

Glasgow from 1750 to 1780.

MY LORD ROSS'S CLUB.

DURING the thirty years which immediately followed the establishment of the Anderston and Hodge-Podge Clubs, great changes had been gradually taking place in all things connected with Glasgow. Commerce and manufactures had given it a stimulating and onward progress; while science and the arts had added their mighty aid in effecting improvement. As proofs of the latter influence, it may be mentioned that in 1759 the first Act for deepening the river Clyde was obtained; and that in 1764 James Watt* made his first model of a steam-engine, to the benefits derived from which Glasgow and its harbour owe everything. Necessity and utilitarianism combined also to sweep away many of the old land-marks; and among these we find that—first in 1755, and again in 1788—the remains of the once celebrated Castle, or Episcopal Palace, (and which is first alluded to in 1300, when Edward the First had possession of nearly the whole low-

* James Watt, on attempting to set up as an instrument-maker in Glasgow, was prevented doing so by the then privileged Incorporation of Hammermen, as not being free of the craft. Attempts were next made for obtaining their leave for a very small work wherein to make his experiments, but this was peremptorily refused. The University, however, in his difficulty, came to his rescue, and granted him a room within the precincts of the College, which was free of the incubus of all guilds—and there he completed the model of his steam-engine, and which model is still in the possession of the University, and looked upon as one of its greatest treasures. It was in 1764 that Watt was employed

to repair a model of Newcomen's steam-engine, and it was when so engaged that the idea of a separate condenser occurred to him; and in 1766, it appears, from the College accounts, that he was paid £5 11s for repairing the said steam-engine. Mr Muirhead mentions, in his Life of Watt, that "the interesting model, as altered by the hand of Watt, and preserved in all safety and honour within the precincts of its ancient birth-place, has been appropriately placed beside the noble statue of the engineer in the Hunterian Museum—a sacred relic worthy of such a shrine—and there visited by many a worshipping pilgrim."

lands of Scotland,) began to be barbarously used, like the Amphitheatre of Vespasian at Rome, as a common quarry; its final demolition having been postponed till the year 1789, when its whole ruins were removed to make room for the open space in front of the Royal Infirmary.*

Of the fourteen Lord Provosts who, from 1750 to 1780, had been elevated to the high office of presiding over the Council and community of Glasgow, there are perhaps none, with the exception of Provosts Cochrane and Donald, whose civic fame has come down to the present hour.† They were all, no doubt, most respectable men in their day and

* This ancient stronghold was surrounded by a very high wall, which latterly, on the western side, hung for a long time over Kirk-street so very considerably, that Mr Coulter could never be advised to go near it, from a belief in the story, that whenever the wisest man in the city came in contact with it it would fall and smother him!

† Provost Andrew Cochrane, according to the prefatory notice to the Cochrane Correspondence, published by the Maitland Club, "was born in 1693, and was bred to mercantile life. He was first chosen Provost (after having been bailie for several years) in 1741, and was re-elected to that dignity in 1744-45, at a crisis when unflinching integrity of purpose and great firmness of conduct were required. Under his official guidance, Glasgow fully maintained the reputation of a staunch adherence to the Protestant Constitution; and to his skilful management was owing the recovery of compensation for the losses sustained from the rebels by its loyal inhabitants." The Cochrane Correspondence displays in the strongest manner the public spirit of the Provost, and the anxiety and labour which the Rebellion and its consequences imposed upon him. He had, however, for reward, the gratitude of his townsmen, and that conscious rectitude which dictated his famous ejaculation, "I thank God my magistracy has ended without reproach!" Mr Cochrane was elected for the last time Provost in 1760; and till the close of his life his exertions were bestowed on the support

of Hutcheson's Hospital, of which he died Preceptor in 1777. A handsome monument was erected to his memory in the Cathedral, and which now ornaments the renovated Nave. When the American war was carried on, Provost Donald proceeded to London, and offered to George III. to raise a regiment of a thousand men at the expense of the citizens, which, considering the limited wealth and population of the town, was no small effort. The offer was accepted, and the corps was called the Glasgow Regiment, and afterwards the 83d. His Majesty offered Provost Donald a knighthood, but he declined to accept the honour. The raising of this regiment occasioned a great stir in the city; and so enthusiastic were the leading classes in getting the ranks filled up, that many gentlemen paraded with drums and fifes, offering large bounties for recruits. The first public movement to raise the Glasgow Regiment was made by Mr Gray of Carntyne, Mr James Finlay, and ex-Provost Ingram, who met somewhere in the Gallowgate, whence they proceeded as a recruiting party towards the Cross; Mr Gray, who was a tall, handsome man, wielding a sword, as the sergeant, in front—followed by Mr Finlay, playing the pipes—and Mr Ingram bringing up the rear. On arrival in front of Peter M'Kinlay's, a famous tavern near the Exchange, this trio followed the example of other recruiting parties, by halting and proceeding up stairs, where they were instantly joined by a number of their friends from the reading-room,

generation, and maintained the dignity of the office not only in the chair of the Council chamber, but also on the right hand seat of honour at any civic feast—whether it might have been a dinner at three, or a supper at eight—then given by any of their admiring close-corporation constituents. It is a matter of history, however, that two of those Provosts had their names engraved on the foundation-plates of two new churches; and that two others had likewise their honours stereotyped on those indestructible metal tablets which were placed, with a masonic benediction, under the piers of two new bridges.*

But of the rest, and perhaps even of the whole of those once most important functionaries, we can only repeat, what has been so laconically said of the Kings of Israel and of Judah, that they each reigned two years, and thereafter disappeared in the common circle of society; while it may also be added that, of their acts—of the kirks that they built, and the bridges which they founded—and all that they said and did, are they not written in the chronicles of the Corporation of Glasgow?

In glancing over these chronicles, which were at that time prepared by Archibald M'Gilchrist and John Wilson, town-clerks, we find many things there more worthy of notice than the mere elections of lord provosts and magistrates—subjects, in fact, well entitled to a few moments' consideration. Bear with us, therefore, patient reader, while we now become the brief chronicler of a few of the more salient matters connected with our civic economy during those bygone times.

From the records, both before and subsequent to the period we are now attempting to illustrate, it seems plain that one thing has always

anxious to know the success they had met with; upon which Mr Ingram said, "There's a sercant and a piper, but I am the regiment!" It was not many days, however, before a thousand men were obtained. Mr Ingram, as formerly stated, was one of the three public-spirited individuals who supported the Messrs Foulis in their endeavour to establish a Fine-Art Academy in Glasgow;

and from him the now busy thoroughfare leading to the present Royal Exchange owes its name. It is said that Provost Ingram began the world by selling a peck of "haws."

* The name of Provost Christie is associated with St Andrew's Church, that of Provost French with St Enoch's, Provost Murdoch's with Jamaica-street Bridge, and Provost Buchanan's with Rutherglen Bridge.

marked the conduct of the Corporation of Glasgow, and that is, its sense of gratitude to every one who ever conferred a favour on the community.* Besides the gifts which we have already alluded to, or may afterwards notice, we find that, on the 16th June, 1756, Mr Richard Oswald, merchant, in London, was voted a piece of plate for his services in obtaining the Act for erecting a lighthouse on the island of Cumbræ; and that this handsome gift, after having been manufactured by Mrs Margaret Murdoch or Glen, relict of Mr Glen, goldsmith, in Glasgow, was duly presented to the eminent individual who had so well merited the civic compliment. We also find that, on the 31st January, 1776, "the Treasurer is ordered to pay to Milne and Campbell, goldsmiths in Glasgow, the sum of £35 8s for a two-handled silver cup made by them, and given by the Town to Mr Goulborn, engineer, on account of deepening the river Clyde."† And again, in 1776, "the Treasurer is ordered to pay to Dr Irvine £8 8s for his trouble in searching round Glasgow for water to be brought into the City!" How easily contented must the

* The following are a few of the early "Propyness" made by the town. In 1609—"30 Pounds to buy wyne, to the baptisme of the Provistis barne, and 20 Pounds for sugar and sweet meatis thairwith." On 1st December, 1641—"It was ordained that sune Holland cloathe, and Scottis linning cloathe, with sune plydes, be sent as a propyne to Mr Web, the Duiks servant, as a testimonie of the townis thankfulness to him for his paines for the townes business." On 16th December, 1667—"Ordaines Johne Andersonne Yr. of Dowhill to have ane warrant for the sune of eight hundredth fourseoir servine pundis twa shillings, deburst be him out of the monye receavit be him fra the collectors at the mylnes to Thomas Moncur, goldsmith, for making the propyne of silver work which was given to the Ladie Elphinstone, the Bischops daughter, at her marriage." In 1687, when the impost on all ale and beer brewn or imported into Glasgow—granted by the King for the town's use—was

entrusted to the Council, we find the following strange minute:—"The said day the said Magistrats and Councell, taking to their consideration that there is ane gratuitie to be given to the procurers of the said gift from his most sacred Majestie. They ordaine ane thousand poundis sterling to be borrowed and made readie with all expedition, to be payed on the first end of the said gratuitie." On 3d October, 1726, there is "payed to Provost Miller, which he gave in compliment to the Lady Barrowfield (this was on the purchase of the lands by the Town), £1575;" no doubt for her good services on the occasion! On 24th September, 1731—"Authorise Robert Luke, goldsmith, to be paid £385 16s Scots, for a Silver Tea-Kettle and Lamp, given in compliment by the Town to Alexr. Finlayson, clerk."

† Mr Goulborn only engaged to deepen the channel of the river to seven feet at the quay at the Broomielaw in neap tides.

authorities in 1776 have been as to obtaining a proper supply of pure water! What a contrast does their conduct afford to the almost universal feeling evinced by the magistrates of 1854, and their expenditure of many thousands of pounds, in endeavouring to obtain forty millions of gallons per diem of the purest water, brought all the way from Loch-Katrine!

If the Corporation and the citizens appear for a long period to have been by no means very clamant about a better supply of water, which they then could only obtain from a few public and private wells, it appears evident that the Magistrates had determined on making a dead set against the town-officers getting any more buns and ale at the expense of the public; for, on the 12th April, 1757, we find the following rather curious entry in the Minute-book of the City:—"The whilk day, and considering that the town-officers have been in use to get buns and ale upon the day on which the Lords of the Council come to town, by which sundry abuses have happened, and for remedying whereof in time coming, the Magistrates and Counsell ordain, that for hereafter, the officers be allowed one shilling sterling at each time the Lords come to town at the Circuit." When we reflect on the notoriously bibulous faculties of these functionaries, we may conclude that this enactment must have proved to them no light grievance. The Provostorial *regime* of this period seemed indeed to have been marked by a species of *Hume-like* reform; for in the course of a very few days after the carriers of the civic fasces were deprived of their cakes and ale, the poor grave-diggers were called upon, out of their narrow funds, to provide the spades and shovels necessary for making "the narrow houses that last till doomsday!"

The cheese-paring system pursued during Provost Christie's reign appears, however, to have been somewhat changed under that of his successor; for we find that on the 18th June, 1759, James Scruton,*

* The following advertisement appears in the *Glasgow Courant* of 16th June, 1749:—"James Scruton, writing master and account-

ant, from London, invited down here by the Provost and other gentlemen of the City to qualify young gentlemen in writing, arith-

who, by the way, was induced to come down from London several years before to teach Italian hand-writing in Glasgow, was, in addition to a yearly allowance of £25, “admitted a burghess without fee, on account of his care and assiduity in teaching.”* On the 25th January, 1760, the Magistrates also most unnecessarily contribute £25 to the building of Shettleston Church; and on the 27th March of the same year they unceremoniously give away from the Corporation, *the Butts*—that ancient place for archery and other popular amusements—as a present to the University, upon the plea, forsooth (certainly not very comprehensible at the present day), “to prevent the vacant ground ever injuring the Observatory lately erected.” †

metic, and merchant accounts, and an expeditious running-hand fit for business, with command of hand. *N.B.*—I shall open school on Monday the 24th of this instant at Hutcheson’s Hospital.” James Scruton was so good a hand at the pen, that it was a common saying, that he could write as well with a bit of broom-stick as any other man could do with a quill. He published a work on book-keeping. He was father to John Scruton, surgeon, of whom a singular couplet was written by Willie Reid, illustrative of his practice, but which we cannot here repeat. He was latterly known by the soubriquet of the *Physikan*.

* Native talent seems about that time to have been so scarce, that the Corporation was obliged, for the better education of the citizens, to bribe parties from a distance to settle in the City. Mr Scruton was brought, in 1750, by a supplementary annuity of £25; and a teacher of book-keeping obtained at a yearly salary of £8 6s 8d; while Mr Daniel Burrell was also paid out of the public purse as a teacher of dancing. Toward the latter accomplishment there was, during 1751, more favour shown than fifty years previous, as appears from the following minute of the Corporation, 11th November, 1699:—“The quihlk day the Magistrates and Town Council convened, They, upon a supplicatione given

in by John Smith, dancing master, allow and permitt the said John to teach danceing within this burgh, with and under the provisions and conditions under written, viz:— That he shall behave himself soberly, teach at seasonable hours, keep no balls, and that he shall so order his teaching that there shall be noe promiscuous danceing of young men and young women together, but that each sex shall be taught be themselves; and that one sex shall be dismissed, and be out of his house, before the other enter therein; and if the said John transgress in any of these, appoynts the magistrates to put him out of this Burgh.” For a considerable time even after this period none durst teach dancing in public or private without a license from the magistrates!

† The Observatory above referred to originated from the circumstance of a Mr Alexander M’Farlane having died in 1755, and having bequeathed to the College of Glasgow the contents of the Observatory which he had in Jamaica; and connected therewith I find that Mr James Watt, who had just returned from a short sojourn in London, where he had been studying the profession of a mathematical instrument maker, was employed by the Professors to unpack and repair the instruments, for which he received £5 5s; after which they were transferred to

From the accession of George III., to whom the Magistrates, as in duty bound, swore allegiance on the 24th May, 1760, the Corporation seems for several years to have showered its patronage on the Established Kirk; for, not content with rebuilding, at great expense, the Wynd Church on its former site,* it also resolved, on the 1st September, 1763, to call a seventh minister to the City; and accordingly, on the 11th June, 1765, we find that the town was divided into seven parishes, and a new burden was consequently imposed on the burgh funds. At this period, however, when almost every family belonged to what might be well designated "the universal Kirk of Scotland," such an appropriation of common funds was looked upon as not only expedient but just. Anti-patronage notions and dogmatical hair-splitting had already, no doubt, shown itself among the followers of the celebrated Ralph Erskine; but it may be truly affirmed that as yet dissent had made little progress in Glasgow among the great mass of the then church-going community. What a contrast does this state of ecclesiastical union afford to the clerical dissension existing at the present day, when at every turn the eye encounters conventicles of separate and warring sects; and, what perhaps is more to be regretted, one finds under too many a family roof-tree, the picture of diverse religious dogmas, or at least of "a house divided against itself." Strange that a belief in doctrinal differences, which the subtlest intellect can scarcely discover, should have led to so many family severances! While, as we have seen, the Corporation of Glasgow, about the year 1763, was thus ostensibly testifying its attachment to the faith of their Protestant fathers, it cannot be denied that the mode to be pursued in the future election of town ministers, became the source of many long disputes at the Council board, and of many able protests on the part of the minority against the findings of the majority. The question at issue

the M'Farlane Observatory in the College garden, the foundation-stone of which was laid in 1759.

* The oldest Wynd Church was built in

1685 by the citizens for behoof of the Presbyterians. After lying in ruins for some time, it was rebuilt in the summer of 1761.

was, in fact, the widely discussed subject of Patronage, which had already thrown schism into the Church; and to remedy the imagined dangers of which, it was the wish of several of the then Councillors to make some reasonable concession to the people.

As the *Cross*, both before and after 1765, was the great centre of attraction for all the various grades in the City, it is not difficult to understand how, towards this much frequented portion of the town, the Council should have manifested so much attention. In addition to the watchfulness which each member of that body exhibited, in maintaining in all their pristine condition the piazzas or arcades—which then radiated from each corner of the Market Cross—they also insisted that these piazzas should be continued in the new tenements built on the sites of those taken down. Moreover, each and all appear to have felt the greatest pride in the music bells, which had been erected at so great a cost in the Tolbooth steeple. By a minute dated 22d April, 1765, we find a palpable proof of this, when we are told that “Considering Rodger Redburn, musician, who had the office and charge of playing on the Music Bells, died lately, the Council are of opinion that the foresaid office should be bestowed on a person learned in the parts of music, and recommend the Magistrates to cause intimate in the public newspapers, that any person skilled in playing on bells, as well as on the violin, spinnet, or harpsichord, and well versed in church music, will meet with good encouragement.” This advertisement seems to have done good, for, on the 9th October, 1765, we find a Mr Collett of London “agreed with for playing the Music Bells.” From no entry appearing on the municipal record on this subject till 17th March, 1772, it might have been inferred that the Englishman had tinkled the bells for seven long years; on that day, however, Joshua Campbell* is appointed to that office, not

* The following appears in the Council records of 27th July, 1791:—“The said day, upon petition of Joshua Campbell, agreed to augment his salary for playing upon the Musick Bells to Twenty-five Pounds Sterling,

per annum; the augmentation to commence at his next quarterly payment, upon condition that he shall play one full hour upon the said bells, from two till three o'clock in the afternoon, each day, Saturdays and Sundays

as the successor of Mr Collett, but of John Holden, deceased, which clearly shows that the flattering hopes held out to the Londoner, from teaching music in Glasgow, were altogether delusive.

From the year 1765 to 1780, the Magistrates appear ever and anon to have busied themselves in improving the condition of the City. As a reform in the lighting of the principal thoroughfares which alone boasted at that time of the luxury of a lamp, we find that the Council recommend “the Magistrates to cause remove any lamps put up by the Town and furnished with oyl by the Town, standing in private closses, to the *high streets*, where they may be judged necessary, and of more general service.” The existence of these lamps in private closses seems to indicate something like jobbing on the part of the predecessors of the then Councillors! It may be mentioned, however, that the lamps were never lighted during moonlight, it being no doubt felt that “M^rFarlane’s bowat” was far better than all the oil lamps that could be lighted.* About the same time the Council resolve that the streets ought to be better kept, and for this purpose we find £30 per annum was voted for keeping the streets clean—certainly no great amount, considering that there were at that time very bad causeways and no sewerage at all. The sum, however, seems to have accomplished the little that was then wished, for no increase appears to have been granted towards this object till the 14th October, 1777.† In addition to a better arrangement of the street lamps, and

excepted, and authorise the Chamberlain to pay the said augmented sallary in time coming.” Joshua Campbell had a small coopeage in a close near to where Stirling-street is at present. He led the music at the assemblies, and published an excellent collection of reels, many of them of his own composition. He had a brother a dancing-master of considerable repute.

* Sir Walter Scott mentions in “Waverley” that the clan of M^rFarlane, occupying the fastnesses of the western side of Lochdomond, were great depredators on the low country, and as their excursions were made usually

by night, the moon was proverbially called “the lantern.”

† “14th October, 1777.—The said day the Magistrates and Council, considering that there are only two men employed in cleaning the streets of the City; and which have not been properly cleaned; they therefore agree that a third person should be employed, along with the said two men, in cleaning the streets in time coming. And, in the winter season, the said three men, if they clean the streets properly, shall be paid one pound sterling weekly, and ten shillings weekly in the summer.”

the streets being kept better cleaned, attempts were next made to render some of the almost impassable outlets from the City patent to the lieges. As an instance of this, we find that on the 8th April, 1766, the *Cow-loan* (now Queen-street), which was then a mere cattle-path to the Cowcaddens, was agreed to be paved, on condition, however, "that the properties flag the sides of the street to the extent of seven feet at least, and to maintain the same in all time coming." We gravely suspect that this was among the earliest attempts on the part of the municipal authorities to burden street tenements with the maintenance of the foot pavement. Another crying evil, about the same time, attracted attention, and loudly called for reform. This evil was the almost universal practice of carters and carriers leaving their unloaded carts and waggons on the public streets during night, to the great danger of the lieges, and in a town too, where, in a moonless night, it was difficult to see a few feet before you. The Magistrates having no doubt felt the necessity of interference, issued an order, on the 7th April, 1769, against the practice of leaving carts on the leading streets during night, and ordering their removal therefrom, under a severe penalty. From all we have read on this subject, we believe that the order was very partially attended to; and it was not till the more stringent powers of the Magistrates were carried into execution, under the Police Act, that this nuisance was wholly abolished.*

Although Glasgow from the earliest times could never lay claim to the once unenviable distinction of "*Auld Reekie*," so graphically portrayed by Smollett in the pages of "*Humphrey Clinker*"—and although, from the prevalence of this Mrs Maclarty practice, not a few strangers, from lending a deaf ear to the ominous sounds which nightly issued from the uplifted windows of the endless flats in the High-street and Lawnmarket, became the unfortunate sufferers from that which was ironically called

* As a proof of this we find, from an entry in the Council records dated 15th April, 1779, "The said day, in order to encourage the heritors of the City to pave the sides of the streets opposite to their properties, resolve to

allow no carts or nuisances to be rested for any due time upon the sides of the public streets, and recommend to the Magistrates to cause to move such carts and nuisances."

“the flowers of Edinburgh”—still it appears that it was no uncommon practice in the now western metropolis, during a portion of the last century, for the inhabitants to carry out the contents of their ashpits, at unseasonable hours, into the public streets, and to allow this nuisance to lie there till a fitting opportunity offered for transporting it to the country. The Magistrates finding this to be a serious infringement on the rights of a public thoroughfare, and which, moreover, might be easily remedied by attention, issued, on the 31st January, 1776, an order “for removing all dung and rubbish from the streets within forty-eight hours, under a penalty of 5s for each offence.” What would the Board of Health of the present day say to *forty-eight* hours being allowed for the removal of such a crying nuisance? Surely the olfactory nerves of our ancestors were not so sensitive as their children’s seem now-a-days to be. Perhaps it may be to this peculiarity of the nasal organs, that we can best account for the City mortality having been at that period even less in proportion to the population, than it is at this all-sanitary engrossing moment!

In early times there were few towns which suffered more from “dearths” than Glasgow; and, even so late as the years 1782 and 1800, the inhabitants were threatened with famine. The consequence of both of those dearths was, that the poor people were reduced on each occasion to the greatest distress; and had it not been for the humane interference of the Magistrates and other philanthropic gentlemen in the City, it would have been difficult to keep the populace within the bounds of order. At an earlier period, however, viz., the winter of 1765-66, there occurred another notable dearth, and which, although not quite so severe as those alluded to, was such as to call forth the most vigilant measures on the part of the Magistrates of the day. By an entry in the Town Council records of the 20th December, 1765, a Committee was named “for considering of the proper measures of providing meal and victual for the use of the town, and with power to borrow such sums as may be necessary for that purpose, and to purchase and provide meal and victual, and to give the necessary rules and directions for the disposall thereof; and to report to the Council

their proceedings." How fortunate it is for the City now-a-days, that it can depend on its merchants for a far more certain defence against famine, than all which any magistracy, however wealthy and philanthropic, could accomplish!

Whether it was from the increased mortality arising from restricted food, or from an increasing demand from other causes for some better receptacles for the ashes of the departed than the City at that time afforded, it is certain that, on the 28th March, 1766, a piece of ground at Ramshorn Church was purchased for a burial-place by the Corporation, "for the convenience of the inhabitants."* At that period, the church was placed in the midst of green fields and gardens, and consequently, had the burgh of Glasgow remained like her sisters the burghs of Rutherglen, Renfrew, and Dumbarton, from whose united suffrages there then emanated *one* Member to the British Legislature—that is to say, had Glasgow like them attained to the character of being a "*finished town*,"—perhaps no better spot could have been selected for a cemetery. But marching forward as the western commercial mart has done, and lately with such gigantic strides, we find this once retired and silent burial-ground now placed in the very centre of a crowded and noisy community, and loudly demanding, from its insalubrious position, the instant attention and power of Parliament to control or rather to close.

The spirit of litigation, so peculiarly characteristic of Scotland, appears abundantly conspicuous in the number of law pleas that were instituted and carried on during these thirty years by the Corporation. Once every twelve months a long list of these pictures of Scottish pugnacity were laid before the City Council, but without apparently producing any diminution

* By a minute of Council, dated 13th January, 1719, we find that "the tacksmen of Hutcheson's Hospital yard at the head of the Candleriggs was paid the soume of £108 16s 4d Scots money in full satisfaction to them for the loss and damage by the rooting out of their cherry and apple trees, gooseberry and curran bushes, kaill, leeks, and other ground

herbs upon the one rood and an half taken off the said yard for the church and church-yard to be builded thereupon, and benefit of the gooding of the ground." This was purchased for the site of the old Ramshorn Church and the old burying-ground. The above was an addition to the church-yard.

in their annual number. The fact is, it now seems quite plain, that it must have been considered absolutely necessary for certain official persons connected with the City to have always at least a dozen of good-going law pleas on their hand. Of these there was certainly one that was often paraded, and which lasted many long years, and what is perhaps by no means strange to say, was ultimately lost by the Corporation, with all expenses. This plea arose out of an attempt to deprive, *brevi manu*, a most respectable wright and citizen, afterwards known by the title of Mr Fleming of Sawmillfield, of the use of a saw-mill, erected by him on the lower part of the Molendinar burn in 1750. It appears that after some very angry correspondence and verbal bickering, the Lord Provost of the day, with some of his associates in the magistracy, having, it is to be feared, the organs of destructiveness more powerfully developed in their crania than those of logic, caution, and justice, ordered the worthy burgher's mill to be forthwith demolished; and, in accordance with the solemn dicta of the Provostorial Dogberry and his brother Vergeses, the mill wheels were arrested, and the building destroyed. For this serious aggression on the rights of property, Mr Fleming commenced an action against the Magistrates before the Court of Session; which, when brought up for ultimate judgment before the famous *fifteen* of those days, was terminated on the 9th July, 1768, by the Judges finding the said Magistrates liable to the pursuer in no less a sum than £610 1s 1d sterling money, with an obligation to relieve him of the expense of extracting the decret!*

* The following excerpt from the evidence taken on this trial, in 1765, illustrates the state of the timber trade in Glasgow about the years 1750-60:—"John Muirhead, wright in Gorbals, depones—That Scots fir, by which he means fir regularly planted, is now become a staple commodity in this country; and the increase in the use of it, for some years past, has kept in the country sundry considerable sums of money which formerly used to be employed in purchasing foreign fir; and that,

preceding the year 1750, there was not the half of the demand for Scots fir as there has been since; and that since the said year 1750, the price of Scots fir has greatly increased, and he knows that such fir trees as he purchased about the year 1750 from 6d to 10d per piece has been since sold for 4s sterling and upwards. Depones—That Colonel Campbell, Finab, informed him, about ten or twelve years ago, that Mr Fleming had bought from him Scots firs to the value of

The successful plaintiff against the City Corporation, appears to have been a bold as well as a pugnacious character. About the year 1753-54, being extensively engaged in the Scotch fir trade—which he may be said to have introduced into Glasgow for useful purposes, and which timber he regularly brought up the Clyde in boats or flats to his saw-mill situated on the Molendinar—we find that he purchased a large quantity of this wood then growing at the head of the Holy-Loch; and, with the view of looking after the wood-cutters, he occasionally repaired thither during the summer. Kilmun, now so fashionable and well-built as a watering-place, was then a very remote and secluded Highland hamlet, with all the accompaniments of Mrs Maclarty's *manege*. The accommodation, in fact, was so bad as to induce Mr Fleming to get a temporary bed put up in the burial-vault of the Argyll family, and there to sleep, surrounded by

£500 or £600; and he knows that he also bought several other considerable quantities of fir from other persons. He knows that the expense of carriage of fir by water to Glasgow, from any part of the country below or about Greenock, or from Lochlomond, or any of the Highland lochs, does generally far exceed the original price. Depones—That he is of opinion that fir can be brought from North America to Greenock cheaper than Scots fir can be brought from Lochaber to that place; but he is of opinion that Scots fir can be brought from any place within the Clough of Clyde to Glasgow cheaper considerably than either North American fir or fir from Lochaber can be brought from these places to Glasgow. That planted Scots fir sells about a third part cheaper than either North America or Norway fir sells for; that Scots fir is of an inferior quality to either North America fir or Norway fir; but he is of opinion that Scots fir is as fit for making boxes or lath as any fir whatever, and is also as fit for making coffins; and Scots fir sells at half of the price for which Dantzic fir is commonly sold.—William Lang, merchant in Glasgow, depones—That, since the erecting of the said saw-mill, the most part of the boxes used for the packing of goods in his

calender have been made of Scots fir. That for the common size boxes made of foreign fir there used to be paid 6s for each box, and 5s for each box made of Scots fir, which are larger in size than the boxes made of foreign fir; and although the boxes made of Scots fir do not look so well, they are stronger and thicker, and have the general approbation of merchants. Depones—He some time ago lathed a new house, built by him, with Scots fir, and he thought the same answered the purpose as well as foreign fir would have done; and he believes and is certain that he was cheaper with the said Scots fir for lathing than he could have been by purchasing foreign fir, he having purchased the Scots fir at 7d per foot, and having paid from 12d to 13d for foreign fir, for lathing, per foot. Depones—That from looking into his accounts, he observes, that from 1756 to 1762 he has paid Mr Fleming, for fir boxes made of Scotch wood, the sum of £251 11s 2d. There are in Glasgow nine calenders, including the deponent's, and that in some of the said calenders besides his own, he has seen Scotch fir boxes used. Mr Fleming was the first person from whom he ever bought boxes made of Scots fir, at 5s per piece.”

the quiet and peaceful coffins of departed dukes and duchesses, rather than to submit his flesh to the thousand and one living and predaceous animals that thirsted for the blood of any lowland immigrant. While occupying this dark and dingy cineral depot, he on one occasion stepped out rather early on a fine Sabbath morning, in his white night-dress, and while indulging in stretching himself and giving a loud yawn, he was perceived by some sailors who were loitering near the tomb, waiting for a tide to carry their small craft, which was moored in the loch, to Greenock. The superstitious sailors, as may well be conceived, were quite appalled by the supposed apparition issuing from the charnel-house, instantly took to their heels, and hurrying into their boat set off to Greenock, where, on their arrival, they gave such a connected and circumstantial account of the resurrection of at least one of the Dukes of Argyll, as to induce the authorities to make a formal inquiry into the circumstances.*

Probably few things are better calculated to throw light on the manners and sentiments of a period than its *sign-boards*. This matter is more important than at first sight it would appear to be, for it really illustrates the progress of arts and civilisation, and, what is equally interesting, marks the ruling *popularity* of the day. A French author has said, with much justice, “*que la litterature étoit l’expression de la société;*” but he might have also said as much of sign-boards. For of this we are certain, that if we could only lay our hands on a correct catalogue of the hotel and tavern signs, along with the shop insignia of Glasgow, at any one period of her history, we should be able to arrive at a better idea of, and have a better insight into, the habits and feelings then prevalent among the people than we possibly can otherwise. All, however, that we know connected with

* Mr Fleming, as has been hinted, was the first person to introduce the use of Scottish timber for many purposes for which foreign only had been previously employed. Having been summoned to serve as a jurymen, soon after the decision of the law-suit in his favour, he was taken somewhat unwell in the court; on observing which, the presiding

Judge, having heard who he was, found fault with the local authorities for troubling a gentleman who had been so great a benefactor to his country as to introduce and encourage the consumpt of home-grown timber. It is suspected that the sapient judiciary lord had fir plantations of his own!

this subject, has been gathered from newspaper advertisements and the Council records of the day. And from a careful perusal of these documents, we are led to the conclusion, that during the thirty years' progress of the City, from 1750, nothing seems to have increased in a greater ratio than sign-boards and shop insignia. Every tavern and hostelry had then some outward swinging sign as a guide to its tempting comforts within. Red lions and white, cross keys, blue bells, laughing Bacchusses, white swans and black, tuns of many numbers and all sizes, and suns, both rising and setting, had been appropriated; while the talents of the limner of portraitures had been called into requisition to furnish heads of Ligonier, Wolfe, Boscawen, Elliot, and Anson—alas! to be in due time superseded by plizzes of more modern heroes, to attract hungry and thirsty travellers. About the same period, shops of all kinds were less indicated by the names of the streets (numbers being out of the question) than by some tangible symbol hung out above the door. These, although sometimes not very appropriate, were upon the whole generally illustrative of the wares to be disposed of within. There were, for example, several golden fleeces swinging over the entrances of cloth-merchants' shops—golden gloves and golden breeches dangling in front of glovers' booths—and even a Galen's head looking down from a druggist's establishment; while golden fish, appended to a line and rod, floated from the windows of several front flats in Trongate, despite of Dr Johnson's definition of an angler.* Indeed, it may be fairly inferred, that about this period almost every leading shop and retail place of business in Glasgow had some emblem hung out, either

* "A stick and a string—a worm at one end and a fool at the other." The inscriptions were sometimes as curious as the emblems. For example, in the Gallowgate there was painted in goodly letters, "Messages run down this close;" "New laid eggs every morning by me, Janet Stobie;" while four or five rhyming couplets were regularly inscribed under the sweep's representation of a manorial residence. The following is one of these:—

"Barny Keir, he does live here,
He'll sweep your vents, and not too dear;
And should they chance to go on fire,
He'll put them out at your desire."

As a guide to a comfortable eating-house in a sunk flat, were the following lines:—

"Stop and read, to prevent mistakes,—
Joseph Howel's beefsteaks;
Good meat and drink make men to grow,
And you will find them here below."

as a guide to the purchaser, or as a token of the shopman's calling; and as a proof to what length this rage for shop and tavern insignia had gone in 1772, we find that the Magistrates and Council, on the 2d November of that year, totally ignorant of the value of these historical emblems, came to the *Vandal* resolution of "recommending to the Dean of Guild to cause take down and remove all the signs which hung over the *high streets* of the City, as they interrupt the views along the streets, and *darken the light of the lamps in the night time.*"* This darkening of the lamps was certainly a poor reason for depriving either the lieges of the pleasure of gazing on these decorative insignia, or the country people of a quick recognition of the place to which each emblem was wont to lead them for their purchases.

While the Corporation were thus showing themselves somewhat litigious, yet by no means inattentive to what they honestly, though sometimes absurdly, considered advantageous to the comfort and convenience of the citizens in general, they appear to have been not altogether forgetful of their own personal glorification. The black attire and cocked hats which the Magistrates daily donned, being found at that period to be no distinctive mark of superiority—seeing that every one who was mourning the loss either of a friend or relative always wore the one, while the cocked covering of the *caput* was common to all save the lowest of the citizens,—

* I recollect, when first in Paris, in the year 1817, to have been much struck with the highly-finished paintings that served as signs to several shops and warehouses. I was, in fact, so much astonished with the execution of *Les deux Odalisque du Serail* in the Rue Vivienne, *Monsieur Pigeon* in the Rue de Seine, *Les trois Graces*, and various others,—that I asked a French gentleman why such paintings, whose match was often not to be met with in the drawing-room, should have no better fate than being hung up as sign-boards? He replied, that I need not be at all surprised at this, as several of the best artists had employed their pencils on this species of painting; and that in this way

men otherwise unknown had been brought into notice, and had thereafter made no small figure in the higher branches of art. I observed, however, that although those signs appeared to be often a *sine qua non* for every splendid shop, they rarely gave any very perfect idea of the profession of those over whose doors they were suspended; for example, I have seen a confectioner with the sign of *la petite Allemande*—a bootmaker, *au Soleil*—a haberdasher, *à la petite Ecosaise*—a mercer, *à la Balayouse*—and a grocer at *Y Grec*. There possibly might be discovered some sarcastic connection between *une marchande des modes* and *une petite Vestale*; or a lottery-office and *la petite Candide*!

it was thought necessary to have some really uncommon mark to distinguish those who were at once "a terror to evil doers, and a praise and protection to those who do well;" and with this view, it was resolved that the aid of some cunning goldsmith should be asked for, and not deeming those then resident in the City sufficiently *cunning* for their purpose, they employed one in London, who in due time despatched the necessary number of magisterial gold chains and medals, which, by a minute of Council, we find to have reached Glasgow on the 15th January, 1767, and "were thereupon delivered to the Magistrates, to be worn by them as badges of honour."* How many an ambitious sigh has the sight of these emblems of official dignity excited, since the golden effigies of Justice with her scales was first thrown around the neck of Provost Murdoch and his worthy colleagues! How many griefs and glories have been evolved and have passed away, since these insignia of office have successively ornamented or left the breast of the long catalogue of our civic rulers! To how many plots and counter-plots has the chance of possessing one of these badges—or the pleasure of disappointing a competitor from receiving one—from time to time given rise! What a mortifying sermon, in short, do these ever-changing medals preach on the instability of magisterial power and popular gratitude! The history of a magisterial chain, in the hands of an able novelist, would surpass in interest the famed "Adventures of a Guinea." It might, in fact, in the hands of some of our modern peripatetic philosophers, be made the medium for the most profound of psychological lectures!†

The period of Glasgow history which we are now attempting to sketch, was characterised by a singular propensity on the part of the better educated to indulge in rhyming epistles, and the repositories of many of

* Provost Murdoch, Bailies Buchanan, Ban-natyne, and Clark, Dean of Guild Campbell, and Convener Jamieson, were the first persons who wore the chains. The Convener's chain was made by Napier and Bell, and cost £40 10s 1d.

† A few years ago the old chains were sold, and new ones got to meet the demands of the increased Magistracy. We believe the ancient chain of the Provost was purchased by Sir James Campbell, who had formerly worn it for three years when in the honourable office of Chief Magistrate.

our oldest families contain many happy specimens of these curious and often clever lucubrations. As a specimen of the style and humour of the period, the following poem, written by Miss Mary Bogle, at Edinburgh, to her friend, Miss Lavinia Leitch, in Glasgow, may be given. It contains a clever criticism on Mrs Siddons' appearance when in Edinburgh in 1784:—

I hear, with deep sorrow, my beautiful Leitch,
In vain to come here, you your father beseech,
I say in all places, and I say it most truly,
His heart is as hard as the heart of Prinli;
'Tis composed of black flint, or of Aberdeen granite—
But smother your rage—'twould be folly to fan it.

Each evening the playhouse exhibits a mob,
And the right of admission's turned into a job.
By five the whole pit us'd to fill with subscribers,
And those who had money enough to be bribers;
But the public took fire, and began a loud jar,
And I thought we'd have had a Siddonian war;
The committees met, and the lawyers, hot mettled,
Began very soon both to cool and to settle;
Of public resentment to blunt the keen edge,
In a coop they consented that sixty they'd wedge;
And the coop's now so cramm'd it will scarce hold a mouse,
And the rest of the pit's turned a true public house.
With porter and pathos, with whisky and whining,
They quickly all look as if long they'd been dining.
Their shrub and their sighs court our noses and ears,
And their twopenny blends in libation with tears.
The god of good liquor with fervour they woo,
And before the fifth act they are a' greeting fou;
And still, as a maxim, they keep in their eye
This excellent adage, "That sorrow is dry."
Though my muse to write satire's reluctant and loath,
This custom, I think, savours strong of the Goth.
As for Siddons herself, her features so tragic,
Have caught the whole town with the force of her magic;
Her action is varied—her voice is extensive—
The eye very fine, but somewhat too pensive.
In the terrible trials of Beverly's wife,
She rose not above the dull level of life;
She was greatly too simple to strike very deep,
And I thought more than once to have fallen asleep.
Her sorrows in Shore, were so soft and so still,
That my heart lay as snug as a mouse in a mill;
I never as yet have been much overcome,
With distress that's so gentle, with grief that's so dumb.

And, to tell the plain truth, I have not seen any
 Thing yet, like the tumble of Yates in Mandane:
 For acting should certainly rise above nature,
 And, indeed, now and then, she's a wonderful creature.
 When Zara's revenge burst in storms from her tongue,
 With rage and reproof all the ample roof rung;
 Isabella rose, too, all superior to sadness,
 And our heart was well harrow'd with horror and madness.
 From all sides the house, hark the cry how it swells!
 While the boxes are torn with most heart-piercing yells;
 The misses all faint—it becomes them so vastly—
 And their cheeks are so red that they never look ghastly.
 Even ladies, advanced to their good climacterics,
 Are often led out in a fit of hysterics;
 Their screams are wide wafted—east, west, south, and north,
 Loud echo prolongs them on both sides the Forth.
 You ask me what beauties most touchingly strike—
 They are beauteous all, and all beauteous alike;
 With lovely complexions that Time ne'er can tarnish,
 So thick they're laid o'er with a delicate varnish,
 Their bosoms and necks have a gloss and a burnish,
 And their cheeks with fresh roses from Raeburn they furnish.
 I quickly return, and am just on the wing,
 And something you'll like, I am sure, I will bring,
 The sweet Siddons' cap, the latest dear ogle—
 Farewell till we meet,

Your true friend,

MARY BOGLE.*

If, as we have already seen, from the years 1750 till 1780 the higher dignitaries of the Municipality of Glasgow have, through their individual talents, rendered themselves but little known to posterity, it is but fair to state, that this was not at least the case with respect to one of the very subordinate functionaries of the Corporation, who also figured during that period. While of the Provosts and Bailies, therefore, little is known even to the name, still all literary antiquaries know that to the Bellman, Dougal Graham, the world owes a correct, though coarse rhyming chronicle of the Stuart Rebellion of 1745, and the largest of that racy catalogue of chap literature which so long enjoyed the patronage of the working-

* The fair poetess was the daughter of an individual who claimed the Earldom of Monteth through his mother, and was related to Bogle, the miniature painter. She had a sister, and both were milliners. They were

known by the title of Lady Mary and Lady Betty Bogle. Many interesting particulars about the father will be found in Craik's "*Romance of the Peerage.*"

classes in town, and of the whole rural population throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. Of the birth and parentage of this rather celebrated official, who gained fully more notoriety by the broad humour of his printed lucubrations, than by the witty accompaniments of his skellet bell, nothing is known.* Of his early life we can gather only, from what he says himself, that he left Glasgow to follow the contending armies, from the time "the rebels first crossed the ford of Frew till the fatal battle of Culloden"—not, however, in the dangerous capacity of a combatant, but in the more peaceful and safe position of a pedlar or suttler. In this neutral situation he could act on either side, and it is credibly believed he did so; for, while his after circumstances in life forced him to declare himself boldly on the side of the high Protestant party of Glasgow, it is more than hinted that he had, in the outset of his career, exhibited a strong desire for Prince Charlie's success. No sooner did Dougal, however, return to Glasgow, after the battle of Culloden, than he sat down to pen his metrical account of the Rebellion; and, as a proof of his diligence and his facility in composition, it may be mentioned that in the autumn of 1746 the work was in the hands of the printer, and ere many days was ready for sale.† Of the merits and demerits of this curious metrical chronicle, much has been said. It is perhaps enough here to add, that thousands upon thousands of copies were disposed of through

* In *Sketches of the Manners, Customs, and Scenery of Scotland*, by E. J. Spence, London, 1811, it is said that "on the side of the hill above the old village of Campsie are to be seen the traces of a turf cottage—the birth-place and early residence of Dougal Graham, who, about the year 1750, wrote a rhyming history of the Rebellion of 1745. He was lame from his infancy; but having an inherent propensity to wander, he, with many others of his countrymen, joined the Pretender on his arrival at Doune."

† The following advertisement appears in the *Glasgow Courant* of 29th September, 1746:—"There is to be sold, by James Duncan,

printer in Glasgow, in the Saltmercat, the second shop below Gibson's-wynd, a book entitled 'A full and particular account of the late Rebellion in the years 1745 and 1746; beginning with the Pretender's embarking for Scotland, and then an account of every battle, siege, and skirmish that has happened in either Scotland or England; to which is added several addresses and epistles to the Pope, pagans, poets, and Pretender—all in metre;' price fourpence. But any booksellers or packmen may have them easier from the said James Duncan, or the author, D. Graham. The like has not been done since the days of Sir David Lindsay."

the country, and that new editions succeeded other altered editions in regular order; that also, in 1812, a new edition was called for, published, and sold; while, so late as the year 1830, Sir Walter Scott even "entertained the idea of printing a correct copy of the original edition," with the view of presenting it to the Maitland Club as his contribution, stating, as he did in a letter addressed to the writer, that he thought "it really contained some traits and circumstances of manners worth preserving." This highly favourable criticism from such a man entitles us to look on the Bellman's rhymes with no ordinary degree of attention. In 1752, Dougal Graham styles himself a "merchant"—a term in those days more frequently illustrative of a perambulating packman, than of anything akin to the Colonial and Foreign traders of the present day. It appears, however, that he very soon thereafter unburdened himself of his pack, threw aside his ellwand, and betook himself to an occupation which was perhaps more congenial to his genius as an author, we mean the business of a printer. It was while engaged in lifting brevier and primer that Dougal produced so many of those contributions to the vulgar literature of Scotland, upon which his fame chiefly rests; for of all those who ever indited chap books, or contributed to the Saltmarket press of Glasgow, or to the equally classic presses of Paisley, Stirling, and Falkirk, there was assuredly no one at all equal or comparable to the Bellman of Glasgow. Like a few authors, he was in the habit of at once spinning thought into typography, not through the common medium of the writing-desk, but at the printer's case;—instead of requiring to fix his thoughts by ink on paper, Dougal at once *set up* his ideas in the *composing-stick*, ready for the chase and printing-press. Of the vulgar literature to which we have referred, and of so much of which Dougal Graham was the author, it is enough to say that it really constituted the chief literary pabulum enjoyed by the bulk of our countrymen in the humbler walks of life; and though the jokes therein promulgated certainly were broad, and sometimes even grossly indecent, they were not untrue portraiture of Scottish life and Scottish manners. By means of the numerous merchant peddlars who, in those days of bad roads

and worse conveyances, perambulated the country, these chap stories of Dougal Graham were introduced into every cottage where any of the dealers rested for a night, or were disposed of by them at any country fair which they might chance to visit; hence the exploits of "George Buchanan," the histories of "John Cheap the Chapman," "Leper the Tailor," "Lothian Tom," "Paddy from Cork," "The Creelman's Courtship," "Simple John and his Twelve Misfortunes," and such like, although all saturated with indecency, formed the chief materials of the peasant's library;* and which, notwithstanding all that has been said about the moral and religious character of the country people, proves how much the national humour and peculiarities of the humbler classes of the Scottish population were then, as we believe they still are considerably, imbued with coarseness and indelicacy.

When Dougal Graham was busy in his vocation, composing and printing for the taste and mirth of his humble countrymen, the office of Bellman of the City became vacant, and Dougal became an aspirant to the situation. Although there is no record of his appointment in the

* In a manuscript of the late Mr M'Vean, the antiquarian bibliopole of the High-street, we find the following list of the *Opera Dugaldi*, so far as he had met with them, keeping out of view his lyrical productions, which were very numerous. Perhaps no man ever devoted more time to ferret out bibliographical curiosities connected with Scotland than Mr M'Vean. To his industry the antiquarian owes much; while the literary man is indebted to him for an improved edition of "M'Ure's History of Glasgow."

1. George Buchanan, 6 parts.
2. Paddy from Cork, 3 parts.
3. Leper the Tailor, 2 parts.
4. John Falkirk the Merry Piper.
5. Janet Clinker's Oration on the Virtues of the Old and Pride of Young Women.
6. John Falkirk's Curiosities, 5 parts.
7. John Cheap the Chapman, 3 parts.
8. Lothian Tom, 6 parts.
9. The History of Buckhaven, with cuts.

10. Jocky and Maggy's Courtship, 5 parts.
11. The Follower of Witless Women; or, the History of Haveral Wives.
12. The Young Creelman's Courtship to a Creelwife's Daughter, 2 parts.
13. Simple John and his Twelve Misfortunes.
14. The Grand Solemnity of the Tailor's Funeral, who lay nine days in state on his own Shop-board; together with his last Will.
15. The Remarkable Life and Transactions of Alexander Hamwinkle, Heckler, Dancing-master, and Ale-seller in Glasgow, now banished for Coining.
16. The Dying Groans of Sir John Barleycorn, being his grievous Complaint against the Brewers of bad Ale; to which is added, Donald Dronth's Reply, with a large description of his Drunken Wife.
17. A Warning to the Methodist Preachers.
18. A Second Warning to the Methodist Preachers.

books of the Corporation, it is pretty certain that it was not till the year 1770 that he got possession of the civic bell. Whether it was his known literary talents, or his peculiar capabilities for calling his various "O yes!" that insured his election, it is now impossible to say; but we know this much, that he did not obtain the office without competition, and that the trial of skill, which at length gained him the day, took place at the back of the old Town's Hospital near the Clyde, in presence of several of the civic authorities of the time. The list of candidates was long, and Dougal was the last on the lect. Each applicant tinkled and tried his best call; and when it became Dougal's turn to seize the bell, he rattled like a hero, and then roared out at the top of his voice—

" Caller herring at the Broomielaw,
Three a penny—three a penny."

And then he added, with a sarcastic leer,

" Indeed, my friends,
But it's a' a bleflum,
For the herring's no catch'd,
And the boat's no come!"

At the period when Dougal was first called to ring the skellet bell, the office was one of no small importance and emolument. For in those days everything of the least importance was best made known to the lieges by the tinkle and call of the public crier, who was constantly employed, from morn till night, in doing what is now almost wholly accomplished by newspaper advertisements and flaring posters.* Of the various important

* The bellmen of burghs in early times were rather important functionaries, and what is more, the situation appears to have been rather a lucrative one. That the office was valuable even in Glasgow may be gathered from the following Minutes of Council:—" 14 June, 1590. The quhillk day, the Provost, Baillies, and Counsell, hes givin thair twa commoun bells, viz., the mort and skellet bells, togidder with the office of printerschipe, to George Johnstoune for ane yier, to cum bund for the soume of thrie scoir

pundis, to be payit in manner following, viz., twentie pundis thair of in hand, twentie pundis at Lukismes, and twentie pundis in complete payment of the said thrie scoir pundis, at Beltane thereafter and hes fund caution, &c. Item the Provost, Baillies, and Counsell hes descernit and ordainit that gif any persone rais ane ontery aganis the said George in using of said offices, to be punishit in this maner to pay for everie falt xvijs for othis and being beggeirs, to be scurdgit throu the toun, and otherwayis punishit at the descree-

duties in which he was daily engaged, we have the best evidence, from an elegy which was published "On the much-lamented death of the witty Poet and Bellman," which took place on the 20th of July, 1779, and from which we make the following extracts:—

"Ye mothers fond! O be not blate
To mourn poor Dougal's hapless fate,
Oftimes you know he did you get
Your wander'd weaus;
To find them out, both soon and late,
He spared no pains.

"Our footmen now sad tune may sing,
For none like him the streets made ring,
Nor quick intelligence could bring
Of caller fish,
Of salmon, herring, cod, or ling,
Just to their wish.

* * * * *

"The Bull Inn and the Saracen,
Were both well served with him at e'en
As oftimes we have heard and seen
Him call retour,
For Edinburgh, Greenock, and Irvine,
At any hour.

"The honest wives he pleased right well,
When he did cry braw new cheap meal,
Cheap butter, barley, cheese, and veal
Was selling fast.
They often call'd him 'lucky chiel,'
As he went past.

* * * * *

"Had any rambler in the night,
Broken a lamp and then ta'en flight,
Dougal would bring the same to light
'Gainst the next day,
Which made the drunk, mischievous wight
Right dearly pay.

"It is well known unto his praise,
He well deserved the poet's bays,
So sweet was his harmonious lays;
Loud-sounding fame
Alone can tell, how all his days
He bore that name.

tion of the Baillies;" and then, on 27th August, 1780, "which day, allow Isobell Marshall, relict of James Hepburn, late bellman, to have the benefit of each third week of the

bell, for the space of half-a-year from the date hereof, in respect of her poverty, she furnishing one to cry the bell."

“ Of witty jokes he had such store,
 Johnson could not have pleased you more ;
 Or with loud laughter made you roar
 As he could do :
 He had still something ne'er before
 Exposed to view.”

* * * * *

The appearance of this functionary, as seen in a copied effigy taken from one of his own publications, and transferred to the *Paisley Magazine* of 1828, is certainly more odd than prepossessing. Only fancy a little man scarcely five feet in height, with a Punch-like nose, with a hump on his back, a protuberance on his breast, and a halt in his gait, donned in a long scarlet coat nearly reaching the ground, blue breeches, white stockings, shoes with large buckles, and a cocked hat perched on his head, and you have before you the comic author, the witty bellman, the Rabelais of Scottish ploughmen, herds, and handicraftsmen! Among all who ever rung, we believe there were few, not excepting even his successor, Bell Geordie, who surpassed him for broad and varied humour; and, among all who ever wrote for the chapman and flying-stationer, there never was one who equalled Dougal Graham. In the opinion of Mr Caldwell of Paisley, the celebrated bibliopole of bawbee ballads and penny histories, and for whom he wrote much, “ Dougal was an unco glib body at the pen, and could screeed aff a bit penny history in less than nae time. A’ his warks took weel—they were level to the meanest capacity, and had plenty of coarse jokes to season them.” With the opinion, however, of a far better judge, the late Mr William Motherwell, we shall conclude our notice of the Glasgow Bellman of 1770:—“ Had Graham only written the metrical account of the Rebellion, we believe he never would have occupied our thoughts for a moment; but as one who subsequently contributed largely to the amusement of the lower classes of his countrymen, we have to think of the facetious Bellman. To his rich vein of comic humour, laughable and vulgar description, great shrewdness of observation, and strong though immeasurably coarse sense, every one of us—after getting out of toy-books and fairly tales—has owed much. In truth, it is no exaggeration when

we state that he who desires to acquire a thorough knowledge of low Scottish life, vulgar manners, national characteristics, and popular jokes, must devote his days and his nights to the study of all the productions of Dougal's fertile brain, and his unwearied application to the cultivation of vulgar literature. To refined taste, Dougal had no pretensions. His delicacy is notorious, his coarseness an abomination; but they are characteristic of the class for whom he wrote. He is thoroughly imbued with the national humours and peculiarities of his countrymen of the humblest classes, and his pictures of their manners, modes of thinking, and conversation, are always sketched with a strong and faithful pencil. Indeed, the uncommon popularity which the chap books of the Bellman have acquired, entitles them in many a point of view to the regard of the moralist and historian. We meet them on every stall and in every cottage. They are essentially the 'library of entertaining knowledge' to our peasantry, and have maintained their ground in the affections of the people, notwithstanding the attempt of religious, political, or learned associations to displace them, by substituting more elegant and wholesome literature in their stead."*

* A history of the vulgar literature of Scotland has been long and is unquestionably still a desideratum, for certainly nothing could tend to throw so much light on the manners and tastes of the great body of the people as such a work. In 1830 it was hoped that Sir Walter Scott—than whom no man could have so well and so heartily performed the task—would have undertaken it as a preface to Dougal Graham's History of the Rebellion, which, as we have hinted, he proposed giving to the Maitland Club, but unfortunately he abandoned the idea; yet, in doing so, Sir Walter, in a letter dated 10th May, 1830, to the writer of this volume, among other things of Dougal, said—"Neither had I the least idea of his being the author of so much of our Bibliotheque Bleue as you ascribe to him, embracing unquestionably several coarse but excessively meritorious pieces of popular humour.

The *Turnamspike* alone was sufficient to entitle him to immortality. I had, in my early life, a great collection of these chap books, and had six volumes of them bought before I was ten years old, comprehending most of the more rare and curious of our popular tracts." What an insight this gives us into Scott's early taste for the study of national manners! It was next hoped that Motherwell would have taken up the subject, who, after the author of *Waverley*, was perhaps the best fitted for the work in Scotland. But he, alas! soon after Scott relinquished the subject, died; although, from the article from which we have made so long an extract, we find that Motherwell really projected a work of this kind, but abandoned the undertaking, from the difficulty of obtaining material and from the want of sufficient leisure. With a view to such a work, he had, however, made a pretty fair collection of Graham's penny

While Glasgow, irrespective of such rude rhymesters and chap writers as Dougal Graham, has at all times furnished its fair quota of men to the army of English literature and science, it at the same time has given little encouragement to such as remain denizens of the City. The demand for this species of mental labour in a trading and manufacturing town has always been trifling; while the metropolitan fields, better fitted to employ and recompense literary and scientific talent, have been always ready to welcome every new comer. At the commencement of the last century, and for many years thereafter, the purchase of books in Glasgow must have been restricted to a very few individuals, beyond the students attending the University, whose annual wants were very easily supplied; hence, with the exception of Messrs Dunlop & Wilson,* and a few others of those who during that period dubbed themselves with the honourable title of booksellers, the general traders in literature depended more on the sale of stationery, merchants' books, Bibles, and chap stories, and on book-binding, than on the disposal of the publications of the day, or of the classics either in the dead or living languages. As a curious fact connected with the state of the bookselling trade in Glasgow, even so late as the year 1776, it may be mentioned, that the persons engaged in the sale of typography and stationery amounted then to sixteen persons only; and that even these, finding that some *land-louping* bibliopoles were seriously interfering with their usual limited sale of books, by pushing off quantities of modern and other publications by auction, presented a long and

histories, as printed by John Robertson, in the Saltmarket of Glasgow, which, he believed, might well be esteemed first editions; but he adds that "Some unprincipled scoundrel has bereaved us of that treasure. There are a number of infamous creatures who acquire large libraries of curious things by borrowing books they never mean to return; and some not unfrequently slide a volume into their pocket at the very moment you are fool enough to busy yourself in showing them some nice typographical gem or bibliographic rarity. These dishonest and heartless villains

ought to be cut above the breath whenever they cross the threshold. They deserve no more courtesy than was of old vouchsafed to witches under bond and indenture to the Devil."

* The shop of Messrs Dunlop & Wilson was next that of Miller & Ewing at the corner of Candleriggs. They were the most fashionable bibliopoles in the town. Their windows were ornamented with stucco busts of Adam Smith, David Hume, and other literati. They supplied the prize books for the College and the Grammar School,

anxiously-worded memorial to the Magistrates, as guardians of the rights and privileges of the burghers called upon to pay local taxes, requesting them to interfere and prevent those sales, which they alleged, "if not interdicted, would lead to the ruin of themselves and families."* What a curious illustration does this simple fact afford of the mercantile sentiments of the day, so perfectly at antipodes to those now in the ascendant! †

* The following are the names of the parties who signed the memorial:—

John Bryce.
 John Smith.
 J. & J. Robertson.
 William Smith.
 James Duncan.
 James Brown.
 Peter Tait.
 Dunlop & Wilson.
 John Gilmour & Co.
 James Knox & Co.
 Robert Farie.
 John Williamson.
 Archibald Coubrongh.
 John Sutherland.
 John M'Callum.
 Mrs Orr.

† Towards the close of the century, book auctioneers became to be tolerated, and, since the beginning of the present century, they have been very numerous. Among these there is none better deserving to be remembered than DAVID MANX, who mounted his rostrum every lawful night during the winter and spring months in a low-roofed room in the first flat of the south-west corner of Princes-street, and who attracted thither hosts of College students and others interested in the purchase of cheap and often bulky books. David had an off-hand conversational mode of disposing of his literary wares, mingled with a considerable dose of satirical wit, which was stimulated by frequent libations of something rather stronger than water. His faithful attendant John, who handed him the volumes from the surrounding shelves, had always a tumbler ready to

clear the throat of his loquacious master, when books hung heavy and pence were slow to leave the pocket. His chief recommendations of a work was that it was *thick* and that it was *uncut*—qualities which on many occasions were not much prized. One night when the sale was particularly dull, and when David's throat was more than usually greedy for grog, the auctioneer, after trying the very best of his books without success, and after taking along draught, despairingly exclaimed, "Well, gentlemen, what shall I put up next?" Upon which a voice from this rather thin audience at once replied, "I think, David, you had better *put up* your shutters!" Among the host of literary rubbish which Mann offered at the low price of twopence, there was a publication which he always brought forward to fill up a gap, and that was "Melody the Soul of Music," from the pen, it was said, of Mr Mollison, who was also a character in his day. During the first decade of this century, this man might be often encountered in the Trongate, and was easily recognisable from his tall, stout, clumsy figure, and rather rusty dress. He always bore in his hand a thick walking-staff, and had not unfrequently a book under his arm. Towards the close of his career, he issued a prospectus of a Life of "Hannibal the Great," and, after getting certain subscriptions, issued a first number, but there the work closed. At one time he was a bookseller, and kept a circulating library. About the same time there was another author called *William Maver*, a short, round, plump-looking man, who, however, was a scholar, and a man of considerable talent. He also had been a

From the year 1750 till 1780, the population of Glasgow had increased from about twenty-five thousand to forty-two thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and the habitations had not only increased in a greater ratio, but were also larger and more comfortable. The extension, however, was chiefly limited to what is now the centre of the City. Although about the latter period the *Westergate*, amid its irregular thatched houses and malt-barns, then boasted of a few new and really elegant mansions, and *Miller-street* presented a succession of handsome "self-contained houses," in which some of the leading merchants and Virginia lords were domiciled; still, considering the limited size of the City, it is surprising how many spacious mansions were actually scattered over the town, marking a far greater distance between the castes of civic society than exists in the present day. As yet not a single habitation had been erected in Hutchesontown, Laurieston, Tradeston, or Bridgeton. In these suburban localities, the ploughman was still to be met with in spring urging on his team, and the reapers in harvest were still "kemping" to gather in the fruits of the corn-fields. The only human occupants of the princely estates of Blythswood and Milton were, at that period, the herd or the gardener; while the present densely-built portion of western Glasgow, which lies between Jamaica-street on the east and Stobcross-street on the west, and south from Anderston-road to the river, was then still lying in patches of common vegetables, with here and there a thatched steading for the habitation of those who either raised or protected them.*

bookseller and became ultimately a book auctioneer, but in both businesses he had no success. He is chiefly to be remembered from his having edited a new edition of Johnson's English Dictionary, in two vols. 8vo., which was printed by R. Chapman in 1809, with a large supplement of all the new words introduced into the language since Johnson died, pronunciation, etc., etc. This is a first class work, and must have *then* been extremely useful to the Glasgow citizens.

* A proof of the rural condition in which one of the most densely-built portions of

present Glasgow was when Lord Ross's Club was meeting, may be found in the following advertisement, which appeared in the *Glasgow Mercury* of May 8, 1783:—"Enoch Bank to be Sold.—The mansion-house, offices, and garden, lying within ten minutes' walk of the Cross. The house consists of 13 fire-rooms. There is a stable, byre, laundry, gardener's room, and washing-house, churn-house, house for poultry, and a little dove-cot, stocked. The garden consists of nearly an acre of ground, well enclosed, and has brick walls on the west and east sides. The walls

The piazzas or arcades, as we have already hinted, running along each street from the Cross, were still extending; and there was as yet no foot-pavements save the *Plainstones* in front of the public offices, and those just laid on a portion of the north and south sides of the Trongate.* Hutcheson's Hospital,† with its spire, the old Guard-house, with its open flagged piazza,‡ and the "Shawfield Mansion," still ornamented the principal thoroughfare from the east to the west; but, from the head of Candleriggs to the Cow-loan, or Queen-street, there was nothing except a stone wall. The public Green was limited, to the east, by the trees which extended across from the Peat-bog; and near the middle of the low Green, on the river side, was a small island, where women washed and bleached clothes and practised Scottish waltzing in a tub!§ The Corporation had been, as we have already seen, wisely looking to the necessity of erecting additional lamps in all the leading thoroughfares, but, withal, they only tended to make darkness in a dark night more visible.|| The shops, however, which were still chiefly clustered around the Cross, had become much better than they were during the preceding thirty years; and the wares exhibited in their windows had become more costly and varied. The citizen of 1780

covered with fruit-trees of the very best kinds, all in flourish, and in the most complete order. The garden and walls contain 103 fruit-trees, besides a great number of gean and plum-trees planted in the pleasure-grounds, in which there is a canal well stocked with fish, the banks of which are covered with an hundred different kinds of shrubs. The park to the north of the house is enclosed with double hedging, and verges of various kinds of wood." Enoch Bank is now nearly the centre of Glasgow.

* The first foot pavement was laid in 1777. It was on the east side of Candleriggs, from Trongate to Bell-street. The next was in 1780, on south side of Trongate, from Tron Steeple to Stockwell.

† This Hospital, which was finished in 1650, was about 70 feet long fronting the Trongate, and was taken down in 1795 in order to open

Hutcheson-street. In the *Glasgow Mercury* of that year, we find that a man was killed at the taking down of the steeple. This occurred on the 29th May.

‡ The Guard-house was taken down in 1786, and removed to Candleriggs, and thereafter to the east side of Montrose-street.

§ The old Green mentioned by M'Ure as situated between Stockwell and Jamaica-street, and which, in his day, boasted of 150 growing trees, was much frequented by the citizens from 1750 to 1780. Within this Green was the rope-work, and at its west-end was the old bottle-work.

|| By a Minute of Council, dated 16th August, 1780, nine lamps are ordered to be erected on the south side of Trongate, being the same number as there are on the north side.

could now find more than one silversmith, when he wanted a marriage-ring, or a set of porter-cups to be presented as a wedding-gift.* A lady had now sundry *haberdashers* to visit, when the call of necessity or curiosity urged her to examine the newest fashions; while she could find, both in the High-street and Westergate, according to an advertisement in the *Mercury*, “tincture and dentrifice, French rouge, black sticking-plaster for patches, tongue scrapers, white and black pins for dressing the hair, French chalk, powder machines, powder bags, silk and swandown puffs, crimping, pinching, and truffle irons, Bath gaiters, soft and grey pomatums, and violet hair-powder,” so needful in those days for every fashionable toilet! The individual also in want of a hat had at least *one* shop (Heaven knows how many there now are!) to get a covering for his cranium.† A sportsman could now get a pair of buckskin breeches and gloves without sending to London for such luxuries; while the lover of light literature could obtain the perusal of a novel or a romance without the cost of purchasing either.‡

* In 1780 there were four silversmiths' shops, viz., that of Bailie M'Ewan, Milne & Campbell, Adam Graham, and Robert Gray.

† The first shoe shop was opened by Mr W. Colquhoun, a little west of the Tron Church, in 1749. The first haberdashery shop was opened by Mr A. Lockart in 1750. Among the early silversmiths was Mr R. Luke, who commenced business in 1754; and the first hat shop was opened by Mr J. Blair in 1756. In 1780, the following advertisement is given as an illustration of the locality of haberdashers at that time, as well as the cost of their wares:—"Just arrived at Kirkland's, Fiddlers'-closs, High-street, Glasgow, Langley's rich and elegant assortment of India, London, and Manchester goods, which will be sold remarkably low, viz.: muslins, plain and fancy, 2s 6d to 15s a yard; thread satins and shagreens as low as 21s a gown piece; worked and plain cherryderries and gingham, sprigged, 22s a gown piece; Turkey mantuas, 3s 6d a yard; gentlemen's vest pieces, beginning at 9s; silk velderins for ladies' shoes or vests, 9s; gingham waist-

coat fronts, 3s 6d; silk handkerchiefs, 3s to 5s; gown chintzes, 25s to 52s 6d; real corded silk tabbies for gents' waistcoats and breeches; worked aprons, etc."

‡ In 1779, George Tassie and Co. advertise shammy, buck, and doeskin breeches, at the Golden Glove, head of King-street. Mr Basil Ronald, however, was the chief in this line, having put on his sign "Breeches-maker from London"—a spell of potent power in those times, when the metropolis loomed so mightily by distance in the eye of every Glasgow citizen. In the same year, two keepers of "Lending Libraries" advertise, the one being John Smith, at the George Buchanan's Head, facing the Laigh Kirk, Trongate, placing 5000 volumes at the service of the public; and the other, Archibald Coubrough, in the High-street, who offered 4,500 volumes. In 1783, Mr Smith advertises his catalogue at sixpence, in which the terms of a year's reading is fixed at ten shillings. Mr Smith was grandfather of John Smith, LL.D. of Cruthersland. Father, son, and grandson, continued the library.

Previous to 1780, many great improvements had taken place in the City. Jamaica-street Bridge* had been commenced in 1768, and Stockwell-street Bridge was widened in 1776.† Ingram-street and Buchanan-street had been formed, and St Andrew-square had been laid off for building.‡ The “Belly of the Wynd,” or “Bell o’ the Brae,” had begun to attract the attention of the Corporation, who, in 1772, voted £50 to render the access of the Cathedral more easy to the crowd of church-goers.§ The Forth & Clyde Canal|| and the Monkland Canal were partly completed.¶ Several new banks had been established. A theatre had

* “On Monday, August 22, 1768, the workmen began to dig for the foundation of a new bridge, which is to be built over the Clyde from the foot of Jamaica-street. On Thursday, September 29, 1768, the foundation-stone of the New Bridge, to be built at Glasgow, was laid with great pomp by George Murdoch, Esq., the Lord Provost, as Grand Master-Mason, attended by the Magistrates, the Masters and Brethren of the different Lodges in the City, and a fine band of music.”—*Scots Magazine*, 1768. From the Council Minutes it appears that on the 7th April, 1769, £4 12s was paid to R. & J. Foulis for engraving a plate to put into the foundation-stone of Jamaica-street Bridge.

† On the 2d October, 1775, the estimate for widening the Old Bridge, on the east side, was approved of—the amount being £1,033; the additional breadth being 10 feet 6 inches, with £115 for taking down old work and rebuilding the southmost arches; and £40 for taking down and rebuilding the north-west arch.—*Council Records*.

‡ From the *Scots Magazine* we find that on the 24th February, 1768, the Royal assent was given to “an Act for making and widening a passage or street in the City of Glasgow, to St Andrew’s Church in the said City, and for enlarging and completing the church-yard of the said church, and for making and building a convenient Exchange or square in the said City.”

§ “The Bell of the Brae” is the most elevated portion of the High-street, and was

formerly the Cross of Glasgow. It formed the centre of the ancient City, and from this point two streets of great antiquity strike off towards the east and west. The former is still called the Drygate, and was formerly the leading thoroughfare of the town, ay, and until the bridge over the Clyde was founded by Bishop Rae in the fourteenth century. In the upper part of this street, in a lane called the Limmerfield, stood the prebendal house of the Parson of Campsie, who was Chancellor of the Chapter of Glasgow. It was in this house that Lord Darnley resided when he came to meet his father, the Earl of Lennox, and where, stretched on a bed of sickness, he received a visit from his lovely consort, Mary Queen of Scots. Nearer the Cross stood the ancient Mint; and here Robert III. struck several coins, on one side of which appears the King’s crest, crowned with this inscription—“Robertus Dei Gratia Scotorum,” on the other, “Dominus Protector,” and in an inner circle, “Villa de Glasgow.” One of these rare coins was in the possession of the late Mr James Hardie. It had the king’s crest, crown, and sceptre. The street running to the west from the old Cross is also still called the Rottenrow, along which, in Roman Catholic times, the processions of monks passed on festival days to the Cathedral.

|| The Act for making the Forth and Clyde Canal was passed on the 8th March, 1768.

¶ The celebrated Mr James Watt in 1769 made a survey and estimate of this canal,

been twice erected and destroyed; and, in short, there were abundant tokens to show that the City was steadily advancing. While all these things exhibited very great extension during the course of thirty years, it may, however, be fairly affirmed, that Glasgow was still, comparatively speaking, a small place, when it is recollected that, in the year 1780, an advertisement appears in a local newspaper, of "Summer Quarters to be let at the west end of Rottenrow, in the common Gardens."

If such be something like the contrast which the Glasgow of 1780 would present to that of 1855, how different would the dress of the citizens of that period appear, compared with the garbs of the present day! Gentlemen and tradesmen invariably wore dark blue coats with clear buttons, not double-breasted as in modern days, but having buttons on one side only; the vest being usually of the same cloth and colour, with deep pockets and pocket lids. The breeches of tradesmen were always of corduroy, buckled at the knee; with which they wore rig-and-fur stockings, and shoes pointed at the toes, fastened with bright brass buckles, while their costume was completed with a cocked hat. The garb of the higher classes was not much different except in quality, the buttons on their coats being gilt, and the shoe and knee buckles of silver. With the exception of young boys and clergymen, every man in the City wore long hair, soaked with pomatum and covered with powder; some having their hair wrapped round with a silk ribbon, lying on their backs like a pig-tail;

which was carried out under his direction and superintendence. From Mr Muirhead's Life (just published) of this great man, who was so long a denizen of Glasgow, and where he found two wives, we learn that while he was busily experimenting on the steam-engine, he also devoted much time to civil-engineering, having made a survey of a canal to unite the rivers Forth and Clyde by a line known as the Lochlomond passage, also a survey of the Clyde, and a report on the best means of improving the harbour of Ayr. The most remarkable of his engineering works, however, was that which he did in

1773, being a survey and estimate of a navigable canal to pass through the chain of rivers and lakes in the wild and remote tract of country between Fort-William and Inverness; being the same line in which, at a considerably later period, the celebrated Caledonian Canal was successfully constructed by Mr Telford. The remuneration paid engineers in the last century was very different from that now demanded. Mr Watt, for his great survey, only charged £1 17s per diem for his talent and travelling expenses; and in 1791 Mr Rennie was only paid £2 2s as an engineer.

while others had a bunch of their hair bound with a knot of ribbon, dangling on their shoulders, called a club.* At that period, too, the dress of the ladies was at perfect antipodes to that which we meet with on the streets of Glasgow at this moment. Instead of the small fly-away bonnet of the young ladies of the present day, we find that their grandmothers and great-grandmothers sported towering head-dresses—their hair being all hard-curved, anointed with scented pomatum, and white with powder. There was perhaps not such a contrast in the shape of the gown, it being then worn particularly long-waisted; but in place of the now neat boots or satin slippers, there was nothing then in use but shoes with sharp-pointed toes, ornamented with stone and cut-glass buckles, all having French heels at least three inches high and as small as a man's middle finger; and a large fan completed this fashionable toilet. When ladies had occasion to walk out, the streets were so full of puddles and mud as to render the use of pattens almost universal; and, from umbrellas being yet unknown in the City, each woman found it necessary in wet weather, (and Heaven knows how often, if the climate was no better then than it is now!) in order to protect herself against wind and rain, to don a duffile cloak or black silk calash, which last looked like “a huge floating balloon enclosing the whole paraphernalia of the head-dress.” What a contrast does this present to the movements of the ladies of the present day, who, with all the advantages of every modern safeguard from the climate, persevere in sweeping the foot-paths with their silken flounces!

It was at this point of our City's progress—viz., about 1780, when as yet many of the respectable merchants and manufacturers of Glasgow were in the habit of collecting their dinner guests at three o'clock (the common dinner hour being *one*), in a bed-room, instead of receiving them, as at present, in a gorgeous and glittering saloon—there assembled, at the convivial hour of six, a Club of gallant gay Lotharios, in the ground floor of a house situated in that quarter of the town which, but a few

* The boys of this period all wore breeches, which were made of leather, and supplied by skinners at from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings a pair.

years before, from having been the residence of the respectable and the wealthy, was most appropriately designated the *Golden Acre*, but which, to the mass of our youthful townsmen, will now be better known by the less respectable appellation of the High-street.* The fraternity to which we allude, was known by the high-sounding and aristocratic denomination of MY LORD ROSS'S CLUB, a title which it derived, not from any connection it ever had with the bold baron who figures in Debrett, but from the simple circumstance of the worthy landlord's sires, who bore that honourable surname, having dreamed of matrimony, like their fellows, and by such means entailed the cognomen on the host. In short, the Club obtained its designation from the landlord's name being Ross—the baronial adjunct being conferred not by the crown but the Club. Every evening, from Monday till Saturday, did this choice brotherhood meet over their tankard of twopenny and glass of Jamaica, running up a nightly score of from three to four pence each, or at most to sixpence, when it was agreed to wind up the main-spring of life, yeleft the stomach, with a substantial *rabbit*. On Sunday, My Lord Ross's Club never assembled, for in those church-going days, when it was thought sinful even to light the street lamps, or to allow any food to be cooked upon a Sabbath, it would have been deemed little less than sacrilege to swill grog or tap ale in a tavern.†

* The rents of dwelling-houses in flats about 1780 and 1782, ranged from £6 to £12 a-year. Shops or merchant booths from £10 to £20. Most of the shops had under-ground premises, called *laigh shops*, which were let separately.

† The stern Puritanical spirit, which attempted in Glasgow to force every one either to go to church or to keep within doors on Sundays, was carried so far, that persons were employed, called *Bum Bailies*, to perambulate the streets and the public Green, and to seize upon all they found in the open air during divine service. Mr Blackburn, the grandfather of the present laird of Killearn, having

been taken into custody, according to the persecuting spirit of the period, for walking in the Green on Sunday, brought an action against the Magistrates for unwarranted exercise of authority, and carried his suit to the Court of Session, who at once decided against the preposterous attempt to prevent walking on Sunday, either on the streets or on the Green. The result of this Puritanical severity was very soon found in the fearful laxity of the succeeding generation in this respect. Would that the citizens of 1855 could take a lesson from the consequences of which the pharisaical stringency of 1780 was productive!

The members of this high-styled fraternity may be said to have been, at this *Tontine-building** period, among the class of our City Corinthians—a character to which they must have thought themselves not unjustly entitled, from the circumstance of the Club candelabra being a mahogany copy of one of the celebrated columns of the Temple of Jupiter Stator in the Roman Forum, which, as all the world knows, has long been considered the most perfect model of the Corinthian order! Be that as it may, however, the individuals who composed My Lord Ross's Club were all persons who might fearlessly pace the "Plainstones,"† or, what is more, who could proudly dispute "the crown o' the causeway" with any of the then rather paralysed tobacco-aristocrats of the Westergate. They were persons, too, whose life and conversation were not confined, like many of their fellows of the period, to *one* solitary idea. They soared above such vulgar topics as tobacco and sugar, or the warp and weft of a long lawn or blue and white check! The *beaux esprits* of whom we speak left such subjects to be discussed by the magnates who daily strutted in peacock magnificence around the statue of King William, to the tinkling melody

* The Tontine buildings, which were erected immediately to the west of the Town Hall at the Cross, were commenced in 1781. The Coffee-room or Reading-room was long considered the most elegant in Britain. "How have the mighty fallen!" There were 107 shares or lives, at £50 each, at its foundation in 1780, and in 1853 there were still 12 alive.

† The "Plainstones," as formerly noticed, was the only pavement in Glasgow at one time, and was placed in front of the piazzas of the present Tontine buildings. It was still the promenade, *par excellence*, of the leading dons of the town, and was protected by a row of cannon stuck in the ground, with their muzzles uppermost, over which the boys attempted to play at leap-frog. Many an odd tale is associated with this promenade. Among these, one was told me the other day which illustrates alike the costume and the characters who at that time met there. It

appears that Dr Moor, the Professor of Greek—to whom we have alluded as belonging to the Anderston Club—was rather a natty as well as learned man, that is to say, he was particular in the cut of his dress, and most particular to the curl and powdering of his wig. Strutting about one day, as he was wont, apparently pleased with his own appearance, he was noticed by a young spark of an officer, not long in commission, who, thinking to annoy the Professor, whispered in passing to his companion, loud enough, however, for the Doctor to hear—"He smells strongly of *powder*." Upon which the Doctor at once turned round and said—"Don't be alarmed, my young soldier, it is not *gunpowder*!" *Senex* mentions, in "GLASGOW, PAST AND PRESENT," that "the last personage who continued to walk these *Plainstones*, decked out with his scarlet cloak and cocked hat, was Dr Peter Wright." This gentleman was a regular member of My Lord Ross's Club.

of the music bells, or to be canvassed by the *corks* (small manufacturers), who might be called to quit their not unusual posture of leaning over the half shop-door, for the purpose of taking their *meridian* with a customer. The members of My Lord Ross's Club flew at higher game; for they ever seasoned their hours of innocent revelry with discussions on literature or the fine arts. Amid the hopes and fears excited by the closing events of the American war, they could enter upon a criticism of the works of Hume or Ramsay. They knew the merits of Handel, Raphael, and Roubilliac, as well as the burgesses and boatmen knew those of either Dougal Graham or Bell Geordie;* and could have pointed out each original picture of Foulis's exhibition in the College-court, on a king's birthday, as easily as the president of the then undreamed of, and since forgotten, Dilettanti Society could once select the sheep from the goats in the Hunterian Museum!

With minds so illuminated, it may be easily supposed that the Club ale required not to be spiced with gossiping detraction, nor the Club rabbits to be seasoned with scandal; and on the annual dinner day, when above a score of the social band sat down to the standard dish of "beef and greens," and after

"The clang of plates, of knife and fork,
That merciless fell like tomahawks to work,"

was stilled into silence by the cloyed appetite, and when the generous juice was placed upon the board to whet their understandings, it was never found necessary (although some of the members were connected with the City Corporation) that the beverage required such *sentimental* provocatives as "the Lord Provost and Magistrates," and "the Trade of Clyde;" or that the evening's jocularity needed to be *heightened* by those "unaccustomed as I am to public speaking" orations, which, at the present moment, so *distressingly* mark the mighty march of intellect. In My Lord Ross's Club, such tiresome, heartless, and pointless pastime was

* See the *Accidental Club* for a sketch of this well-known and somewhat notorious functionary.

not known, and what is more, would not have been tolerated; for there each member truly

“Indulged his genius; each was glad,
Jocund, and free, and swell'd the feast with mirth.”

As a key to the jovial-hearted brotherhood which, seventy years ago, made the low roof of a High-street parlour often ring with the choral chaunt of “Down the burn, Davie lad,” we may mention its last blithe-faced president, Bailie David Hendrie, whose memory is still revered by all who ever heard of him. The facetious pleasantry of this delightful bottle companion, whose very form was the emblem of good humour and jocularity, proved indeed the chief bond of union to the fraternity; and when he poured out his own manly voice, as he was often wont, to the humerous ballad of “I am a tinker to my trade,” he so electrified his audience that there was not a bag-wig present, from the late Dr Peter Wright to that of Professor Cumin of Oriental language memory, which did not dance and shake with laughter.*

Although there is not now one of the members of My Lord Ross's Club left to bewail its president's harmless gibes and flashes of merriment, to recall his portly form, or to remember his jovial songs, we are happy to think that we, at least, some twenty years ago, were acquainted with the last survivor of this effete fraternity. Sworn antiquarians, as we confess we are, we never once gazed on the gold-headed cane which had borne this respectable gentleman along the Trongate, from the May to the December of life, without recalling the joys of his dancing days—days associated to the last with the pleasures and the friendships of My Lord Ross's Club. While we looked, too, on that happy portrait of a former age—a graphic index of the change of men and manners, by no means flattering to the men of modern times—we often regretted the loss of that race of bag-wigs and pig-tails, which, by the present youthful generation,

* We may mention, that among the other few members of this Club now known, were the late Provost Black, Dr Marshall of Neils-

land, Mr Robert Morris of Craig, and Mr John Miller, of Miller & Ewing.

are utterly unknown, and by the elder almost forgotten. And now that this worthy and warm-hearted octogenarian has also, like his former companions, put off this mortal coil, we have only to add that Glasgow never possessed a better specimen of its ancient citizens, nor My Lord Ross's Club a worthier representative of its former glory, than Mr John Miller, of whom it may verily be said, that

“Age sat with decent grace upon his visage,
And worthily became his silver locks;
He wore the marks of many years well spent,
Of virtue, truth well tried, and wise experience.”