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Kelso*

KELSO, PAST AND PRESENT;

BEING THE FIRST BRUNLEES PRIZE ESSAY, 1872:

TO WHICH IS ADDED

*Notices of the Industries of the Town, and an Historical
Sketch of Roxburgh Castle.*

BY W. FRED. VERNON.



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KELSO:
J. & J. H. RUTHERFURD, 20, SQUARE.

1873.

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“Bosomed in woods where mighty rivers run,
Kelso's fair vale expands before the sun,
Its rising downs in vernal beauty swell,
And, fringed with hazel, winds each flowery dell ;
Green spangled plains to dimpling lawns succeed,
And Tempé rises on the banks of Tweed.
Blue o'er the river Kelso's shadow lies,
And copse-clad isles amid the waters rise ;
Where Tweed her silent way majestic holds,
Float the thin gales in more transparent folds.”

DR LEYDEN, “*Scenes of Infancy.*”

WORKS CONSULTED IN THIS ESSAY.

Ridpath's "Border History of England and Scotland."

Jeffrey's "History and Antiquities of Roxburghshire."

Haig's "History of Kelso."

Mason's "Kelso Records."

Tytler's "History of Scotland."

Scott's "Border Minstrelsy."

Rutherford's "Southern Counties' Register and Directory."


The *Kelso Mail*, *Kelso Chronicle*, &c., &c.

Kelso, Past and Present.



PART I.—KELSO PAST.

INTRODUCTION—PRE-HISTORIC KELSO.

LTHOUGH the prime origin of our beautiful and thriving little town is obscured by the gathered mists of ages, it requires but little stretch of the imagination to peer into the past and to see the north bank of the Tweed, near its confluence with the Teviot, peopled with a colony of early settlers.

By the aid of that powerful medium of mental vision, the mind's eye, we can perceive to the west of a striking chalk cliff or howe, a rude Druidical village, whose altars and huts are reared beneath the shade of the primeval trees which cover the slopes around, and stretch down to the verge of the silver stream. The choice of the site of this little town may have been determined by the beauty of the locality (for our ancestors, rude and uncultivated as we consider them, had an eye for the beautiful, as is evinced by the many picturesque situations they selected for their habitations), or by the physical advantages the spot presented. The situation was sheltered, being almost surrounded by hills of moderate height, clad by a luxuriant growth of greenwood, in the shade of which they could build their dwellings, entrap various

animals for food, and from whose branches might be gathered the vegetable portion of their diet, whilst the ever generous stream, besides supplying them with one of the greatest necessities of life, also furnished them with food in the form of its finny inhabitants, and formed at the same time a natural barrier between them and their enemies, the dwellers on the southern side.

The general aspect of the country was very different then to what it is now : where we now behold fertile fields and thriving towns, was then a thickly-wooded country, interspersed with interminable marshes or wastes, divided from one another by the water-courses. The Romans began and the Saxons continued the task of reclaiming the country, but it was not till the ninth century that anything like a great stride in

this good work took place in our neighbourhood, when Ecgred, bishop of Lidisfarn, built the village of Jedworth. The next improvement of which we have record was the founding of Edenham by Thor-Longus, a vassal of Edgar, who had conferred upon him the waste of Ednam, where he and his followers erected a church, a mill, a malt kylvn, and a brew-house. In these improvements going on in its immediate vicinity Kelso must have shared to some extent, and although there is no mention of it even at this time in any of the ancient chronicles, there can be little doubt that a village, the nucleus of the afterwards famous town, was then in existence; for even before the time of King David the First, the hamlet had attained the importance of a designation, being then "the place that is called Calkow." When, after the founding of

the Abbey, there are frequent allusions to the town in the chronicles of the times, the name undergoes a great number of orthographical variations, all of which, however, seem to point to the derivation of the word from *Calx* or *Calc*, which in the Latin, Celtic, and Saxon languages signify chalk or lime, and *How*, a hill or height. This etymology is borne out to some extent by the designation to this day of the highest part of the town, the Chalkheugh; so called from its geologic formation, which contains a large quantity of gypsum or sulphate of lime.* There is every reason, therefore, to

* As the Chalkheugh is now entirely occupied by buildings and gardens, and no trace of any chalky substance is visible there any more than in other parts of the town, the name may seem to strangers very inappropriate, especially as in the immediate neighbourhood of Kelso chalk is not found. A year or two ago, when some building operations were going on there, a considerable

believe that the word *Kelso* is simply a phonetic corruption of the words *Calx* or *Calc* and *How*.

The original site of the town was somewhat farther west than that occupied at present, a portion of the former site being now included in the Duke of Roxburghe's grounds: farther west still, and immediately in front of where Floors Castle now stands, and exactly opposite Roxburgh Castle, was a village called Faircross, probably not a distinct village, but merely a suburb of Kelso. After the building of the Abbey, however, houses naturally sprung up about the holy precincts, forming an eastern portion of the town, the Chalkheugh being about

stratum of gypsum was come upon; pieces of which were eagerly sought for by a number of persons on account of its beautiful glistening, fibrous structure.

midway between the two parts, and dividing the town into Easter and Wester Kelso.

Although the sketch we give of the first origin of our town is merely imaginary, it is by no means an improbable one, and whatever the real history of the place, from the earliest ages down to later times, when there are authentic records of it, the past of Kelso must have been chequered, eventful, romantic. Situated on the Scottish Borders, within three or four miles of a hostile territory, in the very heart of a country whose only recognised law was power, where might was right, and where the inhabitants followed the “good old rule,”

. “the simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can,”*

it is not to be doubted that being so situated

* Wordsworth—“Rob Roy’s Grave.”

Kelso was frequently the scene of great tumult and carnage. The fair smiling fields which now environ our beautiful town were then uncultivated wastes, owing to the natural indisposition of the inhabitants to sow crops which their enemies might reap. These now productive fields in "the garden of Scotland" have doubtless been many a time enriched by the blood of those who fell in those troublous times, of which no record has reached us. From these darker ages we now turn to consider

KELSO FROM THE FOUNDING OF THE ABBEY.

The history of Kelso from this period to the Reformation is intimately associated with the Abbey, most of the important political and historical events which occurred in connection with

the town having taken place in the Abbey. King David the First, the "sair saunt to the croon," having, during the reign of his brother Alexander, brought over from Tirone, in France, some monks of a reformed order whom he had settled in an abbey at Selkirk, transferred them, soon after his accession to the throne, by the advice of his religious nobles and the bishop of Glasgow, to his castle at Roxburgh. The stirring and warlike atmosphere which surrounded such a residence could not have been much in harmony with the peaceful natures and pursuits of the brethren; so, in order to give them better accommodation, he founded and richly endowed a magnificent church on the sandy expanse to the east of the village of Cal-kow. This building was solemnly dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist on

the 2d of May, 1128.* There is no record of any event of great historical interest in connection with the town or its abbey from this time to 1152, when King David's only son, Henry, the heir-apparent to the throne, having died at Roxburgh about the middle of June, was buried with befitting pomp and pageantry in the sacred building. In 1209, in consequence of the contumacy of King John, the Pope laid England and Wales under an interdict, and the clergy, being unable to perform the duties of their office, fled to other countries: the bishops of Rochester and Salisbury left their sees and came to Scotland, the former taking up his residence at Kelso and the latter at Roxburgh. Ten years after this, in 1219, William de Valoines, the lord-chamberlain of Scotland, an

* Ridpath, p. 77.

official of great responsibility in those days, died at Kelso, and was buried in Melrose Abbey. Although these events are the only important ones of which we have record in the history of Kelso for more than a century, it must not be supposed that the town and neighbourhood stood where they did before the founding of the monastery. The mere fact that such a work was being carried on, and that it required skilled workmen (many of whom would reside in the town, and have daily intercourse with the inhabitants), would of itself influence to a considerable extent the character of the town and the habits of the people. Added to this the monks themselves, many of whom were skilled workmen as well as scholars, their body supplying artists, artificers, and artizans, who, while they laboured for love and not for fee or

reward, would not forget their higher calling, the teaching of the people. It was not to harbour packs of idle vagabonds that good King David founded the beautiful fane at Kelso and the equally beautiful structures in other parts of the country, but to educate and elevate his people, and although in later years abuses crept into the Church, it was at this time and for many years afterwards doing good service to the country. The abbey, it is said by competent judges, bears evidence "of having been a full century in building," and to quote from Innes's sketches, "during all that time at least—perhaps for long afterwards—the carver of wood, the sculptor in stone and marble, the tile-maker, and the lead and iron-worker, the painter (whether of scripture stories or heraldic blazonings), the designer, and the worker in stained glass for

those gorgeous windows which we now vainly try to imitate, must each have been put in requisition, and each, in the exercise of his art, contributed to raise the taste and cultivate the minds of the inmates of the cloister." We can imagine with what care the pious brotherhood would through all those years labour at the elaboration and embellishment of the sacred building, and there is no doubt that they also exercised a great influence over the rude inhabitants of the district for whose good they worked during this time. Besides fulfilling this most important mission, the abbey of Kelso was famous as a seminary, and to it were sent the scions of noble houses to be educated, and orphans were made wards of the abbot until they came of age, to take upon themselves the responsibilities of their families.

Kelso being a peaceful place, and not possessing a garrison like its neighbour, Roxburgh, and being conveniently situated on the borders of Scotland, was frequently made the place of meeting, where negotiations, truces, or treaties were entered into and concluded between the two nations. The earliest truce we have any mention of in connection with Kelso was made in 1380, when the kings of England and Scotland, according to the terms of a truce previously arranged, were expected to send their ratifications of the same in writing under the great seals of their respective kingdoms, the King of England to the monastery of Kelso and the King of Scotland to that of Melrose. It would seem that in those days these international affairs were as difficult of settlement as we find them in our own; for we are told that

the truce was not quite successful, and the matter of dispute being referred to arbitration, it was arranged to prolong the truce for three years until the matter was settled, the kings agreeing to forward their consent in writing as before to the monasteries above mentioned. Another truce concluded at Kelso in 1391 not being properly kept, in 1392 the King of England appointed commissioners to meet those of Scotland; and accordingly in 1393 the meeting of commissioners of both kingdoms was appointed to be held at Aiton or Kelso.* There are several other treaties and truces in connection with Kelso, but that of 1398, as resulting from a characteristic local state of affairs, will be perhaps the most interesting. A truce concluded at Dunfermline in 1397 not having proved effec-

* Haig, p. 18.

tual in preventing Border forays by the inhabitants of either kingdom upon the property of their neighbours in the other kingdom, complaints were made on both sides, and the complainers were ordered to lodge a statement of their grievances—the Scots with the constable of Roxburgh Castle, and the English with the abbot of Kelso or his deputies, who in turn were to forward them to the Wardens of the Marches, the truce to last one year. It was ultimately arranged that the indentures should be exchanged on the 16th of October, 1398, and that the commissioners should meet on the 21st of the same month to consider the terms of the truce and to settle the differences.* Again, in the year 1400, we find Henry IV. of England, who claimed the crown of Scotland, writ-

* Haig, p. 19.

ing a letter from Newcastle on the 6th of August to King Robert III. of Scotland, requiring him to do homage to him on the 23d of the same month at Edinburgh, where he intended being that day to receive the fealty of all the lords, spiritual and temporal, of Scotland. He also sent letters to the same effect to the prelates and peers, these letters being entrusted to special commissioners, who, under heavy penalties for the non-fulfilment of their instructions, were enjoined to gain admission to the king and his nobles and read these letters to them. They were further instructed, in case this should prove impracticable, to read them openly and aloud at Kelso, Dryburgh, Jedworth, Melrose, Edinburgh, and other public places in the kingdom. These letters proving ineffectual, Henry came to Leith, and sent another letter on the 21st of

August to the same purport ; and at the same time one to the king's eldest son, the Duke of Rothsay, requiring him to surrender Edinburgh Castle, of which he was then governor, into his hands. The Duke very properly replied that he would not give him the castle, but would in the course of a few days give him battle instead, which the King of England wisely declined, and having returned to his own country, a truce was shortly afterwards agreed to ; Kelso being again the appointed place of meeting of the commissioners of the two kingdoms. According to this arrangement another truce for twelve months was signed on the 21st of December.* In 1487 commissioners met at Kelso to prolong a truce about to expire, in

* Tytler, vol. ii., pp. 13-14 ; Haig, p. 21 ; Ridpath, pp. 369-370.

order to gain time for concluding a treaty of marriage between the eldest son of James III. and the eldest daughter of Edward IV., arranging at the same time that the ratifications were to be exchanged at Kelso. We also find that in the year 1515, during the minority of James V., the Duke of Albany, the governor of Scotland, received at Kelso the complaints of the people of the Borders against certain oppressors, and promised them in future security from their oppressors.*

Besides the importance conferred upon Kelso as being the appointed place of meeting for the settlement of differences between the two nations, it has been signally honoured by the visits of royalty. During the building of the abbey, there is no doubt King David would be a

* Haig, p. 28.

frequent visitor, and it may be that he himself assisted in the building, even as now royalty sometimes deigns to assist in laying the corner or foundation stones of some of our public buildings, but whether he did this or not is only matter of conjecture. We are sure, however, from the great interest he took in the work, that he would, during his residence at Roxburgh, be an almost daily visitor to Kelso. The burial of his son in the abbey would be the occasion of another, but very melancholy, visit. Exactly one hundred and three years after this sad event—namely, in 1255—a very different scene took place within the abbey. On that occasion Alexander III. entertained his father-in-law, Henry III. of England, to a right royal banquet, an imposing procession having accompanied the two monarchs from Roxburgh

amid great demonstrations of joy. After the banquet, the King of England addressed the assembled nobles regarding the better management of affairs in Scotland, part of which advice was not very palatable to the nobles and prelates of Scotland.* About the beginning of 1297, King Edward the First's army, consisting of 2000 horse, 1200 light horse, and above 100,000 foot, when it invaded Scotland, having relieved Roxburgh Castle, then besieged by the Scots, crossed the Tweed at Kelso, from whence they marched to Berwick, which they found abandoned by the Scots, who had retired northwards to join the army of the patriot Wallace.†

The importance of Roxburgh Castle as a

* Haig, p. 15; Ridpath, p. 146; Tytler, vol. i., p. 6; Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 72.

† Ridpath, 209.

stronghold in the south of Scotland made its possession very desirable to either the friends or foes of that country. Accordingly, in the year 1460 the fortress, having then been in the hands of the English over one hundred years, James II. assembled his army and led it against the castle. The town was taken and levelled at the first assault, and then the regular siege of the castle began. In his train were some rude pieces of ordinance of Flemish manufacture, and the King, being fond of his artillery, stood so near that one of them, bursting with the discharge, the wedge of it broke his thigh bone, so that he almost immediately afterwards expired. This sad event occurred on the 3d of August, 1460, and the nobles at once sent for the Queen and her eldest son, who lost no time in attending to the summons, and appearing

in the camp, she, with a queenly heroism, bade the Scottish chieftains to cease their useless lamentations, and to pursue their honourable enterprise in which their King had fallen. The appeal was not in vain, for, encouraged by her presence and exhortations, the besiegers stormed the fortress with such vigour that it was taken the very day of the Queen's arrival.* The principal nobles of the country availing themselves of the opportunity of being gathered together, as they were all with the royal army, conducted their monarch, then a boy of only eight years, to the monastery of Kelso, where he was crowned with great pomp and ceremony, more than one hundred knights being made to commemorate the event, the nobles and chieftains

* Tytler, vol. ii., p. 185.

paying their homage and swearing fealty to him in the usual manner.*

History does not state whether James IV. passed through Kelso before the disastrous battle of Flodden; but Leslie and Buchanan assert that the King was not slain in the fight, for that shortly after the battle he was seen at Kelso, whence he went to Jerusalem, where he died.† This is only one of the many conflicting reports which gained credence in those days; but when we take into consideration the chivalric spirit of James, we are bound to believe that he fell on that dire day when “the Flowers of the Forest

* Haig, p. 23; Ridpath, p. 422; Tytler, vol. ii., p. 158. Jeffrey, on p. 75, vol. iii., of the “History and Antiquities of Roxburghshire,” says James IV. was crowned at Kelso. Tytler says he was crowned at Scone, which is more likely, the King being in the north at the time of his father’s death.

† Haig, p. 26.

were a' wede away." It is said that on the night of the battle the famous Dand Kerr of Fernihurst, a follower of Lord Hume, assaulted the abbey, and turned the abbot, one of the Cessford family, out of doors.* The town of Kelso was pillaged and burnt in 1522 by Lord Dacres under the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was sent to invade Scotland with a large army by Henry VIII. The abbey suffered considerable damage on this occasion; but the men of Teviotdale flew to arms, and assisting their friends and neighbours checked the progress of the English, and revenged themselves for the loss they had sustained.† The following year, however, the English, with a more numerous army, completely reduced the monastery and town to ashes, the

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 75; Haig, p. 27.

† Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 76; Haig, p. 32.

monks being obliged to take shelter in the neighbouring villages.* Again, in 1542 the abbey, which had been partially restored, was again burned; and in the years 1544, 1545, 1546, and 1547, it was attacked, taken, and again destroyed.†

It was determined in the year 1553 to put the town into a state of defence by building a fort there, for which a tax of £20,000 was ordered to be levied, but the the scheme was not carried out. In 1557 the Scottish army, under the command of the Earl of Arran, marched to Kelso, where it was joined by the French artillery, and having crossed the Tweed encamped at Maxwellheugh. The town was put in a state of defence about this time by Lord James Stuart,

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 76.

† Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 77; Haig, p. 35-41.

a natural son of James V.; and on the 20th of October, 1557, the Scotch nobles met the Queen Regent and the French General here, and resolved against her wishes to disperse the army.*

Another royal visitor to Kelso was the beautiful but unfortunate Queen Mary, who honoured the town with her presence on the 9th of November, 1566, where she remained two days, holding a council on the 10th, and proceeding to Berwick on the 11th. From this time to the 21st of August, 1867 (almost three hundred and one years afterwards), our town was not honoured by the presence of its Sovereign; but upon that day a Queen, more fortunate and more happy than her predecessor—our good Queen Victoria—delighted her Border subjects by com-

* Haig, p. 45; Tytler, vol. iii., p. 77.

ing amongst them. The two royal visits are commemorated in the following lines:—

I see a fair Queen gaily ride,
Attended by her gallant knights,
To where the Tweed receives its bride,*
And Kelso fair stands by its side,
Environed by the verdant heights.

Alas, poor Queen! the times were rude,
And troublous was the Border then,
And desolate by constant feud,
By which its soil was oft imbrued
With blood of Scotland's bravest men.

Away have passed three hundred years—
Still flows the river as of yore—
But now there breaks upon our ears
The shouts of "Welcome," and loud cheers,
As Tweedside greets a Queen once more.

Between these two visits what a vast difference! The one Queen surrounded by jealousy and treachery, plots and plotters, unhappy in her domestic relations and unfortunate in her ad-

* The Teviot.

visers and government; while love, affection, trust, and confidence, happiness and success, represent the reign of the other.

Between the visits of the two Queens there took place other royal visits to Kelso, Prince Alfred and the Prince and Princess of Wales honouring us with their presence on more than one occasion. But a visit of more historical importance took place on the 4th of November, 1745, when the brave but ill-fated Prince Charles Edward Stuart arrived with a portion of his army, and spent two nights in the town, where many of his men deserted him, as they did all along the march from Edinburgh to Derby, from whence the ill-advised retreat for ever settled the pretensions of the house of Stuart, whose sun shortly after set in blood at Culloden.

We will now briefly resume a consideration of some of the more important events of history connected with our town. As an illustration of the condition of the Borders in the 16th century, we may instance the signing of a remarkable bond at Kelso on the 6th of April, 1569, “by the inhabitants of the sheriffdoms of Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles, and provosts and baillies of burghs and towns within the bounds, whereby the parties bound and obliged themselves to the King’s Majesty and his dear cousin James, Earl of Murray, Lord Abernethie, regent, to concur together to resist the rebellious people of the country of Liddesdale, and other thieves inhabiting Ewisdale, Anandale, and especially persons of the surnames of Armstrong, Elliot, Niksoun, Croser, Littell, Batesoun, Thomsoun, Irwing, Bell, Johnnes-

toun, Glendonyng, Routlaige, Hendersoun, and Scottis of Ewisdail, and other notorious thieves.”* It would seem by this that the unceremonious hanging of Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie and about three dozen of his followers by James V. exactly forty years previously—namely, in 1529—had had little effect in putting a stop to freebooting on the Borders, although, if Johnnie himself is to be believed, he robbed none but Englishmen :

“ But never a Scots wyfe could have said,
That e’er I skaith’d her a puir flee.” †

On the 18th of September of the same year, 1569, the Earl of Murray arrived in the town, where he purposed remaining five or six weeks

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 78.

† Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders—“ Johnny Armstrong ;” vol. i., p. 411.

in order to suppress the petty feuds that were constantly distressing the Border.* The Regent Murray obtained in 1569 a grant of the whole estates of the abbey of Kelso, which included the town of Kelso, and many lands, mills, fishings, and other property in the shires of Roxburgh, Berwick, Dumfries, and Peebles, which was confirmed by a charter under the great seal on the 10th of December following.† On the 23d of January, 1570, the Lairds of Buccleugh and Fernihurst, with their clans, made an incursion into England and laid waste the frontiers, and in retaliation Queen Elizabeth sent the “Earl of Sussex and Lord Hudson, governor of Berwick, with an army into Scotland, who in the course of a week totally wasted, burned, and

* Haig, p. 52.

† Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 82.

destroyed the vales of Teviot, Kale, and Bowmont, levelling fifty castles and strongholds, and above 300 villages." The army, which had been divided, met again here on the 21st of April, and returned to Berwick after having been absent only six days, and never having had any opposition.* In 1584, Bothwell held a conference at Kelso with the Earls of Angus and Mar, who were banished to England. In the autumn of the following year the banished Earls and the Master of Glammiss left London, and were received in Kelso in October by Bothwell, and remained at Floors, the laird of Cessford's house, for two or three days.† On Bothwell being attainted in 1592, the abbey of Kelso and the priory of Coldingham were an-

* Haig, pp. 52-55.

† Haig, p. 60; Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 82.

nexed to the crown, and afterwards the whole property of the abbey was conferred on Sir Robert Ker of Cessford, a great favourite at court, who had been created a peer in 1590 with the title of Lord Roxburghe.* In April, 1594, the army under Lairds Cessford and Buccleugh, sent to oppose Bothwell should he attempt to enter the kingdom, arrived in Kelso, and after waiting there some time dispersed. Bothwell, hearing of this, came here with his army, but left for Leith the following day,† and a few days after returned to Kelso, when his forces separated, and he once more retired into England. About this time the country began to be shaken to its centre by religious differences, and matters were pushed to such extremes that the one party

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., pp. 82, 83.

† Haig, p. 67.

resolved to die rather than submit to the other, and subscribed to a solemn league and covenant to this effect. These Covenanters the King declared to be rebels, and made preparations for punishing them accordingly or forcing them to obey him. This was to be done, of course, by means of an army, the command of which was entrusted to the Marquis of Hamilton. The Covenanters also raised an army, amounting to 17,000 or 18,000 men, which was ordered to rendezvous at Dunse, from whence it came here in the month of June, 1639. Kelso seems to have been quite a military depot about this period, as by a proclamation at the Cross of Edinburgh in 1644 "commanders and officers under the Earl of Kalender's charge are to repair to the rendezvous at Kelso." In the spring of 1644 the town was almost wholly consumed

by an accidental fire, and the inhabitants were reduced to such a state of distress that a proclamation was issued on the 17th of April recommending a general collection throughout the kingdom for the relief of the suffering inhabitants, and for the purpose of rebuilding the town. The following year it was visited by the plague, to which a great many of the inhabitants fell victims. In September, 1645, the Royalist General, Montrose, came to Kelso, on the invitations of the Earls of Roxburgh and Home, from whence he went to Selkirk, and encamped his infantry near the junction of the Ettrick and Yarrow, himself and cavalry taking up their quarters at Selkirk. The camp was surprised next morning by the Covenanters, and after a desperate struggle the Royalists were routed.*

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 85.

In 1715 the whole army of the rebels arrived in Kelso, and remained from Saturday the 22d of October till Thursday the 27th, during which time they drew the public revenues, and the excise customs and taxes.* During their sojourn here on Monday the 24th, James VII. was publicly proclaimed in the Market Place.

In 1718 a general commission of Oyer and Terminer was appointed for the trial of those implicated in the rebellion, which sat at Kelso amongst other places, but the only case brought before it here was dismissed, and the grand jury was discharged. The arrival of Prince Charles in 1745 we have previously noticed, and with that event the connection of this town with important historical events terminates.

Since then, however, there have been many

* Jeffrey, vol. iii., p. 86 ; Haig, pp. 85-87.

events, more or less connected with our town, which, while of no great general importance, no historical sketch of Kelso, however brief, would be complete without. One of these events was the destruction of the old bridge, erected in 1754, by the floods of 1797. It is also worthy of note that for twelve years after its erection, or until 1766, when the Coldstream bridge was opened, that at Kelso was the only one between Peebles and Berwick. The present elegant structure, designed by Rennie, the architect of Waterloo Bridge, London, was begun in 1800 and finished in 1803 at a cost of about £18,000. It is situated about fifty yards below the site of the old bridge, a portion of which having been measured and painted makes an excellent Tweedometer, as seen from the present bridge. While upon this

subject we may record that a few years ago, in 1854, this bridge was the occasion of serious riots in Kelso, the populace demanding the abolition of the pontage, which they thought had been exacted long enough to pay all expenses. The trustees not at once agreeing to this demand, the mob took the law into their own hands and forcibly removed the barriers, which were replaced several times, notwithstanding the presence of the authorities, who were supported by the military. Not long after this the obnoxious impost was abolished to the satisfaction of all the inhabitants, with whom the bridge is now a favourite promenade.

Kelso was, and still is, an eminently patriotic town, and in 1794 raised a military corps called the Kelso Volunteers, which attained a high degree of efficiency. The corps was disembodied

a few months after the conclusion of peace with France in 1801; but on the breaking out of the war in 1803 it was again raised, and in conjunction with companies formed in other towns composed the Roxburghshire Volunteers. On the occasion of the "False Alarm," caused by the lighting of the beacons on the 31st of January, 1804, Kelso witnessed the enthusiastic assembling of all the local corps in the Market Place, where they waited the order to march upon the invaders. From its known patriotism, as well as from its situation, Kelso was selected by Government as a suitable town for the residence of French prisoners on parole, over two hundred of whom resided there from November, 1810, to June, 1814. To them the town was indebted for the erection of a theatre, which at one time was an institution here;

but whether it was that the decay of the drama in the metropolis caused its entire death in the provinces, or that the town could not support three teachers, and elected to stand by the pulpit and the press, and let the other go, we cannot say, but the fact remains that the drama is dead in Kelso. The building, once sacred to Thalia and Melpomene, is now divided into workrooms, the lower portion being used as stables.

CELEBRATED MEN.

There is one circumstance Kelso has every reason to be proud of, and that is its association with the mighty Wizard of the North. Wordsworth has truly said, "The child's the father of the man," and to his early pursuits

and reading while a schoolboy* at Kelso Grammar School may be traced the first sowings in his mind of what bore fruit in his future greatness. Scott resided with his aunt in a cottage at the south-east corner of the Knowes, where Waverley Cottage now stands. Some years afterwards an uncle left him the property of Rosebank, but he had to part with it in order to supply funds for the Ballantyne firm. It may be worthy of note here that the brothers Ballantyne, with whom Scott's whole life is so intimately associated, were natives of this town. The *Kelso Mail* was started by them in 1797, and from their press in Bridge Street, at the beginning of this century, was issued the first volume

* In Kelso Library is a copy of "Percy's Reliques," often the holiday companion of Scott, the perusal of which is said to have imbued him with the idea of becoming a poet.

of Scott's first work, "The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border." The excellence of their typography attracted such general attention and commendation that they went to Edinburgh, and were Scott's printers and partners till the great collapse, which caused Scott to make such super-human exertions to work off their liabilities that in the effort he lost his life. Besides Scott's immortal association with the town, there are names

"On Fame's eternal beadrole worthie to be fyled," the names of men born in or near Kelso who have distinguished themselves in art, science, literature, and other noble walks of life. Foremost we must place the name of James Thomson, the celebrated author of "The Seasons," who was born in 1700 at Ednam, of which parish his father was at that time minister.

Although he died at the early age of 48 he lived long enough to establish an undying name: his connection with this district is commemorated by an obelisk raised upon a height about a mile from the town and overlooking the village where he was born, and his connection with the literature of our country is commemorated by a monument erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey. The researches of Sir William Fairbairn, together with his contributions to the scientific literature of the country and his wonderful engineering triumphs, entitle him to a prominent position in our list of great men. He was born about the beginning of this century in a house in Roxburgh Street, near the Chalkheugh, and has raised himself to his present distinguished position by his persevering industry, scientific acquirements, mechanical skill,

and honourable bearing. His interest in his native town is evinced by the handsome and valuable donations of money and books he from time to time gives to the Mechanics' Institute. We trust he may long be spared to take such a lively interest in its affairs. In art the name of Robert Edmonston is well known. He was born at Kelso in 1794, and after studying with considerable success at Rome, Naples, Florence, and Venice, and receiving the patronage of nobility and royalty, he returned to his native town, and died at the early age of 40 of consumption. Thomas Pringle the poet was born at Easterstead, about four miles from Kelso, and, like Scott, received his education here. Of the native poets of lesser note their name is legion, the beauty of the surrounding scenery affecting them as sunshine affects song-birds,

and compelling them to break forth in melody. In this way the beauty of our town has been the frequent theme of poets of no mean power ; but the lines of Dr Leyden, quoted on our title-page, are perhaps the most chaste and poetical. Leyden was born at the village of Denholm, about midway between Jedburgh and Hawick, consequently he cannot be included in our list of eminent Kelsonians. A celebrated traveller and good oriental scholar—James Brown—was born here in 1709, and died at London in 1788. William Jerdan, the founder and editor of the *Literary Gazette*, and author of several works, was also a native of Kelso. One of his works, “Men I Have Known,” he presented to the library of the Mechanics’ Institute. Thomas Tod Stoddart, who, although a native of Edinburgh, has resided for so many years in our

midst as should entitle him to consideration as a

“ native here,
And to the manner born,”

has written several works upon angling, and, like old Walton's angler, they are brimful of poetry. Besides these he has published a romance, “ Abel Massinger,” and a thrilling poem, entitled “ The Death-wake,”* and other poetical works, which prove the author to be a poet of no mean calibre. Last, but by no means the least, in this “ beadrole,” we include the name of James Brunlees,† who, as a civil engineer, has risen to the highest point in his profession. His connection with such an engineering triumph as the Mont Cenis railway

* George Macdonald, the eminent poet and novelist, says it was the perusal of Stoddart's “ Death-wake ” that first made him think of writing poetry.

† President of the Mechanics' Institute.

is a sufficient guarantee of his eminence. But that he is the founder of the prize for which this essay is intended to compete we would have said more; suffice, then, to say that he was born at Broomlands, has been the architect of his own fortune, and that his success in life is the result of diligence, perseverance, and a determination to succeed. As he has told us, he always kept the "silk gown" before him, and while wishing for it worked for it.*

We come now to describe briefly (and it must be done very briefly, as we have already carried this essay to an inordinate length) the second part of our subject.

* "We have learned with much pleasure that His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil has just conferred upon our distinguished townsman, Mr James Brunlees, C.E., the Imperial Order of the Rose."—Extract from *Kelso Mail* of April 19, 1873.

PART SECOND.

KELSO IN THE PRESENT DAY.

The situation of the town on the north bank of the Tweed opposite its junction with the Teviot we have already described, and we now proceed to speak more particularly of the present appearance of the town and its approaches. A stranger arriving by the North British Railway does not get a view of the town such as the traveller arriving by the North Eastern obtains from the line about half a mile below the station, but the view from this point is not to be compared with that from Maxwellheugh path. There, through the trees, we have a panorama

of exquisite beauty, which cannot fail to call forth the rapturous admiration of the beholder. From the foreground of verdant meadow, fringed by Tweed's silver stream, in whose mirror-like surface is reflected the brightness of the empyrean, while beyond the bridge, which stretches its elegant proportions across the stream a little to our left, we see

“ Blue o'er the river Kelso's shadow lies,
And copse-clad isles amid the waters rise ;”

and away in the distance beyond we see smiling fields and luxuriant woods crowning the uplands, with here and there a dwelling snugly ensconced among the trees, or the grey ruins of a once powerful castle, solitary and silent, on its grim eminence.* At all times and in all seasons this view is eminently charming ; but especially in the

* Hume Castle.

“leafy month” when the trees are dressed in their varying tinted foliage, and the whole landscape is “in verdure clad,” this scene looks more like one we could imagine conjured up by Fairy spell than the substantial reality. The views from either side of the bridge are also very fine. The first object which strikes a stranger as he approaches by the bridge is the towering ruin of the venerable Abbey, then Ednam House, and the Episcopal Church adjoining; higher up the river the not very picturesque mill claims notice by its prominence; and still higher up, and o’ertopping the buildings far and near, the spire of the Free Church; beyond this, houses with their gardens sloping to the water; then in the distance the woods, gardens, and Castle of Floors. About the middle of the bridge, but a little distance up,

“the meeting of the waters,” Tweed and Teviot, takes place; and from the end of the bridge nearest the town can be observed the peaks of the Eildon hills over the tops of the trees in Springwood Park. The view down the river from the opposite side of the bridge, while not so extensive, is quite as beautiful, the still depths of the water below Pinnacle Hill reflecting the overhanging trees in all their gradations of shade with a more than photographic fidelity. The view from the Chalkheugh, or the Terrace, as it is now called, is perhaps the finest in the district. From here the Eildons are a prominent feature in the distance, and from thence the eye wanders down the vale of the Teviot to the junction of the two rivers immediately in front of the Terrace beneath which the Tweed is foaming and splash-

ing over the curb of stone with which Michael Scott's familiar is said to have bridled the river. It was through the same agency, by the way, that, instead of one, we see three peaks of hills in the distance.* We also command a fine view of the grey ruins of Roxburgh Castle, and opposite them the stately castle of Floors, forming a contrast between ancient times and modern days at once striking and suggestive. But we cannot linger long over this attractive scene, which requires only to be seen to be appreciated. We proceed now to take a rapid survey of the town, its streets and buildings. The town may be said to consist of five principal streets, all converging towards the Square or Market Place, which is considered the finest in Scotland. There are a number of other streets and lanes

* See note to Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel."

or wynds, but a description of them in this already too lengthy essay would be a work of supererogation, so we will simply confine our remarks to the more prominent features of the town. In the Square the principal building is the Town Hall, an elegant structure with a pediment in front, supported by four Ionic columns, surmounted by a belfry or clock turret. The bell is rung every week-day morning at six o'clock to call to labour the inhabitants, and at eight in the evening to close the day's work ; the ten o'clock ringing of the bell being, we presume, a modern modification of the curfew.* The hall was built in 1816 on the site

* The curfew was ordered by William the Conqueror to be rung every evening at eight o'clock, at which hour every one was to put out their fire and lights and go to bed. "Early to bed" is a rule now "more honoured in the breach than the observance." Formerly the cus-

of a building which, previous to the beginning of this century, was used as council house and tolbooth; it serves the purposes of a hall of justice, music hall, or place of meeting for public or private bodies, a small rent being charged for the use of it. On either side of the Town Hall

tom was for a drum and bagpipe to parade the town for the purpose for which the bell is now rung, Kelso being the last of the Border towns to adhere to the old practice of keeping a piper. It is said that the original "John Anderson my jo," from which Burns got the idea for his beautiful song of that name, was written of or by one of these old pipers of Kelso. The words of the first verse, given in Bishop Percy's "Black Book of Ballads," are as follows:—

“ John Anderson, my jo,
Come in as ye gae by;
And ye sall get a sheep's head
Weel baken in a pie,
Weel baken in a pie,
And the haggis in a pat;
John Anderson, my jo,
Come in an' ye's get that.”

two streets, called the Wood and Horse Markets, open into the Square, the former only containing any public buildings. These are the Bank of Scotland, the Corn Exchange, used also for public meetings and entertainments, and the Post Office. There are several fine shops in both streets, and within the last few years considerable improvements have been effected, not only in these particular streets, but all over the town, by the pulling down of the old buildings and the erection of handsome edifices upon their sites. Three sides of the Square are occupied by houses and shops, nearly all of which are modern buildings, one of the oldest being that at the Kirk Style, No. 3, Square.* Amongst

* Upon one of the panes of glass in the front window of this house is scratched with a diamond the date 1797; even then the house was an old one, having been built in all probability immediately after the fire of 1644. With

other public buildings, we may notice the Museum* in Roxburgh Street, the Foresters' Hall in East Bowmont Street (originally the Cameronian meeting-house, we believe), and the Kelso Reading and Billiard Rooms. Of churches and chapels there are nine—two Established churches, two Free, two U.P.'s, an Episcopal, a Roman Catholic, and an Evangelistic Chapel. The Parish Church is exactly one hundred years old, having been built in the year 1772. The form is octagonal, and is more suggestive of a circus than a sacred building.† The other Es-

this exception all the houses in the Square seem to have been rebuilt since 1790, although there are other old houses, such as Commercial House, built by Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Floors.

* The Museum contains the finest collections in ornithology, natural history, and antiquities of any provincial museum, and is open free to visitors.

† Within the last year two admirable sale-rings have been erected at St Boswells on the same model.

established Church, called the North Church, is somewhat more ecclesiastical in form, and is altogether an elegant, though plain, building. The two Free Churches excel their neighbours, the United Presbyterian Churches, in their buildings; the Kelso Free Church, erected in 1866, being a very pretentious, but by no means a beautiful structure, being an odd admixture of various styles, which has been repeated by the architect, Mr Pilkinton, in various churches, and has been dubbed the "Pilkinton order." Its spire is a conspicuous object for miles round, looking well when seen from a distance. The Episcopal Church is a neat little edifice, purely Gothic in style, and, in point of architectural excellence, ranking next to the Abbey. It was built three or four years ago from the design of Mr Robert Anderson of Edinburgh. The

principal streets are Roxburgh Street, Bridge Street, Bowmont Street, Horse Market, and Wood Market. Roxburgh Street is nearly a quarter of a mile in length, is very irregularly built, but within the last few years has been greatly improved. It contains one or two good houses, and several fine shops and warehouses. Bridge Street, as its name implies, is a thoroughfare to and from the bridge; it has some fine shops, houses, and hotels, and is now being much improved by the pulling down and rebuilding of some old tenements. Improvements are being carried out in the other streets and in various parts of the town, so that in a few years Kelso will deservedly earn the title of Queen of the Borders. Although there is no staple trade carried on here, yet from its being the centre of a large agricultural district, there

is a great amount of business transacted in the town, and nearly every commodity obtainable in large cities can be got here or can be procured on the shortest notice. By rail it is one hour's ride from Berwick and two hour's from Edinburgh, so it is in direct communication with the great centres of civilization in the north and south. The town is well provided with literature, there being at least three public libraries—the Kelso Library having at least 8000 volumes, the United Library having a good collection, (about 4000 vols.), and the Mechanics' Institute over 1300 vols. Besides these there are various private circulating libraries and magazine clubs. There are also three newsrooms, which are supplied with the metropolitan dailies and the provincial weekly newspapers. There are three newspapers published in the town—the *Kelso*

Mail, established in 1797, the *Chronicle* in 1832, and the *Courier* in 1871. The *Mail* is published twice a week and the others weekly. With so many facilities the inhabitants ought to be—if they are not—literary. The majority of them—that is, of the male inhabitants—seem to be given more to out-of-door sports than the cultivation of the mind. The temptations are certainly very strong, seeing there are so many fine streams in the neighbourhood abounding with fish. Then there is Shedden Park, the generous gift of Mrs Robertson, where daily may be seen crowds of children and men disporting themselves at various health-giving games. During the summer months the Duke of Roxburghe's band performs on one evening every week in the park, a handsome stand having been erected for its accommodation.

The inhabitants are honest, sober, and industrious, and can enjoy a holiday all the better for having earned it; the holidays of the town being New Year's day, except when it falls on a Friday, which is the weekly market day, and the first Wednesday in July. The race days in October are generally observed as half holidays by those whose business permits of the indulgence; St James's fair day is also in the same category. The town is well supplied with water, and has an excellent system of drainage, and lately has had a cemetery opened, the churchyard with certain exceptions being closed by order of the Sheriff. All these improvements tend much to promote the health and comfort of the townspeople who can now live in the once ill-fated town with a sense of security "from the pestilence that walketh in darkness

and the arrow that flieth by day." Compare Kelso in the present with Kelso in the past, and let us be thankful that we live in times so peaceful and so happy, when we are content to toil and to reap the reward of our labours without the terror of war, the rapacious sword, and the devastating fire for ever hanging over us. While we can say with thankful hearts, "The times are changed," may we in all humility be able to add, "And we are changed with them."

END OF ESSAY.

Supplementary Chapters.

I.

THE INDUSTRIES OF KELSO.

IN times past Kelso was famous for the manufacture of linen and flannel; now not a single loom is in operation, and of those who used to throw the shuttle there are not more than three survivors. About the second decade of this century there were at least a hundred weavers here, but previous to that period there were a great many more; for between the years 1680 and 1760, there were on the list of freemen of the

weavers' incorporation about two hundred and twenty names.* When this trade was first established here there is no ascertaining, but in the middle of the seventeenth century, as we learn from a register of the five trades, it was a flourishing craft. We copy the title-page of the register in question, as it is a curiosity in its way:—

THIS BOOK IS ORDEANE
 FOR THE VS OF THES
 FYF TREADS AS THE NAM^S
 OF DEACONS AND QWAR
 TER MESTERS FOLLOWS
 IN THIS INSTANT ZEAR OF
 GOD CIJ IJC LVIII

* The Rev. James Morton, vicar of Holbeach, and author of the "Monastic Annals of Teviotdale," &c., who was a native of Kelso, spent part of his youth as a weaver in the town.

Then follow the names of the office-bearers, the five trades being placed in the following order :—“ Hammermen, Wiwers, Showmakers, Tylors, and Glovers.” Of these trades two are now entirely extinct amongst us : these are the weavers and the glovers. In 1798, the weavers of Kelso published the following piece of information :—“ The incorporation of weavers in this place have agreed to publish the following as their fixed prices for weaving the different kinds of cloth ;” then the prices are given for “ all plain linen, worsted, and cotton druggets, yard-wide flannels, five-quarter broad flannels, and six broad cloth.” Then we find that “ bed towelling is wrought at the linen prices according to the warp,” and that “ tweeld sheeting is one penny above the linen prices per yard for tweeling.” The mention of “ tweeld sheeting”

reminds us that the word *Tweed*, as applied to certain kinds of cloth for which this country is famous, is simply a corruption of *tweeld*.

The three remaining trades mentioned above yet exist in the town, but do not flourish as formerly; and although SHOEMAKING is still carried on to considerable extent, it has suffered such a revolution that instead of exporting large quantities of boots and shoes to other towns, as used to be done, the manufacture has to be supplemented by the importation of ready-made goods to supply the town and neighbourhood. While the souters of Selkirk are famous in history and song, the Crispins of Kelso were no less celebrated for the quality and superiority of their work, and Kelso-made shoes found a ready market all over the north of England and south of Scotland. TAILORING, perhaps, has suffered

less by the inroads of time and the innovations of steam and machinery. It always was, and still is, carried on to a great extent here, and there are now, besides several tailoring establishments, four or five firms which combine tailoring with drapery business, and give employment to a great number of workmen. The quality of the work produced here is such that a number of families who reside part of the year in London prefer having their clothes made in Kelso, where vamped-up goods and slop-work is unknown. NAIL-MAKING, which at one time gave employment to a number of "hammer-men," has now become amongst us almost an industry of the past. Before leaving the five incorporated trades mentioned above, we may mention here that they ceased to be corporate bodies in 1855, when they were dissolved and

their affairs wound up. SNUFF-MAKING and the MANUFACTURE OF TOBACCO, which trade was once carried on here to a considerable extent—there having been at one time a mill on the Eden for the pulverising of the “weed”—has entirely disappeared from the locality. Another extinct trade, which at one time was an important branch of industry in the town, and gave employment to a number of persons, was the MANUFACTURE OF HATS; and CANDLE-MAKING, although still carried on by one establishment, has almost been snuffed out since the introduction of gas.

At one time there were extensive CURRIERS' establishments here, but we believe that trade is not now carried on, the skins being merely tanned or rough dressed by the SKINNERS, and sent away to be finished by the curriers in other

towns. A great many skins are thus prepared, there being two skinneries here which do a good business, and give employment to a number of persons.

Although several branches of industry have become a dead letter amongst us, as we have seen, several new firms have arisen in the town to supply their place, and give employment to the working classes. Chief amongst these we may note the COACH-BUILDING establishments: where there was but one, there are now three, the trade being much more than trebled, and giving employment to at least a dozen times as many persons. The quality of the work bears favourable comparison with that of any other town, as was attested last year at the Highland and Agricultural Society's show, by Messrs Croall and Mr Kennedy receiving silver medals

for the excellence of the carriages exhibited. An entirely new branch of industry, and one which marks the advancement of the times, is the manufacture of REAPING MACHINES. We have two makers of improved reapers in the town, each employing a number of workmen. Mr Hogarth's "Border Chief" is, we believe, one of the most approved reapers, and being in great demand is likely to give increased employment to mechanics and machinists. The manufacture of ARTIFICIAL MANURES AND FEEDING STUFFS is now carried on on a large scale by the firm of Dunn & Sons, and they have had erected within the last few years at the Railway Station a large bone-mill and manure factory, where great quantities of crude material, imported chiefly from South America, are converted into highly nutritious manure, which finds a ready

market amongst the farmers round. Besides the manufacture of manure, this firm grinds Indian corn, and supplies all sorts of feeding stuffs. A very large business here is that of PORK-CURING, and the number of carcasses cured by the various establishments in Kelso ranks next to that of Dumfries, which has the largest trade of the kind, we believe, in Scotland. Mr J. Steel, poulterer and game-dealer, does a very considerable trade with the English markets, to many of which he sends large supplies of rabbits and game. Amongst other markets supplied by him are Manchester, Hull, Wakefield, Grimsby, Sheffield, Lincoln, Retford, Burton-on-Trent, Hartlepool, and Halifax, and during the past year he has sent to these places 59,098 rabbits, 1,348 hares, 582 partridges, 380 pheasants, 89 grouse, 30 black game, and 100 wild ducks.

In a locality richly watered by streams teeming with finny inhabitants, it is not surprising that we should find the manufacture of FISHING RODS and TACKLE a lucrative branch of industry. FLY-DRESSING is carried on to a great extent, and Kelso-made flies, being celebrated for their taking properties, find a ready sale amongst lovers of the gentle craft. The SADDLERY and HARNESS trade has flourished here from time immemorial, the business now carried on by Messrs J. & J. Johnston having been established for more than a century. Situated in the centre of a large agricultural district, there could scarcely be a better field for this trade than Kelso; hence we find at least three saddlery establishments in the town. The business of CORK-CUTTING is carried on with great spirit by Mr Middlemass, who em-

employs several hands in this trade, besides giving employment to a number of persons in his aerated water manufactory.

Amongst the general businesses carried on, on a pretty extensive scale, we may note specially those of GROCERY and DRAPERY. The former is carried on possibly to a greater extent than any other business in the town, the largest establishments being those of Mr Hogg, Mr Shiels, and Mr Gow. In the drapery line the firms of Lugton & Porteous, Milne Brothers, and Henderson & Co. do the largest amount of business; the other firms doing a very fair share, there being always a great demand for woollen, drapery, and haberdashery goods. DRESSMAKING and MILLINERY is carried on to a great extent not only in connection with the drapery trade, but very extensively as private

businesses. Kelso is also well supplied with BUTCHERS and BAKERS, the quality of meat being as fine as could be had anywhere, and the bread being most excellent. An extensive business is carried on by Messrs R. Hogarth & Sons, millers and corn merchants, of the Maxwellheugh Mills. Their trade in oatmeal, groats, fine pot and pearl barleys, with London alone, exceeds 8000 bags per annum. The quality of grain grown in this district cannot be surpassed, and in its manufactured state it is highly esteemed, and always commands the best prices. The firm of Kean, Robinson, Belville, & Company of London get their finest goods from Messrs Hogarth, and lately obtained from them samples of rough grain, as well as samples of the goods made by them for exhibition—along with articles of their own manufacture—at the

Vienna Exhibition, where they obtained a prize medal. Besides carrying on the trade of millers, they are dealers in corn and feeding stuffs of all kinds, and act as agents for Lawes' chemical manures.

The more miscellaneous trades which are carried on successfully comprise, amongst others, Basket-making, Clog-making, Book-binding, Bookselling, Photographing, Painting and Decorating, Building, Plastering, Joinery, Cabinet-making, Plumbing, Ironmongery, Iron-founding, Cutlery, Smith-work, Gardening, and Birdstuffing. In fact, there is hardly any useful trade which is not carried on to some extent in Kelso. We may note here that Kelso is famed for its sick nurses, who are in great requisition all over the district. As a proof of the town's commercial prosperity, we may

point to the various banks, at each of which a considerable amount of business is transacted. The first bank established here was a branch of the Bank of Scotland, which succeeded in Kelso after having failed in Glasgow; this was in the year 1774, exactly ninety-nine years ago. There are now, in all, five banks here: these are the Bank of Scotland, National Bank, British Linen Company's Bank, Commercial, and City of Glasgow, besides an agency of the National Security's Savings Bank. The trade of printing has been carried on in Kelso from time immemorial, books being met with the Kelso imprint of the sixteenth century;* but it was at the close of last

* One of John Knox's works—viz., "Faythful Admonition vnto the Professours of God's Truthe in England"—bears the imprint of "Kalykow, 1554." A short time previous to the publication of this work,

century that the town became famous for the excellence of its typography, when the Ballantynes started the *Kelso Mail*, and more especially when they printed and published the first two volumes of Scott's "Minstrelsy of the Border." As we have mentioned elsewhere,* the praise they had bestowed upon their work induced them to go to Edinburgh, where their success and failure became indissolubly associated with the literary history of our country. The reputation which Kelso acquired under the Ballan-

Knox had been stationed first at Berwick, and then at Newcastle, as a preacher. This may help to account for the circumstance of his having had the "Faythful Admonition" printed at Kelso. The popish prelates were at the time all-powerful in Scotland, except along the Border, where no authority, political or ecclesiastical, was respected; while Northumberland was mostly a waste, or in a state of barbarism.

* See *ante*, pp. 48-49.

tynes has been most ably sustained by succeeding printers, as the typography of this little work (proofs of which are now before us) will testify. From this same press have issued many handsome volumes, which for clearness and accuracy of printing will compete with any metropolitan work. As the printing carried on at the other establishments in the town is confined to newspaper work and jobbing, and as we are writing of book-work alone, no invidious remarks or comparisons are intended.

There is one very large establishment in Kelso, the firm of Redpath & Sons, who carry on business in Roxburgh Street as hardware merchants and general warehousemen, and give employment to between twenty and thirty hands. Besides supplying the town and neighbourhood, they send out travellers, who cover nearly all

the ground on this side of the Forth, between Glasgow on the west and Newcastle-on-Tyne in the south, their principal trade lying in the various towns and villages in the south of Scotland and north of England. Besides this they do business in Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other towns, to which places they send large quantities of fishing tackle regularly, besides receiving orders for tackle from London and other towns in England, and occasionally from America. They also send goods to Africa on account of the missionaries. Besides fishing tackle they sell boots and shoes, worsteds and yarns, small-wares, toys, general hardware, cutlery, watches, and jewellery, and do a very considerable trade in oils. Their turn-over in paraffin and petroleum is about one thousand barrels a year, and they import con-

siderable quantities of goods direct from France and Germany. They also do a considerable trade in domestic machinery, such as washing, wringing, mangling, and mincing machines, hand and treadle sewing machines, the labour-saving benefits of which are being more and more appreciated, and causing an increased demand over all the country. The business of this firm, which was established in 1812, will bear favourable comparison in any of its departments with other houses in the same trade in much larger towns.

Another very extensive establishment is that of Messrs Stuart & Mein, NURSERY and SEEDSMEN, which, although not so long established as some others in Scotland, still ranks high, and does a very large trade, extending its operations to all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. As

it was established by the late Archibald Stuart, brother to John Stuart, Esq., surgeon, whose name was a household word all over the district, for the purpose of supplying only genuine seeds at a time when seed adulteration was carried on to a great extent, this firm, by strictly adhering to the supplying of only first-class goods, has reaped the benefit of its integrity, and has gone on steadily increasing its business, and now occupies an important position in the agricultural and horticultural world. When we mention that they send out about fifty tons a year of clover seeds to farmers, some idea of the extent of their transactions may be formed. It may not be unworthy of notice here that Mr Mein was the only representative from Scotland who appeared before a committee of the House of Commons to support the passing of the Seed

Adulteration Act, which was carried after a great deal of opposition. Turnip seeds are sent by them all over the country, and as success is said to be an index of merit, we may mention that roots grown from seed supplied by them have been most successful at various exhibitions, no less than three silver cups, besides other premiums, having been awarded. Flower seeds are an important branch of their business, hundreds of packages being sent away every spring by rail and post: they have also introduced many valuable garden and flower seeds—the sorts best known being the Paradise Pea, named after their old nursery, the Prince Pea, and Variegated Kales, which have been awarded a special certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, and are figured in the *Floral World* of April last. Their improved

short-top Beet was awarded two first-class certificates in London, and their Gladioli have taken first prizes at the Crystal Palace, Edinburgh, Alnwick, and elsewhere. They have the honour of supplying seeds to the Royal Gardens at Windsor, and to many of the nobility and gentry throughout the country. We may mention that a few days ago they consigned to New Zealand a number of French pruning scissors for pruning fruit trees, which they introduced from the continent, and at the same time they packed a large quantity of garden seeds for India. Their nurseries are replete with shrubs and trees of all sorts, besides plants and flowers of every description and variety, all of which command an extensive sale.

Within the past few months the enterprising spirit of some of our merchants has been shown

by the formation of a bonded or duty-free warehouse, the only one, we understand, existing in any inland town in Scotland. We believe the idea originated with Mr Shiels of the Square and Mr Johnston of Roxburgh Street, who exerted themselves to get the sanction of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, which has been obtained. Extensive premises, part of the old Brewery, have been altered and renovated to adapt them to the purpose for which they are now to be used, and to meet the requirements of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. A short description of Mr Shiels', which was the first one in use, may not be uninteresting. The building is semi-sunk, roomy, and strong, with an arched roof, and the floor, which is made of a patent concrete, slopes gently from each side to the centre, while a fall of several inches

along the whole length to the end leads to a sunk receptacle or trough, so that in the event of a mishap to any cask, its contents would flow into the trough and be secured. Over this receptacle stands a blending vat capable of holding upwards of 1000 gallons, and inside this an ingenious arrangement of fanners, which, having a double action, sets the contents so completely in motion that a thorough blending of the various distillings takes place in a very short space of time. The vat is filled by means of a hose and pump, so that the contents of a cask situated at any part of the building can be transferred into the blending vat at the rate of 1200 gallons an hour. Altogether, Mr Shiels has spared neither trouble nor expense in the fitting up of this warehouse, and we have no doubt he will reap the fruits of his labour. He has

long been celebrated for the excellence of his whisky, as the following extract from the *Daily Telegraph* of August 30, 1867, will attest, and now he has introduced such methodical and scientific apparatus into his business, the result must be a superior quality of whisky than that obtained heretofore :—

“Kelso is a substantial, thriving place, rather famed for the excellence of two or three commodities. I am told that one shop in the Market Square is famed far and wide for old whisky, the judicious blending of several distillings; and if patronage be an infallible proof of merit, the excellence of the whisky in question is established beyond a doubt.”



II.

ROXBURGH CASTLE.

As Roxburgh Castle is so intimately associated with the history; not only of Kelso, but of Scotland, it was thought that a slight historical sketch of this famous fortress would not prove uninteresting to the readers of this little work, and we have therefore compiled a short account of it, condensed from various sources.

At what period the Castle was first built is quite a matter of conjecture, but it is probable that it owed its existence to the Saxons, who at

one time ruled the kingdom of Northumbria, of which Roxburgh was a province. It occupied a very striking and commanding position, being built on a lofty eminence, which rises abruptly from the plain to a height of forty feet, while on either side flow the rivers Tweed and Teviot, the latter running close at the foot of the mount, and forming a natural barrier on the south. On the north and west was a deep fosse or moat, which was filled with water from the Tweed or Teviot, and was discharged again into the river on the east. Over the moat a draw-bridge was thrown, and when this was drawn up the fortress was apparently quite isolated from the surrounding country. It is said, however, that there were communications with both rivers and with Kelso Abbey by means of subterraneous passages, but this conjecture has never been

substantiated, as no excavations have ever been made about the ruins.*

* In the year 1788, besides the discoveries noted in the following extracts from the *British Chronicle*, there was exposed on St James's Green a portion of a subterranean way neatly built of freestone, and it was thought at the time that it was a part of a communication with Roxburgh Castle. Although it was never cleared out to see where it terminated, we believe the examination of it at that time proved it to have been built for the purpose of conveying sewage to the river Tweed, probably from the town, and not from the castle, which could easily discharge its sewage into the Teviot. In the *British Chronicle* for October 17, 1788, the following paragraph occurs :—

“The workmen now employed in digging out the foundation of some religious houses which stood upon St James's Green, where the great annual fair of that name is now held, in the neighbourhood of this town, have dug up two stone coffins in which the bones were very entire, several pieces of painted glass, a silver coin of King Robert II., and other antique relics. The most remarkable is a tombstone (5 feet long and 21 inches broad) in fine preservation, upon which the device is a St George's cross, ornamented with *fleur-de-lis*, and a pair of wool scissars at the right hand side about the middle of the shaft; the inscription round the edge, in

Roxburgh Castle must have been an important stronghold in the early part of the

the Anglo-Saxon character, is as follows:—*Hic jacet Johanna Bulloc que obiit anno Dni MCCCLXXI orate p aia ejus.* She must have died in the reign of Robert II., the first King of Scotland of the name of Stuart, who succeeded David II. in February, 1370-1, and was crowned in March. It is remarkable, his mother being killed by a fall from her horse, he was brought into the world by the Cæsarean operation, and it is said, by the unskilfulness of the surgeon, he was wounded in the eye, whence he got the name of *Blear-eye*. At his accession the English were in the possession of the Castle of Roxburgh, and the town of Roxburgh was burnt in the year 1372 by the Earl of March, in consequence of one of his domestics having been killed by the English in a fray at the fair held at Roxburgh in 1371, no doubt the same fair now called St James's."

In the paper of the subsequent week it is noted:—“Since our last publication several more tombstones have been found in the ruins of the church at St James's Green, some of them without any inscription. Upon one, which is broke and a part of it wanting, is a St George and a St Andrew's cross intersecting one another, with a pair of wool scissars on the right hand side of the shaft, and an inscription, which, so far as it can be made out, is *Hic jacet Alicia*—LC—. On the pavement of the church, which consisted of small bricks or tiles, a

twelfth century, for the first authentic mention of it in history is as the residence of David, Earl of Northumberland, during the reign of his brother Alexander the First of Scotland. After his accession to the throne he continued to reside there, and constituted it a royal palace, and as such it was used by several of our kings. In 1125, soon after his accession to the throne, David was visited by John, cardinal of Crima, legate of Pope Honourius, who was commissioned to settle a dispute of long standing between the Archbishop of York and the Scottish

small part of which was uncovered by curious people, some burnt wheat and barley was found, which, though reduced to a charcoal state, retained their original shape perfect and complete, and were of a large size. As the search was directed to the discovery of stones, and not of curiosities, now that the foundations have been all traced out, the workmen are employed in filling up and levelling the ground.”

bishops respecting the primacy which the Archbishop claimed over the Church in Scotland, which claim the Scottish bishops objected to. Although the question does not seem to have been decided, yet we find the following year that Robert, who had been appointed bishop of St Andrews, and whose consecration had been deferred in consequence of the controversy, was consecrated at York by the Archbishop, assisted by Ralph, bishop of Durham, without, however, making any profession of obedience or subjection to the see of York.

In 1127 David, who had been in England swearing fealty to the Empress Maud as the heir of his father to the throne of England, returned to Roxburgh, attended by Thurstin, archbishop of York ; Ralph, bishop of Durham ; and Algar, prior of St Cuthbert's Con-

vent, Durham. In their presence, and at their request, and that of John, bishop of Glasgow, Robert, bishop of St Andrews, delivered, in the month of July, before the door of the church of St John the Evangelist in Roxburgh, a charter of liberties to the church of Coldingham, and to all the churches and chapels that should henceforth canonically belong to the church of St Cuthbert.* About the year 1126, the peace which had marked the reigns of Edgar, Alexander, and the beginning of that of David was disturbed by an insurrection in Murray, headed by Angus, earl of that ilk; but it was speedily quelled, for Angus and many of his followers were slain at Strickathrow, in the county of Forfar. The seeds of this rebellion sprang up again, however, and in the year 1134

* Ridpath, p. 75.

Wimund, an English monk, who pretended to be the son of Angus, and called himself Malcolm Macheth, or Macbeth, and who was the chief rebel, was captured by the people, and, having put out his eyes, delivered him into the hands of David, who confined him in the tower of Roxburgh Castle, thus restoring tranquillity again to the kingdom. Peace was not destined to reign long, for on the death of David's brother-in-law, Henry I. of England, in 1135, Stephen, count of Boulogne, nephew to the late king, seized the throne in the absence of the Empress Maud, the heir to the crown, and summoned David, king of Scotland, to do homage and swear fealty to him. This David refused to do, and said he would rather meet the English forces than violate his oath to the Empress Maud. Stephen soon gave him the opportunity

for in the same year he sent the Duke of Gloucester with a large army into Northumberland, laying it waste, and slaughtering the inhabitants. David revenged this by sending the Earls of Angus, March, and Monteith with a powerful force into England, where the enemy was routed with considerable slaughter at Allerton, the commander of the English army and many of the nobles being taken prisoners. During the years 1136, 1137, and 1138 there was constant warfare—Carlisle, Wark, Alnwick, Norham, and Newcastle having been in turn attacked and taken by David, and although treaties were negotiated they were not kept. While Stephen was in Normandy in 1137, David sent a large army to take possession of Northumberland, and the English collected their forces at Newcastle, so that a deadly battle was imminent. It was,

however, averted by Thurstin, archbishop of York, who, though very old, hastened to Roxburgh, where he prevailed upon David and his son Henry to agree to a truce for four months, or till the English king should return from the continent, on condition that Northumberland should be given up to Prince Henry. On the return of Stephen, he refused this condition, and early in 1138 David advanced into England, but was driven back, and hastily retreated across the Border to protect his own territories. Stephen followed him as far as Roxburgh, from which David withdrew, and took up a strong position in the neighbourhood, which was only accessible by one narrow passage. At the same time he gave directions to the garrison of Roxburgh to surrender the place to Stephen on his appearing before it, so that he might be en-

trapped and surprised by the Scottish army while in the castle; but Stephen, evidently warned of the snare, did not come to Roxburgh, but after laying waste the eastern border of Scotland, returned again to England.

In 1152 the country suffered a severe loss in the death of Prince Henry, Earl of Northumberland, David's only son, and heir-apparent to the throne. His father, who is said to have borne the loss with the patience of a real saint, survived him only a year, but before his decease had taken proper measures to secure the succession of his crown to Malcolm, Prince Henry's eldest son, and the earldom of Northumberland to his second son, William. History does not state where King David was buried, but we should imagine he would request that his bones should rest beside those of his

son in the beautiful abbey he had erected at Kelso.*

After the death of David, Malcolm being a minor, some of the unruly chieftains of the north broke out into open rebellion. These were Sumerled, lord of Argyle, and his nephews, the sons of Malcolm Macbeth, whom David had imprisoned in Roxburgh Castle. In 1154, Donald, one of these sons, was captured at Whitehorn, in Galloway, sent to Roxburgh, and confined in the same tower with his father. Sumerled grew so strong and daring that the King had to come to terms of accommodation with him, but in 1164 he and his son were slain in another rebellion. Malcolm resided much at Roxburgh, and frequently attended divine service in the church of Kelso; for he confirms to that

* See *ante*, p. 16.

church all the offerings made by himself and his attendants, whensoever, on solemnities or other days, he heard the service of God in that church. The populousness of Roxburgh and the country in the neighbourhood may be inferred from the mention of churches in that place, now granted to the Kelso convent, as freely as they had been held by Acceline, the archdeacon, and which churches seem to be different from the lately-erected church of St James. The same appears from the grant of twenty chalders, partly corn and partly meal, to be paid out of the Roxburgh mills, which probably was the estimate of the amount of the seventh part of the mills of this burgh, granted in David's charter to the Abbey of Selkirk. Mention is also made of a new town of Roxburgh.*

* Ridpath, page 92, note.

Malcolm confirmed in 1159 the grants made by his father and grandfather to the monks of Kelso. He died at Jedburgh on Thursday the 9th of December, 1165, in the twenty-fifth year of his age and thirteenth of his reign.

He was succeeded by his brother William, surnamed the Lion, a daring soldier, and a bitter enemy to the English. In one of his incursions into England in 1174, he took the castles of Liddel, Brough, and Appleby, in Westmorland, and those of Warkworth and Harbottle, in Northumberland. Having failed to reduce the castle of Prudhoe, on the south side of the Tyne, and a large army having been raised to resist him, he retired to Scotland ; but stopping on the road to lay siege to Alnwick Castle, he was early one morning, while attended by only 60 horse, surprised by a party of 400

English cavalry, sent on purpose to waylay him by the governor of Newcastle, who was aware of the unguarded manner in which the Scottish King exposed himself. Thinking they were some of his own men, he rode forward to meet them, but on perceiving his mistake, instead of seeking refuge in flight, he boldly gave them battle, and after a short but sharp conflict, his horse being killed under him, he was overpowered and taken prisoner with almost the whole of his attendants. He was taken first to Newcastle, afterwards to Richmond, and then to Northampton, where he was delivered up to King Henry.

He was carried by the English King across the channel, and confined first at Caen, and afterwards at Falaise, at which place he concluded a treaty by which he regained his liberty,

but at the sacrifice of his sovereignty and his kingdom, Scotland being brought into a state of vassalage to the English monarch. The Church of Scotland was to acknowledge the supremacy of the English bishops, and a ransom had to be paid of £100,000, one-half down, and to insure the payment of the other half, and the fulfilment of the treaty, the castles of Roxburgh, Jedburgh, Berwick, Edinburgh, and Stirling were to be delivered up to him, but to be maintained by the King of Scotland according to the pleasure of King Henry ; and as further security, David, the King's brother, with twenty earls or barons, were to be given as hostages.* In the year 1177, at Windsor, King Henry changed the governors of his castles in Scotland, and gave

* Haig, pp. 198, 199.

the keeping of Roxburgh, which had formerly been in the hands of Roger, archbishop of York, to William de Stuteville. Henry II. was succeeded in 1189 by his son Richard, surnamed Cœur de Lion, who, wishing to make an expedition to the Holy Land, and not having funds enough at his disposal, invited King William to his court at Canterbury, and for a remuneration of 10,000 merks sterling restored Scotland to its independence, and granted him an acquittance of all obligations which his father had extorted from him by new instruments in consequence of his captivity. Roxburgh Castle, therefore, once more fell into the hands of the Scots.

Although now at peace with England, Scotland was not free from strife, for there were ever arising internal troubles and commotions to keep the kingdom in a constant state of alarm,

and in the year 1196 Harold, Earl of Caithness, took up arms against his sovereign. The King went at the head of an army to suppress him, and although not at first successful, he took him prisoner the following year, 1197, and carried him to Roxburgh, where he was kept till he made his peace with the King, which he ultimately did, leaving his son, Torphin, as a pledge for his future loyalty. As he subsequently broke faith with the King, his son suffered for his perfidy, his eyes being put out, and other cruelties exercised on him as brought his life to a miserable end in prison.

In the year 1207, one half of the town of Roxburgh was destroyed by an accidental fire, and in 1209 the bishops of Rochester and Salisbury, while under the interdict of the Pope in England, obtained refuge from King William at

Roxburgh and Kelso.* Roxburgh was again reduced to ashes in February, 1216, by King John, who was incensed at the barons in the north of England taking the oath of fidelity to Alexander for the sake of his protection from the tyranny of the English King, who had been compelled to sign the Magna Charta the previous year. The towns of Berwick, Alnwick, Mitford, Dunbar, and Haddington were also burnt, and the inhabitants put to torture to force them to discover their valuables. In 1221 Alexander brought home his bride, Jane, eldest sister of Henry III., to Roxburgh. About Whitsunday, 1227, he conferred the honour of knighthood, at the castle of Roxburgh, on his kinsman, John Scot, Earl of Huntingdon, the son of his uncle, Earl David. The same honour was con-

* See *ante*, p. 16.

ferred at the same time on several other young noblemen.* Alexander's wife, Jane, having died on the 4th of March, 1238, leaving no children, Alexander, on the 4th of May, 1239, married the daughter of Ingleram de Couci, a French nobleman, at Roxburgh, amidst great pomp and festivity. Two years afterwards she bore him a son at the same place, who was called Alexander, after his father, and succeeded him in the kingdom. In the year 1243 the burghs of Roxburgh, Haddington, Lanark, Stirling, Perth, Forfar, Montrose, Aberdeen, and Inverness were almost totally consumed by fire; some of the fires were the result of accident, others are said to have been caused by incendiaries. Alexander II. died in 1249, and was succeeded by his son, then

* Ridpath, p. 129, note.

only eight years of age. The youthful King was married with great pomp at York in 1251 to the Princess Margaret, daughter to Henry III. Having taken up their residence in Edinburgh Castle, they were imprisoned by the governors of the kingdom in separate rooms, which coming to the ears of King Henry, he sent, in 1255, an army into Scotland, surprised the castle, and removed the royal pair to Roxburgh, where he paid them a visit, which lasted fifteen or sixteen days, during which period he was entertained with the most princely magnificence.* This visit of the English King was not altogether relished by the Scottish nobles, who thought he had taken too much upon himself in recommending the Earl of March or Dunbar as guardian of their youthful majesties. As the possession

* See *ante*, pp. 26-27.

of the King's person also gave possession of the Government, there were several factions desirous of having the King and the power in their own hands. The Pope having excommunicated the party in power, proposals were forwarded along with a letter from the King, dated at Roxburgh the 4th of February, 1257, to King Henry requesting a letter of safe conduct to Robert Stuteville, dean of Dunkeld, and Andrew Morham, the bearers of it, who were sent to know his pleasure on this point; but these proposals not receiving his approbation, this party resolved to seize upon the King's person, and thus to put themselves in possession of the Government.* They seized the King and Queen while in bed at Kinross, and conveyed him to Roxburgh, where, early in 1258,

* Haig, p. 212.

he assembled an army to proceed against the excommunicated nobles, but as they promised to appear at Forfar on trial on a certain day he desisted. Instead of doing this they appealed to King Henry for advice, and the result was that the agreement made at Roxburgh in 1255 was annuled and a new regency formed, which included the chief men of both parties and the Queen Dowager.

In 1266 Edward, afterwards Edward I. of England, visited Alexander and his sister, the Queen, at Roxburgh, where he was entertained with the utmost festivity. The following year, Henry's younger son, Edward, was entertained by the King and Queen of Scotland at Berwick, where Alexander, accompanied by his nobles, celebrated his own birthday with royal pomp. In 1268 the two princes, Edward and Edmond,

were received by Alexander and his Queen at Roxburgh. The 4th of May, 1281, saw the contract for the marriage of Margaret, daughter of Alexander and Eric, the King of Norway, executed at Roxburgh, and the nuptials of Prince Alexander, the King of Scotland's only son, with Margaret, daughter of the Earl of Flanders, were solemnized on the 9th of April at the same place. This marriage, which was celebrated amidst the greatest enthusiasm, the festivities lasting for fifteen days, was doomed to disappoint the people, for the Prince died the following year at Londors in the 20th year of his age without leaving issue. The children of Alexander III. seem to have been very delicate, as it is said the Prince laboured under some dangerous distemper before his marriage, and his sister, who was married to Eric, died about

twenty months after her marriage, leaving, however, a daughter on whom the hopes of Scotland depended.

Alexander having been killed by a fall from his horse at Kinghorn in 1286, Eric, in 1289, applied to Edward for his assistance in placing his daughter on the throne of Scotland, and for his protection of her from the dangers she would be exposed to from the factions and dissensions of her subjects. It was arranged that King Edward's son, Prince Edward, should wed the young Queen, and accordingly a proper escort was sent to Norway to bring Margaret to Scotland. The fleet which was accompanying her touched at the Orkney Isles, and Margaret landing there fell ill of a fever, which terminated her life in the year 1290. Thus the hopes of Scotland were once more dashed to the ground,

and instead of peace and prosperity smiling upon the country, it was now rent by bitter dissensions and cruel wars. A number of competitors laid claim to the vacant throne, chief amongst whom were John Baliol, Robert Bruce, and the King of Norway. The Parliament not being able to come to a proper decision, they referred the matter to King Edward, who removed all the public records to Roxburgh, where his auditors for Scottish affairs held their sittings. The King himself appears to have spent some time there, as a number of official orders are dated from Roxburgh between the 8th and 18th of December, 1292. The decision was in favour of John Baliol, who was crowned King of Scotland in November, 1192. Although the new King of Scotland at first did homage to the King of England, yet many years

had not elapsed before we find him at open war with his acknowledged superior, and advised by his Parliament to renounce his allegiance and fealty to Edward. In 1296 he made two inroads into England, which were attended by neither honour nor advantage, and Edward, having collected a large and well-disciplined army, advanced to Berwick, which he took and sacked, slaughtering the inhabitants without respect to age or sex, and, pushing forward, encountered Baliol at Dunbar, whom he completely defeated. From thence he went to Roxburgh, which was at once surrendered by the commander, James, steward of Scotland, on condition that the lives and property of himself and garrison would be spared. He afterwards, along with the magistrates and burgesses, took the oath of fidelity to Edward, and the King,

having appointed Walter Tonk governor of the town and castle, departed for Edinburgh, where he took the castle after a slight resistance. Stirling and Perth fell an easy prey to the English, and their forces having been increased by the arrival of 30,000 foot and 400 horse from Ireland, they pushed farther north, but when at Brechin messages were received from Baliol suing for peace. Edward would accept no other terms than that Baliol should renounce his kingdom, which he did, and shortly afterwards he and his son were sent to London by sea, where they were kept as prisoners for more than three years. The English King, who had proceeded as far north as Elgin, receiving the homage of his new subjects on his route, took with him when he returned home the famous stone upon which the Scottish Kings were

crowned at Scone, and deposited it in Westminster, where it is to this present day. During the interregnum the country was in a sad state, the deputies appointed by Edward oppressing the people in an intolerable manner. The spirit of independence, however, was not altogether crushed out of the Scots, and there arose a man in the emergency, whose efforts towards ridding his country of the yoke under which it laboured have created for him an undying name—this man was Sir William Wallace, the hero of Scotland. He collected a few partizans, and made several successful incursions into England, and although some of his party made their peace with Edward, he disdained to submit. Meeting the English army near Stirling, he attacked and defeated it with great slaughter, pursuing the fugitives as far as Berwick, and taking posses-

sion of the town, which was abandoned by the English as soon as the Scots made their appearance. The Bishop of Glasgow being confined in Roxburgh Castle as one of the sureties for the submission of the Scottish nobles, Wallace, after having made a few more successful inroads into England, laid siege to the castle in order to liberate the Bishop, but hearing of the approach of the Earl of Surrey with a great force, he abandoned the siege, and retired without being pursued by the enemy.

The arrival of the army was most opportune, as the garrison had been reduced by the siege to great distress. Edward, who was on the continent at this time, concluded a truce with the King of France, and returning to England with all possible expedition, he soon collected a large army at Roxburgh, amounting to about

7000 horse and 80,000 foot: he proceeded to the west of Scotland, having ordered the fleet to repair to the Clyde with necessaries of every kind for his army. The fleet not having arrived, he returned eastward, and when in the neighbourhood of Linlithgow, hearing the Scots were assembling near Falkirk, he marched thence, attacked and defeated them.

In May, 1303, Edward assembled a considerable army at Roxburgh, and, proceeding with it northwards to Brechin, took the castle after a twenty days' siege. After this he went as far north as Caithness, and being successful returned south and wintered at Dunfermline, where he received, in February, 1304, the submission of John Comyn of Badenoch, the regent, and of eleven knights, for themselves and all their adherents. In 1305, John de Bretagne was ap-

pointed guardian of the castles of Roxburgh and Jedburgh, Peter Luband of Linlithgow governor of Edinburgh Castle; while to Wm. Bisset and Sir John Menteith was entrusted the care of Stirling and Dumbarton Castles.

Robert Bruce having been crowned at Scone on the 25th of March, 1306, Edward sent a large army, under Aymar de Valence, into Scotland, which surprised King Robert at Perth, and completely overpowered him. All the friends and relations of the Bruce who fell into the hands of the English were treated most cruelly, with the exception of the Queen, who, being the daughter of the Earl of Ulster, was merely confined to the manor of Brustewick, having a suitable establishment provided for her, and allowed the liberty of walking and hunting in the parks.*

* Haig, p. 229.

Bruce's sister, Christina, and his daughter, Margery, were ordered to be shut up in convents ; his sister, Mary, to be shut up in an iron cage in one of the towers of Roxburgh Castle ; and the Countess of Buchan to share the same fate at Berwick.* The brothers of Bruce were condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, which sentence was rigorously executed.

Edward died at Burgh, a small town on the shore of the Solway Firth, on the 7th of July, 1307, and was succeeded by his son, Edward.

* The order to the Chamberlain of Scotland or his Lieutenant at Berwick-on-Tweed commanded that the cage for the Countess of Buchan be made of very strong lattice work, barred and well secured with iron, that none but Englishwomen attend her, and that she may not be allowed to speak with man or woman who may belong to Scotland, and that the keeper shall be answerable for her, body for body, and shall not have access to her. A similar cage was ordered for Lady Mary Bruce at Roxburgh Castle.

After giving directions concerning the obsequies of his father, he came to Dumfries and Roxburgh, where he received the fealty and homage of such Scottish nobles as were disaffected to Bruce or obnoxious to the power of England. Edward II. was a very different man from his father, possibly not so ambitious, and certainly less firm of purpose. While his father desired nothing so ardently as to punish the contumacious Scots and completely subdue the country, he, more intent upon pleasure, did not follow out his father's wishes, so that meanwhile Bruce, having recovered from a severe illness, made considerable progress towards regaining his kingdom. King Edward began to fear he would lose the kingdom, and at the head of a large army he left Roxburgh, and, proceeding through the forest of Selkirk, got as far as Renfrew,

but without achieving anything worthy of notice, as he returned to Berwick by way of Linlithgow, where he wintered. On the 13th of March, 1310, he arranged to exchange Lady Mary Bruce for Walter Comyn, then a prisoner of the Scots, and accordingly she was released from her barbarous confinement in Roxburgh Castle. In 1311 Edward ordered Robert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, to collect all his forces at Roxburgh in order to proceed against Robert Bruce, but instead of doing anything of consequence with this force, they allowed the Scottish King to enter England, and after laying waste the northern counties, the inhabitants purchased a truce till the ensuing Candlemas for the sum of £2000 sterling, which they paid down.

Success now followed the Scottish arms, and

in the year 1313, on Shrove Tuesday, Sir James Douglas, with sixty of his most resolute followers, took Roxburgh Castle by stratagem. He caused his men to disguise themselves in black frocks so that the glitter of their armour might not be observed, and having advanced to a certain distance from the walls, ordered all his men to fall flat on the ground and approach on their hands and feet. The sentinels, mistaking them in the dark for cattle, gave no alarm, and rope-ladders having been thrown over the walls, the warriors were soon inside the battlements. Before the sentinels—now aware of the nature of the cattle they had to deal with—could give the alarm, they were dispatched, and the body of armed men rushing to the hall, where the English were feasting, a dreadful carnage ensued, and being without arms the most

of them were slain. A few escaped in the confusion, and along with the governor retreated to the great tower, where they made a desperate resistance for two days. At the end of that time they surrendered on condition of their lives being spared and their persons safely conducted into England. This was agreed to by Sir James, but the governor died of his wounds a few days afterwards, and the castle was by order of King Robert demolished. Edinburgh Castle was taken a short time afterwards by Thomas Randolph, the King's nephew, and a band of thirty men, in a very similar manner.

Edward Bruce, the brother of the King, emulous of the glory of Douglas and Randolph, besieged Stirling Castle, and although he carried on the siege with great courage, it resisted all his efforts to reduce it. He therefore made an

agreement with Sir Philip Mowbray, the governor, on midsummer's day, that if the English did not relieve it before a twelvemonth and a day, it was to be delivered to his brother, the King of Scotland.*

In the following year, 1314, Edward determined to relieve the Castle of Stirling, and prepared diligently for the expedition both by sea and land, and sent orders to the Sheriffs and others having authority in England and Wales, commanding them, under the heaviest penalties, *to urge, hasten, and compel* bodies of able footmen from each of their districts to meet him at Wark on the 10th of June sufficiently armed and prepared to march thence against the King's enemies and for the rescue of Stirling Castle. On the sixth or seventh day before midsummer,

* Ridpath, p. 242.

Edward set out from Berwick with an army of upwards of 100,000 men, of whom 40,000 were horse and 52,000 archers. On the evening of Sunday the 23d the van of the English came upon the Scots in their strong post near Stirling, when they had an encounter, in which Robert Bruce "spoilt his good battle-axe" by cleaving the head of Sir Henry Bohun. A party of spearmen under the Earl of Murray also attacked and put to rout a band of English horsemen who were forcing their way to the castle. These were but skirmishes; but the following day, on the field of Bannockburn, the great blow for Scottish liberty and independence was struck, when Robert Bruce achieved a most glorious victory, and utterly routed the English army. Edward sought safety in flight, and got to Dunbar, whence he was conveyed by sea to

Bamburgh or Berwick, and shortly afterwards retired to York. Robert Bruce, unlike Edward's father, proved himself a magnanimous monarch in the hour of victory. He treated the prisoners with humanity, and took care that the bodies of persons of rank who had fallen in the battle should be decently buried. He sent the bodies of the Earl of Gloucester and Lord Robert Clifford to King Edward, and released without ransom Lord Robert de Mounthermer, the husband of the King's sister.

While behaving with such moderation, Bruce did not neglect the interests of his country, but sent his brother, Edward, and Sir James Douglas, into England, where they swept the country as far as Richmondshire, and obliged the inhabitants of the bishopric of Durham to pay a great sum to save themselves from destruction.

They carried off a great booty of cattle and all sorts of moveable goods and prisoners, and spread terror all over the country, so that one hundred English have been known to fly at the alarm of the appearance of two or three Scots.

Bruce seems to have taken up his residence at Roxburgh after this, for in July, 1317, the Pope sent two legates into England armed with powers to bring about a peace between Scotland and England. Afraid to enter Scotland, they sent messengers to King Robert asking for a safe conduct and protection, and entrusted the messengers with the letters from the Pope and letters from themselves stating the conditions on which they were to make the peace. With great difficulty and danger these messengers reached Roxburgh, and were very graciously received by the King, but the cardinals having

sealed their letters and addressed them to Robert Bruce, *governor of Scotland*, he would not allow them to be opened; the Pope's letters being open, he allowed them to be read, but refused any answer till he had consulted his barons. He also sent a notice to the legates that they would not be allowed to enter Scotland till they or their master, the Pope, acknowledged his title to the crown of Scotland. This answer enraged the cardinals, who immediately sent a friar with the Pope's bulls, to read them before Bruce, and to declare, on the authority of his holiness, a truce between the two nations; which having been done, King Robert said he would pay no attention to any mandatory or bull of the Pope so long as he refused to acknowledge him King of Scotland, and having dismissed the friar without a letter of safe con-

duct, he was waylaid and robbed of all his papers and clothes.* Edward invaded Scotland in 1322, but was defeated, driven into England, where his army was defeated again, and the King obliged to take refuge in the city of York. A truce was then concluded, during which the King of Scotland resided at Roxburgh, Edinburgh, Berwick, and other cities.

Robert Bruce died on the 7th of June, 1329, and his only son, David, then six years and three months old, ascended the throne, and immediately afterwards Edward, son of John Baliol, came forward to claim the crown. Edward III. of England supported his claims, and assisted him to invade Scotland; and in the year 1332 the Earl of Mar, governor of the kingdom during the minority of David II., was

* Ridpath, p. 255; Haig, p. 235.

completely defeated at Duplin, near Perth. Edward Baliol immediately went to Scone, where he caused the Earl of Fife, whom he had taken prisoner at Duplin, and the Bishop of Dunkeld, to crown him King of Scotland. He, of course, acknowledged the supremacy of Edward III., and made arrangements to pay him £2000 yearly revenue in lands for the services and assistance he had received from him, and made other promises, showing his submission to the English King. As a surety for the fulfilment of these promises, he empowered the English monarch to take possession of the Castle of Roxburgh and all the other fortresses in the kingdom till, by the profits arising from them, he should have liquidated his debt.

Sir Andrew Murray, the governor of Scotland, hearing that Baliol was at Roxburgh or

in the neighbourhood, sent Lord Archibald Douglas, John Randolph, Earl of Murray, and Simon Fraser with one thousand chosen men, who surprised Baliol on the night of the 24th of December at the village of Annan, where he had gone to keep the Christmas festival. After a brave resistance, Baliol's retinue was defeated, and the King, half naked, fled on a horse without a saddle over the sands of Solway into England.* Early in the following year, 1333, on his returning to Scotland, accompanied by an English army, the keeper and garrison of Roxburgh, who had remained faithful to Baliol, received him into the castle, where he waited the arrival of the King of England. The guardian of the young King, David II. (Sir Andrew Murray) endeavoured to take the

* Ridpath, p. 301.

castle, but was overpowered and taken prisoner. As the castle was now virtually the property of the English, Edward resided there when occasion required ; and we find that in February, 1334, he left Roxburgh to meet Baliol at Edinburgh, where the treaty ceding the town and Castle of Roxburgh, &c., was ratified. Immediately after this, Edward took legal measures and put himself in complete possession of those places, William de Felton being appointed governor of Roxburgh Castle, which was put into a state of repair. Edward came to Roxburgh in November of this year, and having made an unimportant excursion to Glasgow, returned to Roxburgh, where he kept the Christmas festival. After the holidays, he made an ineffectual expedition into the forest of Etrick, for the enemies he expected to meet there

had retired, so he returned to Roxburgh, where he remained a considerable time.

After the battle of Burrow-moor in 1335, the Earl of Murray courteously escorted his prisoners to England, whom he had released without ransom because of the relationship between the King of France and the Count of Namur, the leader of the band of armed men against whom he had fought. But this generosity of his cost him dear, for on his return he fell into an ambush laid for him by the garrison of Roxburgh, was taken prisoner, and detained in England for two years. King Edward this same year appointed Anthony de Lucy keeper of the English marches, of Roxburgh, and other places on the Borders. In 1336 Edward went north, where he committed great ravages, laying waste all the possessions of the guardian in Murrayshire,

and reducing the town of Aberdeen to ashes, and at the expense of the Abbeys of St Andrews, Dunfermline, Lindores, Balmerino, Arbroath, and Cupar, he rebuilt the fortifications of Perth. He also gave orders for putting the Castles of Edinburgh, Stirling, and Roxburgh into a complete state of repair and defence, and at the same time he put into Roxburgh a strong garrison. In 1338, he gave orders to William de Felton, the governor of Roxburgh Castle, to keep forty men-at-arms, instead of forty light horsemen, to defend the castle.

In 1339, Baliol, alarmed at the success of his enemies, who had retaken all the fortresses which King Edward had conquered for him, with the exception of Stirling, Edinburgh, and Roxburgh, fled for refuge into England. Edward, although engaged at the time with the

war in France, made, early in the year 1340, preparations for the defence of the castles still in his possession ; but a truce having been concluded on the 25th September between England and France, in which Scotland participated, there was an end to hostilities in the meantime. The following year war again broke out ; but a truce was entered into for six months, in consequence of which Edward kept his Christmas at Melrose, his lieutenant-general, the Earl of Derby, celebrating the same festival at Roxburgh. The chivalrous spirit which predominated at that time was such that Sir William Douglas and three other Scottish knights paid him a visit, were warmly received, and entertained with the martial sport of jousting by Derby and the knights of his train. The Castle of Roxburgh was taken by escalade on the 30th of March, 1342,

by Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie, who was denominated the flower of chivalry. For this gallant action, King David, on his arrival from France (where he had taken refuge in 1333), conferred upon him the appointment of governor of the castle and the sheriffdom of Teviotdale, an office claimed as a right by the family of Douglas. The envy of Lord William Douglas, who had formerly held the office of sheriff, was so strong, and his resentment so unforgiving, that shortly afterwards he seized Ramsay and carried him to Hermitage Castle, where he was starved to death. Douglas, afraid of the anger of the King, fled to the mountains, where he concealed himself for a considerable time, but was at length, through the intercession of the steward, pardoned, and reinstated into his former office. In 1346, David, having deter-

mined to invade England, marched with a large army from Perth to Edinburgh, and from thence to Roxburgh; but after marching a considerable way into England, laying waste the country as they went along, his army was defeated, and himself taken prisoner. The Castle of Roxburgh once more fell into the hands of the English, having surrendered by capitulation. Copeland, a gentleman of Northumberland, who had taken King David prisoner, was in the year 1347 made governor of Roxburgh Castle. After this, Edward seems to have resided occasionally at the castle, for a great many ordinances bear the date January, 1355. In the following year he received there, on the 20th of January, the formal surrender from Edward Baliol of his right and title to the throne of Scotland. In 1357 a treaty was concluded at

the church of the Friars Minor at Roxburgh, by which the lands on the Border were to continue in the hands of their present possessors. In the years 1359, 1360, and 1361 orders were issued for putting Roxburgh Castle into a state of complete repair. King David was released in 1357 for a ransom of 100,000 merks sterling, payable in ten years, but the Castles of Roxburgh and Berwick-on-Tweed were still held by the English as security for the payment of the money.

Repeated attempts were made by the Scots to capture Roxburgh Castle, and in 1385 they, having assistance from France in the war against England, pressed the French commander to help them in their endeavours against the castle; but his stipulation being, that if the place was taken it should be given up to his master for the as-

sistance he had rendered, the idea was abandoned. It was attempted, however, the next year, but the attempt was unsuccessful. From this time till the year 1460 the castle remained in the hands of the English, and nothing of much importance is recorded of it. It was arranged in 1397 that the complaints of the Scots against their neighbours, the English, for damage done to them, should be lodged at Roxburgh and the complaints of the English at Kelso, and accordingly a complaint was presented in 1398 against the son of the Earl of Douglas, who, with Sir William Stewart and others, had broken down the bridge of Roxburgh, burnt and plundered the town, made a breach in the wall, and burnt hay and fuel to the damage of £2000, contrary to the terms of the truce.* Roxburgh bridge

* Haig, p. 263.

was again broken down and the town burnt in 1411 by Gavin, a son of the Earl of March, and William Douglas of Drumlanrig. In 1419 Henry V. ordered the Castle of Roxburgh to be repaired and put into a defensible state. In the year 1422, while James I. was a prisoner in the hands of the English, there being a war raging between France and England, the Scots, in order to make a diversion in favour of the former, laid siege to Berwick and Roxburgh, but without success.

James I. was released in 1423 on condition of £40,000 sterling being paid as ransom in the course of six years. A marriage having been arranged in 1428 between the Dauphin of France and the eldest daughter of King James, the English, afraid of the results of such a close alliance between the hostile powers, sent Lord

Scroop to Scotland with proposals for the marriage of the Princess with the King of England, and offering a "perpetual peace between the two countries; the restitution of Roxburgh and Berwick, and all that the Scots anciently possessed in England, as far as the Re-cross in Yorkshire." These offers were rejected by the Scottish Parliament, and the English in revenge sent an army under the Earl of Northumberland to invade Scotland. The Scots were victorious at Poppenden, in Northumberland, after a desperate battle, and this determined the King to lay siege to Roxburgh, which he carried on with such vigour that the castle was on the point of surrendering, when the Queen of Scotland suddenly came to the camp and apprised the King of a conspiracy formed against his life. In consequence of this intelligence, he raised the

siege, disbanded the army, and went to Perth to investigate into the matter ; and was murdered there on the 21st day of February, 1437. In 1455 an Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament making it treason for any Scotsman to supply Roxburgh or Berwick with victuals, fuel, or other *supportacion* ; and in 1456 another Act prohibited the exportation of grain to Roxburgh, Berwick, and England, under pain of such punishment as might be awarded by the judges.

In July, 1460, James II. determined to besiege the castle, which had been held by the English upwards of 100 years, and with a considerable force invested the town, which soon fell, when the regular storming of the castle commenced. The siege was pursued with great vigour till King James unfortunately met with his death by the bursting of one of his own pieces of ar-

tillery.* The leaders of the army, almost paralyzed at this accident, would have abandoned the enterprize had not the Queen, taking her infant son, addressed the leaders as follows:—
“Lose not with shame the time and labours you have bestowed on this siege, neither let the loss of one man bereave you of your courage; and seeing this chance is not known to the rest, bear ye a good countenance, so that no more may know the same. Forward, therefore, my lords, and put an end to this honourable enterprize, sacrificing rather the lives of your enemies than your own tears to the ghost of your Prince.” Such an address was not without the effect she intended, and the result was that the

* See *ante*, pp. 28, 29. A holly tree on the north side of the Tweed, in front of Floors Castle, now marks the spot where King James fell.

castle was so fiercely assaulted that it surrendered on condition that the garrison were allowed to depart with arms and baggage. In order to prevent its ever being made a stronghold again by the English, the victors reduced it to a heap of ruins, and advancing to Wark destroyed the castle there.

James IV. granted to Walter Ker of Cessford and to his heirs, by a charter dated 20th February, 1499, the Castle of Roxburgh and the site thereof, called the Castell-stede, with the site and capital messuage of Roxburgh, together with the right of patronage of the hospital called "Le Masson Dew," and whatever was annexed to the said hospital, castle, and messuage. Roxburgh Castle was never again rebuilt; but in the year 1547 the Duke of Somerset, protector of England during the

minority of Edward VI., having invaded Scotland on the morning after the surrender of Hume Castle, crossed the Tweed, and encamped on the plain over against Kelso, between the ruins of the ancient Castle of Roxburgh and the confluence of the Tweed and Teviot, where he was impressed by the commanding position of the old fortress. He accordingly set about repairing the ruin: trenches were dug, and the gaps in the walls filled with turf, wherein loopholes were made so as to admit of defence should the place be stormed. So vigorously did the English work at the repairing of the castle that it was finished in five or six days, and it is said the Duke himself, to encourage his officers and men, laboured with his own hands two or three hours each day. When the Duke retired with his army, he bestowed the govern-

ment of the castle on Sir Ralph Bulmer, and left in it a garrison of 500 men, 300 of whom were soldiers, the other 200 pioneers. In 1548 the conjoined forces of Scots and French tried to drive the English out of the Borders, but they succeeded in taking only Fast Castle, Hume Castle, and Fernihurst Castle; but early in 1549 the English, assembling an army of 8000 at Roxburgh, prevented any attack being made upon that place.

In the year 1550 peace was concluded between France and England, and in the part of the treaty referring to Scotland, it was agreed that the King of England should deliver up the forts of Lauder and Dunglas to the Scots; but if these forts were not in possession of the English at the time of this treaty being concluded, then in lieu of this the King of England

became bound to demolish the Castles of Roxburgh and Eyemouth, which it should not be lawful for the Queen of Scotland or the French or English King to rebuild ; and further, if the King of England did restore the Castles of Dunglas and Lauder, still he should be bound to destroy the Castles of Roxburgh and Eyemouth, if the Queen of Scotland require this of him, and on her part had demolished the Castles of Dunglas and Lauder. This treaty having been ratified and sworn to, the Castles of Roxburgh, Eyemouth, Dunglas, and Lauder were demolished.* After this the Castle of Roxburgh is not mentioned in history, and on the union of the two kingdoms, by the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, the unnatural wars which had desolated

* Haig, p. 282.

both countries for so many centuries were put an end to, as their interests were one, and in order to extinguish the ideal mark which separated the two countries and gave to each a distinct name, the sovereign assumed the title of King of Great Britain.

It was not to be expected that national prejudices and jealousies could be overcome all at once, and for many years there were frequent disputes and feuds upon the marches; but gradually time smoothed down all differences, until at last all animosity between the two countries is happily at an end, and if there is now any jealousy or emulation between them, it is in striving to prove which shall be the more enterprising, diligent, and loyal subjects of our gracious Queen, whom may God long preserve.

Of this once mighty fortress—for the posses-

sion of which, as we have seen, thousands of lives were sacrificed—there remains now but a few fragments of wall imperfectly revealing the extent and form of the “towering castle.” The portions of the wall seem to show how strongly the battlements were built, being in many places from six to eight feet thick; they may have even exceeded this, as there is scarcely a piece of the wall but has suffered from time and the hands of the destroyer, so thoroughly was the work of demolition carried out. Within the walls where at one time the sound of revelry and feasting was heard, and at another time were filled with “fire and smoke and hellish clangour,” the peaceful flocks now feed upon the luxuriant grass which overgrows the vaults of this old pile; while stretching their lofty crests to the

sky the trees give secure habitation to countless song birds who make the air resonant with their tuneful melodies. Dr. Leyden has the following beautiful apostrophe to Roxburgh in his "Scenes of Infancy" :—

“ Roxburgh ! how fallen, since first in Gothic pride,
Thy frowning battlements the war defied,
Called the bold chief to grace thy blazoned halls,
And bade the rivers gird thy solid walls !
Fallen are thy towers, and where the palace stood,
In gloomy grandeur waves yon hanging wood.
Crushed are thy halls, save where the peasant sees
One moss-clad ruin rise between the trees—
The still green trees, whose mournful branches wave
In solemn cadence o'er the hapless brave.
Proud castle ! Fancy still beholds thee stand
The curb, the guardian, of this Border land,
As when the signal flame, that blazed afar,
And bloody flag, proclaimed impending war,
While in the lion's place the leopard frowned,
And marshalled armies hemmed thy bulwarks round.”

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THE BORDER ALBUM—CONTINUED.

ginning of the century, Peggie Lamb—whose name has long been familiar owing to her mysterious disappearance—was last seen, and where she was supposed to have been murdered. A rare ballad of the period begins thus—

“Auld Bob Neil of the Bow an’ Arrow,
For whisky punch he had nae marrow;
One Peggy Lamb she came to sorrow,
On Lammas night in the Bow an’ Arrow.”

The next photograph is Kelso Abbey as it is; and then comes a view of Kelso Abbey in 1766, the original of which is also in possession of Mr Robertson, Neworth. This shows the old Grammar School of Kelso, Kelso Church of that period, and the vault above the church which was then used as a prison, and in which Sir Walter Scott describes Edie Ochiltree as having been confined. We have next a view of Kelso from the junction of the waters. The view of the town is good, and the Free Church spire comes out beautifully, as well as the tall poplar at the Dispensary, which has succumbed to the blast since the original was taken, and is now no more. The water hardly looks like its true self, and it is surely a German idea to represent a man wearing a stove-pipe hat sitting on the bank fishing. The two last of the series are Floors Castle and Stichel Lynn, the former good, the latter scarcely up to the mark, the water having a hard, irony appearance; but the copy is very correct in its details. Taken as a whole, the production is a wonderful one for one shilling, and such as could only have been produced in Germany, where labour is still of little value.”—*Kelso Chronicle*, July 11, 1873.

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