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 great-coat, 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 15 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 patch-work 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 now-a-days; but, not very many years ago, when it was resolved that not more than every alternate watchman should takeshelter in his box, this modified arrangement was thought to be one which savoured of inhumanity. The watchmen went on duty at 10 in summer, and came off at 4; and at 9 in winter, and came off at 6. 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 12 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.

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 intro-

duced, 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. Balmano; our worthy Chief Magistrate, Lord Provost Dalglish; along with Mr. Dunn; the Connells, 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 pro-

posed to erect an elegant range of shops, with counting-houses above, and the tenement to be three stories 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, clarestory 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 school room, 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.

NEW BUILDINGS—THE PORTLAND SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

THE Court held its usual sitting on Thursday the 12th December—William Connell, 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.*

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 back ground 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

* 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."

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 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 interposed 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 road-way 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 Iron Works 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 is 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.

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 orna-

ments, 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, & 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 Argyle 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 Denniston, 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, & 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 back ground, 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 Colonna 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."

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-a-head 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, now-a-days, 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 19 cases out of 20, 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 "wooning 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 an 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 stories 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.*

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, 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

* 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.

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 Nagpo. 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 grand-daughter, the late Mrs. Thom, this venerable dame was frequently visited, of an evening, by the late Mr. Wm. 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 20 or 30 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 up stairs 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 grand-son 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 farrier, 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 1745-6. 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 70 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 head-quarters 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 :

In good sooth, it is admitted. Regiment behaved gallantly, considering the position 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

Street, then the residence and head-quarters of the Lord Mr. Walker was then, he told me, about ten year delayed. It is other 'remnant of the Forty-five' with whom I Mr. Hannan for was old Mr. Stewart of Fasnacloich, who I trust the Court will in 1819. I happened to be residing in Glasgow; induce the Council to pro- with my father's 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.

PREFACE.

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, &c.

GLASGOW, *January*, 1851.

GLASGOW IN THE OLDEN TIME.

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 musqueteers, 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 every thing 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 the King's Park at the review in the year 1800, is still remembered by some spectators of it.*

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 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 com-

* On that day the standard was carried by Mr. Benjamin Mathie, and in 1850 the survivors of the corps are said to be only six, viz., Messrs. James Oswald, Robert Reid, Robert Wallace, Robert Sherriff, James Buchanan, and Gilbert Kennedy.

petition 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 “waponshaws,” 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 1st 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, eight hundred 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.

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 practise 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, organization, 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 patronized 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 seven hundred 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 nine hundred strong, and was distinguished for its complete state of discipline. The Highlanders formed a magnificent corps of seven hundred 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 six hundred. The grocers formed a handsome corps of six hundred men—commanded by Mr. Charles Walker. Mr. John Geddes was Colonel of the Anderston regiment, nine hundred 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 three hundred 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 three hundred 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 five thousand 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 phenomena 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 "sere 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 bush-rangers; 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.

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 cognizant 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, &c.; 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 head-quarters 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 church-yards at midnight, and, with a trumpet, &c., endeavoured to turn into ridicule the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead.*

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 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,

* 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 church-yard with a trumpet, &c., was hanged at the Cross, on 5th of June, 1805.

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.*

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 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

* A stately stone wall, 2500 ells in length. *Vide* M'Ure's History of Glasgow, 1736.

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.

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 *dépôt* 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 volunteers corps and regular troops conducted them into town. An immense multitude witnessed their entrance and procession through the city—both windows and house-tops 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 scandalized 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 Gouchos 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, eat at one meal, of roasted elephant's flesh, *twelve pounds each man*.

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 Salt-market 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.

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.

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 Castlepenn'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 off 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 great-coat, 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 Lamlash, 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."

THE KING'S BIRTH-DAY 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 fire-arms 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, &c., 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 the 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, &c., 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 birth-day 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 wheelbarrows 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 birth-day was celebrated in Glasgow in "the good old times."

STONE BATTLES ON 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 civilized 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 battle-fields 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 head quarters, *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 church-yard, 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 gentle-

men who lived in and about Queen Street, and others from George Street, &c.; 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.

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 accoustics 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 *entree*.

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 Adamson 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, 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 Armidale were the Judges; but that day the whole work of the bench was directed by Armidale (Sir William Honeyman), and well was it done by him.

At five P.M. the advocates and the jury were served with soup, &c., *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 Armidale 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, &c.; after which illustrations, and, adverting 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.

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 Poors' House. 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 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 Argyle 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 is

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.

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 school-room. 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 evil doers.

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,” &c., 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 pencil on a 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, &c., 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**) exhibited by the donor 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 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—they being chapters, psalms, and portions of the catechisms; 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 school-room, 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 cognizant of the doings here noted, there might have been an *addenda* 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 dolled 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

* “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 Nasmyth, who also built St. Andrew’s Church, and cut the Tontine Faces.

† Mr. James Balderston, a facetious gentleman, who, with his brothers, William and Robert, attended the school. J. & R. were named in connection with the Dean of Guild Court reports, *vide* “Partick Mills,” in *Herald* of Monday, May 21.

Broad Close, High Street, nearly opposite the College, to deceive the good old dominie 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 Meiklam) filled a chair in the University during almost half a century.

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 lead 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 *contre-danse*, with Roger de Coverly, 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 birth-day 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.

THE HANGMAN, AND PUBLIC WHIPPINGS 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.* But the ordinary route was

* 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,

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.*

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

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 *trysted* 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. 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.

* *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.

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 evil-doers.

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.

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 Dupin* has put on record that, at that time, the armed force of

* 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 one hundred and forty thou-

the British empire, naval and military, was not less than one million and forty thousand 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, &c., 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 sixty thousand.

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 battle-field, 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

sand seamen and marines belonging to the royal navy, two hundred thousand 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 seven hundred thousand men;—making, in all, *one million and forty thousand*, at home and abroad.

war should visit a battle-field, 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 presidency, *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.
Do. Infantry of the Line, and two guns.
Do. Regular Militia.
Glasgow Light Cavalry.
Gentlemen Riflemen.
Five Regiments of Glasgow Volunteers.
Canal Volunteers, and two guns.

Two Battalions of Volunteers from Paisley.
Greenock and Port-Glasgow do., and four guns.
Dumbarton Volunteers.
Kilsyth do.
Cumbernauld do.
Airdrie do.
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.

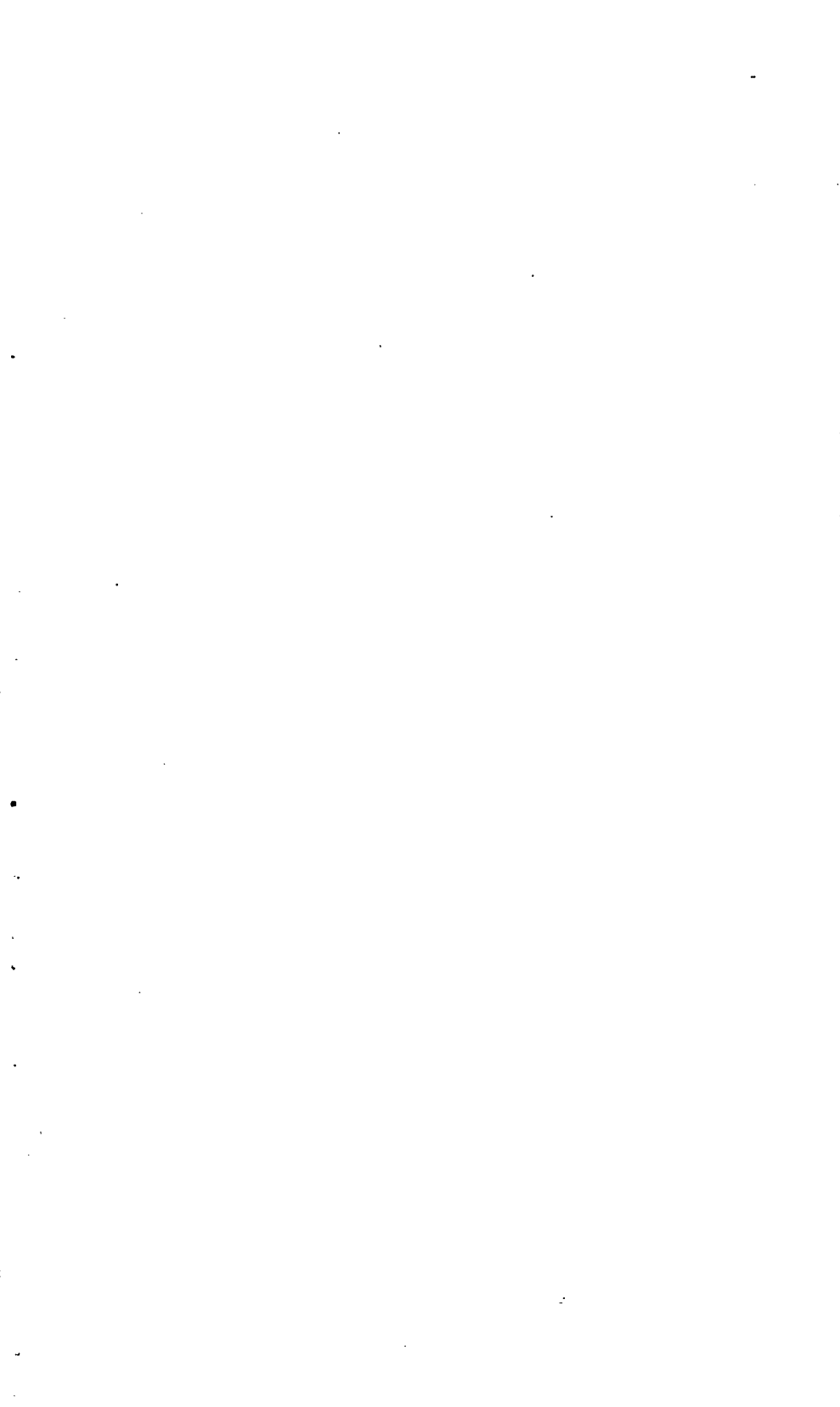
The line was formed with its rear towards the river, the right resting on the eastern extremity of the Green, and the left extending to the Herd's House, which was at a short distance west from where now stands Nelson's Monument; also, on the right wing there was a regular regiment, dressed in the full 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 body-guard 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 fire-arms, 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.

END OF VOL. I.





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