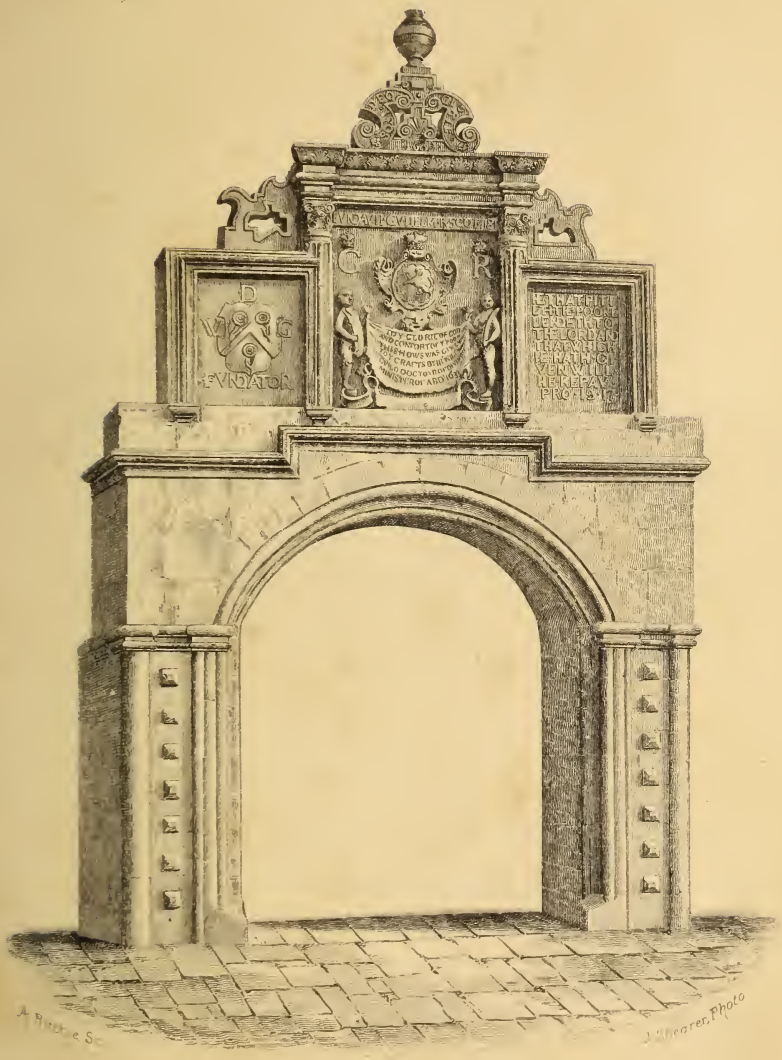
Aberdeen Fifty Years Ago

ABERDEEN FIFTY YEARS AGO



GATEWAY TO THE OLD TRADES HALL

LEWIS SMITH, ABERDEEN 1868.

ABERDEEN FIFTY YEARS AGO:

BEING

A SERIES OF TWENTY-ONE ENGRAVINGS

Of Buildings in and that were about Aberdeen;

ALONG WITH

WOOD ENGRAVINGS OF SOME OF THE WELLS,

&c. &c.

"Some remnants of (Pictorial) History which have casually escaped the wreck of time."—*Bacon.*

ABERDEEN:
LEWIS SMITH, 3, M'COMBIE'S COURT.

1868.

G. CORNWALL & SONS, PRINTERS, ABERDEEN.

NOTE.

THE Engravings given in this Book were the illustrations of Mr. ROBERT WILSON'S *Delineation of Aberdeen*, published nearly fifty years ago, and some others. The Gateway to the Old Trades' Hall has been engraved specially for this Volume. It was the intention to have brought them out with a *mere list* of the Pictures—the object being to keep in remembrance Buildings that were slipping away or that had ceased to be. It was thought, by some, advisable to add a slight account of the Buildings represented: this is now done; and, at the same time, a few Wood Engravings of some of the Wells, &c., about Aberdeen have also been inserted as tail-pieces. The subjects represented may soon be altered or done away. Besides these, the Map or Plan, "*Urbs Aberdonia—The New Town of Aberdeen*," drawn by Mr. JAMES GORDON, Parson of Rothiemay, in 1661, is inserted from that published by the Spalding Club in 1842; and part of a Plan of the City, executed in the year 1789, by Mr. ALEXANDER MILNE, Surveyor, which will be of use in giving an idea what like the Town was eighty years ago, previous to the improvements which have taken place since the year 1800.

The two pages giving the Inscriptions upon the Roof and Cornice of the Cathedral are from a copy kindly furnished by Mr. TAYLOR, who has so successfully painted and illuminated both.

The professional antiquary may find little information in this Work: other readers, it is to be hoped, will find some.

Thanks are due to JOHN ANGUS, Esq., for his kindness in affording access to much valuable information; and, at the same time, to Mr. ROBB, of the Town-house, for his obliging attention; and to other friends.

The Drawings for the Wood Engravings were made by Mr. GEORGE MITCHELL, who has been a very successful prize-taker at the Classes of the Mechanics' Institution, and who holds a "National Medal."

CONTENTS.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

WOOD ENGRAVINGS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAP OR PLAN OF ABERDEEN,

Drawn by James Gordon, *Parson of Rothiemay*, 1661—*at page 8.*

a Gallowgate Porte.
b The Lane called the Vennell.
c Over kirk gate streete.
d Streete called ye Gwestraw.
e Marishall Colledge at the Gray freer kirk.
f Over kirk gate Porte.
g Scoole Hill streete.
h Grammar Scoole.
i Musick Scoole.
k Correction House wynd or Lane.
l Correction House.
m Towns Hospitall.
n Aidies Wynd.
o Bow Bridge.
p Green or Bow Bridge streete.
q The Crafts or Tradesmens Hospitall.
r The Tarnty Mill.
s The Flower Mill.
t Midd Mill in the Green.
v Neither Kirk gate Porte.
x Streete call'd the Neither kirk gate.
y Shipp raw streete.
z Cheqwer Raw Lane.
1 Entry to the Huckster Wynd.
2 Flesh stocks.
3 Flesh Merkatt Crosse.
4 Fishmerkatt Crosse.
5 Futty Porte.
6 Earle of Marishalls House.
7 Laird of Pettfoddels House.
8 Rwins of the Templairs, neere the Justice Porte.
9 Rwins of the Old Castell wall.
10 Castell Chappel within a New Sconce.
11 Shippraw Porte.
12 Saint Katharins Hill.
13 Bwildings called the Rownde Table.
14 Rotton Raw, a small Lane adjoyning to the Gwestraw.

LIST OF PLACES INDICATED IN THE PLAN OF ABERDEEN,

By Alexander Milne, *Surveyor*, 1789—*at page 56.*

1 Castle Street.
2 The Well in Castle Street.
3 Cross and Plainstones.
4 Town House or Tolbooth.
5 Prison or Jail.
6 New Inn and Mason Lodge.
7 Huxter Row.
8 Broad Street.
9 Guestrow.
10 Rotten Row.
11 Narrow Wynd.
12 Shiprow.
13 Shore Brae.
14 Quay-head.
15 Weigh-house.
16 Exchequer Row.
17 Marischal Street.
18 Malt-mill Burn.
19 Trinity Corner.
20 Fisher Row.
21 Green.
22 Aidie's Wynd.
23 Putachieside.
24 Correction Wynd.
25, 26 Nether Kirk Gate.
27 Carnegie's Brae.
28 Back Wynd.
29 Schoolhill.
30 Upper Kirk Gate.
31 College Court.
32 Longacre.
33 Queen Street.
34 Shoe Lane.

LIST OF PLACES—*Continued.*

35 Lodge Walk.
36 North Street.
37 Justice Street or the Port.
38 St. Ninian's Chapel.
39 Observatory.
40 Castle Hill.
41 Futty Wynd.
42 Virginia Street.
43 Weigh-house Square.
44 Back Traps.
45 Fish Market.
46 Shipmasters' Hall.
47 Trinity Chapel.
48 Trinity Hall.
49 Old House Corner of Aidie's Wynd, date, 1663, with Arms and Monogram of Aidie.
50 St. Katherine's Hill.
51 City Guard-house.
52 Commercial Bank
53 Anteburgers' Meeting House.
54 Theatre.
55 Hadden's Factory.
56 The Old Barn where kidnapped boys were kept.
57 Concert Court.
58 Tannerie Street.
59 Messrs. Leys & Co.
60 Birney's Tannery.
61 Gibbon's Brewery.
62 Record Office.
63 Lemon Tree Close.
64 College Church.
65 Marischal College.
66 Bank.
67 Quakers' Meeting House.
68 Barnet's Close.
69 Berean Meeting House.
70 Scotch Episcopal Chapel, now Wesleyan Meeting House.
71 Slaughter House.
72 Butcher Market.
73 House where the Duke of Cumberland Lodged.
74 Malt Mill, Barn, and Bridge.
75 Cistern and Well.
76 East and West Churches.
77 Quay.
78 Gateway to Trades Hall.
79 Harbour.
80 Renny's Wynd.

ABERDEEN FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

Fifty years have made a much greater change on the appearance of Aberdeen than all the alteration made upon it during the previous one-hundred and fifty years. A bird's eye view of New and Old Aberdeen was drawn in 1661 by James Gordon, Parson of Rothiemay, and given to the Magistrates, who got it engraved. The parson "had bein at great paines in draughting it upon ane meikle cairt." He also at the same time wrote a very interesting description of "Bothe Touns of Aberdene," which the drawing illustrated. These afford the means of contrasting in a very distinct and striking manner the progress that Aberdeen has made up to the present time. A facsimile of the view of Aberdeen is given in this volume.

Gordon describes the Town as being situated upon three hills; "The most northerlie and highest of the thrie is the Gallowgate hill, most ordinerlie callit the Wind milne hill because of the windmilne situated upon the tope theroff." In the year 1602, the Magistrates and Council ordered a "Windmill to be built on Heidon's Hill at the Gallowgate Port" and the inhabitants voluntarily agreed to be taxed to the extent of one thousand merks for defraying the expense. When this Port was first built is unknown; sometimes it is called the Causey the Calsay, or the Causeway, but most frequently "the Gallowgate Port." Although removed 107 years after Gordon's time, it is only indicated on his map by the letter *a*. To assist in rebuilding it in 1518, two chalders of lime were given by Alexander Gray, and the Magistrates at the same time ordered all "unlaws and fines" to be used for the same

purpose. It was again repaired along with the "Justice and Futtie Ports" in 1617, for which the Dean of Guild had to pay one-hundred and thirty merks. It was ornamented on the outside with the King's Arms, which having become "obliterated," the Council, "on account of its antiquity," ordered "to be revived" in 1569. Forty-one years after, it was ordered to be repaired with oak timber. And in 1760, the Magistrates and Council "to straight and widen the road, order the Causeway Port to be taken down." As frequently happens, the resolutions of the Council were not carried into effect till some time after (see the Bridge of Dee) in this case; it was 1768 when "the Gallowgate Port" was again "ordered to be taken down."

Near the Port was a building which still remains, popularly called Mar's Castle. Within the last forty years it has lost much of its feudal appearance, the lower floor being completely modernized. The upper portion, or third floor, placed at the north end, is about one-third the length of the lower floors, and rises from a well-made projecting corbelled moulding, the beauty of which is hid by "harling" and white-wash.

Strengthened by its Port at the north end, the Gallowgate was well defended, on the east side, by the high and precipitous nature of the hill, while the west side, although not rising so high, from the nature of the adjoining ground, had, perhaps, a stronger natural defence in the Loch which ran along the whole length of its base.

At one period during the thirteenth, and, perhaps, part of the fourteenth century, the Loch must have been a beautiful sheet of water, often "white wi' Geese and grey wi' Gu's," but not for many years before Gordon's description of it. Before then it had become "a large fenny marrish commonlie called the Loch, a fenne, or pudle rather." The Magistrates ordered it to be dried in 1603, to make it of more value to the Town, "to remain in all tyme vnlaborit or manvrit; to grow grass and to serve onlie for that vse," and to furnish water to the Town "which serveth three milns and the posterns nearest to it." This was to be done "be the sicht and advyce of Dauid Ander-

G. Smith Del.t

Engd. by J. Moffat Edin.r

ABERDEEN FROM THE SOUTH WEST.

1822

son the Townis Maister of wark, the hail trinck of water sal be drawn down the south syd of the Lochfield croft and to rin at the west syd of the Gallowgate, and eist syd of the said Loch, in the auld trinck, to be cassin deper and wyder." The ditch at the south-west side nearest the Woolmanhill, was to be closed up. The improvement effected must have been very inconsiderable, as there is still Gordon's picture nearly sixty years after, "a fenne, or pudle rather." But looking on a plan of the town in the present day, the extent of ground covered by the Loch will be better understood, and the change that has taken place more strongly contrasted with that of 1661. Many are the orders given by the Magistrates for cleaning the Loch, from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century.

The Parson in continuing his description says, "The next is called the Castellhill from the Castell which stood sometymes upon a pairt of it." Further on he mentions that "the kings of Scotland built a Castell upon the Castellhill; to quhat purpose is not easie to conjectur, being that there is no water to be found about, though never so deepe digged; which the Englishes laitlie fand to be true." When the Castle was first built is not known, but Robertson in "The Book of Bonaccord," page 27, says "in the reign of Alexander III., we discover the existence of a Castle, the property of the Crown," and in the same page "there were expended on the erection in 1264, twenty merks on the building." From the death of Alexander in 1286, until the year 1336, when the Town was burned by the English for six days, the vicissitudes which the inhabitants experienced are well known. Gordon continues "that Castell after it hade stood ther for sumtyme, wes taken by the tounsmen;"—"and, least at any tyme therafter it should prove a yock to the tounsmen's necks, they rased it to the ground, and in place theroff builded a chappell which they dedicated to St. Niniane"—"the chappell remayneth as yit vode" and upon the end of it there was formerly a "night beacon" which was "neglected long ago." But there was a chapel previous to the one mentioned by Gordon. In "The Book of Bonaccord," page 219, Robertson writes "It appears, however, that a

place of worship was included in the original edifice of the Castle; in the Chamberlain's accounts for 1264 the entry is, "Item capellano ministranti in capella castri de Aberdene de illo anno, v. marcas." In 1524, Robert Blindchell mortifies a house or tenement in the Shiprow for the benefit of the Chaplain. The year after, the Council and Community "consentit to the ewynning of thair Castelhill and dyking the same about;" as in some other cases, this resolution may not have been carried out; four years afterwards it is ordered "to be graithed and dyked about."

On the 14th April, 1539, a Head-Court was held on the Castlehill, probably in consequence of the plague which was raging in the town that year, and which continued with more or less virulence for some years after.

An entry concerning the plague is worth noting; in 1546, the Baillies license David Anderson, to pass and visit the sowing of his bear once or twice a-day, and he is also permitted to hear mass in St. Ninian's Chapel on the Hill, or St. Clement's Chapel, accompanied by a Town's Officer.

A Head-Court held on the 16th April, 1566 "thocht expedient to mak prepair and wphald ane gryt bowat or lamp, quhair the same wes obefoir, on the east gawill of Sanct Ninianis Cheppel, vpone the Castelhill, with thre gryt flammand lychtis" to be lighted in the winter season from daylight to daylight, from September 1st, to the last day of March, that ships coming into the road or sailing past the coast "may, be the said lamp, haue jugement and experiens quhair thai ar to eschew danger." It was agreed with the consent of the Merchants and Guild Court to establish certain dues upon goods imported and exported, also upon shipping for supporting the expense of this "gryt bowat."

The Chapel must have been kept in good order from the repairs which it received from time to time; and it was occasionally let, but for what purpose is not mentioned. In 1590, "to wit the body thairof and the gryt loft of the samen, allanerlie, being rowpit, was sett to Gilbert Blak, elder cupar, for the sowme of four poundis." Could Gilbert have been an

"entrepreneur?" The Council on the 14th March, 1598, ordered the Dean of Guild, with all diligence "to cause craftismen enter and paynt the Chapell on the Castelhill of this Burgh, *quhilk is the Townis common hous*" and to build a little stair where the old stair was "obefoir." About the year 1649, the Commissary Court was removed from Old Aberdeen, to St. Ninian's Chapel, and for a short period after the Restoration it was again moved to, and continued in, Old Aberdeen until the Revolution, when it was transferred to Aberdeen. In 1721, the office of the Commissary situated on the north side of the Castlegate was destroyed by fire and the whole of the Records containing many valuable deeds were consumed.

At the time of the Commonwealth, the Fort and Fortifications on the Hill were strengthened. Orem mentions that the stones were taken from the walls of the chancel of the Cathedral "to build the fortifications of the Castlehill, Aberdeen, anno, 1652." And further on he continues "afterwards the said Bishop's lodgings were demolished, by the English usurpers, with the north side of his garden dyke, to build the fortifications," &c. In 1659, the Magistrates and Council are informed by Colonel Fairfax, commanding a regiment in Town, that General Monk had ordered him to demolish the Fort which had been built by the English at an expense of eight-hundred pounds, but that out of respect to the Town he was content to sell the same for fifty pounds, which *very liberal offer* is rejected by the Council. The Chapel was also used for lodging the bodies of individuals previous to interment. In Spalding a very interesting account of the ceremonies at the funeral of the Marchioness of Huntly will be found under the date 1638. The dues for this privilege in 1669 were ordered to be ten merks; and in that year Colonel John Middleton received permission from the Magistrates to fit up the Chapel for the accommodation of *a troop of horse.* At the west side of the fortification there was a considerable space of ground which led by a passage northward into Justice Street, at the east side of the Port or gate of that name; part of this space was sold by the Council in 1722 to Helen Duff, Lady Braco, for a sum-

mer house ; at the west side of this space a wall is indicated by the figure 9, in Gordon's view, said to be part of the old Fort.

Two vaults were ordered to be built in the Chapel in 1741, to serve as Powder Magazines for the Town and for the military. Forty years afterwards permission is granted to the Professors of Marischal College, to build an observatory at the "south-east angle of the Castle" near to if not exactly on the spot where the present Barrack Magazine is situated. From Castle street, Gordon writes, "The way lyeth to the Castellhill through ather of two ports or gates," the one being the Justice or Thief's Port at the north-east corner of Castle Street, (it is strange that it is not indicated in his view), while Futty Port was at the south-east corner but receded so far back as to be in line with the wall coming westward from the hill. From this gate Futty Wynd with a few houses on either side winded eastward down the steep incline to the base of the hill where there was "a water ditch runanine from the Packhouse towards Futty," then consisting of a few small houses straggling in a south-east direction from Futty Church. At a short distance beyond, the view on this side of the river was terminated by the Block-house on the point of the Sand-ness : where "the water ditch" ran, Virginia Street now is ; with the numerous streets branching from it to the Quay.

The Harbour and the north side of it are described by Sir S. Forbes of Foveran, about 1715, "The (Castle) Hill having given us a sight of the Harbour, let us walk to it, which we will find of great breadth and length, at full sea ; and which affords a most safe station to ships from all winds and tempests ; and is so capacious, that, about sixty years ago, a fair meadow of ground, formerly within the flood mark, was gained by making a long and broad terras flanked in both sides with large stones ; and the Harbour nothing entrenched upon, but bettered ; and this terras gives the Citizens the warmest and driest walk in winter, and the coolest and most beautiful in summer, having the water and ships on one hand, and a very flowery meadow, planted with willows, on the other ; and, likewise leads to

another agreeable more solitary walk, called the Carpet Walk, from the softness and thickness of the wreathed green moss with which it is overspread." Forbes continues that it would be very ungrateful if he did not mention where he played himself when he was a loon, and "what is adjoining to this Carpet Walk. It is a smooth dry field stretching in length almost betwixt the mouths of the two rivers, Dee and Don; and sheltered on the seaside, by a mighty number of Downs, covered with a strong greenish plant called bent; and beautified on the City side with a well cultivated ground, surrounded by a plantation of willows." Where this Carpet Walk was situated it is difficult to say. It may have been Garvock Wynd, or along the side of the "stank of Pole Creek" leading to Futty Myre, a locality interesting to Free Masons who know the history of the craft in Aberdeen. Both these places are indicated in a plan of the City engraved in 1746, and published in a quarto edition of Orem, 1782, by J. Nichols, Printer, for the Society of Antiquaries, London. In this plan, the Shorelands, that is the lands reclaimed from the marshy ground at the base of the Castlehill and eastward, is marked as extending from the Weighhouse to Footdee Church, while in maps of later date, say Milne's, 1789—Virginia Street and the other streets and lanes leading from it to the Quay having been built—the shore lands occupy about half the space between the east end of Virginia Street and Footdee Church—forty-three years had so lessened the vacant space.

"The third is called St. Katharine's Hill, from a Chappell bearing that name of old standing upon the top of it." Sir Samuel Forbes says, "the third hill is entirely within the Town, and is the highest, and hath several well kept gardens stretching to the top of it; which top could be more embellished by the owners of those gardens; however St. Katern here offers to the beholders the amusing sight of the river Dee and its beautiful Bridge, the monument of a Bishop's piety." From the records of the Council it would appear that the Chapel was built about the middle of the thirteenth century. In 1541, a burgess, by name John Chalmer, is interdicted

by the Council from making an incroachment in the common vennel or passage leading furth of the Shiprow on the east part by old use and wont, into the Green. This case is continued for some years. In 1542, Sir John Cuming, the Chaplain, complains to the "Provost and Baillies" against this said John Chalmer; in doing so he states that the Chapel was built by the Constable of Aberdeen, three hundred years ago, in honour of St. Katharan. In 1558, the Baillies find that Sir John Reid, the Chaplain, had proved that this passage to the Chapel from the Shiprow and from the Green was five feet wide, where two men going together might easily pass and re-pass, or a horse with a load at the narrowest part, and was open and patent to all the Queen's lieges, and decern in his favour "the said John Chalmer being lauchtfully warnit," &c., &c. There is little doubt but that this passage or "vennel" ought to be open at the present time.

The base of St. Katharine's Hill was fringed with houses except at part of the west side. The streets surrounding these were the Shiprow, which commenced about the south-east corner of the present St. Katharine's Wynd, and continued its circuitous course down to the south base of the Hill where it joined Puttachie side on the west, at the north end of which the short ascent of Carnegie's Brae led, at Wallace Nook, into the Netherkirkgate, which again, at the Round Table, joined the Shiprow, the course forming a very irregular circle round the base of the Hill. The height of the Hill can only be conjectured. Gordon thought the Gallowgate, while Sir Samuel Forbes thought this one the highest. If it is supposed to have been as high as the Gallowgate Hill, which at present is a few inches more than ninety-two feet; the height of St. Katharine's Hill, taking the average of the height of Union Street from Broad Street to Market Street, would have been rather more than thirty-eight and-a-half feet from that level,—none of them being so high by some inches as Union Place at the west end. The streets in Gordon's time were not very numerous. They consisted of the Gallow, Broad, Upperkirk, Netherkirk, and Castlegate, (or gaits); the Huckster, Correction,

Adie's, Futty, and the Narrow Wynds, the Exchequer, Ghaist, Ship, and the Rotton Rows or rues; the Schoolhill and the Green, or Bow-bridge Street. The gradual extension of the Town will be more easily understood by giving the streets made out or opened during the last century, from Kennedy, vol. 1, page 385. "Virginia, Tannery, North, Marischal, Belmont, Queen, James, Carmelite, George, and St. Andrew Streets," only ten during that period. While "since 1800, Union, King, St. Nicholas, Frederick, Wales, Prince's, Diamond, Silver, Chapel, Skene, and Nelson Streets, Union Terrace and Golden Square, have been made out;"—that is during the first eighteen years of the present century; so that Aberdeen could boast of thirty-nine streets fifty years ago. Since that time they have increased more than fourfold, the number being now over two hundred. By comparing some of the more recent plans of the Town, with the three lists of streets given above, a very correct idea of the space occupied by Aberdeen, at the different dates, may be arrived at.

There are yet in existence, at the present time, a number of quaint old fashioned houses and buildings which surrounded St. Katharine's Hill, to be found in the Shiprow and in the courts behind, entering from the pends and closes which lead up the Hill. These buildings, while interesting to the Antiquary, serve to give a tolerably good idea what the buildings on the other sides of the Hill had been like.

The position of the top of the Hill with reference to Union Street, may be easily made out, by comparing any accurate plan of the City of the present day, with the portion of Milne's plan given with this, showing the Hill and neighbouring streets previous to the improvement which took place at the beginning of this century.

The view of "Aberdeen from the south-west" at page 1, although accurately drawn and a faithful portrait at the time, bears no trace of resemblance to Aberdeen of 1868; indeed, much less than the likeness fifty years ago, bears to Gordon's "prospect of New Aberdene, from the Corne Fields, a little be north of the Crab Stone," 1661.

BRIDGE OF DEE.

Four hundred and twenty years ago, when John Fife was Provost, and John Kennedy, John Kyntor, Andrew Alanson, and Robert Sherar, were Baillies, it was proposed by them and the Council, that a Bridge should be built over the river Dee, betwixt the site of the present Bridge and Ferryhill, where there was a ferryboat. A contract was entered into by the Magistrates and Council, with Mr. John Livingston, vicar of Inverugie, who was "to be master and governor of the work, at the sight and advice of the Provost and Council," who were to give Mr. John the sum of twenty pounds annually, for ten years, "from the common purse." This project fell to the ground and asleep, for the next half century.

The present Bridge was founded about the year 1500, by Bishop William Elphinston, who liberally provided the means for carrying on this great work, which was done with ability and energy; but he did not live to see "his favourite Bridge" completed, as he died, 25th October, 1514. He was a most estimable man, and one of the greatest—if not the greatest—benefactor the north of Scotland ever had.

His successor, Bishop Gordon, did nothing to the undertaking, as Boethius narrates. "During the interval nothing was done towards completing *William's* designs for his College and Bridge, but no sooner had Gavin Dunbar succeeded to the See but he turned his thoughts to the College, visited all the buildings, vessels and ornaments, and last of all the Bridge." Dunbar was appointed Bishop in 1518, on the death of Gordon. With the means left by Elphinston, and with the activity and earnestness that he threw into the work, as well as with his liberality to it, Bishop Dunbar resumed, carried on, and completed this beautiful and magnificent structure, in 1527.

As it was an ecclesiastical undertaking, there is no notice

Engd by J. Swan, Glasgow.

BRIDGE OF DEE.

1822

of it taken in the public records, with the exception of a sort of police case; a complaint before the Provost and Baillies in 1522, by Alexander Galloway, Parson of Kinkell, that Geils Munro and his accomplices did not bring back the centres used in building the Bridge, which had been carried away by a speat, after having undertaken to do so for a French crown of gold.

Bishop Dunbar intimated to the Provost and Council in the year 1529, that he was to give the means—the lands of Ardlair—for upholding the Bridge. "The haill town in head Court, thank the Bishop for the great pleasure and profit done, for building the Bridge of Dee, and for his great offer and promises for upholding the same." And a letter from the Provost, Baillies, and community is to be sent concerning his communication as to the upholding of the Bridge, "being now founded bigged and ended on his Lordship's high and exorbitant expenses," and they quietly suggest—the lands of Ardlair being given —that his Lordship might easily infeft them in lands nearer the town, such as Ruthrieston, or any other in place thereof. It is not stated how the Bishop received the vote of thanks, with the modest hint, like an important postcript, appended. The haill town agreed to indent with his Lordship for upholding the Bridge—"so long as they bruik peaceably the lands of Ardlair,"—a few of the community dissenting.

A bond was granted to Gavin, Bishop of Aberdeen, by the Town, sealed with the common seal, for upholding and rebuilding of the Bridge if need be, and that "the money and profits of Ardlair," . . . . "were to be applied to that purpose, and to no other use," and, if possible to strengthen the bond still more, the Provost and Baillies, and Council, swore in judgment the great bodily oath, touching the Crucifix, to apply the same accordingly.

R. Elphinston, Parson of Kincardine, Alex. M'Gillavery, Parson of Kinkell, in name and behalf of Gavin, Bishop of Aberdeen, delivered in Court, the charter of the lands of Ardlair, in favour of the Provost, Baillies, Council and community, by his Lordship, with consent of the Dean and Chapter,

under their seals and subscriptions named. And they received from Baillie Rutherford the bond from the Town for upholding the Bridge, which now passed into the keeping of the Provost, Baillies, Council, and Community of Aberdeen.

There was a chapel (as was customary at bridges), at a little distance from the north end. One of the first notices of it, is in the Council Register, vol. 13, page 95, where the procurator for the Laird of Abergeldie requests the Baillies "to make an easy passage betwixt the Bridge and the chapel of the same, so as they may fish the water." This request does not appear to have been complied with, for, shortly after, it is recorded that a summons "is to be raised against the Laird of Abergeldie and his accomplices, for hewing and down cutting the bulwark of the Bridge, to be pursued." And on the 16th March, of the same year, (1530), Sir William Ray, late chaplain to our Lady's Chapel of the Bridge, delivered to the Baillies, a chalice of silver, an image of silver of our Lady, both over gilt, three napkins, one embroidered and two white, one altar towel, with the key of the offering and stock, for the use of the Chapel. The Chapel was probably built when the Bridge was commenced, to serve for the use of the workmen employed, as well as for the use of travellers when the Bridge was finished. It is supposed to have been demolished at the Reformation.

Little is known about the mechanical appliances used at the construction of the Bridge, but in the Council Register, (1530), mention is made of a frame belonging to the Bridge and used at the building. It is ordered to be repaired, "and used in loading and unloading of ships, and carrying of eilding." This was probably some sort of wheeled carriage.

Two years after, when it was resolved to build the Blockhouse, the centres used for the arches of the Bridge, are noticed in a curious manner; "the centres of the Bridge of Dee, *so many as are not stolen*, to be used for the arches of the Blockhouse." When the Town was expected to be visited by the plague, in 1538, the Council ordered "a timber port on the south end of the Bridge, to be watched daily to prevent the intrusion of strangers in the Town, and to be kept shut from

six hours in the evening, till six hours in the morning." This order does not appear to have been carried into effect, as it is again proposed in 1545, "to be locked at night, and well guarded in the day time; honest men of the Town to pay twelvepence, and sober folk eightpence or sixpence, at the least, for the expence," and "until the port be built at the Bridge of Dee, two honest fellows to be appointed to watch the Bridge night and day." The punishment ordered in 1566, to "any of the watchmen at the Bridge found failing in his duty, and permitting any person to pass, to pay forty shillings, and failing in payment, *to have his lug nailed to the Trone*, and to be put in the branks."

Eighteen years after, for the prevention of the pest or plague, "the Provost, Bailzies, and Counsall, consultand and aduysand, ... of the contaguis pest ringand" in various parts and towns in the south; "deuysit and ordand ane port of tree to be biggit and sett upoun the Brig of Dee," and that a sufficient "wache" be kept, "of twa honest burgess men or craftismen," that none be suffered to pass without a certificate or "attentick" testimonial presented to the Provost and Baillies. The following year, 1585, the plague being in Edinburgh and increasing, spreading also in various towns and villages in the south, the Council "eftir matur deliberatioun" "thocht guid and godlie to obserue moir diligentlie" the regulations previously passed for the prevention of the plague by persons coming from the south and for punishing the "contravenaris of their statutis, &c.," . . . . . "they haif ordainit the geibattis to be maid and afixit," one at the market cross, another at the Bridge of Dee, and a third at the harbour mouth; so that, should any one infected come to town, either by sea or land, and any householder receive them, "or giff meat or drink to the infeckit persoun or personis, the man to be hangit and the woman to be drownit." Only six days after this cold blooded edict was issued, two women, the wife and the widow of two "tailzeouris war convictit, for braking of the statutis, ... and giffing of meit and drink to extranears, but licence of ane Baillie, or command haid thairto, ... according to

the sadis actis, deith was their punischment." Having friends at court, the Provost and Baillies granted their lives, and ordered them to be banished from the Town during the pleasure of the Council.

In the year 1592, the lands of Ardlair were disposed of to John Leslie, of Balquhain, for the sum of four thousand merks; and in 1610 the lands of Cupraston were ordered to be mortified for the support of the Bridge in place of Ardlair.

The wooden ports erected at the Bridge in all likelihood vanished when the plague ceased, in the same manner as the missing centres; at all events, in 1598, the Council ordered a port or gateway to be built, on the south end of the Bridge "with a chamber above the arch for a watch-tower." In 1679 this arch was ordered to be ornamented with the Town's Arms, and with those of the founder, Bishop Elphinston; "to be put on the port, and to be illuminated in decent form." One of the interesting events connected with the Bridge, is the battle fought on the 18th June, 1639, by the Covenanters under Montrose and the Earl Marischal, against the Royalists under Viscount Aboyne, His Majesty's Lieutenant, and his brother Lewis Gordon. The Covenanters carried the Bridge and took the four brass guns which defended it. Four of the citizens were killed. Interesting descriptions of this, "The Battle of the Bridge of Dee," will be found in the Council Register, vol. 52, page 486; in "The Book of Bonaccord," page 43; in "Kennedy's Annals," vol. 1, page 212; and in "Spalding's Troubles of Scotland," under the same date.

The Bridge from time to time was requiring something or another done to it. After the battle twenty years, stones were ordered to be brought from Chapel Craigs for repairing it. And Kennedy says, "That early in the last century, the Bridge had fallen so much into decay, that it became necessary to rebuild the greatest part of it, particularly the arches and superstructure." The Council, in 1712, were to advise with Mr. M'Gill, an Architect, concerning the state it was in; and lime was ordered to be brought from Johnshaven. Little appears to have been done in the matter till 1718, when the Council

ordered boats to be built, and materials provided for the purpose of repairing it, and stones were ordered to be dropped into the river near the piers, to preserve them from the effects of the current, and keep the deep water in the middle of the arches. Some thousands of rough sandstones were purchased by the Master of Kirk and Bridge Work from James Gordon, mason, Elgin, to be delivered at Aberdeen, at sixteen shillings scots, each. And, in 1719, timber for making centres for the arches was purchased from the Duke of Gordon, by the Dean of Guild and the Master of Kirk and Bridge Work. It was to be brought home in James Smith's ship. The Provost, George Fordyce, being in Edinburgh the following year, was authorized to purchase freestone for it, from Gilbert Smith, Architect; and, in 1721, more freestone is bought by the Master of Kirk and Bridge Work, from John Ross, mason, Elgin. The expense of bringing this weighty material from such distances, probably induced them to obtain stone nearer home; at all events, William Menzies of Pitfoddels, in 1722, gives the Magistrates liberty to open a quarry in the hill of Pitfoddels for the use of the Bridge.

Kennedy mentions that the Bridge "was finished on the south end with an elegant porch of dressed stone almost of the same construction as the original one;" the piers of the Bridge had the arms of Elphinston repeated twice, while those of Dunbar appear on them eight times; there were also two Latin inscriptions in black letter; the one being put up in 1520, the other in 1525.

The increase of population, the rapid improvement of waste land, and the mode of its cultivation, along with the extension of manufactures and commerce, as well as the introduction of wheeled carriages, rendered it necessary that the access to the Bridge should be improved; accordingly, the Council, in 1773, ordered the port and stone-walls at the south end to be removed, to make the approach "more convenient for carriages;" the following year the order is repeated, and "the passages to and from the Bridge to be widened."

From the north end of the Bridge the road into Aberdeen

turned abruptly eastward; at a short distance it crossed the burn of Ruthrieston, by a very narrow, but exceedingly well built bridge, having three arches, formed of dressed granite; above the two middle piers were inserted carved in freestone, the arms of the City and the arms of Bishop Elphinston; most probably the same that were put on the south port in the year 1679, and which may have done duty on the renovated porch, till its removal in 1774. When it was built is uncertain, but in the Council Register, vol. 57, page 627, it is recorded, that, in 1693, a bridge was built over the burn at the expense of the Bridge of Dee fund. And a curious entry appears in the same vol., page 629, concerning it. At a Meeting, 23rd February, 1698, the Council "finding that when the Bridge of Ruthrieston was perfyted, Robert Cruckshank of Banchorie, being then Provost, (1692-93), he did clandestinly cause put up his armes on the sd bridge, without any act of Council, albeit, he contrebuts nothing for the building thereof, and yt the same was begun and near ended in Provost Cochran's time, (1691-92), and was builded on the money of the Bridges of Dee and Don, therfor appoint the sd Robert Cruckshanks armes to be taken down and given to him, he paying the price therof. And appoynts the M^{r} of Kirk work to cause put up in the place where the sd armes stood, ane handsome cut stone with the following inscription theron, viz.—'Senatus Aberdonensis hunc pontem impensis ex Ære ad pontem (de) Dee speclante extrundvm Curavit 1693."

As it was in 1722 that granite appears to have been first used in the works of the Bridge of Dee. It can hardly be probable that the Bridge of 1693 is the Bridge of the present day, as the latter has the appearance of a perfect piece of work (except decay by mischief, not time) without any mark of alteration from the period it was built, which is very likely to have been about 1775, when the roads to the Bridge of Dee were widened and improved; it is a pity to see it in its present shameful state.

From this Bridge, passing the outseats of Pitmuxton,

Gateside, &c., the road joins the Hardgate, continuing on to New Bridge, presenting much the same appearance as it did fifty or one hundred years ago, with the exception of a very few houses recently built, which contrast strongly with the older habitations along the road, formerly used as summer lodgings by the citizens, where the benefit which their bairns derived from the fresh air during the day, was materially lessened by the confined and often crowded apartments which they occupied during the night. Where it joined the Hardgate, on the left hand, the old Deeside and Braemar road began. From New Bridge the Hardgate ascends to the north and turns eastward; from this the Countesswells road continued westward, passing the Justice Mills. In the Hardgate where it turned at a short distance eastward is "The Craibstone," said to mark the site of a battle which took place on the 20th November, 1571, between Adam Gordon and Forbes of Brux. Gordon had on the 10th October attacked the castle of Towie and burned it along with the inmates, consisting of the wife, children, and servants of Forbes, in all twenty seven persons. Forbes fell in with Gordon at Aberdeen, and they fought with feudal hatred, each of the clans leaving sixty slain. Forbes was defeated and taken prisoner.

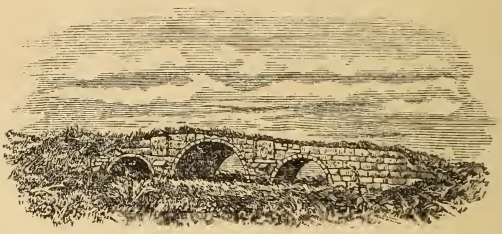
It also marks the place where "The Battle of Justice Mills, or Crabstone" was fought, between Montrose (now Marquis) and his old friends, the Covenanters, on the 13th September, 1644; by some mischance, the drummer who accompanied the Marquis's Commissioner sent to demand the surrender of the town, was killed while returning. The fight began "twixt eleven before noon, and one, afternoon;" in that short space of time *only* one hundred and sixty of the citizens were killed, including one Baillie, M^{r} of Kirk work, M^{r} of Hospital, two Advocates, two Merchants, and two Town's Officers In Kennedy, vol. 1, page 222, the minute from the Council Register containing an account of the battle is given. The Council did not charge the friends of those who were slain with burial dues, or for the use of mort-cloths at the funerals.

From this stone the road continues to the top of the Wind-

millbrae, at the bottom of which, the Bowbridge, the principal entry to the Town was situated, passing along which the Green was entered being then, at the date of the battle, a suburb of the Town.

The sixty-five years that had elapsed since the approaches to the Bridge of Dee were improved, had not been idly employed by the landlords and tenants, by the merchants and manufacturers; traffic of every kind had increased to such an extent, that not only convenience, but also safety made it necessary that the width of the Bridge should be enlarged.

The Magistrates and Council having fixed upon the design by John Smith, Esq., Architect, the work was commenced and the foundation laid by Provost Blaikie in 1841, and finished the following year; eleven and a-half feet were added to the breadth of the Bridge, making it now twenty-six feet between the parapets. This very useful improvement cost seven thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, sterling.



UNION BRIDGE AND BOW BRIDGE.

Many interesting recollections, historical as well as local, are vividly brought to mind in viewing these two bridges, linked as they were together for the space of forty-seven years, and forming as they did, each in its day, the principal entrance to the City from the south and west.

When the first Bow Bridge was built, it is impossible to tell; and it is unreasonable to suppose that there was no bridge here until thirty-nine years after the Bridge of Dee was finished (1527). The bridge in the engraving is the fourth that has been built since 1566. On the 2nd January of that year, as we learn by the Council Register, vol. 22, page 458, "Ye haill toune being convenit wt in ye Tolbuith thot neidfull and expedient to big ane brig *vpon* ye den burne at ye sout wast entre to ye toune on *thi wy yto* fra ye brig of Dee and ordanis Master Robert (Lumisden) master of wark of the brig of Dee to big ye said brig of twa bowis sufficntlie wt stane and lyme wt ye reddiest of ye money that *he gets* of the mailis of Ardlar and to by stane lyme and all material neidfull yto and quhat he disbursis on ye bigging of ye said brig to be thankfully allowit *to him in his next* compt," &c As in the case of the first bridge, when the second is ordered to be built, no reason is assigned to shew the necessity of its being erected. At a Head Court, held 7th October, 1586 "The hail toun grantit and consentit that the *bow brig* be biggit and erectit with ane bow of estilair and consentit voluntarlye to contribut thairto according to thair substance and nominat Alexander Rutherford and Dauid Edinaucht Maisters of Wark thairto."

This Bridge was found to be too small for the volume of water that came down in time of floods, as "efter great rayne being in spat brak out oft, and diuerse tymes be vehement force wantand passage towardis the eist . . . and enterit

within malt and corne barnis nixt adiacent therto; nathir yit thairby culd thair be ony passage in tyme of spait to na persone on horse or fut." In consequence of this state of matters, the Magistrates entered into a contract on the 29th November, 1609, with "Andro Jamesone, massone," to build a bridge "hawand twa bowis," and according to a specification. The north front of the Bridge was taken down, and built at the west side of the south front, "to serue for the south syd of the wast bow to be biggit." When finished, the north side would appear as a new bridge, while the south would look like a newly pointed old one. This bridge cost 250 merks. The "twa bowis" turned out to be of as little avail as the single arch; for the "spat," which took place on Friday, 24th October, 1746, occasioned by a violent storm of rain, swelled the Denburn, so that the houses on both sides of the Green were flooded, "in great measure owing to the *smallness of the two arches* of the Bow Brig, which had not sufficient room to discharge the water." . . . "Several of the houses in the Green would be rendered uninhabitable, . . . and a loss to the public good of the Burgh, and great inconvenience and hinderance to the South post and other travellers." . . . . "As during the continuance of such storms no passage can be to or from the south road. . . . And besides the building a new handsome bridge, in place of the present Bow Bridge, will greatly beautify the entry to the town," &c. This is set forth in a petition by the proprietors and tenants of houses in the Green, to the Magistrates and Council, who, at a meeting on the 9th May, 1747, "Consider the damage and inconvenience. . . . And that there is a necessity of building a new bridge; and there being plans of a new bridge laid before the Council, they agree that the plan given in by John Jeans, masson, ought to be execute." And as the Treasurer had no funds for the purpose, it was ordered to be built at the expense of the Bridge of Dee charge.

The Bridge consisted of one arch, and was built of dressed granite (said by some one to be the first of the kind used), and each of the parapets was adorned with a tapering obelisk of

Engd by J. Swan

UNION BRIDGE

(THE AULD BOW BRIG)

1822

the same material placed above the key-stone of the arch. At the west end of the Bridge, there was built a "loupin on stane," a convenience which was introduced about 200 years ago, as recorded by Baillie Skene, and "set up at every entry to the town, for the accommodation of old men and women going to horse, which is a very useful and comely thing." It was removed many years before the Bridge was taken down.

When the Judges on Circuit were coming from the south to hold the "Justice Ayre," the Magistrates and Council *had to ride* across this Bridge to meet them, and conduct them into town. For some reason or another connected with these processions, there is in the Council Register, vol. 61, page 482, in the year 1750, an entry of this tenor:—"The gentlemen going out to meet the Judges on the Circuit; and, stopping at any public-house, the Dean of Guild may give them a moderate glass only."

The Denburn is one of three streams whose sources are on the estate of Kingswells, in the parish of Newhills. The first is the "bucks burn," which comes from a well to the north of the estate, and is marked in old plans as "The Roe Den." It continues its course to the river Don, into which it falls near the village of Buxburn. The second takes its rise at the west side from a well at the Five Mile House. It continues in that direction, and joins the Burn of Brodiach, which runs southward, and enters the Burn of Culter. The third, which is the Denburn, rises to the south of the first, and to the east of the second, and begins at a well a little to the north of the Lodge at Kingswells. It runs in an easterly direction, and about three miles from town it enters the beautiful and romantic ravine of Maiden Craig, in the centre of which, and extending nearly the whole length of this picturesque hollow, there rises a huge rock covered with wild flowers, ferns, and other plants, dividing it in two. The water running at the north side of this rock passes on to a mill situated at the east end of this most interesting den. It soon passes on to the commonty of Whitemires, where it is called "The Commonty Burn," and reaches Oldmill, after which it

enters Rubislaw Den and onwards to Gilcomston Dam, through Cardenshaugh, to Hardweird, Upper Denburn, where a bridge was built over it in the year 1754. Not far from this on the side of the brae or hill, south of the burn, is situated St. John's Well. Leaving the Upper Denburn and bending southward, it ran in a serpentine course along the valley at the base of the Corbie-heugh on the west side to the Bow Bridge. The value of this stream to the inhabitants must have been very great, dependant as they were for their supply of water on it, the Loch, and a few public and private wells; and they had either to carry the water from those various sources or else to obtain it from the licensed "Burn or Water Carriers"—"burne beirers," who, in 1655, paid for this privilege ten merks per annum; ten years afterwards the cost of the licence was the same.

From the Bridge (1661) the water ran southward into the river, as marked in Gordon's plan. In that of Milne's (1789) it flowed into the Back Burn, most likely so named from the water first running along that course towards *both river* and *harbour*, which effect would be reversed when the tide was rising. The following which occurs in *Kennedy*, vol. i, page 3, as a foot note, is somewhat curious. He says "This stream, previous to the year 1648, took an easterly direction along the Trinityfriars Place, from which it derived the name of the Trinity Burn. On reaching the quay-head, which at that time extended no farther than the Weigh-house, it directed its course along the south side of the town, and discharged itself in the low grounds near the foot of the Castlehill; but after the extension of the quay towards the village of Futtie, the course of the burn was diverted straight into the tide-way."

A branch of the burn may at one time have joined the *lower end* of the Trinity Burn, which stream came from the Loch, and was the motive power for the "Tarenty Mill." But Kennedy does not mention how it passed the Trinity Hospital and the church, or the still more formidable obstacle of the south-west base of St. Katherine's Hill and the Shore Brae. A glance at Gordon's plan of the town, only thirteen years after, will give a clearer ideaof the question.

From the Bow Bridge the ground sloped upward from the left hand to a dove cot on the top. This ground was called "The Dove Cot Brae;" the ridge continuing northward was called the Corby Heugh, on which Union Terrace stands. On the east, the ground from the burn rose more gently, the height being crowned by the "Great Church." The burn continued its natural serpentine course until the year 1758, when the Master of the Kirk-work, Baillie Duncan, and the Clerk were instructed by the Council "to see the Denburn straighted and fenced with litter stones, and the bleachfield and road made out." Three months after, 26th Sept., the Council inspect the progress of the work, and are well pleased; "they approve of the work, and are unanimously of opinion that it will be greatly useful, for enlarging the bleachfield on the said burn, and for shutting out all communication of horses therewith, that the rig presently in kail, and the brae above the same, all along northward from the Dove Cot were purchased from Alex. Cushnie the proprietor." And they empower the Magistrates to do so.

Next year brought trouble to the magistrates and the community, and most likely death to the "trout" in the burn. In March, the Council "considering a nuisance has occurred by scouring *stockins* above the Bow Bridge, whereby the whole cascades built thereon is quite spoiled, and the water corrupted so that it will be no manner of use for bleaching linen, besides it will have such a stench that the inhabitants cannot pass or repass," the stockings are ordered to be removed, and the manufacturers who had feus from the town near the burn were to be provided by the Treasurer with other places suitable for carrying on their work. The alterations at the west side consisted of the broad and level green with a narrow gravel walk, while, on the east side, there was a broad walk of gravel having a narrow grass border. The straight channel of the burn from the Bridge to the north end contrasted well with the sides. At the middle, and also close to the Bridge, there were circular basins or ponds, and the water in its course fell in cascades over some twelve steps. With plenty of clear water, the effect

must have been good, and no doubt was partly the attraction which rendered the east walk the fashionable promenade of the period. The railway turntable is nearly, if not actually upon the site of the circular basin which was next to the Bow Bridge.

In 1760, a person is "to be employed to take care of the trees, hedges, and braes along the canal;" and, sixteen years afterwards, "the Council are of opinion that the hanging brae upon the west side should be planted with a proper number of trees. And that a timber pailing should be put up or a sunk fence made along the foot of the said brae, and that the keeper of the Infirmary Bath should be employed to take care of the said plants," &c. In the same year, 1776, appears the first mention of the brick bridges. "The M^{r} of Kirk-work or the Dean of Guild are ordered to arch with brick the northmost *Chinese bridge.*" Some half dozen of these light-looking structures crossed the channel with good effect afterwards, reminding one of the bridges to be seen upon "*old ancient China.*"

But bridge and burn, like other sublunary "nouns," were then subject to external influence over which there was little or no control. The same obtains at the present day. Another bridge had been built, roads of more easy access to the town and more convenient for commerce and traffic had been laid out. The prestige of the Bow Bridge was gone. The jealous care with which the burn was watched had ceased. Selfishness was perhaps the cause of this more than the manufactories that had sprung up along its banks and got the credit of polluting its once clear stream. Water was now to be had in every street. It had been brought from Cardenshaugh, from Fountainhall. The occupation of the "burne beirers" had ceased. It is not to be wondered that the Denburn was neglected. It did not continue to improve, for complaint after complaint by medical men and others concerning its filthy state, more particularly in the lower part of it, are made from time to time to the authorities. The houses along its side were described as the hotbeds of fever and other epidemics. Bridge and burn had served their purpose—the once clear water of the one was voted by the Commissioners of Police "filthy," and the lower

Denburn "a nuisance," and it was ordered to be covered up. At the same time, on the recommendation of a Committee of the Council in 1850, the Bridge was ordered to be removed. Both these improvements were carried into effect in 1851. The Bridge, after having stood for one hundred and four years, may now be seen lying, a disjointed mass, at the north-west corner of Union Bridge, "biding its time."

The roads leading into Aberdeen, previous to 1800, were narrow, indirect, and very inconvenient for the increasing traffic. They appear to have followed the course of pathways that had been used for ages. The arrangement of the streets inside the town was equally bad. Improvement had become absolutely necessary both for roads and streets; and one of the first steps in this direction was taken. A meeting of the Trustees under the Turnpike Act for the County of Aberdeen, 30th April, 1796, considered, amongst other cognate matters, "that the present track of said road (Bridge of Dee), by Newbridge and Bow Bridge is acknowledged, on all hands, to be highly improper, and the entry to the town thereby, through steep, narrow, and angular streets, extremely inconvenient." A committee was appointed with full power "to employ Mr. Abercrombie to make a plan and mark upon the ground such a track as he judges" best for the accommodation of the town and county. Three months after this the Town Council considered the Trustees' minute, along with the plan and report of the surveyor, and they were unanimously of opinion that the plan, "although it may possess advantages very desirable to be obtained, yet the very great expense," entailing as it did "the purchasing of private property" . . . "far exceeding what the funds of the community can afford," renders the scheme "at present altogether impracticable." Three years had passed, the Council had "been educated," and on the 21st August, 1799, fortified by the resolutions come to on the subject at a Head Court held in July, they agree that "the plans and delineation thereof, made out by Mr. Charles Abercrombie," of the "proposed new avenues or streets, both from the south and north, should be carried into execution." The im-

provements were now fairly under weigh, and next year an Act of parliament was obtained for the making out of Union Street and King Street according to plans "made out and subscribed by Charles Abercrombie and Colin Innes, surveyors." When the Act was obtained, designs were advertised for by the Magistrates, "agreeably to which buildings might be erected in the most regular and commodious manner in the line of these streets." The plan of Mr. Hamilton, architect, Glasgow, was approved of.

In carrying out the improvements, besides the purchase of the house property, a great part of St. Katharine's Hill had to be cut down; a Bridge had to be thrown over Puttachieside, and a strong retaining wall built from it on the south side to the Union Bridge, which crossed the Denburn valley at the Dovecot brae. This was at first proposed to be done by a bridge of three arches, and was partly carried into execution, the foundations for the piers having been built, under the direction of Mr. Fletcher, the superintendent of works. This plan was abandoned at the suggestion of Mr. Telford, who recommended a bridge of a single arch; and he gave a plan for one having a span of one hundred and fifty feet. The expense, however, of such a structure was too great, and, accordingly, he gave a design for one with a smaller arch, which was modified by Mr. Fletcher to suit the piers already built. The keystone of this beautiful bridge was driven on the 25th August, 1803. The span is one hundred and thirty feet, and the height from the ground fifty feet. The cost of the erection was £13,000. It was one of the first granite bridges built having such a large span, and was at the time considered a great triumph of engineering skill. It must be admired while it stands.

Few towns can boast of having in their very centre such a pleasing and agreeable view as is presented looking northward from Union Bridge. The trees which were planted in 1776 have done well, and now form a beautiful contrast to the street east and west of them. At the same time, the buildings to be seen present several excellent specimens of the skill and

architectural taste of the late Mr. Archibald Simpson, and reflect great credit on his ability.

Considerable alterations and improvements are intended to be made in this locality. Plans are being prepared for laying out the wood with proper walks and entrances; the bleach-green, it is to be hoped, will be added to; and it will be a great matter if the Corby Well, with its cold mineral water, at the north end of the Corby heugh, be carefully dealt with and put into better condition. Underneath, an engraving of the well is given, from a drawing taken for this work.

BRIDEWELL,

The name given to Houses of Correction or places of restraint, takes its origin from a palace called Bridewell, built by King John, in the parish of St. Bride, near a well dedicated to that saint, and contiguous to Fleet Ditch. This palace was rebuilt by King Henry VIII., in 1522, and was given by Edward VI. to the City of London, in 1553, for the purpose of maintaining poor and impotent people. Subsequently it was used by the civic authorities as a House of Correction, always bearing the name of Bridewell, which has been adopted by many other institutions since established for the same purpose.

The first House of Correction in Aberdeen was established in 1636, by a patent under the Great Seal from Charles I., "for the purpose of reforming the morals and promoting industry among a certain description of the inhabitants." To carry out the design, the Guild Brethren and Craftsmen were assessed to the amount of two thousand merks for purchasing a building suitable or capable of being adapted for the purpose, and Robert and Nicholas Beastoun are brought from England to advise with the Magistrates and Council how such an institution should be conducted and regulated, for which advice and trouble they receive twelve rix-dollars. The property bought was situated on the east side of St. Nicholas Churchyard, and gave the name to the street which it still bears—that of Correction Wynd. The inmates were employed in the manufacture of kerseys, seys, broad and other coarse cloths. Sometime after it was carried on as a joint-stock company; and it will be found in the Council Register for 1649, that the partners apply to the Magistrates for the sum of £1,863 16s. 8d. Scots, being the value of two hundred and eighty-six ells of cloth and one hundred and eighty-five ells of kersey, which had been taken out of their shops and given to the

G. Smith Del

Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

BRIDEWELL.

1822.

commander of the Irish troops after the Battle of Crabstone, September, 1644, by the advice and warrant of the Magistrates, for the preservation of the books belonging to the merchants. The Council find the money to be a just debt due by the town to the partners, and order the Treasurer to pay it with interest. How this place was conducted, or what the arrangements were for carrying on the work is not known, but it is probable that the rules and regulations were in some measure copied from those of the original model. The interior of one engraved by Hogarth, and depicted in his masterly way, there is reason to believe, may be considered as a very excellent type, representing faithfully the internal economy of the Bridewells of his day. Whether such labour did not pay the proprietors, or from decreasing trade (it could not be that it failed in Aberdeen for want of suitable hands), the concern was given up in 1711, and, soon after, the property was disposed of.

An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1802 for the erection of a Bridewell for the Town and County, which authorized the expense necessary for the structure, and for supporting the establishment, to be raised by an assessment. The present Bridewell was finished in 1809, from plans by Mr. James Burn, Architect—"the whole expense of the buildings, steam apparatus, bedding, clothing, and other furnishings, including plans, Acts of Parliament, was about £10,000 sterling." *(Kennedy,* vol. ii., page 143.*)* Considerable improvement has also taken place in the management of such houses since the days of Hogarth, and, in the course of time, Reformatories, conducted on a different principle, succeeded the Bridewells. By a resolution of the Commissioners, in July, 1842, the name was changed to that of "West Prison"; and in a short period, in consequence of the enlargement of the "East Prison," the building in the engraving will be placed under the hammer of the auctioneer, if not otherwise disposed of.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

Aberdeen had no building, with a suite of apartments, for the purpose of holding dinners, balls or assemblies, concerts, and other public meetings or amusements. This want was long felt, the only places for such purposes being the hall of the New Inn, Castle Street, and the hall of the Hotel in Queen Street, and great opposition was made to them as being in connection with hotels. To remedy this want, subscriptions were raised by the gentlemen of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, and Forfar, and by a number of the inhabitants of the city, for building the Public or Assemby Rooms. The foundation-stone of the building was laid by James, Earl of Fife, on the 26th April, 1820, and a very "coorse" day it was, the pleasure of the sight-seers being considerably marred by the heavy rain which fell during the proceedings. The suite of rooms consisted of dining, ball, supper, and card rooms, along with two cloak rooms, on the ground floor; above which were two billiard rooms and the keeper's apartments; while the cellars, kitchen, &c., were in the sunk storey. The design of the building was by the late Archibald Simpson, architect, and it was always justly admired for the beauty of its proportions. The cost of the erection was about £11,500. It was not a paying adventure; indeed, remuneration was not expected by the majority of the subscribers, and there was a considerable amount of money lying upon it, which was cleared off when the property was sold to the Music Hall Company in 1858. The large dining-room was then converted into a hall capable of containing from two to three thousand people. The Music Hall was inaugurated by H.R.H. Prince Albert, of deeply cherished memory, on the 14th September, 1859, when His Royal Highness delivered an able address, as the President of the British Association, to the members on the opening of this their first meeting at Aberdeen.

G Smith Pel.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

1822.

South of the Assembly Rooms or Music Hall there is a stone placed at the south-east corner of the first house in Dee Street on the west side. Long before any of the surrounding houses were built this stone remained in the same locality, and nearly in the same place. It is called the "Langstane," and within the last few years has had the name cut upon it.

It is more than likely that this stone is the true "Crabstone." Gordon indicates in his map, page 8, the "Crabstone" as being a long stone, and it is situated near where the "Langstane" is located. And in his prospect of Aberdeen from "the corne fields be north the Crabstone," the view is such as would have been taken from a point north of the "Langstane," about Golden Square. Besides this, Gordon's plan and view were both drawn only seventeen years after the battle of "the Crabstone," and it is not at all likely that he would be either misled or misinformed as to the place and position. His prospect would have been different had it been taken from about Summer Street, which would be north of the stone known usually as "the Craibstone." An engraving of this stone is given as a tail piece. This may serve to keep it in remembrance long after it has served its duty on the roads. It is situated in the Hardgate on the left hand side, before turning into Bon-accord Terrace at the north end. Antiquarians can settle which is the true stone.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.

The Church of St. Nicholas now consists of three distinct parts, the portion on the left hand being the West Church, and built on the site of what was the original building—the Nave of St. Nicholas. The East Church—that on the right hand—was the Quire and chancel of the Church; while between the two ran the transept—the north end being Collison's, and the south (the portion seen in the engraving) Drum's Aisle.

When the Nave was founded and built will probably remain a mystery. Interesting conjectures on the subject have assigned it to the middle of the twelfth century. Considering the nature of the Romish system, it is not at all likely that the ecclesiastics would have allowed the maritime port—the seat of industry—under the patronage of the Sailors' Saint, to be left without a church for two or three hundred years after that of Old Machar. It was far too good a field for them to leave so long un*till*ed. It is as likely to have been built previous to as after the Church at the Kirktown of Seatown.

The Church of St. Nicholas was well and richly endowed, and had, previous to the building of the Quire, thirty-one chantries or altars, which were founded and endowed with lands, tenements, and money, mortified by pious individuals for the celebration of masses, &c., for themselves, their relatives, and others. The first was founded in the year 1277. *Kennedy*, in vol. ii. page 13, gives a full and interesting account of them. The list of "decorations, dresses, and machinery" consisting of silver and silver-gilt chalices, some inlaid with precious stones, missals, candlesticks, images of silver, vestments and altar-cloths, &c., was very great and equally valuable. For repairing "of the perise Kirk of Sanct Nicolace," about the middle of the 15th century, a tax of four groats was laid upon every sack of wool and on each "cloth of skins," and "J grot of ilke barrell and a grot of ilke dacre of hides."

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.

EAST & WEST CHURCHES

1822

The Chaplains were paid for their services in various ways. In 1472, the Chaplain of the Rude Altar had ten merks yearly, and the Annuals belonging to that Foundation. In the same year, "Walter Young agrees to perform service as long as he gets ten merks good payment yearly, and *five days meat in the week from the town:* if he fails, to be corrected by the Alderman and Baillies." Five years after this, for maintaining divine service in the Church, the Alderman and Council grant to William Young, one of the Clerks, the quarter of the Gallowgate for his fee, and to Richard Boyle the quarter of the Castlegate; to Adam Strath, the Shiprow and Green; and to Andro Ettale, the Guestrow and Schoolhill. It was in this same year that the building of the Quire was begun by the Alderman, Andro Scherar, the Council, and community, at the suggestion of Bishop Spens. The enthusiasm which this undertaking drew forth from all classes of the inhabitants is best shown by the extraordinary liberality of their donations given to it. All fees belonging to the Alderman, Baillies, Dean of Guild, the Abbot and Prior of Bon-Accord, with the common good and all other profits that may be got *for seven years;* and, if necessary, more will be given. They also grant £48 from the fishings of the Don, and £12 from the Cruives, yearly, till the works be completed; and the tacks of the whole waters, fishings, and lands are ordered by the community to be prolonged for the building of the Quire. Lime for the work was brought from Dysart, at sixteen shillings the chalder. The same year, 1477, "Alexr. Chalvmer" was chosen principal Master of Work, and was also elected Provost. Ten years after, masons are sent to Cowie to prepare stones for the work—their wages being fixed at twenty merks yearly. The citizens again give a voluntary contribution of eighteen and a-half barrels of salmon, two hundred and eighty-seven "Lentern ware" (stock fish), thirteen dozen Futefel (sheep skins), and £5 13s. in money, for purchasing lead for the roof of the Quire, for the honour of Almighty God, the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Nicholas, patron of the burgh, and all Saints. *(Register, vol.* vii., *page* 546.*)* In 1495, certain citizens lend

£62 5s. 4d. "for timber work and making the roof." Three years after, Matthew Wright is engaged, at a salary of twenty-two merks "for bigging and furnishing the work." Contributions still continue to flow in from the inhabitants. In 1500, for purchasing lead, a voluntary subscription of eleven barrels of salmon, two barrels of "grilzes," with £11 13s. in money, was made, and the Provost, Sir John Rutherford, is sent abroad to purchase it. Six years afterwards, the grassums of the town's fishings and lands are ordered to be given for buying lead to the roof. In 1507, four and a-half lasts of salmon, are given to Thomas Borrow, Englishman, for ten fodder of lead for the same purpose; and an agreement is entered into with John Findour or Ferdour to make and furnish thirty-four stalls for the Quire, for which he was to receive £200, "with ane bontay according to thair honor." Walter Strachan is appointed singer the same year, with other eight persons, for upholding divine service for the honour of God, &c. Walter is to get his meat and 20s. yearly. Another voluntary subscription for lead to the roof is given the same year by the citizens, consisting of forty-six and a-half barrels of salmon, £26 17s. 7d. in money; and one French crown, and two English groats, eight days' labour of one man, and two barrels of salmon by the Town's Sergeants. In vol. i. page 78, of the *Spalding Club Extracts* from the *Register*, under the date of 30th December, 1508, a long and interesting list of the citizens' names, with their contributions, to "by leid to theik thar body of the Kirk and to fallis," is given. The Quire was consecrated by Bishop Elphinston this year with all the pomp usual at such a ceremony by the Romish Church. In 1512, orders are issued by the Magistrates, prohibiting waulkers and others "from drying cloaths" on the Churchyard "dykes or on the yeard." Two years afterwards, "for furnishing song books, frontallis, towels for the high altar, chandiliers of brass, vestments, and other ornaments," for the use and decoration of said altar of the Quire, a tax is imposed by the Provost, Baillies, and Council on all wool, skins, salmon, &c., exported in ships to Flanders or Zeland. And a French crown was to

be given, for the benefit of the Kirk and Quire, on the admission of every Burgess of Guild and Craftsman.

In 1518, St. Michael's door is ordered to be built up, and a fair window to be made in that gable of the Cross Kirk—the transept. The citizens were evidently determined to support the Kirk; for repairing it and upholding it, and for purchasing caps, vestments, and ornaments for the Kirk and Quire, the merchants agree to a tax being laid upon all goods exported, on condition that no Burgess be made for seven years, unless sons and those who marry the daughters of Burgesses. There was some hitch in the arrangements for carrying on the service of the Kirk in 1524; and the Provost, accompanied with "three horse," is sent to lay the complaint before the Bishop, that there had been no Divine service for some time, and to request him to commission some other Bishop "to come and reconseil the said Kirk." Thirty years previous to the Reformation, the regulations, with respect to the Kirk and Kirkyeard were pretty stringent: one John Anderson being found, with his bonnet on his head, "in the wedding door, quhilk was hallowit place and Kirk," was convicted and fined 6s. 8d. And George Annand, appointed "pundler of the yeard," in the year 1533, is duly warned that, "if he thole any beasts to come into it, his craig to be put in the goifs or gouchf." Early that year, the Treasurer and Dean of Guild are ordered "to cause big and mak an goif again on the Toune sid as it was afor."

The singers in the Church must have been misbehaving, as they are dismissed by Head Court, held 13th January, 1532, "for their demeritis bigane," the expulsion to take place after Candlemas, with the exception of Sir Andro Cupar, "that is an agit man." In 1546, David Anderson, Master of Kirk Work, is ordered to send to St. Andrews for a plumber to repair the roof. About the year 1533, Andrew Lame, for daily good service in the Quire at Divine service, is to get his meat from the Provost on Sunday, Thomas Menzies on Monday, David Anderson on Tuesday, Andrew Cullane on Wednesday, Walter Cullane on Thursday, John Black on Friday, Andrew Diverty on

Saturday, till he be better provided for. Four years after this, the Council ordered all the Chaplains to appear before them, and produce their chalices, vestments, and other ornaments, that an inventory of them may be taken. In 1555, Sir Robert Bayne, chaplain and singer, being blind and infirm, is ordered by the Council to be supported by the honest men of the town. That year, the Council appear to have had some doubt as to the safety of the chalices belonging to the altar of St. John the Evangelist. The Chaplain, Thomas Annand, is ordered to produce them at next Head Court—"in respect they have disappeared for several years." By order of Head Court, in 1559, all the singers are discharged; and the "Town's Preachers ordered to have their honest living and sustenance, on the expenses of the Town, out of the readiest common good." Gilbert Menzies, for his father (the Provost), protested, in respect that his father was not called to the Court; and the Baillies re-protested, because the Provost was in Town that day, and left it though he knew of the Head Court.

Long before the year 1560, the Reformation was begun in Aberdeen—a change of opinion had been taking place and operating in different forms. The dismissal of singers of the Quire, in 1532, is ascribed by some to that change, while it took an actively destructive form in 1559, as the following will show:—At a Head Court, regularly convened on the 4th January that year, Baillie David Mar explained, or rather told the citizens, what they all must have known—"quhow that certane strangearis, and sum nichtbours and induellaris of this burght, hes enterit to the blak freiris and quhyt freiris of this toun, and spulzeit thair places, and takin away the gere and gudis of the samen, witht the tymmar wark and insicht, togidder with the leid of the Kirkis, and now ar enterit upoun the ruiffis of the Kirkis and biggings, and takand away the sklayttis, tymmer, and stanis thairof, applyand the samen to thair awin particular uses." The Baillie then asked the citizens, in Head Court assembled, "gif thai thocht it expedient to preserue the saidis tymmir, sklattis, and stanis, and the

samen to be intromittit and applyit to the commond warkis of the toune, for the comond weill and utilitie thairof, togidder with the croftis, landis, and emolimentis that belangit the saidis freiris, and the profyttis thairof to be applyit to the commond weill of the toune." There is no mistaking the reasons given here for the intromitting with the "sklattis;" the "balze" is not, however, quite so distinct or clear in his continuation, "and specialy for the furthsettin of Goddis glory, and his trew word and prechours thairof, and that the toune ma be the moir habill to concur and assist for the defence of the libertie of the realme, expelling of strangeris, and suppressing of ydolatrye." He then asked them "to declair thair myndis," and consider what they thought *expedient* to be done "heirintill." Having nothing to lose, and everything to gain, "all in ane voce that war present, except Gilbert Collisone, consentit and assentit," that David Mar, who was Treasurer as well as Baillie, should intromit and take possession of the material for the benefit of the works of the town, and to let the crofts belonging to the friars for the benefit of the common good, as well, in the first place; and secondly, the "furthsetting of Goddis glorie." David was the man authorized to intromit with the material; and he took care that the responsibility should not fall upon himself, but "oblist thaim to relief the said Dauid Mar of all dangeir and damnage that ma follow heirupone."

On the 6th January, 1560, the "haill town" was warned "to heir and se" the brass chandeliers, the lavers, troughs, and water-vat, with the silver work, and other ornaments "of thair parroche Kirk ropit," as many as were unstolen. The whole was bought by Patrick Menzies for five hundred and forty pounds Scots, the money to be applied "for the commond weill, and the necessar adois of this guid toun." No mention *now* of God's glory; it was *the good of the town.* The money was ordered, in the year 1562, to be applied for building and repairing the Pier, the Quay-head, the Bridge of Don, and for purchasing guns and ammunition.

Adam Heriot was the first Protestant minister appointed

to the Church; a salary of two hundred pounds Scots was allowed; and a propine, in name of the town, was given to him, consisting of—"viz., gown, coat, doublet, hose, and bonnet, honestly as effiers." In 1564, he is ordered to get another propine, or thirty pounds to buy the same, and ten pounds for "his house mail," besides his yearly stipend. In 1562, the Council recalled a pension of three hundred merks which they had given to the minister of the Church, "diuerse yeiris bygane, to the gryt hurt of this burght, and quhome the Bischope of Abirdene aucht to sustene vpoun his expenssis," as he receives from them his "stipendteyndis and duetie thairfor;" "all in ane voce," they resolve not to pay the said pension.

The keeper of St. Nicholas Church, in 1564, is ordered to receive fees for every marriage, 18d. from "honest or rich folks," and 12d. from "sober folks;" "for baptisms, 12d., and 6d. from sober folks;" and making graves, 18d. of the rich, and 12d. for the sober; the poor and indigent to be free. Part of the revenue of the Church was derived from "holydays fish." This was a tax imposed upon the salmon caught in the rivers on Sunday. This tax, in 1566, was publicly rouped for one year, and brought the sum of fifty-eight merks. Repairs were required next year, and stenters were appointed to tax the citizens, the amount being one thousand merks. And an order is given to the Sacristor to toll the great bell, called St. Nicholas, at four o'clock in the morning, and the little bell, called the Skellat, at eight o'clock at night, so that the servants and crafts children may enter their service, and leave the same in due time. Adam Heriot, in 1569, again receives a benefit: "A new garment of clothing and abulziement" ordered to be given him at the expense of the town.

The money collected at the Church door is ordered, in 1574, to be distributed among the poor folk, according to the judgment of the Minister and assembly, during the will of the Council. This year, the Chaplains of the Quire and College of St. Nicholas, and their Procurator and general Collector, resigned and gave over, in presence of the Provost, Baillies, and Council,

into the hands of Baillie Robert Menzies, their lands, fishings, mails, and annual rents, belonging to their patrimony, lying within and without the burgh, in favour of the Council and community. They reserve to themselves the use of the profits during their lives. Next year, they appeared in Head Court, and confirmed the resignation, and consented that the funds should be applied for the support of St. Thomas Hospital, near the Kirk, and for the poor thereof.

In 1584, a new clock is ordered by the Council, to be made for the steeple of St. Nicholas. John Kay, of Crail, furnishes it, for which he is paid two hundred merks by the Town. Five years after this, the Chartulary, containing the charters and infeftments belonging to the Chaplains of St. Nicholas, with the Book of Decrees, is delivered to the Town-Clerk. In 1591, Mr. Robert Howie is appointed minister, and a stipend of £100 is allowed to him, which was to be raised by taxation on the citizens; and £100 is to be paid to David Cunningham, as a gratuity for his services in the office of Bishop of Aberdeen during the by-past three years. The next year, Mr. Howie receives as stipend two hundred merks, and Mr. Peter Blackburn one hundred merks, as *their ordinary* minister; and the Bishop is to get £100, to be stented on the inhabitants. Mr. Howie is appointed, in 1596, Principal of Marischal College, and his stipend is augmented to three hundred merks. Two years afterwards, he is removed to Dundee, and before leaving he is presented by the Council "with a silver tass," weighing twelve ounces, with the Town's arms engraved upon it. He must have been very much esteemed to receive such a mark of respect, as there is no record of any other similar case.

In the year 1596 the Church of St. Nicholas was made into two churches. The carved timber work or screen which separated the Nave from the Quire was taken down, and a stone wall built in its place. The Quire after this was called the New, while the Nave was called the Old Church; and it is more than likely that there was another wall built separating the Transept from the Nave. At this period the painter craft

in Aberdeen appear to have been unable to gild "the brazen cock on the steeple," and it had to be sent to Flanders to be repaired and over-gilt the next year.

The Sacristor, David Knowles, in 1614, receives orders from the Magistrates and Council to keep a complete register of all baptisms, marriages, and burials within the burgh, and giving exact particulars as to the dates, the days, months, and years; and to present the same yearly to the Magistrates. This appears to have been the first Register that was made in Aberdeen. Mr. William Forbes, minister of Monymusk, is chosen one of the ministers for St. Nicholas in 1616, and the General Assembly agree to his translation. He is appointed also Professor of Theology in Marischal College, his stipend to be £600, for payment of which the Council give a bond; and next year the Head Court consent to be taxed for the amount. Mr. James Ross, who was appointed in 1599 to succeed Mr. Howie, demits his charge in 1629, on account of his age and inability, &c., and the Council give him 1200 merks as a gratuity. And Paul Inglis gives a brazen herse (chandelier) and two silver Communion Cups. In the year 1612, a loft is ordered to be erected for the Principal, Regents, and Students of Marischal College in the south aisle of the Old Church.

Mr. William Guild, who was minister in the parish of King Edward for twenty-three years, was chosen by the Magistrates and Council in 1631 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. James Ross. Mr. Guild, afterwards Dr. Guild, held the office of Principal of King's College from the year 1640, being elected in place of Dr. William Leslie, who forfeited the office by refusing to sign the Covenant; and Dr. Guild continued to hold it to the year 1651, when he was deposed by the Commissioners for visiting the universities sent from General Monk's army. On being elected Principal he resigned his charge as minister in St. Nicholas.

The Council, in 1632, ordain that the ministers shall attend the church daily for the purpose of catechising the inhabitants. Two years after this the Church is presented by Thomas Gray with another brazen herse. And the sum of £846 6s. scots

is paid to James Colquhoun, plumber, for "leading" the north aisle.

A letter is received by the town in 1637, sent by order of King Charles, containing a recommendation for the augmentation of the ministers' stipends. This proposal the citizens firmly decline, and give as a reason the inability of their funds. The Commissioner reports the proceedings to the Archbishop of St. Andrews, and soon after a letter from the King is received by the town on the subject, which is laid before the Head Court, and considered by it. The community still adhere to their former resolution, and refuse the augmentation.

With the year 1638 came the Covenant, the Confession of Faith, and Commissioners from "the Table of Burrowes" at Edinburgh. From the latter was sent to the Magistrates and Council letters requesting the town to sign the Confession of Faith. This request was refused. The screw had to get another turn. On the 16th of March a commission from "the Table," consisting of the *Lairds* of Dun, Morphie, Balmain, and Leys, along with Mr. A. Wedderburn, Clerk of "Dundie," and Mr. R. Barcklay, Provost of "Irvin," present to the Magistrates and Council the New Covenant and Confession of Faith, which is read publicly in Head Court. This they also refuse to sign, in consequence of the King's proclamation prohibiting all combinations and bands. John Row, Jun., in his *Supplement to the History of the Kirk*, states that the Covenant was drawn up in the end of February, "and was read in all the pulpitts of Edinburgh, and in a few days was sworne and subscryved almost by all, *onlie Aberdeen excepted.*" Farther on, with reference to the last meeting, he says that "the Council excepts onlie againis the band of mutuall defence; and returns an answere to the Table, containing a modest refusall to subscryve. . . . But the Commissioners refused to carie their answere, *seeing they did refuse to take the Covenant.*" This must have been a busy year in Edward Raban's printing office, from the number of pamphlets and controversial tracts that were published and circulated on both sides of the great question of the day.

The Magistrates and Council, on the 20th March, 1639, send as Commissioners to the army of Convenanters at Montrose, Dr. William Johnston and George Morrison (Baillie in 1637-41-45-49), to solicit the nobility "to send one hundred men, for holding their Committee in King's College and Cathedral Church, or in the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, for the publication of their Acts"—that is the Acts of the late General Assembly. Many interesting events and negotiations take place from this date to the 3rd April. On that day, the "haill Toune" is convened in the Greyfriars Kirk (which had been repaired, and the windows glazed, through the liberality of Dr. Guild and Mr. A. Stewart, merchant, in 1633), and they are requested "by the nobility to subscribe their Covenant, and articles eiked thereto, under pain of disarming and confiscation of all their goods." The town took time to advise before they would give an answer. On the 9th, the Head Court is again assembled, and the Provost informs them, that the nobility had commanded them to fortify the Blockhouse, and to *subscribe the Covenant*, and contribute 100,000 *merks by taxation*, with the whole charge of the soldiers since they came into town.

The inhabitants, in answer, state that "they were content to fortify the Blockhouse and the *maist pairt* to subscribe the Covenant, and to contribute proportionally with the rest of the burrows, but as to the taxation there was no just ground for it, neither were they able to pay it; and if the noblemen insisted for it, they desired a competent time *to remove themselves, wives, and bairns, bag and baggage from the town.*" The next day, Wednesday, Robertson, in the *Book of Bon-accord*, says was held as a "Fast." "After sermon by Mr. James Row the town for the most part subscribed the Nobilitys Covenant." The text was Acts chap. v. verses 38-39, no doubt a good one, but fearfully ill applied if it referred to the Covenant. Four Commissioners are appointed on the 15th by the town—John Hay, Robert Ferchar, baillie, Thomas Gray, baillie, and George Morrison, the first was baillie the previous year. They were chosen to be sent "to the Nobility and Commissioners of the

Tables at Edinburgh for the Glory of God, the King's Honor, and the true Religion." John Row states that they "were appoynted commissioners by Montrose." The same day "the old Covenanters protest that they shall be liable in no part of the Imposition on the town, nor in free quarters to the army, as they were not the occasion of these burdens." Row, who appears to have copied the Protest, concludes, "whereupon the Nobilitie ordained them to be free." The four Commissioners who were sent south on the 15th of April returned and gave in their report, which was that they had "presented themselves to the Lords of the Tables at Edinburgh, that they were fined in 40,000 merks, and confined for the space of five weeks till they should either pay or report the town's answer; and the town having refused to pay," they "the Commissioners were committed to prison, and liberated on finding caution, and giving their oaths that they should return." It is a great pity that Row does not give the end of the story as it is from his account that the names of the Commissioners are given at the beginning.

There is just another notice that may interest before concluding this, which must be reckoned a digression, although connected with St. Nicholas Church and its Clergy. The spokesman, he who protested, for the old Covenanters on the 15th April, Mr. Row states was "William Erskin." In his account of the Battle of the Bridge of Dee, June the 18th, Row says "among the Covenanters only Balmayn's brother, at whose solemne buriall in Aberdeen on the morrow, when as the souldiers (as their custome is) were shooting, William Erskine, burgess of Aberdeen, Pittodrie's brother (a fordward man and sturring for the Covenant) was killed with a shott." Would this be the protester of the 15th of April? Little of the spirit of Christianity appears to have obtained on either side.

Dr. Sibbald is deposed, in 1640, for not signing the Covenant, and Andrew Cant, minister of Newbottle, is elected one of the Town's Clergymen in his stead. Later in the year, Mr. John Row, schoolmaster of Perth, is chosen one of the minis-

ters. He was the son of John Row, minister of Carnock, and author of "The Historie of the Kirk of Scotland." While at Aberdeen, he wrote a supplement to his father's history, and he was for some time Principal of King's College. The following year, instructions (which occupy three pages of the *Council Register)* are laid down for the "Sacristor" of the Church, and he is ordered to wear "his gown and staff." The Cup of Bon-accord, in 1642, is ordered by the Council to be given to the Church. This Cup was presented to the Council, in 1622, by Thomas Pendillburrie, merchant and citizen of London, in token of his regard to the town, and is described as "ane silver cup with a cover, double over-gilt," having the town's arms and the motto Bon-accord engraved upon it. The same year, a tax is imposed upon the citizens by Head Court, for paying the stipends of the ministers, and the interest of the Town's debt. The stipends of the three clergymen are settled to be one thousand pounds Scots, with a chalder of coals each. In the year following, £100 sterling is mortified by King Charles I. for the support of the ministers, out of the rents of the Bishoprick of Ross.

In 1647, Mr. Andrew Cant and Mr. John Row stated to the Council that the Committee of the Kirk would be shortly in Town, and that they would acquaint them with the number of persons who were to be here. They also desired a roll of the malignants' names; the vacant places of ministers to be filled; "and required order to be taken" with regard to the many immoralities of the city. Three years after, the ministers intending to sue for an augmentation of stipend, a Committee of the Council is appointed to commune with them, and to point out "the distress and burdens the Town at present lies under, and inability to do anything." "The ministers engage that no augmentation should affect the body of the people nor common good of the Town, and that they were content only to seek the same from the taxman and possessors of the teinds of St. Nicholas." The Council agree to this, provided it does not exceed three hundred merks each. The stipends were fixed at one thousand pounds Scots yearly. In

the year 1662, Mr. William Rait, the Principal of King's College, and Mr. William Gray, Minister of Auchterless, are chosen Town's Ministers, in place of Mr. John Patterson, who was now Bishop of Ross, and Mr. Andrew Cant, deposed.

In 1665, the Hammermen are permitted to hang up a brazen herse above and before the forepart of their loft in the Old Church; and, two years later, a silver cup, weighing 11 oz. 13 drop, is mortified by William Troup. The Shipmasters, in 1670, are allowed to build a gallery in the west end of the Quire (the New or East Church), above the Grammar School loft. Thomas Mercer, late Dean of Guild, in 1672, is fined in five hundred pounds Scots, for publicly defaming the Ministers of the Town; and he is ordered to appear in a public convention of the inhabitants, and take his tongue in his hand, and say, "False tongue he lied." To make the number of Communion cups up to twelve, another cup is ordered in 1676; and six years afterwards, two silver basins are commissioned for the Communion Tables. An edict is issued five years afterwards (1687), prohibiting servant women from entering "the Barras doors, on either end, during sermon, or sitting in the pews." The mistresses also received some admonition at the same time. The same year, the Magistrates, whether office-bearers or not, are resolved to rise in the Church. For their use "a loft" is to be built "above their old desk" in the Old Church, and wainscot has to be brought from Hamburgh for the purpose. At this period there appears to have been no regular system for the ministers officiating; and the Council, in 1692, enact that they shall preach alternately in the Churches.

In 1695, the North Gate or Porch of the Churchyard (that leading from the Schoolhill) is contracted to be built by William Sangster, mason, for the sum of £106 13s. 4d. Orders are issued, in 1700, that no candle is to be lighted in the Churches at service, after Candlemas day next in time coming, whether in point of economy or superstition is not said. Another "loft" is put up in the south side of the New Church by the Hammermen,—exactly thirty-five years after they had hung up

the brazen herse before their "loft" in the Old Church. Four years pass, and the Tailors must have their "loft" in the "Great Church," and it is allowed to be placed above "the Littsters," on the south side of it. Twenty-six years previous to this, the Littsters or Dyers, had "their desk" in the south side of the New Church, and were allowed to hang a brazen herse before it. Lofty ideas had evidently taken possession of Council and Craft. The Shoemakers, applying as the other crafts had done, are permitted to erect a "loft" in the East Church. And for the convenience of the meetings of the Synod of Aberdeen, the Council cause Drum's Aisle to be fitted up next year. An inventory of all the property, utensils, cups, cloths, and hangings, &c., belonging to the Churches, is made in 1709, to be kept by the Master of Kirk Work. Some fifteen years after this, the Commissary and Members of the Commissary Court, not being so new-fangled as the Crafts, obtained leave to build a loft in the Old Church. The same year (1724), Mr. James Chalmers, Minister of Dyeik, is chosen one of the Ministers of the Town, and a Committee is appointed to prosecute his call. Next year he is objected to at Presbytery and Synod. And "the Council find the same a manifest encroachment on their rights and privileges, and protest," &c. This little game works up to the Assembly, from that to the Presbytery, and to the Commission of the Assembly; and there, by a plurality of votes, the call was sustained, and ordered to be prosecuted in the usual manner. His Majesty's Advocate, and others in the minority, dissented; and the Synod of Moray delay giving their answer until they hear from the Commission of the General Assembly. This patronage case is settled; and Mr. Chalmers is settled as well, with six hundred pounds Scots allowed for the charge of his translation to Town.

The Old Church had been for a long time very frail, and a report of its condition was given in the year 1732. Upon this it was resolved that there should be no meeting held in it until it be repaired. This was never done. The second bell in the steeple is "rent" in 1739, and ordered to be sent to

London to be "recasten." Next year the Old Church is found to be ruinous, and advertisements for plans by architects are issued. The following year the plan of the New Church, drawn by Mr. Gibb, architect, London, appears to be adopted, the estimate of the whole being not under £5,000 sterling. The work is deferred till the stock increases. And next year to *increase the stock* the lead on the roof is ordered to be sent to Holland to be sold. Seven years after this, in 1749, a new door is made in the north side of the "Quire," or East Church, near the Session-house. Some ten years after the plan of the New Church had been given in by Gibb "the stock" appears to have increased, as estimates are given in by James Wylie, mason, Archibald Chassels and James Heriot, wrights, for executing the work agreeably to Mr. Gibb's plan, the amount being £4,000 sterling. This was agreed to by the Council. The length of the fabric was to be 100 feet 6 inches, and the breadth of it 66 feet. For covering the roof, 8,000 stone of lead was bought at Leith, in 1754, at the rate of 2/8 per stone, and plumbers were brought from Edinburgh, to work in conjunction with Wallace, the Town's plumber. Various designs for the pulpit were submitted to the Council, who selected the present hexagonal form. It was originally proposed to be placed in the centre of the Church, and in line with the centres of the second arches at the east end; and the Magistrates' gallery or loft was intended to be placed between two of the pillars. Plans showing the pulpit in the centre as proposed, and also on the pillar at the south side where it is at present, were submitted to the Council. They selected the latter, and at the same time ordered the Magistrates' loft to be erected in the east end across the Church, as it now is. At this time, a quantity of lead is bought from the Professors of King's College, for the purpose of repairing the roof of the *Old Church*, that is now the East. In 1755, *the grave-stones* of the Old Church are *ordered to be used as pavement* for the New Church. This is nearly one hundred years previous to the reign of Councillor William Philip, who was much blamed for his arrangement of the grave-stones, while holding the office of

Master of Kirk Work. The same year, Mr. George Udny, London, is written to, to procure, if possible, a second-hand iron gate and pallisades for the west front of the New Church, twenty-five shillings per cwt. to be given for the same,—a fair price for old iron. The Magistrates' loft is ordered to be covered with crimson, and the pulpit with purple velvet. And, in 1757, the two lofts at the west end of the New Church are ordered to be united, and placed across the Church like that at the east end. The fact appears to be that the Kirk Work funds were considerably behind, and the seats in these galleries would not let. At the same time, the sewed hangings in the East Church are ordered to be removed, and put on the east end of the West Church. *Kennedy*, vol. ii. page 48, says that these two pieces of tapestry were "executed in needle-work by Mary Jamieson, daughter of the celebrated George Jamieson, painter; the one represents Ahasuerus presenting the golden sceptre to Queen Esther, and the other Jephtha meeting his daughter." The following year, the Council ordered the bells in the Kirk steeple to be rung with wheels; and Hugh Gordon, "ruler of the Town's clocks," along with John Mowat, founder, are appointed to carry the order into effect. The precentors in both Churches are ordered, in 1763, "to be provided with gowns and bands." Two years after, the old clock, weighing 886 lbs., is sold for £8 4s. 7d. And Hugh Gordon, watchmaker, is employed to make a new one, for which he is paid £120; for new dials and fitting up a room for holding the clock, £22 14s. is paid to Thomas Taylor, wright.

Mr. (afterwards Dr.) George Campbell was chosen one of the ministers in 1756, on the death of Mr. John Bisset. He continued to fill the pulpit till 1771, when he was appointed to the Professorship of Divinity. Dr. Campbell was one of the most eminent divines that ever filled that Chair. He was succeeded in the pulpit of the West Church by Mr. George Abercrombie. In the year 1776, Mr. William Farquhar, minister of Skene, is chosen one of the Town's clergymen, and he is allowed £35 for the expense of his translation. Then follows in the record:—"*But such allowance to be discontinued*

in future." The following year, a representation to the Council is made by the Elders, praying for the establishment of a fourth Minister, on account of the increased population. A report is drawn up of the state of the funds for the payment of the stipends. The funds are found to be exhausted, but a conference is to be held with the other ministers regarding an additional minister; and an Act of Parliament to be applied for augmenting their stipends, by a tax on heritage and property.

A custom obtained about this period, which would find much favour with clergymen now-a-days. It would appear that whatever quantity of wine was used at the Communion, about the same quantity was sent to the clergymen after. In 1782, in the Treasury Accounts, there is, "Paid wine for the Communion, £17 4s. 6d." The next item is, "Wine sent to the ministers after, £17 16s." "The auditors recommend it to be bought wholesale." The following year, the Kirk-Session, on the death of Thomas Forbes, make proposals to the Council for filling the vacancy "by a popular call." This is rejected by the Council. And the public dinner, which had been usual at the admission of ministers, is ordered to be discontinued. In 1785, on a memorial from the ministers desiring an augmentation, the Committee to whom it was remitted report, recommending their salaries to be made £126. Provost Jopp dissents, and gives in reasons. In 1797, their stipends were raised to £160. Forty years previous to that, they had only £100, with a chalder of coals.

Drum's Aisle had been, or at least was ordered to be, fitted up, in the year 1707, for the meetings of the Synod and Presbytery of Aberdeen. In the year 1809, the same order is given. Two years after this the West Church was heated by steam; and this arrangement obtains at the present time, and adds very considerably to the comfort of worshippers in winter weather.

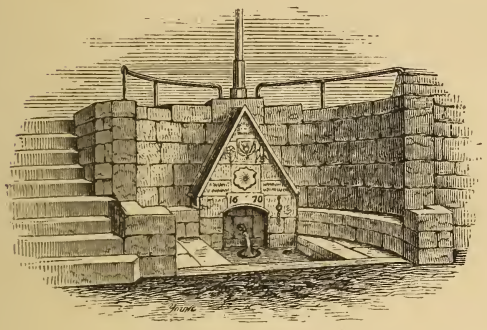
The internal arrangements of the East Church—the *Old Church*—with its galleries and dark staircases leading to them (and in a building which was never intended to contain

such erections), made it in many respects exceedingly inconvenient as a place of public meeting, whether for worship or aught else. The congregation, most likely influenced by the clergyman, made overtures to the Council regarding the rebuilding of the fabric, and after the lapse of some years, arrangements were come to with the Council and the Congregation, whereby the latter guaranteed the income from the seat rents for three years. There were other arrangements made as well, and the result was that the Old East Church—the old Roman Catholic Quire, founded about 1477—was destroyed in the year 1835. As it turned out, with the exception of the wood work of the roof, which had to bear the burden of a mine of lead, the side walls of the aisles, the pillars supporting the roof, and the foundations, were found to be in as good condition as when built. This being so it is much to be regretted that it had not been thoroughly restored and refitted.

The Churchyard was extended considerably, in the year 1819, by the purchase of the piece of ground running from the Correction to the Back Wynd, and about forty yards in breadth from Union Street. In the year 1829, plans were prepared by John Smith, Esq., City Architect, for a handsome front to the Churchyard, and for an entrance into it. The plan adopted was the present Façade. This handsome and effective structure was in part paid from money that was collected for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of the late Mr. Forbes of Newe. Formerly this piece of ground was generally used by itinerating exhibitions—"the wild beasts," jugglers, and fire-eaters, swings, and merry-go-rounds, giants, dwarfs, and peep-shows. Two great institutions of this nature used to be frequent visitors to the city—the one Wombwell's Menagerie and the other "Cocker's Show," which had the "horse of knowledge," "the learned pig," &c.

The St. Nicholas Street entrance was made out in the year 1822. The ground belonged to Mr. James Lamond, who gave the entrance, the town paying a feu-duty of £15 per annum, and he bound himself to erect only shops on either side.

In connection with the Churchyard of St. Nicholas many interesting notices of the customs which obtained at different periods, and the orders given with respect to funerals, might be narrated.



UNION BUILDINGS.

Seventy years ago the south end of Broad Street led into an irregularly built lane, which from its *width* was called the Narrow Wynd. The west end of this lane led into the north end of the Shiprow, while the east end of it led into Castle Street at the north-west corner. Fronting the end of Broad Street in this wynd there was a house having a piazza on the ground floor; here the volunteers of that day were sometimes drilled.

Referring to the plan of the town in 1789, page 56, it will be seen that the south side of the Narrow Wynd (11) formed the north front of a large block of houses, bounded on the west by the Shiprow (12), on the east by Castle Street (1), at the west end of the Plainstones (3), while the Exchequer Row (16), or "Chackra Wynd," formed the south side or front. Previous to the clearance doomed to take place in this locality, it may be of interest to give the names of the dwellers in and about the "Castle gate" front and the Narrow Wynd. At the south side, looking up Castle Street and next to Exchequer Row, was Mitchell & Aitken's drug shop. The late Baillie Williamson succeeded them. Mr. John Ewen, Goldsmith was in the second; in the third Messrs. J. & R. Catto; and the fourth was occupied by Dr. Ferguson, and entered by the Narrow Wynd. The Wynd at this period may be considered as "the Row" in London is now, seeing that there were no less than four booksellers located in it, Messrs. Angus & Son, Mr. Chalmers, Mr. Burnett, and Mr. Stevenson. Besides these were Mr. Dunn, Mr. Johnston, Clothier, the father of Councillor "Kols," Mr. Clark, Ironmonger, Mr. James Smith, Grocer, who afterwards built the large house at the west side of St. Katherine's Wynd, where the Wooden Circus of Ord sometime stood, Mr. Alex. Smith, Ironmonger, and Mr. John

UNION BUILDINGS.

Moir, Grocer. Round the corner into Broad Street was the shop of Mr. George Symmers.

Being in this locality, it would be wrong not to take notice of the house on the north side of Huxter Row at the west corner, with its quaint corbelled pepper-box turret which gave a baronial dignity to the old street. This house belonged to Dr. Hector who occupied the northmost shop; and it is a pleasure to add that the house is still in remembrance by the excellent photograph taken by Shearer, while the pepper box turret with its roped corbelling is taken charge of, and will be preserved by Mr. Irvine of Drum, the Convener of the County. Besides its venerable and picturesque beauty, this house has an additional interest not only to Aberdonians but to others, being slightly connected with the name of the great Dr. Johnson. It is credibly stated that when he was in Aberdeen, observing a workman "harling," or as it may be more correct to say rough-casting one of the fronts of this house, he stopped and looked on, and asked the man some questions with regard to his work. The sententious man thinking that he was hindering the "harler's" work by so doing said to him, "but perhaps, my man, I am in your way." The man must have been a bit of a wag, as he at once said "Na, na, sir, if ye'r nae in your ain wy ye'r nae in mine," at the same time "splashing" a trowel full of the soft lime with a good deal of force on to the side of the house, and "sparking" the doctor.

When the Act for making the new streets and other improvements in the City was obtained in 1801, the north half of this block of houses had to be purchased and taken down to make the new street seventy feet wide; and, at the same time, the houses and property through which it passed westward on St. Katherine's Hill had also to be bought, and the north side of the Hill cut down. When this was accomplished, the only houses in the line of the new street were those which formed the north side of the Narrow Wynd, from the south end of Huxter Row to Broad Street. They have been removed recently to make way for the Public Offices now being

erected. On the south side, the frontage was somewhat irregular from the Shiprow eastward. The west end of Broad Street was not in line with the remaining range, while the "Rotten Raw" was much wider, but not so long as it is now, at least on the side next to St. Katherine's Wynd, or "The Round Table." This addition, which has obtained to St. Katherine's Wynd—"The Round Table"—has been the cause of much speculation and some trouble to local antiquaries. In the *Book of Bon-Accord*, page 114, the learned author says he has searched in vain for "some authority to connect 'The Round Table' with Arthur and his Knights." The following explanation is given, and it may satisfy some people till a more satisfactory solution is given. Looking among the Council Registers *for something else*, the following entry was stumbled upon, in vol. lxii. page 258, 3rd August, 1759:—"The Council having gone and visited the timber lands (houses), belonging to James Pirrie and Peter Harvie, in the TABLE called Jane Thow's TABLE, they found the same to be ruinous and hazardous, and appointed them to be pulled down for the safety of the lieges." The word "table" here evidently applies to *land, ground, solum*, belonging to the lady. If this is correct, the *Round* Table does not at all apply to the wynd or passage named after the saint, as it is, and was, of a very curious triangular kind of shape, and certainly it never was *round*. But the "TABLE" may apply to the land, with the houses built upon it, at the east side of the wynd, "ROUND" which the wynd itself, the Netherkirkgate, the Rotten Raw, and the Narrow Wynd led. "The Round Table" appears to mark a block of houses or land, where there was an open passage all round. And in Gordon's Map or Plan of the Town (13), is placed near the south end of Broad Street, indicating "Bwildings called the Rownde Table." This might apply to either of the blocks of houses that were east and west of that number, round each of which there was an open space. "A Table of Land" is a common phrase in old deeds, and well known in the Town-House.

Some sixteen years have passed, houses have been built towards the east end of the new street. The huge bank of

sand to the south, the remains of St. Katherine's Hill, has been hid by the range of houses from the Shiprow to the Puttachie-side Bridge—now Market Street. From that to Union Bridge, there are none. Beyond the Bridge, on the same side, the first to be met with was Mr. Gordon's of Newton (it was not the first built west of the Bridge)—now Mr. Baird's. Farther on, some few cottages that happened to be in the line made appearance about Dee Street; beyond which there was none, until the extreme end of the street was reached, where there were a few new houses. On the north side, matters were not quite so promising, the feus or stances did not go off quite so fast. Mr. Morrison of Auchintoul built two large houses—the one is now the Bank of Scotland's Office, the other next to it, "Auchintoul's Hall," is now a place of amusement or Music Hall. The space eastward to St. Katherine's Wynd was for sometime occupied as a circus, a wooden erection, belonging to one Ord. The *pit*, as it was called, of this building fell one evening. Little damage was done; whether it was "by particular desire" is not mentioned. From the house next to M'Combie's Court west to the Bridge, there was no building or houses. Indeed, the street was only paved and causewayed to the Bridge. Beyond the Bridge, the first house that was built in Union Street was that of Mr. Mill of Crimonmogate; after which, Mr. Urquhart's of Craigston; Mr. John Garioch's, east of Mr. Mill's; Mr. Hadden's, Diamond Street; Mr. Lumsden's, Union Terrace. The exact priority is of little consequence, the catalogue of early-built houses is soon exhausted,

The erection of Union Buildings began in 1818, the first house built being the one next to the Shiprow. From the nature of the ground it was necessary to drive piles to obtain a foundation, probably the first instance in town where they were used for that purpose. The houses on the site of these buildings were bought, taken down, and afterwards re-built at the north and east sides of St. Nicholas Churchyard, doing away with a narrow and dirty lane called the "Dubbie Raw," which, although not numbered on the plan, is indicated, leading

from the Schoolhill (29) east, and southward to the east end of St. Nicholas Church. Union Buildings is one of the first examples of unity of design being agreed to and carried out by different proprietors. One of the lots in this block of buildings had a feu-duty or ground annual to pay of more than £350 sterling. This portion of it has now fallen into the possession of the town; and the large hall or room originally built for a reading room—the Athenæum—is presently used as a temporary Court-house for the Circuit, Sheriff, and Justice of Peace Courts.

The appearance which Union Street now presents, requiring only a few houses to make it complete, is very different from its aspect fifty years ago. Then unpaved, and not one-fourth of the houses built. Now it is allowed to be one of the finest streets in Britain, if not in Europe. Strangers are loud in their admiration of it; contrasting as the bright white granite does with the dingy freestone or brick which they are accustomed to southward or on the continent. The length of the street from the old Record Office at the top of Castle Street to Market Street is 400 yards, from Market Street to Union Bridge 258⅓ yards, from the Bridge to Crown Street 233⅓ yards, and from that to Union Place 575 yards. The width of the street is 70 feet, and *Kennedy* says that the extreme length from the Barracks to Union Place is "about 1800 yards." Of Union Street it can be truly said that seventy years ago not one stone of it had been laid upon another.

ABERDEEN BANK

CASTLE STREET

1822

ABERDEEN BANK.

The first Company in Aberdeen for carrying on Banking business, was formed about the year 1752. It was established by a number of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and citizens, belonging to the Town and neighbourhood. It was carried on for several years, but apparently not with great success, as, from whatever cause, the business was given up. Shortly after, a branch of the Thistle Bank from Glasgow was opened in Aberdeen, and carried on for some years a considerable amount of business. Whether the success which had attended this Branch Bank was the means of reviving hope in the minds of the more sanguine partners of the late unsuccessful attempt at banking may never be known. At all events, in the year 1766, a number of gentlemen, Merchants, Manufacturers, and others belonging to the County and City, subscribed a capital (which was not all paid up) to the amount of £72,000, the shares being £500 each, for the purpose of carrying on the business of Bankers. The Bank was opened on the first day of the year 1767, under the designation of the "Aberdeen Banking Company."

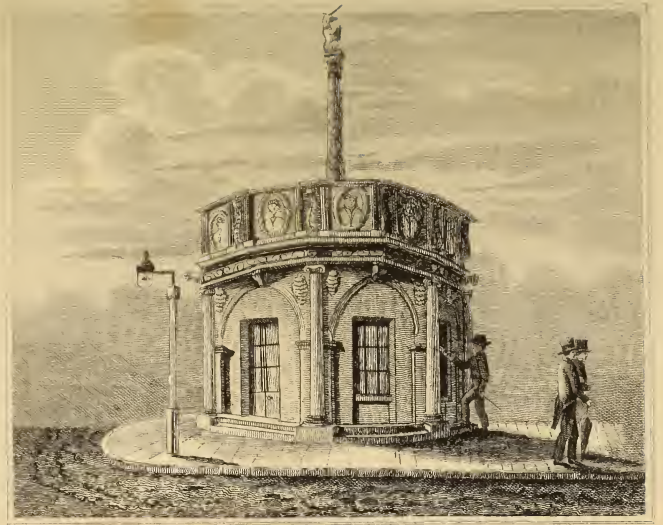
This new concern must have affected the business of "The Thistle" in a very considerable degree. And the motto which would naturally appear on their bank-notes, or ought to have been, "Nemo me impune lacessit," was most religiously acted upon. The notes of the new Bank were collected by "The Thistle," and gold was demanded for them. This game could be played by both. And, at great expense, the new Bank brought from London specie to the amount of £100,000 sterling. They played out the game, but with great loss to both. Adam Smith was only writing his celebrated work when these things were being done. The branch of "The Thistle" was withdrawn. Douglas, in his descrip-

tion of this fight, says that it "ended in a profound peace and amity; to the great comfort of many a poor chaise-horse, who had long sweated under the dead weight of clerks, and trunks, and guineas."

Amongst the first customers which the new Bank had were the Dean of Guild and the Treasurer of the Town. The Magistrates and Council, in 1767, gave authority for a credit to be opened with the Banking Company for the sum of £1,000 each to these civic officials. Twenty-three years after this, the Bank Directors make application to the Magistrates and Council, wishing to be relieved from taxation upon their casual profits. This request is not granted.

At this period, the Bank carried on their business in the house on the west side of Broad Street, called the "Old Bank," and marked in *Milne's Plan of the Town* (66.) It was in this same house that the North of Scotland Bank commenced and carried on their business, until the building of the present Bank, at the south-west corner of King Street, in 1839.

The "Aberdeen Bank" was built early in this century, and permission was granted by the Council, in 1799, for the Directors to deviate slightly in the erection from the plan of Marischal Street. The design, which has always been considered fine, was the work of Mr. James Burn, architect, who furnished the plans and design of Bridewell. It was incorporated with the Union Bank in 1849. Considerable alterations were made in the interior, and also additions at the south side of the building, in the year 1859.



G. Smith Del.

Engd. by J. Swan Glasgow

THE CROSS.

1822.

THE CROSS.

The Cross stood formerly about the middle of Castle Street, and south of the Jail or Prison. In the *Book of Bon-accord*, page 163, Robertson says "of the more ancient Cross no description has been preserved, nor is the date of its foundation known, but from incidental notices we may conjecture that it differed little from the structure by which it was replaced." It is much to be regretted that he did not give these notices. The parson of Rothiemay describing Castle Street twenty-five years before the Cross was built, says "In this street stand lykewayes the two mercat croces. The high croce befor the tolbooth, called also the flesh croce, by reassone of the shambles and flesh mercat besyde it; lykwayes it serves for publict proclamations heir intimated; lykeways it is *at* this Crosse that the citizens doe perform all their solemnities upon their festivall days. The other lesser Crosse is callit the Fish Crosse, at which ther is a daylie fish mercat keept."

In Gordon's View of the Town, page 8, the High Cross is marked (3) with the shambles or "flesh stocks" (2) east of it. Had this cross differed materially from the market crosses once so common, it is not likely that he would have forgotten to describe it, and to have indicated it in his View accordingly. As represented there, it appears as a circular base of two steps having an upright shaft.

When Charles the Second died in 1685, *Kennedy* narrates that the Sunday after the word of the event came to town was kept as a day of humiliation and mourning, the churches and Cross hung with black, the bells muffled and tolled between sermons. Next day, Monday, brought a change; the inhabitants appeared to have gone mad with joy. Bonfires and the ringing of the bells introduced the day, the citizens in arms went to church and "heard sermon," after which "they ac-

companied the magistrates in procession through the streets, manifesting in psalmody their joy on the happy occasion." The procession tended to the "Cross," which was decorated with tapestry, and "*at*" it James the new king was proclaimed. Sir George Skene of Fintray, the Provost, proposed his health, which was "drunk in wine" by the assembled citizens who cried "God save the King, James VII." "A concert of instrumental music was performed *on the Cross*;" and at this concert *Kennedy* says, according to tradition, the air of the National Anthem was first performed. The day "was concluded by volleys of musquetry."

Had the old Cross been anything like its successor, it is scarcely possible that all recollection of its shape and form could have vanished from the public memory so completely as it appears to have done.

About the year 1664, the Magistrates and Council order the Cross to be rebuilt "agreeably to the form of that of Edinburgh." This resolution was not carried into effect. Twenty-two years elapse when another resolution is come to in 1686 that the Market Cross be built near the westmost cross, and that same year a contract is entered into between the Magistrates and Council with John Montgomery, mason, Rayne, who undertakes to build the Market Cross of hewn ashler stone, "with the present, and eight kings, and Queen Mary's effigies engraven upon ashler stone," with shops under, "and a great high pillar in the middle," "conform to a model of timber and pasteboard," for which he is to receive £100 sterling, being 1800 merks. The town paid for the stones and other material as well as for the carriage of the same. The height of the building to the top of the walls was 18 feet, its diameter 21 feet, while the column in the centre was 12½ feet high. In 1752 a pavement of granite was laid to the west of the Cross, and in front of the Town-house. This "pavement betwixt the Cross and the Exchange Coffee House was contracted for by David Duchars at 4d. per foot," and it was to be raised one foot above the causeway. "The Plainstones," as it was commonly called, was 84 feet in length and 57 feet broad.

It had around its edge some two steps, which were gradually reduced toward the east by the higher level of the street at that end. Ranged along the steps sat the "fish-wives" with their "creels" stored with "Finnan" and other haddocks, Colliston speldings, "partins and partin claws," "rawns," "dulse," &c., &c. Friday morning was the best time to see this market to the greatest advantage. It was then a very Babel of tongues, and he would have been a clever stranger who could understand or make out the language in use. Later in the day when the "fish-wives" were gone, their places were taken possession of by vendors of sweetmeats, boot laces, ballads, and small wares, &c., &c. Douglas, writing in 1780, says of "the Exchange"—the Plainstones—"from twelve till two a great many genteel people are seen on it. Walking so much no doubt contributes to the health of the inhabitants."

In 1821, the Cross was ordered to be repaired and put into good order. It was found necessary, from the state of decay towards the base, to take it down altogether and rebuild it, which was done accordingly. In taking it down, the pillar by some means or other was unfortunately broken; it was repaired so carefully that the fracture is not apparent. Great care was taken of the ornamental stone-work, and casts were made of the figures by the late Mr. Hay. These were put up on the walls of the *Old Court-House*, which, in due course, will soon be removed. Instead of the four small booths which the Cross formerly contained, it was made into one apartment, and that not very large. The restored Cross was opened as the Post-Office in 1822; it continued there for some years. After which it was occupied as a coach-office, for which purpose it was better fitted. The "Plainstones," from their nature and position, were now becoming a hindrance and obstruction to the rapidly increasing traffic of the Town. This was more particularly felt on the market-day, when the crowds surrounding them rendered the vicinity dangerous, accidents often taking place in consequence. The Cross was removed, in the year 1842, to the position which it now occupies, towards the east end of Castle Street. The only change made is that the

arches forming it are now open, and the City Arms, which were formerly at the east side of it, are now placed by the side of the arms of Scotland on the west front. The "Plainstones" at the same time were taken away. The Cross is a beautiful structure, and reflects credit on the Magistracy and the Council, under whose auspices it was *retained* and rebuilt. Their conduct contrasts strongly with that of the Magistrates of Edinburgh in 1756, when (with consent of the Lords of Session) they destroyed the curious and beautiful Cross of that city. They well deserved Sir Walter Scott's prayer.

Besides the proclamation of the sovereigns, the Cross has been the scene of other proclamations. In 1745, John Hamilton of Strathbogie rode into the town with some horsemen, on his way to join the army of the Pretender. It happened to be the annual election of the magistrates, and they were busy with it, when they heard of the unexpected guest. Not quite pleased at the intrusion, they adjourned their meeting, and went to their houses. John, however, wished the Provost and Baillies' company at the Cross. As they were rather reluctant, he compelled them to come. After he had proclaimed the Prince, it is said that he used force to make Provost Morrison drink the Chevalier's health.

There are *two little* proclamations that were made at the Cross which reflect the greatest shame and infamy upon the Magistrates. The first is in the case of Peter Williamson who had been stolen by the agents of some of the *respectable* merchants, who carried on a regular system of kidnapping or stealing boys, and selling them in America. The magistrates in their power, but not in their wisdom, caused Peter to be seized and put in prison for defaming, as they said, the character of the merchants and the community in the book of his adventures which he was making his livelihood by selling. The traffic was still carried on at this period, and because Peter had told in his book simple facts, these *most honourable* judges sentenced him to be banished from the town, and the obnoxious leaves of his book to be burned at the Cross by the hangman, while the town's officers stood by and proclaimed

the *crime*. This took place about 1758. The law, however, did overtake these worthy judges, the Court of Session decreeing against them £100 damages and all expenses.

The other little proclamation took place about the end of last century in consequence of the offence taken by a Colonel Leith at a very harmless satire on his conduct. He was embodying a regiment, and had given his recruits a fair undress, but on inspection, numbers of the men were rejected. The undress being the Colonel's private property, they had to withdraw from it, and it can be easily fancied in what state they were in when they did so. At this time there was a well-known character in the town, Sandy Ross, "Statio Ross," or the "flying stationer." He was a sort of jack-of-all-trades, "mender of china and maker of songs," and withal a little of a politician and a little satirical. "Statio" was also a showman, and on Fridays his show-box had a regular place in Castle Street. Sandy, whether he had a picture of the scene or not, most humorously and sarcastically described as one of his pictures the gallant Colonel's regiment in their new *undress* uniform. The Colonel, not relishing the joke, applied to the magistrates, who ordered the Stationer a month in prison, and condemned the box to be burned at the Cross by the hangman. The Colonel should have been punished rather than the poor showman, and it said very little for the magistrates to countenance the indecency of the Colonel.

One of the finest views which Aberdeen can claim is to be seen at night from the Cross, looking westward along Union Street with its

"Two lines of light and beauty."

The regularity of the street, the extent of it, and the undulations caused by the nature of the ground, produce a graceful and very striking effect.

TOWN-HOUSE, OLD PRISON, AND NEW INN.

THE TOWN-HOUSE.

The Town-House, or Tolbooth, is very often confounded with, and the name applied to, the Prison or Jail, in the venacular "To'bethe." Previous to 1394, there is no account or description of the Tolbooth, although there must have been such a place for collecting the tolls or "customs" due to the Town. There was one of old situated at the back gate of Pitfodel's Lodging—that would be near the Bridge in Virginia Street. In that year, King Robert the Bruce granted a charter, which is still in the City Archives, giving the Burgesses and community liberty to build a Tolbooth and Court-House in any situation of the Town, except the middle of the Market-place. The building then erected was eighty feet long, and thirty feet in breadth, and forms the site of, and more than likely the foundation, upon which the present Town-House and Laigh Tolbooth stands. A very few months and Mr. Donaldson will solve that problem.

There appears to have been, on the ground-floor of the building, six small shops or booths, and above them the Court-House. In the year 1593, these booths were let, by public roup, at a rent of seventy-two merks for twelve months; and in 1594, the Toll Customs of the Town are rouped for one year, and bring one hundred and seventy-two merks. At this period, the Town-Clerk had no office in the building, and the books and papers belonging to the Town were kept by him at his own house. Two years afterwards, it was proposed to build a writing-chamber for the Clerk, but the resolution was not carried into effect until the year 1597, when it was ordered to be made of wood, and erected on the west gable of the Tolbooth, of "tua stair hicht," the "laichest of the saidis tua stairis" to be the writing-chamber for the Clerk and his assistants, with a study on the end for himself; and "out of the quhilk laichest stair there salbe ane dur to enter to the

Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

TOWN HOUSE, OLD PRISON, & NEW INN &c.

Castle Street.

1822.

Counsalhous, and the hichest stair to be ane hous quharin the Prouest and Baillies sall adyse the proces, and the Counsall, as occasion sall be offered, consult and deliberat," &c. "Under the laichest of the saidis stairis are convenient place for the *flescheris to hing and put out thair fleschis*" to preserve them from the rain and "wadder." The same year, David Anderson, younger, requests permission to put a sun-dial on the Town-House, as "he hade devysit ane instrument of his awin ingyne, to draw and mak dyellis or sone horolages." David is allowed to place one on the "foirwall;" and he is "to be recompensit for his pane and verk, according to the dignitie and sufficience thairoff, be the guid discretioun and consideratioun of the Prouest, Bailleis, and Counsall." The present dial on the front of the Town-House must be younger than David's dial; it could not have lasted to the present time, or two hundred and seventy-one years. Two years after, in 1599, the Provost and Council "ordainis the soume of twentie poundis to be gevin to Dauid Anderson, plumber, commoun servand to the towne, for his panis, labouris, and expenssis takin in macking of ane orlage in the commoun clerkis chalmar." There is no description given of this time-keeper. In the year 1614, the six booths under the Town-House are again rouped, and bring one hundred and fourteen merks, a considerable rise in value in the course of twenty-one years. Two years previous to this, it was agreed by a resolution of the Head Court, to repair the Tolbooth and Prison, the expense to be defrayed by taxing the inhabitants. And in the *Book of Bon-accord*, it is stated, page 169, that "the structure (the Tolbooth) was repaired and greatly enlarged" in 1670. In the year 1729, the Council, considering the "very frail" condition of the Town-Clerk's chamber, and that it would require to be taken down, resolve that additions be made along with a stair-case. A plan by Mr. Adams, architect, is approved of, and the building is to be made thirty feet longer to the west end. The Council expect some assistance from the Trades, and request the Convener to mention the matter to them. At this period, the west end was higher by a storey than the east end—the Court-

House or Laigh Tolbooth. On 7th March, 1750, the Town-House is ordered to be rebuilt above the Court-room and Clerk's chamber, and to be made of equal height and uniform with the west end, and the "present High Council-house and Magazine" to be made into one grand room—the present Hall; and the front wall to be made uniform from the foundation, and regular with the west end of the building; but not to cost more than three hundred guineas. The architect for this plan was Patrick Barron, wright, who executed the work. The great room was to be furnished with the best fir boxing, and the flooring of it was to be laid along its length; a marble chimney-piece was to be brought from Holland; and the space "above the chimney" was to be finished with the Town's Arms in stucco. The panel above the chimney-piece was ordered, in 1751, to be filled with a perspective view of the south side of the Town and Harbour; to be drawn by John Creswell. It is not stated what John got for the drawing, which was taken by the "camera obscura." Some years after this, William Mossman received twenty guineas "for drawing" a similar view—the one on the painted panel at present. The large lustre for the centre of the room was got from London in 1751, and four years afterwards the two smaller were obtained. That same year (1755), the twelve "sconces" were ordered to be bought at London by Baillie Fordyce. The large room was occasionally used for meetings not altogether in connection with Town's business. In 1753, a concert for the benefit of the Infirmary was given in it, "but to be no precedent." Two years after, the use of it is given for Mr. Tait's Concert; and, five years after that, he is refused the use of it, "and not to be given in future for any such purpose." The Council had been in angry mood. The idea of a good dinner, in 1768, perhaps made them relax this stringent rule in favour of Mr. Garden's (of Troup) election banquet. Twenty-one years after, the use of it was given to the Northern Shooting Club for a supper and ball. And the same year (1789), Mr. Callander, M.P., obtains the use of it for a supper after his public ball; and Mr. Ferguson of Pitfour, the M.P. for the County, obtains it

for the same purpose. Though last, not least, John Home who had been keeper for some time, received an increase to his salary in the year 1793.

THE PRISON.

One of the earliest notices of a Prison at Aberdeen is in the accounts of the Chamberlain of Scotland for the year 1358, in which he allows the Sheriff the sum of £4 "for wood, iron, and other materials used in building the prison at Aberdeen." It is possible that this might be for making a prison of part of the Tolbooth, which was at the south side of Pitfodels's lodgings. In the year 1507, Richard Wright agrees with the Council to repair the steeple of the Prison for ten merks, the materials to be furnished by the town; and six years afterwards rafters are furnished for scaffolding to the same. In 1554 considerable repairs are made to the building and the "battaling," and also to the Tolbooth by William Jamesone, Mason. The year following, there appears to have been a scarcity of iron in the town, and one of the *church-yard gates* is *borrowed* to allow the building to be finished. The magistrates give orders to the Master of Work on the 14th October, 1555, to deliver to the "Denis of Gild the gryt jrne kirk styile to be applyit to the irne wark necessar of the tolbuith." And an obligation was given that the "Denis of Gild, for the tyme, sall rander and gyf agane samekill jrne wark to the said maister of Kirk Wark," &c. There had been on the south front two blank spaces which were called "housines." In 1569 they were ordered to be filled up with the Arms of the King on the upper, and that of the Town in the lower space. In the *Book of Bon-accord*, page 195, it is narrated that, in the year "1589, the steeple of the Tolbooth, along with that on the church, was blown down by a violent storm of wind," and it appears to have been left in a

neglected state for some years. At a meeting of the Council in 1593, the condition of the steeple was considered a "dishonour and dishonestie" to the burgh, and the "gryt detriment of the knock and commoun bell thairin;" and as it is likely the one will fall down and the other decay, they resolve to repair the steeple as quickly as possible, and for the expense of doing so they assign the unlaws or fines of three people. At a Head Court held in 1612, it was laid before the community by the Provost—the great trouble which the magistrates, merchants, craftsmen, and others were at in being obliged to watch the Tolbooth to prevent the escape of prisoners by day and night; and as it was likely, in consequence of the commission granted to the Justices of Peace, that there would be a greater number of criminals than previously, it was decided that all the common works of the town, even the work of the Quay, although necessary, should be stopped by reason of the necessity of "ane ward and jealhous," and that it shall be begun immediately. There was the sum "of aucht hundreth poundis" on hand, and if more was required the inhabitants were to be stented. With all the haste shown, nothing appears to have been done until 1615, when, at a meeting of the Council, 1st February, they "thocht it maist expedient and necessar that ane wardhous be biggit within the Tolbuith, in the east end thairof, four woult hicht fra the ground vnto the ruiff of the Tolbuith in sic substantious, decent, and cumlie forme as salbe deivysett, and that sa convenientlie and soone as possibillie it may be." The next month the plan was matured, and the committee who had been appointed to consult about the building reported that they had "adwyseit with Thomas Watsoun, measoun, and that the same suld be bigget fyve woult hicht with ane flat forme and batteling, an ane found devysit for ane stepill, with ane passage to the knok and batteling be itselff," as written at length in a contract read previously. The building was to cost "the soume of fyve thousand merkis *in* omnibus, the said Thomas finding lyme, stane, and all vther materiallis necessar to the wark except onlie tymber to be centries, develing irne, lead, an ane wyndes

to be furneist by the towne," &c. The fifth vault was not built, and, in 1618, Thomas Watson the contractor appears before the Magistrates and Council and "submittit and referrit himselff to thair determination and modification, quhat salbe rebaitit, and defalcat to him of the soumes of money" promised him for building the said jail according to the contract, "be resone the toune inlaikis wnbigget of the said wardhous the fyifth woult thairof," which he was bound to make, and he is willing to abide by their decision. And he puts it in their option that he will build "of the townes common workis" to the value of the "said rebait," if the Provost and Council "sall jnioyne." Next year the inhabitants agree to be taxed for the expense of completing the Prison; and the Town's officers were appointed keepers, two of them to be alternately on guard. The steeple on the top of the jail or "wardhous" was begun in the year 1622. Stones for the purpose had been brought from "Kingudie," one hundred and twenty-four pieces of free ashler stones, sixty-seven of which were for lintels and "ribbets." On the 15th May the Provost, Baillies, and Council order Thomas Watson to commence building the steeple, and to prepare the ashler brought previously for the purpose from Kingudie, for the work. They order the Treasurer to pay the builder when authorized by the master of the work, Robert Johnstone; and next year, forty merks was paid to John Black, Dundee, for his advice anent the building. To provide money for the expense of this tower, which was built on the top of the prison, one thousand merks was borrowed from the Master of Hospital, and three hundred and seventy-six merks from the money belonging to the Grammar School. In the year 1629, the spire is ordered to be built upon the steeple, and the Treasurer is also ordered to purchase oak "timber" for that purpose; and a contract for iron work to the spire is entered into with William Hunter, smith, who is to supply it at four merks the stone. For work, previous to this contract, the Treasurer was ordered to pay George Piper, wright, £40 for iron work and £100 for his bounty. The plumber now begins his work at the spire, and the sum

of £1136 8s. Scots, is paid for lead and workmanship to James Colquhoun in 1630. Whether the building was imperfectly built or had been unfinished, the next year the cells are ordered to be repaired by the Dean of Guild. Five years afterwards rules are laid down, or, as it is stated, "hours fixed for keeping the doors open." The note following the above is very characteristic, although not intended to be inserted at this place. It relates to the escape of Alexander Leith of Balmuir from the prison in a trunk two years after.

The Dean of Guild is ordered to provide more lead for the spire or steeple in 1648. And nineteen years afterwards, it is ordained that the breaches made in the Prison by the prisoners shall be repaired at the expense of the Town's Sergeants, as occasioned by "their neglect and sloth." In the year 1697, the tenants of this lodging-house appeared to have had a happy time of it under the reign of Provost Alexander Walker, and Baillies Mitchell, Allardes, Orem, and Forbes. That year it was ordered, that no person confined for debt or otherwise is to be permitted *to go out of the Prison under silence of night, without finding sufficient caution to the Magistrates for their speedy return.* Three cells were added, at the north wall of the Prison, in 1704. The expense of building was £5,526 0s. 4d. Scots. The keeper, George Forbes, the following year, thinks proper to disobey the orders of the Magistrates; for this he is suspended. In the year 1755, the Aberdeen Lodge of Freemasons, having resolved to build a Lodge-room, apply to the Magistrates and Council for the piece of ground in Castle Street, eastward of the Prison. This is granted to them, at a feu-duty of five shillings per annum, with the option of redeeming it for ninety pounds Scots; and they purchase another "tennement" or house for forty pounds Scots. The *inhabitants* send in a petition to the Magistrates against feuing the ground to the Lodge. It is a curious document; the prayer of the petition is refused. Arrangements were made between the Magistrates and the Freemasons, when the latter were building the New Inn and Lodge-room, that the pend or lane—now called the Lodge Walk—should be left open, and

that four rooms should be made in connection with the Prison above it. One of the rooms to be fitted up as the Archives of the Town, while the other three were made out for the reception of prisoners, the Town paying fifty pounds for their erection. At this period, the entry to the Prison was from the east side. It was, however, changed to the south side when the New Inn was built; and the door was placed on the first floor, which was reached by two winding stairs, as seen in Irvine's Picture of Castle Street.

The miserable accommodation for carrying on the business of a Court of Justice, in the small, dark, and dingy room, "The Laigh Tolbuith," had been long felt and often complained about. To remedy this evil, it was resolved, in 1820, to build a larger and more commodious Court-House. It was built at the north side of the Old Prison. The east wall of it is seen at the right side of the vignette at the head of the description. The entrance to this New Court-House was from the south side of the Old Prison in Castle Street; and passed through the first "woult" of the Old Prison on the ground-floor, which formed a lobby to the new building, at the north end of which a flight of stairs led to the New Hall of Justice. The stairs which led to the Prison from Castle Street had to be removed, and the whole of the south front of that building was renovated by the neatly dressed granite front which it now has.

The weather-cock on the spire was blown down in the year 1839. Before it was replaced the fabric of the spire was examined, and the report given in was such that it was ordered to be taken down and renewed. The estimated expense for doing so was £190. This sum was most probably without the lead.

The only remaining portion of the Old Prison now to be seen from the street, is given in the vignette at the head of this description. It is the north-east corner, as seen from Lodge Walk, with its corbelled and embattled turrets, somewhat like those that adorned the hapless Cross at Edinburgh. This portion is the work of 1616; while, above it rises the steeple,

which was built of dressed ashler some six years after. The spire, the counterpart of that of 1629, surmounts the whole.

It will be regretted but once, and that will be so long as the Old Prison lasts, if the design of the new buildings in the course of erection is carried out according to the plan. Taste might have designed a break at the east end of the new buildings, to balance, however slightly in degree, the beautiful effect of the break which is at the west end of the North of Scotland Bank. It could surely be effected without destroying the design of the new buildings.

The inmates of the "Mids o' Mar," as this building was called, had always a strong desire to leave it, whether with or without a Baillie's cortificate. So long back as the year 1399, it is recorded in the first volume of the *Council Register*, and noted in the *Spalding Club Extracts*, that one Maurice Suerdslep was charged for striking William Moden. A *previous conviction* appears to have been brought against him, aggravated with having broken the King's prison. This is proved by one Simon Lamb, and a number of other witnesses. The prison which Maurice broke was most likely that for which the Sheriff received the four pounds from the Chamberlain of Scotland, in the year 1358. From his name, Maurice was most probably an armourer, or the descendant of one; a swordslipper being one who carried on the craft of the armourer, or some particular branch of it, as recorded in the books of the Hammerman Incorporation. Matthew Guild, the father of Dr. Guild, was a "swordslipper," and deacon of the Hammermen in 1587.

The escape from Prison by Keith of Balmuir, in 1638, has been noted. His creditors brought an action against the Magistrates for recovery of their claims. One of the most extraordinary inmates it ever had was John Leith of Harthill, in the year 1639. A most interesting account of this prison-breaker and his doings will be found in the *Book of Bon-accord*, page 198. In 1660, James Viscount Frendraught, confined in prison for debt, also contrived to escape. Francis Irvine and others, who were confined in 1673, having broken out of it,

A Ritchie Pr

Hugh Irvine. Pinx.t

CASTLE STREET. ABERDEEN.

1812.

are tried before the Court of Justiciary for the offence. And, in 1698, James Gordon, a brother of the Laird of Arradoul, by intoxicating the Town's Sergeants who were the keepers, walked quietly out. The officers were deprived of their situations, put in the stocks, imprisoned, and ordered to be fed on bread and water, and, on being released, to be banished with their families from the burgh and freedom for ever. The Magistrates had some trouble in this case. They were summoned before the Lords of the Privy Council, at the instance of George Leith of Overhall and the King's Advocate, for the escape of Gordon, who had been committed for the murder of Overhall's father. Fifty-three years afterwards, the whole of the prisoners escaped through the roof, a reward of one hundred pounds Scots for the capture of each of them was offered. These are a few of the many cases of escape from the Prison that could be given.

CASTLE STREET.

The view of Castle Street in 1812, is from a picture by Hugh Irvine, Esq., one of the members of the Drum family. The picture is in the possession of Mr. Irvine of Drum, the present Convener of the County. The front of the Prison is seen with the stairs leading up to the entrance on the first floor, while the battlements with the turrets at the corners, built as it was with a dark coloured sandstone, gave it the appearance of a Border tower which had been surrounded gradually by a large town. The house immediately behind the Cross is the end of the remaining half of the block of houses that was taken away to form Union Street.

The well at the corner was built about the year 1706. It was placed about the centre of Castle Street, in Milne's plan (2). Two years afterwards, a contract is entered into for a statue of brass three and a half feet high, to be put on the top of the "well, and from which the water is to play." The expense of the statue to be added "to the town's old debt for wells." As it turned out, the statue was only made of lead.

This was the first well in Town that was supplied with water brought from a distance by means of pipes. It was first proposed at a Head Court, in the year 1632, to bring water into the town, and in the same year it is sanctioned by another, and the craftsmen agreed to contribute one thousand merks towards the expense, and "to be stented with the other inhabitants;" and an Act of Privy Council was to be obtained for authority to stent. By some means or another the scheme was not carried out. Again it is tried in 1682, the Dean of Guild being "ordered to enquire of the inhabitants if they will contribute to the expense of supplying the town with fountain water." Nothing is done until the year 1706, when Robert Stuart, Baillie, is ordered to purchase lead for the pipes and cisterns for conveying the water to town from Carden's Well. The first fountain was built at that place in 1706 at an expense of £10. The following year, two hundred pounds Scots are paid to Joseph Forster, Plumber, for laying the pipes into the Town. For preventing scarcity of water, it is proposed, in 1742, to bring in the spring at North Rubislaw. Twenty-four years after that, additional water is to be brought into Town, and the reservoir at Broadgate built, and the wells are to be fitted with stop cocks. The cry is still for more water. It was proposed to bring it, in 1775, from a spring at Gilcomston Brewery, and also from the Denburn. Mr. James Gordon of Edinburgh, in his report on the supply of water, 1791, says, "The idea of conveying any part of this polluted stream into town is so extremely unpleasant that it is with the utmost reluctance I have tasted the water ever since I witnessed the various sorts of contamination to which it is subjected." For a number of years after this date, there was a great deal of fighting in Town about the supply of water. Professors Copland and Hamilton, for the trouble which they had, and the experiments which they made on the subject, were admitted Burgesses of Guild in that year without the payment of dues. The well was removed from the centre to the east end of Castle Street in 1755, as seen in the engraving. It was again removed, and, after a short period of rest, but a

time of much trouble and squabbling at the Police Board, it was at last resolved to place it in the Green, where it was erected in 1852, and still remains. Near the well in the picture are portraits of several well-known characters of that day. The town's drummer, with his back to the observer, is Walter Leith, better known as "Wattie Leith." He was appointed to this noisy civic office in 1783, "under the express condition of his beating the drum every morning at four o'clock, on Sunday and week days, through the town." The character at the corner of the well is a blind beggar called "bare-birr-headed blin Jamie." The figure immediately behind the fish-woman and her creel, feeling his way with a cane and *looking* up, is a good portrait of David Frost, who, although blind, was an industrious man, a musician and a turner, and withal a strong adherent of the house of Stuart. True to his principles, David stopped his ears when the name of King George was read in the prayer, and to prevent those who were sitting near him from hearing the obnoxious words, David had a strong cough conveniently at his command. Castle Street, in its day, has been the scene of many strange events from the time of the Cromarty Rangers to the Chartist demonstrations of a more recent period. A vignette of the old well, as it appears in the Green, is given at page 77.

MEDICAL HALL.

(From the Book of Bon-accord.)

The Medico-Chirurgical Society's Hall, built at an expense of £2,000, after a design by Mr. Archibald Simpson, architect. In front of the edifice is an elegant portico, of four Ionic columns, twenty-seven feet in height; but the original plan will not be completed until two wings are added. The building contains a handsome hall, a library, museum, reading-room, laboratory, and apartments for the house-keeper. In the hall are placed several portraits of the founders and benefactors of the Society; one of them, Sir James M'Gregor, Bart., Director-General of the Army Medical Department, is particularly worthy of notice. Besides nearly three thousand inaugural dissertations and tracts on medical subjects, the library contains about three thousand five hundred volumes. The collection is divided into two parts—the one called "The Library of Reference," the other "The Library of Circulation." The museum is so rapidly increasing, that it is believed an extension of the building will soon be requisite, to afford accommodation for its preparations, and specimens in natural and pathological anatomy.

The Society was instituted in 1789, by twelve young gentlemen engaged in the study of physic, for the purpose of mutual instruction by examining one another, and delivering and criticising discourses on various branches of the science. Its members are now divided into three classes:—1st, Junior Members, students of medicine, who assemble weekly, and are required, previous to their admission, to produce evidence of a liberal education, and to undergo an examination on the Latin and Greek languages; 2nd, Ordinary Members, medical practitioners in the city or elsewhere; and, 3rd, Honorary Members, gentlemen of eminent reputation in this country or abroad. Its lists contain the most distinguished ornaments of the profession, as well in private practice as in the public

T. Smith Del.

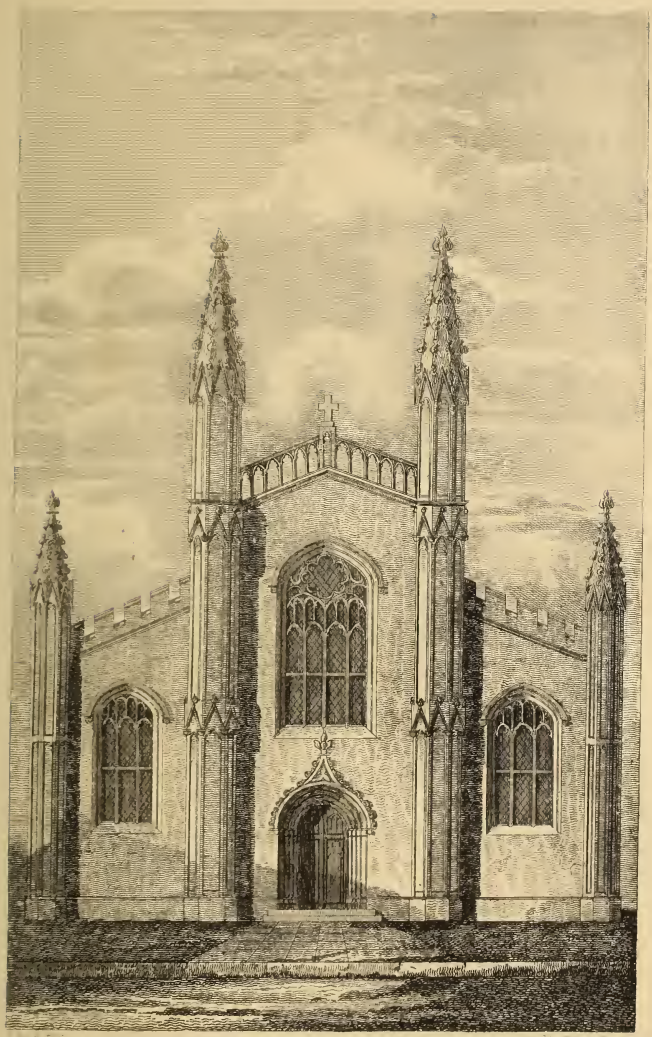
Engd. by J. Swan Glasgow.

MEDICAL SOCIETY'S HALL.

service; and it has been of inestimable advantage to the Aberdeen School of Medicine, by giving a high character to the classical attainments and professional knowledge of the students. Its means of support are the contributions of the members; and it does them infinite honour, that from the same source, with the aid of private donations, their extensive library has been formed, and their elegant buildings erected. Among the warmest friends of the Institution must be numbered Sir James M'Gregor, Bart., one of its founders, who has on all occasions manifested a grateful feeling towards the burgh wherein he was educated.

ST. ANDREW'S CHAPEL.

This chapel was built in the year 1816, from designs by the late Archibald Simpson, Esq., Architect. On Christmas day in the year 1817, when the service was being conducted, the Chapel was nearly destroyed by fire. With considerable exertion the building was saved, but a good deal of damage was done to the interior. The fire was caused by the pipe of a stove, which ought to have been left open, having been covered over with lath and plaster. The history of this chapel, or rather the congregation which it belongs to, would be the history of the "Church" which ceased to be established after the revolution of 1688. In 1746, all the Episcopal meeting-houses in Aberdeen—two there and one in the old town—were pulled down, and the wood work burned or "employed to heat ovens." In the early part of last century, 1719, it was made the law, "that no person shall take upon himself to preach, read prayers, or perform any part of divine service in any Episcopal meeting-house or congregation where the number of nine or more persons shall be present, over and besides those of the same household," "unless they pray for King George, and have taken the usual oaths; and the penalty for transgressing the act was six months imprisonment." The Trinity Chapel was an Episcopal meeting-house in 1703. Dr. Burnett was the clergyman who officiated in it. And in 1716, there was a meeting-house at the back of the prison in the little lane, most likely between (7) and (35) in the plan at page 56. It was formed by Mr. Andrew Jaffray, who had formerly been minister at Alford. Two other clergymen, Mr. Mill and Mr. Smith, continued to conduct service afterwards in this same locality; and it would appear that it was from the small number of hearers that were kept together at that meeting-house that the congregation of St. Andrews sprung.



Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

ST ANDREW'S CHAPEL.

1822.

This meeting-house was given up, or at all events it was changed, and the place of meeting transferred to the Guestrow, where, under the charge of Mr. Smith, service was conducted. But here, as in the former place, the Liturgy was not used. Mr. Smith died in 1774, and he was succeeded in the charge of the congregation by Mr. John Skinner, whose father was the historian of the Scotch Episcopal Church. The congregation increased so that it had to leave the Guestrow, and went to a house which Mr. Skinner had erected for the purpose in Longacre. The two upper floors were fitted up as the chapel, while the under was occupied by himself and his family. It was in this little chapel or meeting-house in Longacre that the first Bishop of the United States of America was consecrated on the 14th November, 1784; and it was also the first consecration that had taken place in Scotland since the Revolution. The congregation increasing, a larger place of meeting was rendered necessary. The site of the old chapel and house was retained, and St. Andrew's Chapel, Longacre, was opened on the 13th September, 1795. It is marked on Milne's plan, page 56 (70). The next move which the congregation made was to King Street, where the new building, that in the engraving, was opened for service on 27th July, 1817.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE.

The Marischal College was founded in the year 1593, by George, Earl Marischal. The Charter of Foundation, dated the 2nd April, conveys to the Principal and Masters of the new College certain lands, on the east side of Broad Street, which had formerly belonged to the Fransciscan or Grey-friars, and also some land and houses, which had been the property of the Dominicians or Blackfriars, situated in the Schoolhill, and of the Carmelite or Whitefriars, in the Green. The nature of the transaction is peculiar. The Magistrates and Council bought for eighteen hundred merks the Greyfriars property in Broad Street. This ground, with the buildings upon it, they gave to the Earl Marischal for the purpose of erecting a College, on the condition that the same "*be not translated furth the burgh to any other place.*" (*Kennedy*, vol. ii. page 87.) "For the support of this institution, and as a permanent provision to the members, the Earl granted in mortmain the property which had been presented to him by the Council," and the other properties mentioned. The Charter also conveys some property at Bervie, and the revenue of St Mary's at Cowie, which had belonged to the Whitefriars.

The following year, the Earl presents this Charter to the Magistrates and Council, apparently that they may give it in a "*solemn manner.*" At a meeting of the Magistrates and Council in that year, Mr. Thomas Mollison, Town-Clerk, by order and in the presence of the Council, delivers to Mr. Robert Howie, minister, Master and Principal of Marischal College, the Deed of Erection and Foundation, sealed and subscribed by the Earl Marischal.

Besides the property of the Black and White Friars which he had given, the Earl promised a Library to the College. And, five years afterwards, £100 is ordered to be paid from the

G. Smith Del.t

Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

MARISCHAL COLLEGE

AND UNIVERSITY

1822.

Town's common good, for repairing a house to keep the books thus promised. A student, Robert Boyd, having struck Alexander Stephenson with a baton, is brought before the Magistrates for so doing, and he is fined; being unable to pay his fine, he is ordered to be scourged in the presence of two of the Baillies. If he was a Highlandman, the proverb would be reversed in his case. This was in the year 1619. Four years after, Mr. William Guild, minister of King-Edward (Dr. Guild), son of Matthew Guild, swordslipper (armourer), purchases a house, which he promises to mortify to the Town, for the purpose of making a convenient entry to Marischal College. The same year (1623), the Council agree to build the entry of ashler-work. Robert Downie is appointed Librarian, in 1632, with a salary of six hundred merks; and the Council order the Library to be fitted up with shelves by the Master of Kirk and Bridge Works. About this period, a number of the students were lodged in the Town-House. For their accommodation, the Council, in 1633, grant a house to the College to be fitted up with beds, on condition that the College renounce all claim to the Greyfriars Kirk, which is specially reserved by the Town as one of their own Kirks, notwithstanding the terms of the Disposition and Mortification of Greyfriars place and ground to the College. In 1612, Dr. Liddel mortified property for founding bursaries at the Marischal College. The Council, in 1634, order the students who hold these bursaries to wear "a black gown and black bonnet." In 1642, the general students are ordered to be dressed in the same manner "on every occasion." And that same year, they order a lesson to be given in Hebrew weekly, by Mr. John Row, one of the Town's ministers. Eleven years afterwards, the Aisle of Greyfriars Church is ordered to be fitted up as a class-room for teaching Humanity. In 1656, the Council *ordains* Mr. William Moir, Principal, to purchase "Ptolemæus Geography Book" for the Library, to be paid out of Dr. Liddel's vacant bursary; and "the butts for shooting at in the yeard" are ordered to be removed, as being attended with danger to the neighbourhood from the arrows. The fees for

attending the College, in 1659, were—for the son of a nobleman, twenty merks, and all others, ten pounds Scots yearly; bursars were exempted. And all the students were to be free from servitude to those in the higher classes; but the students in the first class had to furnish foot-balls to the other classes as formerly. In 1663, the Council refuse the use of the Greyfriars Church for the graduation of the students. The Professors obtain "letters of law burrows" against the Council, "who find Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounie, cautioner." The Earl Marischal appears as solicitor, and permission is granted for the graduation to take place in the Greyfriars Church, "*for this year only.*" Another little dispute obtains, from this year till 1673, between the Magistrates and Council and the Professors, with regard to the appointment of the Librarian. The Council, in 1663, appoint David Gregory, burgess, to that office; and six years afterwards, Thomas Gray, on the demission of the former; and in 1673, they appoint William Alexander. The Professors appear to have applied to the "Lords" to determine the right of the patronage; and, in 1675, it is recorded that it belongs to the College. The students, in 1689, appear to have had strong anti-Popish feelings, and give vent to them by trying the Pope in effigy, and condemning him, and of course he is burned at the Cross.

About the year 1694, some new building had been added, and an Observatory, for which 500 merks is paid out of the Guild Wine Money; and sometime after, a new bell is ordered to be made out of two old ones for the College. A quantity of books and mathematical instruments, to the value of £150 6s. 8d., bought for the College by Provost Allardes, is ordered to be paid out of Dr. Guild's mortification in 1702. The Regents, in 1716, are ordered by the Commissioners appointed for visiting the Colleges and Schools, to deliver up their records, foundations, and writs, with the mathematical instruments and books to the Magistrates. The whole are directed to be returned to the Professors, in 1718. The celebrated Colin M'Lauren, who came from Glasgow, was elected Professor of Mathematics, after comparative trial, in 1717. Colin must have

been a curious character. He absented himself for three years from his duties, and Mr. Daniel Gordon was appointed to teach for him. Colin returns in 1725, and the Provost, *by desire* of the other Magistrates, intimates that he is not to teach again until he should give some satisfaction—1st, for his going away without liberty from the Council; 2d, for being so long absent from his charge. He appears before the Council, and *gives satisfaction*, and is ordered to be paid his salary. The same year he is appointed Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, in conjunction with Mr. James Gregory, and the professorship here is declared vacant. Meetings are held the following year with the Council and professors to consider about the election of a successor. They arrange that it is to be by competition, and a programme is ordered to be made out and published. The King (at least it is in his name) gives a commission to Patrick Duff of Premnay to vote at the election of the Professor of Mathematics. To purchase apparatus for experimental philosophy, twenty guineas are voted from the Guild Wine Fund; and next year, after *due trial*, John, the son of Provost Stewart, is elected Professor of Mathematics. Ten years after, the bursaries are ordered by the Council to remain vacant and uncompeted for one year, the money to be applied to rebuilding the old edifice. The Professorship of Mathematics is again vacant, and it is resolved that the first year's salary is to be devoted to the expense of the comparative trial, by which the election is to be made. Mr. William, afterwards Dr. Trail, is appointed; and, in 1776, Dr. John Garrioch is chosen assistant and successor to him. Three years after that, Dr. Trail resigns the appointment, and Mr. Patrick Copland is elected to fill the chair. The same year Mr. Robert Hamilton is chosen Professor for the Chair of Natural Philosophy. This arrangement put the wrong men into the wrong places. The professors agreed between themselves to exchange Chairs, or rather the teaching of the classes, and proposed this arrangement to the Council the year after, 1780, when the Council sanctioned it. The result was of the greatest benefit to the College, to the

Professors, and to the community, particularly of Aberdeen. There is no necessity for enumerating the works of Dr. Hamilton or his ability as a mathematician; while it may be said of Dr. Copland that his intense love of the subject which he taught, and the great facility which he had of explanation, as well as the extraordinary power of manipulation which he possessed, rendered him one of the most popular teachers of the day. There is little doubt that science owes to his course of lectures one of the most instructive and popular works on physics of the present day. Fifteen guineas are ordered by the Council to purchase globes and books for the mathematical class, in 1785. In *Wilson's Delineation of Aberdeen*, it is stated, page 54, that "upon the top of the north wing there was erected, at the expense of Government, in the year 1794, an Observatory in lieu of one which Dr. Copland had erected on the Castlehill in 1781." The Marquis of Huntly was installed with great ceremony as Chancellor of the University on the 22d December, 1815. Five of the students, Messrs. William Kidd, Thomas Cunliffe, Alexander Barrack, Arthur Dingwall, and Alexander Gale delivered Latin orations on the occasion.

On the 14th November, 1825, was held the first Rectorial Court since the year 1738. The meeting was presided over by Joseph Hume, the Lord Rector, and was called by his authority. It would be impossible to give in a short space any idea of the business brought before the meeting. At the time it created the greatest interest possible, not only amongst the Professors and students, but the public. From 1824 to the year 1834, everything was done in order to obtain funds for rebuilding the old college. In 1826, a grant of £15,000 was voted by Government for that purpose. The expense of building was estimated in 1834 to be £25,000, which, with the interest of the sum voted, would have required about £8,000 to be raised by subscription. After many difficulties had been overcome, the money was raised, and the foundation stone of the building was laid on the 18th October, 1837, by the Duke of Richmond. At the dinner which concluded the

day's proceedings, Lord Aberdeen gave utterance to a sentence which should never be forgotten—

> "Undoubtedly of late years the intellectual development of the people has made rapid progress. They are now pressing close upon us, and we can only hope to retain our respective positions, not by the vain attempt to arrest *their* progress, but by endeavouring to accelerate our own."

The building founded that day was from the designs of the late Archibald Simpson, and forms a great contrast to the *old tenement.* The structure was designed so that the foreground *should be opened up* (there is little chance of that being done now—the more is the pity). Still, it is one of the finest buildings which Aberdeen can boast of, and reflects great credit on Mr. Simpson's skill. It is one of the first objects that strangers seek for, and they often find a difficulty in getting at it.

It would be difficult to describe what sort of building the original Marischal College was, as there is no record or drawing of it extant. That the building was probably the one used by the "Greyfriars," and the most extensive in Greyfriars place, there can be little doubt. And there is some difficulty as to the additions which were made in 1676 and 1694, most likely the north wing; while that on the south was built in 1747. No mention has been made of the conduct of the students. One case may be of interest to the reader. In the year 1714, the students in a tumultuous manner insult the Magistrates while sitting in the Court (the "Laigh Tolbooth") as Justices of the Peace. Criminal letters are ordered to be raised against them by the Magistrates. Next year, three of the Professors propose to the Magistrates that the affair might be settled, if a proportion of the expenses were paid, and giving such satisfaction as the Magistrates require, which is agreed to.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Old Grammar School, as represented, was built about the year 1758. The older building, which it replaced, appears to have been situated further to the east. Three years before that time, it was in contemplation to erect it on the south side of the Schoolhill, and the Magistrates had a meeting with the Professors of the College concerning a croft of land, which appears to have belonged to the latter, situated on that side of the street. The plan of the new building approved of was by Charles Beveridge; and the site chosen was that on which there was "a barn and back close," belonging to "Jean Guild's Mortification." This ground was purchased for five hundred pounds Scots; and the yard, betwixt this lot and the garden of Gordon's Hospital, was given off at the price of two hundred pounds Scots. It was resolved that the contract should be put up by public roup, and that the person who will execute the work for the lowest price, and find caution, should be accepted. John Mason, wright, having the lowest offer—£311 sterling—was the person who got the contract. This was in 1758. The old building was sold afterwards to Gilbert More. The school thus sold was built about the year 1624. For, at a meeting of the Council in the previous year, it was ruinous and likely to fall, as it was "nather watter-thicht nor wynd-thicht," and it was resolved at that meeting to build a new one. George Anderson was appointed master of the work, and authorized to carry it on. The expense was to be paid out of Dr. Cargill's Mortification. The following year (1625), Robert Ferguson, burgess, presents to the Council "a bell new stocked," for the use of the Grammar School, and also agrees to erect a belfry to contain it.

One of the earliest notices about the Grammar School is

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

1822

the appointment of Mr. John Homyll as Master, on the 10th October, 1418. The salary in the year 1479, on the appointment of Thomas Strachan, was £5, till he be provided for in the Kirk of St. Nicholas. In 1509, John Marshall is presented to the Grammar School, by the Provost, Baillies, Council, and community, "for ale the dais of his liwe, and admittit him to the saide scolis, be gift of ane pair of bedis, with ale comoditis, fredomes, and profites pertaining thairto." The Master of the School, in 1527, explains to the Town the miserable state of decay that the School is in. The Magistrates, Council, and community ordered the Master of Kirk Work to get it repaired without delay. In the year 1529, Mr. John Bissat receives a salary of £10 per annum, but a reason is given for this increase, "because now thair said skuill is desert and destitut of bairnis, and wil be ane lang tyme or it cum to perfectoun." It was agreed unanimously by the Council in 1546, that Mr, Hew Munro, the Master of the Grammar School, should be paid ten merks; and that every freeman within the burgh, both merchants and craftsmen, should "ressaue him and the bischop at Sanct Nicholace mess within thair houissis, conforme to the auld lovabill vse of the said burgh, and gif him thair wagis of the auld maner, efferand to thair estatis, as tha think expedient. And gif ony honest man, merchand or craftisman, that ma guidly gif his wagis, ressauis him nocht and the bischop at the same tyme," the Master may complain against them to the "bailzeis that hapnis to be in office for the tyme." This arrangement, however strange it would appear now, no doubt had its advantages at that time. It would give the Rector and the Bishop a much greater range and variety of tables, and enable them to see human nature in its best and worst features. They would have a better knowledge of the internal economy of the householders than most, and would appreciate accordingly the reception they were to receive. The circle which they had to move in was larger than "the weekly round of visits" which the Precentor, in 1533, had to make, but then his "circle" was more select.

The Mastership of the Grammar School appears to have

been used as a stepping-stone to the "altarages," or into the Kirk of St. Nicholas, although there are many more instances where the Master or Rector continued long, and wrought very earnestly. "James Chalmer," who was "eleckit," in 1550, to succeed Hew Munro mentioned previously, is, in 1557, appointed one of the Regents of King's College.

The Reformation had been and stamped its foot at the Grammar School. But an older mark was there. The boys nine years after had not forgotten their "play days," and to regain them, and show their literary "abulziment," they write a Latin petition to the Magistrates concerning the doing away of their old privileges. "To conveine at sick tymes as thai war in wse and preuelege of libertie and skailing obefoir." "Maister Johnne Hennersonne," the Rector, did not understand how to smooth the boys, and had complained to the Council of "the *enormitie of his saidis scollaris.*" The Council considering the matter, "decernit and ordanit that the barnis and scollaris of the said scuill sall haf previlege and libertie to remain fra the scuill thai keipand guid ordour quhair thai pleise, fra Sanct Thomas evin befor Youll quhill vpon the morne efter the Epiphanie day allanerlie." All other times of "skaling" which were previously "to be dischargit and abrogatit." John Henderson, the master, had, in the year 1559, been presented by the Magistrates and Council "to the cheplanry of Sanct Michaelis altar vithin the proche kirk," they having the patronage. Mr. William Carmichael is appointed master, in 1573. To teach the bairns knowledge and manners, he is to get the same salary as his predecessor, and "two shillings in the quarter *from every bairn* in the town." The Council are so well pleased with the Master of the Grammar School, in 1575, for teaching and instructing the bairns and scholars, "in vertew lerning letteris and guid maneris," that they grant him a yearly pension of fifty merks "all the days of his lyftyme vpon his quiet bering and induring their villis." And the same day after the Council have under their consideration the "play" which the scholars had from the 20th December to the 7th January, "quhairfor thai witht adwysiement annullis, and abrogatis the

forsaid act and preuilege." A "supplicatioun" is presented to the Council, in 1579, from William Carmichaell the Master, requesting an increase to his salary in consequence of the high price "als weill viuaris and victuallis as the exercitioun of all craftis," and that he would "be content that the scholage of the scholaris be augmentit." The Council agree that he should get "for euerie bairne of induellaris of this toune three shillings and fourpence (the purrell being exceptit) euerie quarter of the yeir during the Counsell will, quhill thai altar this present ordinance." The Provost and Council, in the year 1580, appoint Mr. Thomas Cargill to the office of Master "to instruct thair barnis in knawlege and maneris." He is to have the same salary as his predecessor had. The Council, in December, consider the "enormities committit be disourdourit barnis and scholaris of the Grammer Schuil. . . . vsurping aganis the Maister and Magistrates this tyme of yeir afoir yuill callit natiuite of our Lord, thairby fosterand the ald ceremonie and rite of preuelege that was wont to be grantit to thame, quhilk the Consell obefoir throchlie aduysit hes altogidder abrogatit and dischargit." To provide against this evil taking place in future, the Council enact that every scholar entered at the Grammar School shall find security for his good conduct, the penalty being ten pounds, to be paid by the cautioner.

Mr. David Wedderburn, after trial and examination, is appointed Master in 1602; and his salary is fixed at eighty pounds, with ten shillings quarterly from each of the scholars. The minute of his appointment will be found in the 2nd vol, of the *Spalding Club Extracts*, page 223; and one would suppose from reading it, that the Provost and Council had conducted the examination, which continued for four days, Mr. Thomas Reid, who was another candidate, was chosen one of the Ushers at the same time. Next year, the Master, David Wedderburn, appears before the Council, and demits the office. He explains to the Council that, being urged by the Provincial Assembly of Clergy, lately held in the burgh, to enter into the ministry, he was resolved to "enter in the said function, and obey God calling him thairto be the said Assemblie, and to leawe

and desert the said School." The Council "thairfor gawe thair consent and approbatioun to the said Mr. Dauid to embrace the same halie functioun of the ministrie, and ordanis ane testemoniall to be gevin to him of his dewtifull discharge of the said office of maister of schole." This was on the 20th April, 1603. In September of that same year, the Council have under their consideration "a supplicatoun gevin in be Maister Dauid Wedderbourne." David had changed his mind, and wished to be appointed one of the teachers again. "Now being otherwayes resoluit not to leawe his said office to be ane of the maisters of the said schoole, bot being willing to continew in the said office with Mr. Thomas Reid, the vther maister." The Council grant the application, and appoint him "to be coequall and coniunct maister" with Mr. Thomas Reid.

Mr. D. Wedderburn, the Master, must have been a strange sort of person to shift and change as he did. In 1604, a charge is brought against him by "a gryt number of the communitie of this burgh," complaining on him "for certane abuses and *extortionis* laitlie enterit and raisit in the said schooll," contrary to what is laid down to him in the act or deed of his admission. David must have been a greedy sort of man, if half the charges laid against him were true. He had by right to get from "landwart bairnis in the quarter aughtene schilling four penneis, thairof threttene schilling four penneis to him selff, and fyve schillingis to his *doctour;* and of townis bairnis ten schillingis in the quarter, thairof six schillingis aught penneis to him selff, and thrie schilling four penneis to his doctour." David charged the landward children two merks, and took of that twenty shillings to himself, and gave "his *doctour*" six and eightpence; while for town's children he charged thirteen shillings and fourpence, and he kept of that ten shillings; the balance he gave to "his doctour," who did not get a proportional share of the spoil. David also took from the children, "ilk Sonday, tua penneis to be gevin to the puir, *it being no poynt of charitie* to caus bairnis to giwe siluer to the puir, *they* hawing *no siluer to giwe of thair awin*, bot that *for quhilk thay mak sum wrang schift.*" Other four

charges are brought against him, and the effect which his conduct has produced on the School is plainly told. The landward bairns "ar drawin hame and takin furth of the gramer scholl, and vtheris ar scarrit to cum thairvnto, quhairthrow the toun ar grytlie preiudgit be the want of bairnis buirdis, quhilk wes a gryt help to many of the toun." The Master is called before the Magistrates and Council, and the "greiffis" of the inhabitants are severally stated to him which they charge him with. David confesses to the whole of the charges brought against him—that he had taken more than his act of admission authorized, but that the other practices were not originated by him, but had been customary in the School previous to his admission. After deliberation, the Council ordained that in future the Master was to receive nothing more than his salary and "scholege," which the act of his admission authorized.

The same year it is ordered by the Council that the Master of the School shall not admit any scholars to be taught until they find caution for their good behaviour. Five years after this, in consequence of complaints brought by various of the town's people against the "bairnis and scoleris of the gramer and sang schoollis," for troubling and striking the servants of different inhabitants, the Masters of the Grammar and "Sang" Schools are ordered to admit none without their parents or friends becoming caution for their good conduct. This method of finding security for the boys' conduct was of little use, as the riot which they created on the first day of December, 1612, sufficiently proves. On that day "lang befoir the *superstitious tyme of yuill*," they take possession of the "sang school," and kept it till the afternoon of the 3rd. During this period they commit many and serious outrages, "wearing of gunes and schoitting tharwith" by night and day; forcibly entering houses by "bracking vp thair durris and windowis," and *stealing* the "foullis, pultrie, breid, and vivaris," and taking at their own hand "fewall and vivaris" coming into the town to market, and committing many acts of violence and oppression against the lieges. The six who appear to have been brought before

the magistrates on the evening of the third of the month, when charged with these acts, "confessit the said accusatioune to be of treuth," and put themselves at "the will of the Prouest, Baillies, and Counsall" . . "to vnderly sick punishment as sould be injoynit." The six young scamps find cautioners for them to appear "befoir ellevin houris," next day the fourth of December. On that day the Provost, Baillies, and the "new and auld Counsallis, with the Bishop and Ministrie," were convened in the Council-house (there must have been a crush) to advise about the punishment to be inflicted upon the boys, who had taken and kept possession of the song school for more than two days and nights "with hagbuttis, pistollis, swordis, and lang wapynnis." After consideration "thay all in ane voyce, fand, vottit, concludit, and ordanit" that the cautioners for the scholars should pay the unlaw of every one of the boys that had been guilty of this act of insubordination and riot. Twenty pounds for each to be recovered from them, the money to be applied to the "common guid of the toun," and to the repairing of the damage done; and also that those of the scholars that had taken the school "salbe presently excludit and put furth of all the scuillis of this burghe," and none of them to be received in any school or college of this burgh at any time after.

In the year 1616, in his Will, Dr. James Cargill mortifies the sum of five hundred merks for the benefit of the "scholage" and other school fees, for grammar and English books in use at the school for his "puir fryndis;" or if at college for their fees there; but if they be at neither, the interest to be employed on the edifice of the school. *If the insolence of the scholars cannot be repressed from demolishing it,* then the annual rent of the money is to be given to the honest poor house-holders in "New Abirdeine," the Magistrates and Council being the patrons.

In the year 1627, the very handsome sum of five hundred merks was mortified by a citizen, who concealed his name, for the benefit of, and help to the provision of, one of the Doctors in the School.

An order is issued to the Master of the Grammar School, in the year 1628, prohibiting him from giving the scholars "leave to the bent," or from exacting any *bent silver* from them. Wedderburn was charged with this use and wont custom. Six years afterwards, the Doctors in the Grammar School are ordered to obey the Master "in doctrine and discipline." And in the year 1636, the Master, David Wedderburn, is rewarded "for his new vocabulary" by the Council. Wedderburn resigns the situation four years after in consequence of infirmity, and he receives a pension of two hundred merks yearly. During the following nineteen years, a great many changes take place in the School, by the appointment and resignation of the Ushers or Doctors. In 1663, Mr. John Forbes, Professor of Humanity, is chosen Master.

The first notice of prizes appears to be in 1669, when premiums are given by the visitors to the scholars. These are ordered to be furnished by the Master of Mortifications.

The following year, one John Lyal claims to be appointed Master, without submitting to an examination, as being the son of a *sub*-tenant of Ferryhill. This claim is refused as he was not the son of a tenant, his father having only a croft, and he was not even a tenant of the Town. The salary of the Master is raised to 600 merks yearly, with 13s. 4d. from each scholar quarterly. And Robert Skene, the schoolmaster at Banchory, being found qualified, after trial, is chosen Master, and admitted by the Council. Regulations for the conduct of the masters and the scholars are made out by the Magistrates and Council, and *also for the mode of teaching the classes*, &c. Six years after his appointment Robert Skene dies, and the office is not filled up for some years. This is done intentionally for the purpose of increasing Dr. Dun's Mortification. The Master's class is given to Mr. John Findlater, Usher, who is also to have authority over the other teachers. Three years after this, Findlater is appointed Master. Twenty pounds is ordered by the Council to be given to the Master for purchasing books to poor scholars. In 1722, the sum of fifty pounds Scots is ordered to be paid to John Milne, Master, in addition

to his salary; and the year following the regulation is made that the Ushers are to teach and bring up the elementary classes till delivered over to the principal Master. The names of the Bursars at the Grammar School in 1750 are ordered to be entered in a book to be kept in the school; and the Master of Mortifications is not to pay any Bursar without a certificate from the visitors or the Master, of his good behaviour, attendance, and progress. In 1753, the salary of the Master is increased to four hundred merks and the Ushers to two hundred. No premiums were given to the scholars in the year 1756. This was probably done to increase the stock of money for the new building which was to be erected. The following year, 1757, Church Music is ordered to be taught; and the scholars are to pay one shilling for this benefit annually. Mr. William Laing, one of the Ushers who was appointed in 1770, is suspended from the situation next year, in consequence of absenting himself from his duties. He had gone to London without permission from the Council. The Council, however, give him the office again; and in the same year, 1771, he resigns, being appointed minister to the Episcopal Chapel at Peterhead. Mr. James Sherriffs is chosen to succeed him, and a clock is ordered to be furnished for the public School. The Town's arms are ordered to be stamped on the prize books that are to be given to the scholars, and the small piece of ground, called "a gushat of ground," in front of the School, is sold in the year 1773. Five years afterwards Mr. James Cromar is appointed Usher in place of Mr. Sherriffs, who obtains a church. In 1791, Dr. James Dun resigns the office of Master and Rector, and recommends Mr. James Cromar as his successor. The Magistrates and Council elect both as joint-Masters and Rectors, the survivor to continue in the office. This election appears to have raised the *fur* of Mr. Andrew Dun, who was chosen Usher in 1787. He raises an action of reduction and declarator against the Council in order to set the election aside. This action the Council resolve to defend. Andrew does not appear to have succeeded, for the same year Alexander Leith is chosen Usher in place of Mr. Cromar. In 1796, the

Council order a general visitation of the School in consequence of the desertion of Mr. James Cromar as joint-Rector. The visitors report, and the Council dismiss Mr. Cromar from the office. That same year Dr. James Dun resigns his appointment. The vacant berth is applied for by Andrew Dun, who is examined, and is elected, along with *Dr. Dun*, as joint-Rector, under certain conditions. Mr. John Dun, who was appointed in 1760, resigns his office as Usher, and Mr. James Cromar, jun., is, after examination, appointed in his place, under certain conditions. The same year Mr. William Duncan is chosen Usher. The Masters next year, 1797, apply to the Council for an increase of salary, which is granted, and ten pounds additional to each is allowed.

It would be invidious to mention or particularise any of the many learned and able men who have taught in this School, and rendered it famous, to the days of

> "Crow Cromar and Jamie Watt,"
> "Chuckle head and girdle hat."

There is one since who, perhaps, above all others, stands pre-eminent for his scholarship in Latin, and has, possibly, done more to raise its fame than any other in that branch of education—James Melvin.

Many complaints were made from year to year about the miserable accommodation for the classes in the building. At last, by subscription and otherwise, a new School was erected, from designs by Mr. Matthews, architect, which reflects the greatest credit on his taste and ability, forming as it does a graceful and beautiful ornament to the town in the situation which it occupies. It was opened in the year 1862, the amiable and accomplished Mr. Barrack being Rector.

Mention need hardly be made of the great benefit which has been derived from the valuable and useful education that has been communicated in the Grammar School, imparting to many thousands during the last four or five hundred years; knowledge that has exerted a great and beneficial influence, not only in Aberdeen and the large district around, but also, in

some degree, showing effect nationally through the well-educated youths that have left its gates. Than this, for which there is reason to be proud, there is nothing belonging to the Institution itself more interesting than a small collection of silver medals belonging to the School, connected with archery some two hundred years ago. These medals form a sort of intermediate link between the first two hundred and fifty years of its establishment and the by-gone two hundred years;—the first period being that of civil broil, war, and bloodshed; while the latter has been that of peace and rapid improvement.

There is no record or account of these medals, or of the silver arrow which accompanies them, to be found in the Grammar School; and there appears to be no trace or notice of them in the *Council Records*, where there are plenty of entries with regard to butts and bows, and other equipments necessary for the toxopholite who had to defend his country, and for practising the *stringed artillery*, which was *the arm* of that day. The medals, however, can in some measure speak for themselves, whether they have a Scotch tongue in their heads or not. From the inscriptions, and from the fact that they were left in the Grammar School, it is easily inferred that they were made to commemorate and hand down to the future race of students the successful gainers of the arrow, to stimulate them to equal success. The arrow which appears to have been shot for, is made of silver, 13¼ inches long, and is "full fledged;" there is no mark on the "cock feather," but on the other two are circles, within which on the one are engraved the letters AV, and on the other C M. The arrow at the point is "barbed," resembling the Government "broad arrow" of the present day; one-half the barb is broken off, there is no appearance of a "nock" having been given to it. The competition in archery at the Grammar School at that period involved a loss to the gainer, differing considerably from the rifle shooting of the present day, inasmuch as the successful competitor of the former *gave* a memorial of his skill, while the latter *gets* a reward, of somewhat greater value than the bunch of parsley or laurel used as prizes at the Grecian games. The

merit, however, is the same. There are fourteen medals in the collection—of these eleven have dates engraved upon them, from 1667 to 1699, while there are three that have no dates marked. The latter three appear to be the oldest of the whole from the workmanship, still they are not very much older. On nine of them, the initials or monogram of the makers are engraved. Three of them have the letters W S, one having the V run into the S as a monogram. This would answer for William Scott, goldsmith, who was elected Master of the Trades Hospital in 1680, and was chosen Deacon-Convener of the Trades in the years 1681-82. Another has the monogram V M, which would intimate that it was the workmanship of William Melvill, who was Master of Hospital during the years 1656-57, and who was elected Convener of the Trades in the year 1662. On five of the medals, the initials "A G" and "A G F (fecit)" are engraved, the mark most probably of Alexander Galloway, who was chosen Master of Hospital in the year 1674, and elected Deacon-Convener in 1676. The four large medals, Nos. 6, 8, 9, and 10, appear evidently to be *made by the same workman*, although two different names are upon three of them, while there is no indication of the maker of No. 10. It would be very interesting to know how and in what way No. 7 came to be amongst the lot, it is so very different in make, style, and quality of workmanship—whether it was modelled on purpose, or had been part of some older piece of work, or a cast taken from some silver ornament, and made available for its present use, may for ever remain a mystery. It is a casting from a very good model, and has been fairly handled in the chasing. It is the best piece of work by far amongst the number.

MEDALS.

1.—Size, $2\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $2\frac{3}{16}$ broad.

Obverse—On a shield, 3 skenes; on the points, 3 boars' heads; under the skenes, a hunting knife; on the centre skene, a crescent; above the shield, the letters "A S." The whole rudely although boldly chased, with leaf and berry border.

Reverse—The motto, "Virtutis Regia Merces Andreas Skeen quarto vicit 1667."

2.—Size, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. broad.

Obverse—On a shield, 3 boars' heads, helmet, and mantling; above the shield, the letters "A G"; underneath the shield, the motto "*byd and W. S. fecit* 1670." Surrounded with half-round edge, neatly engraved with laurel leaves.

Reverse—"Adamus Gordonus quinto vicit regnat post funera virtus."

3.—Size, 3 in. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad.

Obverse—On a shield, 3 boars' heads, helmet, and mantling, with "I G" above; under the shield, "*of breachly*," edge or border same as last.

Reverse—Within an engraved border of leaves, the motto, "DELITIIS NON ITVR AD ASTRA. IOANNES GORDONVS. SEXTO VICIT. 1672. A G F."

4.—Size, 3 in. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad.

Obverse—On a shield, 3 Moors' heads couped, distilling drops of blood, with helmet and mantling; crest, a negro's head, separating the letters "I M"; motto on ribbon, "MAIOR OPIMA FERAT."

Reverse—Within an engraved border, like the last, the motto, "FAMAM EXTENDERE FACTIS HOC VRTVTIS OPVS. IACOBVS MOIR, SEPTIMO VICIT. 1673. A G F."

5.—Size, 3 in. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad.

Obverse—On a shield, the 3 skenes with the 3 boars' heads, without the hunting knife, the crescent on the second skene; in the shield, a chief; above, helmet and mantling, crest, a hand issuing from a cloud, holding a laurel wreath; the motto, "SORS MIHI GRATA CADET"; the half round border neatly engraved with leaves spirally twisted.

Reverse—Border engraved with leaves; motto, "VIRTVS VERA SVIS MARTE VEL ARTE FAVET. IOANNES SKEENE OCTAVO VICIT. 1674. A G F."

6.—Size, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter.

Obverse—The extreme edge roughly fretted round with hollow cups; within which a border or wreath of chased leaves, which encloses a circle of fruit or a thick twisted cable. In the centre, two hands, right and left, the latter holding a rose or flower, while the right grasps a short dagger; the motto, "MARTE," being above and between the dagger and flower, and under "ET MINERVA."

Reverse—A shield, with helmet and mantling; supporters, two lions; crest, a lion rampant, with quarter-staff or baton; the motto above, "TOUT JOUR"; underneath, "*Deskfoord vicit.* 1675. AG *fecit.*"

7.—Size, $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. broad by $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. long.

Obverse—Remarkably well-chased group—the subject being Orpheus charming the beasts. He is represented in Roman costume, seated, and his audience in front—consisting of a horse, a lion, and a goat—is paying great attention to the god, who appears to be enthusiastically absorbed

with the music which he is producing from a fiddle ; a dog at his right side does not appear, from the angle at which he is holding his head, to relish the music. On either side of the medal are two nude female figures, with foliated and scaly terminations forming a border to the medal. It appears to have been cast, and then chased with a considerable amount of spirit.

Reverse—A shield, with two (suppose) greyhounds ; three fleur-de-lis and a deer's head coupe ; the supporters, two hairy men or savages with wreaths, holding clubs or staves ; helmet and mantling, crest, a fleur-de-lis. Motto above, "AL MY HOP IS IN GOD." Underneath, "IOANNES VDNIE VICIT. 1676."

8.—Size, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter.

Obverse—The edge and border exactly like No. 6. On the right side, issuing from a cloud, a right hand holding a sword ; on the top of which a laurel branch with berries is placed ; the motto above, "VIRTVTE ACQVIRITVR," roughly chased.

Reverse—A shield, paly in chief, with the Keith Arms and a crescent ; mantling and helmet, crest, the head of a goose or duck, perched upon which is a dove with olive branch. Motto above, "INNOCENTIA TECTA SAPIENTIA." Underneath, "Gulielmus Keith filius natu maxmius Domini Johannis Keith de Keithall Scotiæ Equitis Marischallj vicit anno 1677. vs fecit." The Marshal of Scotland's baton is not shown along with the shield here.

9.—Size, 5 in long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad.

Obverse—With fretted edge like the last, but with broad border of leaves with a rosette at top and bottom. From a cloud on the left side, a sleeved and frilled left arm issuing, the hand, bent down, holding a fully-drawn bow, with an arrow pointing to the bottom of the medal ; an eye is at the top, looking along the arrow. At the right side, there is a laurel wreath, and the motto, "VENI. VIDI. VICI."

Reverse—A shield with the *Fraser Arms*, 1st and 4th quartered with *three ancient crowns ;* 2nd and 3rd, supporters, two deer sitting on their haunches ; helmet and mantling, crest, a deer's head couped. Motto, "VIVE UT POSTEA VIVAS." Underneath the shield, "ALEXANDER FRASER DE STREICHEN *vicit* 1678. A G fecit," very roughly chased, and engraved.

10.—Size, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{7}{8}$ in. broad.

Obverse—Edge and border like the last. On a shield, a lion regardant crowned ; supporters, two savages with clubs ; helmet and mantling, an imperial crown above the helmet ; at top, the motto, "A FIND" (a fin) ; underneath, "DOM IOHANNES OGILVIE."

Reverse—The fretted cup edge shows, as in some of the others but more distinctly, an edge of half balls, within which there is a very thick rope or cable border. On a raised line, a man in full dress is standing at the left side, drawing a bow, apparently going to put the arrow into

a wreath or target on the right side; his hat is carefully put on a peg behind him on the left side; while above is the motto, "VENI. VIDI. VICI." In the centre, at his feet, is what looks like a very large tulip; underneath the line, the motto, "DE INNERCARITIE VICIT ANNO. 1679."

11.—Size, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. broad.

Obverse—A roughly-chased half-round border. On the shield, the Arms of Morison; three morrice masks, two right and left, while another is placed a-top; mantling and helmet with wreath or skean, but no crest. The motto above, "SVNT TRIA HÆC UNUM."

Reverse—On the flat edge, a well-engraved leaf, wreath, or border. The motto, "NON MAGNA LOQUIMUR SED VIVIMUS. THEODORUS MORISON DE BOGNIE VICIT. 1699. *Anno Ætatis* 14*tio*."

12.—Size, $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. by $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. broad.

Obverse—A narrow half-round plain edge; within which, on a matted ground, is a stag's head of ten tynes, all turned to the left side, between the horns, a star or mullet of five points. Roughly chased.

Reverse—Round the edge, the motto, "Cor petit Astra velut cervus anhelat aquas Georgius Mackenzieus. Primo vicit. M fecit."

13,—Size, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. broad.

Obverse—Edge like the last, on a matted ground; three cinquefoils, intended for the strawberry leaves of the Frasers.

Reverse—On the plain flat back, "*Thomas Fraser secundo vicit.*"

14.—Size, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{16}$ in. broad.

Edge like the last; the centre plain raised, with shield; at the left side, a hand out of a cloud holds a banner or flag; above the hand, at the left-hand corner, something like a dove; helmet and mantling, no crest; with the initials above, "I B." Underneath, "W S *me fecit.*"

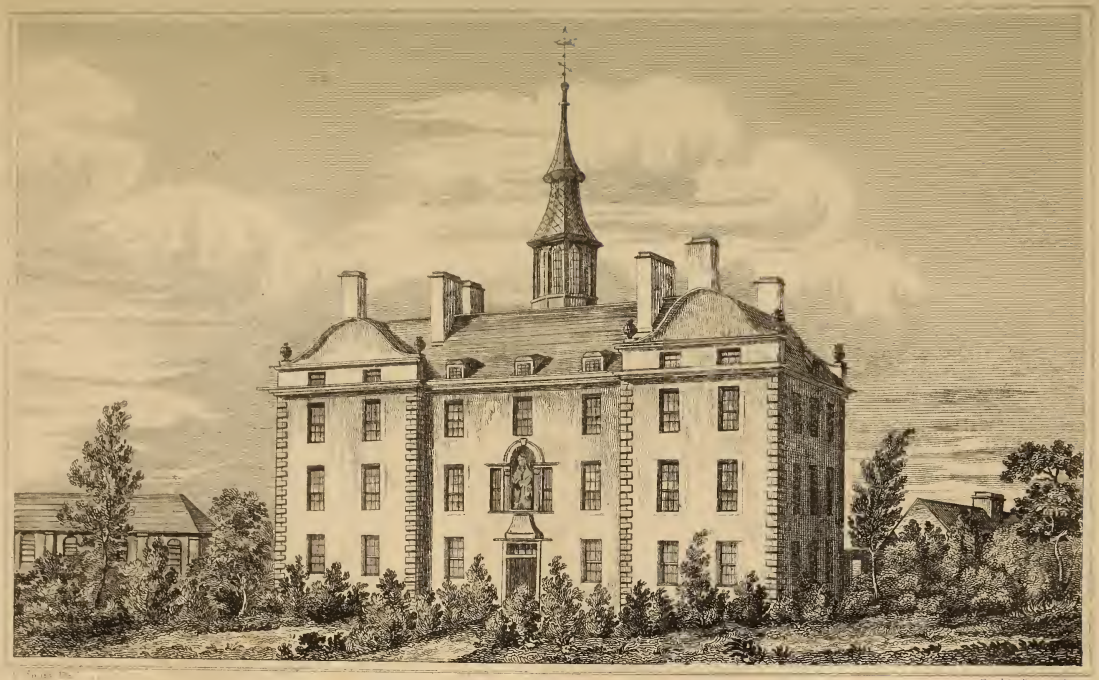
Reverse—"Joannes Bannermanus tertio vicit."

In some copies of this Work, at page 95, an error in one of the Master's names has been made. The Masters were James Cromar, Rector, Robert Forbes, Alexander Nicol, and James Watt, alluded to in the couplet.

GORDON'S HOSPITAL.

This institution was founded by Mr. Robert Gordon, Merchant, a son of Mr. Arthur Gordon, Advocate in Aberdeen. Mr. Gordon was successful in business, and had travelled abroad for some years. From the few remains of his taste that are to be seen in the Hospital, it would appear that he was highly cultivated. *Douglas* says "that in his younger days he visited several parts of Europe with a friend, when, it is supposed, he spent most of his fortune. This is more probable that he then seems to have had a *genteel* taste, which appeared from a good collection of coins and medals *found* at his death." Robert Gordon must have changed very much in character and disposition after he returned to Aberdeen and settled there, although he did not engage in business. Many strange and curious stories are told about the parsimonious manner of his living and the economy of his household. In the year 1729, Mr. Gordon made application to the Magistrates and Council, desiring a *feu* of the houses and grounds which had formerly belonged to the Dominicans or Blackfriars, "the old Blackfriars Manse," the ground and houses at the time "belonging to Jean Guild's Mortification." At the same time he communicates his intention of building an hospital upon the ground for the benefit of young boys whose parents were in indigent circumstances, and of endowing it. The Council agreed to give the ground at an annual feu-duty of ten pounds, and a Charter was ordered to be made out by the Master of Mortifications in favour of the Governors of the Hospital in 1732; and that same year a croft of land which formerly had belonged to the Blackfriars, but then in possession of Marischal College, is agreed to be given to the Governors of the Hospital on payment of twenty bolls of bear to the Principal and Professors of Marischal College. The foundation of this Hospital

was made out in the name of the Provost, Baillies, and Council, along with "the town's four ministers," who were appointed "his sole and only executors." The money which he left he ordered "to be employed for erecting and maintaining an Hospital to be called in all succeeding generations, Robert Gordon's Hospital, founded by his appointment, for educating indigent children." The parties who were to be benefited by the institution were to be relatives of the founder previous to others. Thus—"sons and grandsons" first, of decayed Burgesses of Guild related to him of the name of Gordon; second, the same bearing the name of Menzies; third, the same of any Burgess of Guild bearing the name of Gordon; fourth, the same having the name of Menzies; fifth, relations of the founder of whatever surname; sixth, the same relatives of Burgesses of whatever name; seventh, the same of tradesmen belonging to the seven incorporations; eighth, those of dyers and barbers; and last, those of decayed inhabitants of the town generally. The education to be given to the inmates appears to have been chiefly the "three R's," "English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the common parts of vocal music." Boys who *showed* an aptitude for drawing were to be taught that branch of education. The education now-a-days is much more liberal, besides the right or privilege of sending so many of the pupils to the College. In his Will Gordon restricted the sum of money to be laid out in building to thirty thousand merks, and at the same time he ordered that the institution was not to be opened until the cost of the building was made up by the interest of the remaining money, so that the capital should remain the same. The governors of the institution, soon after the death of Mr. Gordon, proceeded to carry his intention into execution. They very properly *employed a native to give the design* for the building. James Gibb, the architect employed, was born in Aberdeen, most probably in the White House in the Links at Futty or Futtie's Myre, his father being the proprietor of it. He designed a number of buildings in England, which are lasting monuments of his ability as an architect. Two of the most celebrated



Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

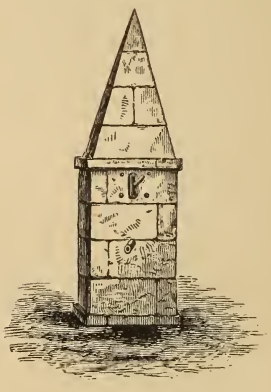
GORDON'S HOSPITAL.

1822

are — the Radcliffe Library at Oxford, and St. Martin's Church *in the fields*, London. St. Mary's in the Strand, the New Church, Derby, the Senate House, and new buildings at King's College, Cambridge, are also from designs by him, as well as the West Church in Aberdeen, previously noted, the "plan" of which was, according to *Douglas*, "presented to the town by the celebrated Mr. James Gibb, Architect, a citizen of Aberdeen."

Gordon's Hospital was finished about the year 1739, and it had to remain vacant "till the stock was made up." In the meantime, a very different lot of tenants from that which it was intended for by the founder, took possession of it. The attempt of the Chevalier Prince Charlie to regain the crown in 1745, brought to Aberdeen unwelcome guests. In 1746, the Hospital received as its first inmates some two hundred of the Duke of Cumberland's men who fortified it with a ditch and earthwork, and called it "Fort Cumberland." The Hospital was opened in the year 1750 with thirty boys, and thirty-two years after the number was increased to sixty. The founder in his Will and Settlement ordered that there should be only *men-servants* in the establishment. The Governors, however, altered that regulation for the reason that it would be more beneficial to the institution, and also less expensive. In the year 1816, the lands of Barrack, in the parish of New Deer, were left by the late Alexander Simpson of Colliehill (subject to some life rents) for the benefit of sons and grandsons of decayed Burgesses. When this money became available, two new wings were added to the building, from designs by Mr. John Smith the city architect, and completed in the year 1834. Four years after this, Mr. Simpson's Trustees give to the Governors of the Hospital the sum of £2000, on the condition that they are to have maintained in the Hospital twenty-six boys, for which they will pay the average cost of maintaining boys in the institution. The number of inmates was now increased to one hundred and thirty-four; and in the year 1841 there were in the building one hundred and fifty. The education as indicated is now much more extended than for-

merly; and it is very possible that a change may be brought about in this institution similar to what is taking place at Edinburgh with regard to the Hospitals there under the charge of the Merchant Company, as proposed by Mr. Duncan, the Master of that influential body, and partially carried out with success. Although it is enjoined in the Founder's Deed of Settlement that those who have received the benefit of education at the Hospital should repay to the institution a sum equivalent, this has been done only in a very few cases; gratitude does not appear to be one of the branches taught.



Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

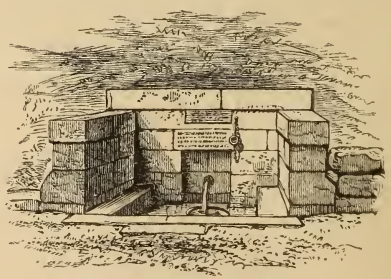
1822

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The condition of those individuals who were deprived of reason, and known indiscriminately as "madmen," or "daft folk," wandering at will through the streets, presented not only a melancholy, but often a painful spectacle. The law has changed this scene, and they are now taken care of, while science has improved the treatment from the harsh, violent, and often cruel methods adopted to cure the malady, to kindness and gentleness, along with amusement and a freedom from restraint—which would have been thought "madness" to have used fifty years ago. The first notice which appears of any attempt to form a fund for supporting lunatics is about the year 1718, when the sum of £1397 4s. was collected by the Master of Mortifications, for the support of or forming a lunatic establishment. The Infirmary, which was built in the year 1739, appears to have been partially or occasionally used for the reception of persons afflicted with lunacy. In 1798, the sum of £1116 1s. is given in charge to the Magistrates and Council, being the residue of the estate of Baillie Cargill, which he had bequeathed for the maintenance of lunatics. At this period there was no Asylum. Part of the Infirmary, "on the north gavil of the east wing, was ordered to be fitted up for Bedlam Cells" in the year 1773, an arrangement which would not conduce to the comfort or cure of the proper inmates of the institution. In 1797, the Managers of the Infirmary apply to the Magistrates and Council for a piece of ground near Barkmill, for the purpose of building a Lunatic Asylum. This is granted to them on payment of the yearly feu-duty of ten shillings. Subscriptions are obtained along with the sum of £600 given by the Magistrates, being the accumulation of various donations placed in their hands for such an institution; also Baillie Cargill's money; and £500 left by Captain

John Cushnie, &c. The building was erected at an expense of £3400, and was said to hold some fifty patients. The Institution is in connection with the Infirmary, but the funds of both are kept distinct.

The house at Barkmill soon became too small for the number of patients requiring admission. In 1819, a piece of ground of three acres, to the west of the old Institution, was purchased for building a larger house, suitable for the requirements of the time. This was erected from designs by the late Mr. Simpson, and is the elegant building represented in the engraving. The cost of this edifice was about £13,000, the greater part being defrayed by a bequest of £10,000 from the late Mr. Forbes of Newe. In the year 1836, eleven acres of land were purchased, for affording the patients exercise, in the cultivation of the ground, and increased means of recreation. Extensive additions, as wings, have been added to meet the increasing demand for accommodation; while workshops have been erected, so that the labour of patients who have the ability may be turned to advantage. The dead, prison-looking wall in the engraving has been taken away, and the ground in front very much extended and opened up, giving it more the appearance of a gentleman's seat than a place of restraint. Within the last few years the estate of Elmhill, adjoining, has been added to the establishment, and another extensive Asylum built upon it, from a design by the late William Ramage, A.M., Architect.



THE OLD TRADES' HALL GATEWAY.

This interesting archway, which forms the title-page of this book, was built about two hundred and thirty years ago. It formed the entry into the court, at the west end of the Shiprow, where the Trades' Hall, or "Tarnty Ha'," was situated. Dr. Guild was a great benefactor to the Trades of Aberdeen. He was "Patron of the Trades"; and, in the year 1632, he mortified several annuities for "assisting the foresaid Traids to build and repair their Meeting-house and Chapel." In the year 1633, the Deed of Gift of the Trades' Hall is made out to the Incorporations. It is said, "to found, gift, and perpetually to mortify to them, all and hail the Place or Monastery of the Holy Trinity of the Brethren of the Burgh of Aberdeen," &c., "to be an hospital for the *poor old tradesmen* of the said burgh, . . . who shall be of good fame, not *redacted to poverty by their own vice, or drunkness and intemperance.*" Besides this gift of the Hall, Dr. Guild left in his Will, dated 1655, "to the Master of Hospital, Decon Convener of the Crafts of Aberdeen, for the time, and remanent Decons, ... the sum of *five thousand merks* Scots money, . . . for the entertaining of three poor boys, who are craftsmen's sons, as Bursars in the New College of Aberdeen, who are of good engynes." His heirs had the right to choose, whether to give the money, or "his forehouse in the Castlegate, wherein he himself dwelt, and brew-house with the room above, on the other side of the close." The heirs elected to keep the money, and give the house—which the Master of Hospital has at the present day—drawing a handsome income from the same. It is to be hoped that the Bursars now receive an increase in proportion to the rise of rent. The "Bursars' House" is the name by which it is still known.

The Gateway is a very good specimen of the work of the

seventeenth century, and was erected by the Trades as a mark of their respect and esteem for their patron and benefactor, Dr. Guild. On the scroll, at the top is the motto, "SOLI DEO GLORIE;" at the base of the scroll, "1632." At the top of the centre panel, "FVNDAVIT - GVIELM - R - SCOT - 1131-" At the corners, under two crowns, with the letters "G R"; in the centre, a shield with the Royal Arms of Scotland, surmounted with a crown; underneath, a nude figure at either side holding a scroll between them, upon which there is, "TO Y GLORIE OF GOD . AND . COMFORT . OF . Y . POOR . THIS . HOWS . WAS . GIWEN . TO . Y . CRAFTS BY M^R WILLM . GVILD . DOCTOVR OF DIVINITIE MINISTER OF . ABD 1633." The panel on the left side has the Arms of Dr. Guild, with "D" above the shield; and on one side, the letter "W"; on the other, "G"; and underneath, "FVNDATOR." On the right-hand panel is the following, which can hardly be given in type, it is so exceedingly well executed:—

"HE - THAT - PITIETH - THE - POOR LENDETH - TO - THE - LORD - AND THAT-WHICH HE - HATH - GIVEN WILL - HE - REPAY- PRO - 19 - 17"

This old relic of the "Tarnty Ha'" was removed in the year 1845, and built on the west side of the New Trades Hall at Union Bridge. It now forms the doorway to the Trades School which occupies a part of that building. It is a pity to see such an excellent piece of work exposed to the chance of mischief by the hands of the thoughtless. Could it not be removed into the Hall and made to form the centre doorway? It is worth the consideration of the members of the Incorporations whether this memorial of their benefactor and Patron ought not to be placed in a situation where it would be less liable to accident than it is at present. There is no record among the books belonging to the Hospital or any of the Incorporations to show who was the artist that designed, or the workman who executed, this archway. In the Hall there is a portrait of Dr. Guild, which the Trades caused to be painted, in the year 1730, by William Mossman, the artist of the landscape above the fire-place in the Town Hall. Moss-

man was certainly a much better painter of portraits than landscapes, judging from the two specimens of his work. For this portrait he received the sum of £50 8s., most likely Scots money; the frame cost £9. Eleven years afterwards, there is another payment made to William Mossman of £12 12s. "for mending Dr. Guild's picture."

THE CATHEDRAL,

OLD ABERDEEN.

The Parish Church of Old Aberdeen is the Nave and the only remaining portion of the Cathedral. It is stated that on this site a small church was built by one Macarius in the ninth century. It was surrounded by a straggling hamlet consisting of a few cottages—a village of *four ploughs of land.* The former was the Kirk and the latter the Kirktown of Seaton. Macarius was canonized when he died; the church was then dedicated to him, and called St. Machar. He little dreamt when he founded it that it was destined to become the site of a Cathedral, and the village that of a Bishopric. Many years after this church had been built, Malcolm II. having gained a victory over the Danes at Mortlach (in the year 1010), founded a Bishopric there to commemorate the event, and as a token of gratitude for his success. Four Bishops occupied the See during the period it remained at Mortlach—Bean, Donatius, Cormachus, and Nectan or Nicholas. The first sat for thirty-two years; the second, forty-two years; the third, thirty-nine years; and the last, fourteen years. King David I. translated the see from Mortlach to the Kirktown of Seaton, and Bishop Nicholas along with it in the year 1137. He had erected the village into a burgh of barony thirteen years previously, and called it, as *Orem* quaintly records, "Aberdon, because situated near the river Don." King David, for the support of the See, granted valuable lands, "the haill village of Old Aberdon" being one, along with his own revenues derived from various tithes, of ships, and from the revenues of Aberdeen and others. These sources of income, along with the revenue of Mortlach, must have made the Bishopric of Aberdeen most princely. After leaving Mortlach, Nicholas sat for seventeen years. *Orem* says that "*Boethius* makes him die 1132." It can easily be imagined that the small hamlet would rapidly in-

Engd by J Swan Glasgow

OLD ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL.

1822.

crease with the influx of the number of regular clergy and others necessary for the service of, and belonging to, the Cathedral. The Canons and regular clergy had houses, gardens, and glebes situated in Old Aberdeen, and they had also churches in the country, the duties there being performed by Curates. They did duty in the Cathedral on high festivals, and during the week they gave lessons in divinity and in canon and civil law. Bishop Edward, who succeeded Nicholas, received permission from the Pope to institute a College of Canons in 1157.

Mathew Kininmunde, who succeeded to the Bishopric in 1163, was the first who began to build the Cathedral. He received charters from Macolm IV., and from King William the Lion, confirming and extending those granted previously by King David. What progress was made in the building during his time is not known. But it is more than likely that some of those who followed him added to it, although this is not recorded. In 1329, Alexander Kininmounth, Bishop, built a house for his own use in the Chanonry, and another for "summer lodgings" at Fetternear. The house in the Chanonry, along with the houses of the Canons, were burnt, in 1336, by the English, who landed at Aberdeen, and burned the city for six days. One thing ought to be placed to their credit—they preserved the churches, placing guards over them to prevent the soldiers doing them injury. Alexander Kininmounth, second of that name, was elected Bishop in the year 1356. He did not consider the building "beautiful enough for a Cathedral," and took it down; and it is natural to suppose that he planned the next, as he laid the foundation of another and more magnificent structure; but he only lived to finish the bell-tower, leaving the walls six cubits high. He died about the year 1380. Bishop Lichtoun, who came from Moray, in the year 1424, appears to have been very active in adding to the structure, having built St. John's Aisle *to the north-east end of it;* the Quire was not yet begun. He also laid the foundation of the great steeple, and the two smaller steeples at the west end, and otherwise advanced the building

very much. Bishop Ingeram Lindsay succeeded Lichtoun in 1442. In his time, "*the roof was laid on of excellent red fir, curiously and strongly built.*" The *Church was slated*, and the floor paved with freestone, by Bishop Lindsay, anno 1445. Bishop Thomas Spens, who was translated from Galloway, glazed the Church and put seats in the Chancel, "with an excellent chair for his own use;" he gave donations and ornaments to the Church. Spens was succeeded by Bishop Robert Blackadder in the year 1480, who appears to have done nothing to the Church. He was translated to Glasgow in 1484. Bishop William Elphinston was his successor. "He perfected the great steeple on the east end of the Church," like that at Perth, and furnished it with a peal of fourteen bells. In 1489, the *Church was covered with lead at the expense of King James the Fourth.* The Quire had not been completed, or was in such a state that it required to be rebuilt. Bishop Elphinston prepared materials for the purpose, but he died, in the year 1514, before much progress had been made with the work. Elphinston's immediate successor did nothing to the building during the few years he held office. Gavin Dunbar, who succeeded Bishop Gordon in 1518, was of a more energetic stamp: he completed the two steeples at the west end of the Church founded by Lichtoun; the height of them, according to *Orem*, being "113 feet 7 inches to the top of the stang." Ninety-two years had elapsed from the time the foundations of the steeples had been laid until they were "perfyted." Bishop Dunbar built the south Aisle in 1522; and "he ceiled the Church with the finest oak, of such excellent work that there is scarce any like it to be seen in this kingdom." This beautiful oak ceiling was the work of James Winter, who came from Angus. He appears to have been the architect of the timber work of the ceiling, as well as the builder or contractor; for this ceiling, he was paid the sum of eight pounds Scots money. It was put up at the expense of Bishop Dunbar. The Bishop died in the year 1531, and he was succeeded by Bishop William Stewart in 1532. He built the Consistory House, which would appear to have been in the original plan, although

NORTH SIDE.

a. d. m. c. xxv.

Primus hui ecclie pontifex ii Nectanus Edvardus iii Matheus kyinmond iiii Johanes pror de calco v Ada clic regis willi vi Gilbert strivelin vii Radulphus lambley viii Petrus ramsay ix Richardus pottocht x Hugo benhanie xi Henricus cheine xii Alexander de kyinmond xiii Willms de la deyne xiiii Johanes de raite xv Alexander kyinmond xvi Ada tyinghame xvii Gilbertus greynlaw xviii Henrie lychton xix Engeram lyndesay xx Thomas spnes xxi Robertus bleicater xxii Willms elphynston universitatis et collegii coditor xxiii Alexander Gordon xxiiii Gavinus dunbar xxv

EAST END.

Willms stuart xxvi Willms gordon + Hoc lacunar a Gavino epo m d xx Exstruct a d m d ccclxvii refect est +

SOUTH SIDE.

a. d. m. d. l. x.

Murchtlakeen et aberdonen ecclias cathedrales respective condidere Pro quibus in hac sacra ede fundati obligatur orare p Macolm kenedi qui mrchtlakeen eccliam p instituit anno mil quarto Cui successit Ducanis Cui Macolm camoir ano m lvi Cui Edgarus Cui Alexander Cui David Stus ano m c xxiiii qui mrchtlakeen eccliam ad aberdoniam tnstulit Cui Macolmus vgo Cui Willms Cui Alexander ii Cui Alexander 3 Cui Robertus Bruce anno m cc Noge vi Cui David bruce Cui Robert ii Cui Robert 3 cui Jacob i Cui Jacob ii Cui Jacobus 3 Cui Jacobus iiii Cui Jacobus v Cui Maria Regina

EAST END.

Pontificis Romani

Imperatori Majestatis — Regie Celsitudinis

Sanctiand Archiepi

Francorum Regis — Sanctissime Margarite

Glasguen Archiepi

Hispanorum Regis — Albanie Ducis

Dunkelden Episcopi

Regis Anglorum — Marchiar Comitis

Gavini Aberdonen

Regis Danorum — Moravie Comitis radulphi

Moravien Episcopi

Regis Ungarie — Douglasie Comitis

Rossen Episcopi

Regis Portugalie — Angusie Comitis

Brechinen Episcopi

Regis Aragonie — Marrie Comitis

Cathanen Episcopi

Regis Cipri — Sutherlan Comitis

Candide Case Episcopi

Regis Navarre — Crafurdie Comitis

Dumblanen Episcopi

Regis Sicile — Huntlie Comitis

Lismoren Episcopi

Regis Poloine — Archadie Comitis

Orchaden Episcopi

Regis Bohemie — Erolie Comitis

Sodorensis Episcopi

Ducis Burbonie — Mariscalli Comitis

Prioris Sanctiandr

Ducis Gilrie — Bochtulie Comitis

Alme hui Universitatis

Veteris Aberdonie — Nove Aberdonie

WEST END.

not carried out. It was situated on the south side of the north-west steeple, and in the North Aisle of the Nave. It had two windows, each of which had *three lights*, while the other windows in the same Aisle have *only two*. The two windows had evidently been made larger, so that when the south and east walls were built to form the Consistory House, the room would have been too dark had the windows in it been made with two lights like the others. The Consistory or Ecclesiastical Court met in this room, and a door from it led into the Charter Room in the base of the north-west steeple. Here all the records, charters, and other valuable papers were preserved. More lately, the Consistory was used as the Session-House. Bishop Stewart was succeeded, in the year 1545, by Bishop Gordon, who was the last Roman Catholic Prelate that occupied the See. In his time, the wave of the Reformation, which for years had been gradually increasing in strength and volume, culminated in the Scottish Parliament, on the 24th August, 1560, sweeping over and abolishing Papal jurisdiction, the celebration of the Mass, and doing away with those *laws* formerly made in support of the Roman Catholic Church and against the Reformed faith.

The Cathedral was visited that year by the agents of the Reformation, and they may have exceeded their instructions. At all events, the same destruction took place at Old Aberdeen as was done at the Black and Greyfriars places in Aberdeen. *Orem* says, "the barons of the Mernis, accompanied with some of the townsmen" (from Aberdeen), "came to Old Aberdeen, and began to rob said church, which they spoiled of all its costly ornaments," &c. They took the bells from the steeple and the lead from the roof, and destroyed the Chancel and Choir, with all the fittings and furnishings within them. The most valuable articles had been previously sent away by the Canons for safety. The bells and lead are said to have been shipped for Holland to be sold, but that the vessel, with its sacrilegious freight, sunk not far from the Girdleness. The bells may be there still.

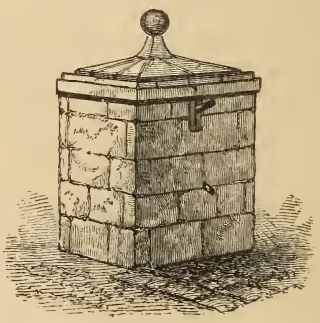
The value of the revenue of the Bishopric had not in any

degree lessened since its removal from Mortlach up to the year of the Reformation. In *Maitland's History of Scotland* vol. i., page 244, it will be found that "the profits of the bishoprick, 1562, were in money, the sum 1563lb 16sh. 9d.; three chaldron and eight bolls of wheat; thirty-five chaldron eight bolls, three firlots and three pecks and a half of bear; twenty-four chaldron, four bolls, and two firlots of meal; eight chaldron, two bolls, three firlots, and two pecks of oats; forty-six mairts; one hundred and forty-one muttons; one hundred and twenty-one weathers; sixty-five dozen and a half of capons; one hundred and nineteen dozen poultry; fifty-five geese; nineteen dozen of moor-fowls; seventeen swine; and ten barrels of salmon." Some two hundred and sixty years ago the parishioners had to do the work that was done last year, that of *assessing themselves* to repair the church, which had been too long neglected. It was then, in 1607, repaired and slated.

In the year 1630, *Orem* says the Marquis of Huntly bought from Dr. Alexander Scroggey, St. John's or Lichtoun's Aisle that was the north transept. The Marquis had always been a friend to Old Aberdeen, and had a house or lodging there. Some twenty-two years afterwards the English soldiers took the stones to build the fort on the Castlehill, as noted previously. In 1688, the great steeple fell to the ground. The taking away of the stones by the English in 1652 was given as one of the reasons for the fall; another and more likely is that it had not been in a good condition, and "had been sighted by the King's Mason the year before;" but the workmen who were employed to build "buttrages" to strengthen it, commenced operations by *clearing out at the foundation* instead of building *out over from it.* Thus the base was weakened and the structure fell. It is possible, however, that the columns or pillars at the east end may have sunk. The bells were removed in safety, as well as the pulpit made by Bishop Stewart. Considerable damage was done to the Church, the Transept, and the tombstones which were near this great building when it fell. It would not be fair to judge the design of this steeple from the very rough idea of it given in

the parson of Rothiemay's plan of Old Aberdeen. It is more than likely that this huge pile was ornamented similarly to the massive steeples at the west end of the building, *and if so*, the effect of simple ornamentation on such a *lofty structure* built of granite would be truly grand and impressive. When Episcopacy was abolished after the Revolution, the Principal and Professors of King's College had the patronage of the Church. This patronage they sold to the Earl of Fife, in the year 1758. *Orem* states that the roof of the north Transept was blown down by a violent storm of wind and rain in 1719, and that some of the graves were injured by the fall. Some seventy-five years ago the Church got, according to *Kennedy*, a "thorough repair;" what was done to it he has not mentioned. This was in 1793, when it was re-seated, and a new pulpit must have been made for the Church, as the old one of carved oak in the episcopate of Bishop Stewart, and called his pulpit, a very interesting relict, showing the style of art which obtained in the 16th century, was removed into the Session-house—the *old Roman Catholic Consistory House.* At an after period when *the two walls* which formed the "Consistory" were taken down to open up the north aisle, this pulpit was stowed away into one of the rooms or vaults of the south-west steeple, where it remained for many years exposed to the damp and weather. The action caused by that exposure was less detrimental to it than that of the "loons" who had "free ish and entry" to the place for the purpose of "*burry*" or "*ke-how*," and who failed not occasionally to take a little from the "carved work of the poopit." It is satisfactory to know that it at last *has been taken care of*, and placed in the Chapel of King's College, after having been put in order. It escaped destruction but not mutilation on the fifth of August, 1640, when the Earl of Seaforth, the Master of Forbes, Dr. Guild, and others, being a committee from the General Assembly, "*came all riding up the gate to St. Machar's Kirk, ordained our blessed Lord Jesus Christ his arms to be cut out of the fore front of the pulpit thereof.*" Having escaped then, and tossing about for more than seventy years as lumber, it is only

a wonder that it was not made firewood of years ago. After the "Consistory" was done away a Session-house was fitted up in a room above the Marriage Porch. From time to time repairs more or less were required—slating the porch, roofing the toofalls, repairing windows, &c. The Church was heated in 1821, and in 1823 it was *plastered*; and that same year the roof and the cornice were repainted and illuminated. In the year 1832, the roof of the north aisle was *decorated* with the Gothic mouldings. How far the alterations which have been made in it during the last two years are suitable for such a building is a matter of opinion and taste. At all events there can be only one opinion with regard to the beautiful roof and cornice, and the manner in which both have been restored and illuminated. At page 113, a copy of the inscription which runs round the north-east and south walls in one line, formed of letters some nine inches long, is given, and in the next page the names of the Patrons of the Cathedral as they appear on the roof. A few clerical errors have crept into these two pages—it was impossible to give the contractions used in the work.



THE BRIDGE OF DON.

The exact date of the building of this picturesque Bridge cannot be given; but it is possible, from the careful investigations taking place among the old records of Scotland, that light may be thrown on the subject. There appears to be less doubt as to the builder; as it is distinctly stated in the Deed of Mortification, given in 1605 to the Magistrates of Aberdeen, for preserving the Bridge, by Sir Alexander Hay, that it was built by King Robert Bruce, "at his orders and expense;" and it is quite possible that Sir Alexander, from his position, might have access to papers enabling him to make such a statement. *Kennedy* takes this view of it. Tradition in a matter of this kind forms very strong evidence, and it is hardly possible to suppose that the name of such a benefactor to the county could be lost sight of in the space of two hundred and seventy-six years. The Parson of Rothiemay, at the end of his description of Old Aberdeen, says, "The commone and most probable reporte is, that the renouned Prince Robert Bruisse, King of Scotland," when he banished Bishop Hy Cheyne, sequestered the revenues of the See, and that this Bridge ("which is lyke to be true"), was built with part of the money. Hector Boece would have taken note of this had it been true, as he was particular to a fault in his records; and Boece states that, when Bishop Cheyne was restored to his See, Robert Bruce ordered the accumulated revenues to be spent on the restoration of the Church, lest they should be applied to less appropriate purposes. The history of the Bridge is the story of its repairs, and how the money was obtained.

One of the earliest notices of the Bridge (if not the first) is to be found in the *Council Register*, vol. v. page 680, where, at a meeting of the Council, 14th September, 1443, it is resolved to give the admission dues of a Burgess of Guild to Sir

William Ettles (Ettale), chaplain and procurator of the Bridge of "*Pulgoveny*," for the purpose of repairing it. At the Reformation (1560), the silver and brass work, capes and ornaments, which had belonged to the "Parroche Kirk," were "ropit," and produced the sum of five hundred and forty pounds Scots. At a Head Court, held 8th May, 1562, it was resolved that this money "be disponit and applyit vpon the biging and restaurectioun of the peir and keyheid of the said burght, and of the Brig of Done, and of the arteilzery and amunitione pertening to the toune," and "Maister Robert Lumisdene is chosen to be Maister of the wark of the said brig." In 1587, the inhabitants in Head Court resolve to be taxed for the repair of the Bridge to the extent of four hundred merks.

Seventeen years later, repairs are again required, and on 5th December, 1604, "the prowest, baillies, and counsall mominat" and appoint the second Baillie "to ryd to the Marques of Huntlie to signifie to his *Lordship* the present estait of the brige of Done, and the gryt necesitie that the same hes to be repairit and beatit, and therfor to request his Lordschip to convene the barronis of this sherrefdome at the heid court efter yuill, for ordour taking quhow the said brig sall be helpit and reparit." The Dean of Guild or the Treasurer paid, as usual, the expense of the Baillie's cold December ride, and the Marquis appears to have done nothing in the matter. The Council now took steps in a business-like way. They caused the bridge to be examined by tradesmen, so that the cost of repair might be known. On the 1st May, 1605, the new and old Council meet to deliberate on the subject (now-a-days the old and new Councils would hardly agree on any point); and considering that the Bridge is a work necessary and of great advantage to the town, as the Council and town have special care of it, "as thay that hes chefest interest, and quha will ressaue grytest hurt and prejudice gif the same fall and decay," and further, that "the counsall hes causit craftismen visite and sicht the said brig, be quhais estimatioun the same will tak the soume of fyve thovsand merkis for beting and re-

pairing thairof, theirfor seeing the forsaid brig is a commoun wark concerning the haill cuntrie, findis it expedient that the nobillmen and baronis of this shirrefdome be travellit with be the ministeris of everie presbyterie" to obtain contributions for the repair of the Bridge; which would require to be done quickly as it is in "sa gryt danger for laik of beting, and seing this burght hes cheifest interest, thinkis it expedient that the sume of fyve hundreth pundis be given be this burght," "and that the same be vplifted be ane taxatioun gif the tovne will consent and agrie," the same to be proposed to the town next Friday, a Head Court being duly summoned for that day. Accordingly, on the 13th day of the same month, (*Register* vol. xlii. page 241) "the haill towne, baith frie and vnfrie, was lawfullie warnit to this day be the hand bell passand throw the haill rewis of the towne, quhairvpon the berar maid faith and convening for the maist pairt within the tolbuith, representand the haill bodie of the towne." It was explained to them by David Mengzies, Provost, "quhow that the Brig of Done is decaying and becum ruynous, and that the same will nocht faill in schort space alluterlie to decay gif tymouslie it be nocht bettit and reparit;" that he had called both the Councils of the burgh, and represented to them the danger the bridge was in, and the loss and inconvenience it would be to the town "in cace the said brig fall to the ground, the same being the most speciall brig and passage quhairby the haill vivaris and fewall cummis to this toun out of Buchan, Gareauch, and vtheris pairtis thairabout," that the Council had "causit certaine craftismen and vtheris visit and sicht the same," and that in their estimation and judgment it will require five thousand merks to repair the bridge thoroughly; and that the ministers of the diocese, convened lately, had "promeist to travell everie minister with his awin parochinaris for a voluntarie contributioun of tham," &c. The Provost "thairfor enquyrit of the towne convenit, as said is, gif thay wald be content to be stentit for the soume of fyue hundreth pundis to vse for said," &c., "quha all in ane voce, but contradictioun voluntarlie, grantit and consentit to be taxat and stentit for

the said sowme of £500." Stenters were "instantlie nominat," and "gawe thair aithis to stent the same indifferentlie vpon all persons according to their habilitie, but feid or favour, &c."

This five hundred pounds does not appear to have been collected; money more convenient was at (or rather in) hand, and made available fifteen days after; for, on the 28th June, 1605 (*Register* vol. xlii. page 256), "the haill toun, burgesses of Gild, craftismen, and inhabitants of this burght being lauchfullie warnit" by the bellman who "maid faith," convened the greater number in the Tolbooth (it would not hold many), "representand the haill bodey of the toun, all in ane voce, but contradictioun or oppositioun, that the soume of aucht hundreth merkis, vsuall money of realme, of voluntar contributioun given be thame to the help and support of the towne of Geneva," which is in the possession of David Cargill, the late Dean of Guild, "sall be bestowit, warit, and employit vpoun the help and support of the repairing of the Brig of Done." The great value of the Bridge to the town and neighbourhood is again duly mentioned, and to make it all square with the Magistrates and Council, should they ever be called upon to restore the money to the town of Geneva, "in that cace the haill towne, baith frie and vnfrie," become bound "to warrand frie, relewe, and keip scaithles the provost, bailies, &c.," and agree to be taxed should the money happen to be called for. And this is coolly done "to disburding thame of the taxatioun of £500," which they consented should be raised for the repair of the Bridge on the 13th of May, "seeing, praisit be God, the said towne of Geneva hes nocht a present necessitie thairof." This eight hundred merks was a contribution by the inhabitants in behalf of Geneva, when it was invaded and the people persecuted by the Duke of Savoy "for professing the true Christian religion." This same eight hundred merks "collected this last yeir" was lying idle on the 3d October, 1604, and it was then resolved "to be lykvayes given out vpon proffit to strengeable personis vpon guid securitie," to help to pay "the ministeris stependis, and to vther godlie vses," as the Council think right, "sua that

BRIDGE OF DON

1822

the principall soume salbe furthcummand" when required for its original use or vthervayes, *ad pios vsus.*" Exactly twelve months after, on the 3rd October, 1605, at a meeting of the Council, it was "ordanit that the sowme of aucht hundreth merkis presentlie in the handis of Dauid Cargill, *quhilk was collectit be voluntar contribution for the help and support of the Brig of Done*, becaus the same lyis in his handis on maid proffit that annuell rent sall be payed for the samen," "according to ten merkis the hundreth." As there is no previous mention of such a contribution for the repair of the Bridge, would it be uncharitable to suppose that this is the Geneva money doing a little bit of ten per cent. under a more homely title?

By far the most important event in the history of the Bridge was the Mortification by Sir Alexander Hay, dated 1st February, 1605. By that Deed, he gave to the Magistrates, as trustees, certain crofts of land, the yearly value of the whole amounting to £27 8s. 6d. Scots, or £2 5s. 8½d. sterling, for the purpose of keeping the Bridge of Don in repair. This deed is given at length in *Kennedy*, vol. i. page 420; and also in the "Mortifications under charge of the Provost," &c., at page 28, printed in 1849. In the year 1616, the Bridge is ordered by the Magistrates and Council to be causewayed; and the Dean of Guild, who is the collector of the rents belonging to Sir Alexander Hay's Mortification, is directed to pay the expense. Sixteen years after this, the Bridge was ordered to be repaired, and the great heugh or brae, in the middle of the way, to be cut down to make it more convenient. Sir Alexander's money had become of use at that time. In 1741, the roads leading to the Bridge are ordered to be repaired; and a short time afterwards, buttresses are ordered to be built to strengthen the east wall. The small yearly sum left by Sir Alexander Hay had been well managed, and gradually increased to be a very large fund, the Bridge always being kept in thorough repair. Besides, from the fund, money was given to build and to assist a great many other bridges, not only in the neighbourhood and county, but at a considerable distance

away. A few of the bridges thus assisted may be mentioned without regard to sequence of dates:—Bridge at Benholm, Brodiach, Burn of Ardo, Buxburn (built), Carron, Cowie, Dalmachie, Drumlithie, Dumbarton (that was a collection made at the Church doors, and did not come from the Bridge Fund), on the Ellon Road, at Forres over the Findhorn, Inchture (Perthshire), Invercannie, Leuchar Burn, Northwater, Maryculter, Southesk, Murtle Burn, Buxburn, Powis Burn, Ruthrieston, Scatterburn, Urie, Inverness (had the benefit of a collection like Dumbarton), the Ythan at Ellon, the Spey at Fochabers, Ferryhill, Pottertown, &c. All these bridges were assisted more or less from the Bridge of Don and the Bridge of Dee Funds—principally the former, it being the richest. This picturesquely situated Bridge, however pleasing and beautiful to look upon, was gradually becoming too small and inconvenient for the rapidly increasing traffic between Aberdeen and the north. To remedy the increasing inconvenience, caused by the awkward roads leading to the narrow Bridge, the Magistrates and Council resolved to build a new one between the old and the mouth of the Don. Designs were prepared by John Smith, Esq., City Architect, and submitted to Mr. Telford, who approved of them. A contract was entered into with Messrs. John Gibb & Sons, in the year 1827, for the erection of the new one, which was to cost the sum of £12,874 sterling. Forty-one years have now elapsed since that time, and the funds of the Bridge must have again increased to a considerable sum. Might not some of the accumulated funds be laid out in making *broad roads* on either bank of the Don between the Bridges, and at the same time improving the roads at both ends of the Old Bridge? By so doing, the beauty of the picture would be much enhanced, while it would make the finest carriage-drive in the neighbourhood—this is much wanted. The Joseph Hume of the Council could not lift up his voice against such an application of the funds.

Smith Del.

Engd by Newman Glasgow

KINGS COLLEGE OLD ABERDEEN

1822.

KING'S COLLEGE.

This institution which has been of so much benefit to the locality and the north of Scotland was originated, established, and the design carried fully into operation by Bishop William Elphinston. Through his influence with King James IV., a bull or ordinance *permitting* the *institution* of a University was obtained from Pope Alexander VI. This deed dated Rome, February 10th, 1494, granted the authority for establishing at Old Aberdeen a College or University, similar to that of Paris, for teaching theology, the canon and civil law, medicine, the liberal arts, and every lawful faculty. The King had given the Pope a very highly-coloured picture of the *miserable* country "so intersected with mountains and arms of the sea" . . . "the roads so dangerous." . . . "youth had not access to the benefit of education." He mentioned previously "that the inhabitants were ignorant of letters, and almost uncivilized," while "the city of Old Aberdeen was situated at a moderate distance from the Highland country and Northern Islands, enjoyed an excellent temperature of air, abundance of provisions, the conveniency of habitation, and everything necessary for the comfort of human life." The King evidently knew how "to throw the hatchet." At all events the bull was got, and published by the Bishop with great pomp and ceremony "in the Cathedral Church in the presence of the Chapter," on the 25th February, 1496. Two years afterwards this bull was confirmed by the King, who was a great benefactor to the institution, and made a liberal provision towards it. The Parliament afterwards ratified what had been *allowed to be done* by the Pope, and confirmed by the King. The building of the College appears to have been commenced about the same time as that of the Bridge of Dee, somewhere about 1500. As the black letter inscription carved under

the west window of the College Chapel (now the Library) and at the north side of the door intimates—

"Per serenissimum, illustrissimum, ac invictissimum. J.IV.R. 4 nonas Aprilis, anno millesimo quintesimo hoc insigne collegium latomi inciperunt ædificare."

It was dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*, and, as *Orem* says, it was called "*Collegium S. Mariæ in Nativitate*," and, as *Kennedy* mentions, "it was afterwards distinguished by the more appropriate name of the Royal College, or the King's College, Aberdeen," from the patronage which it had received from James IV. On the steeple above the Royal Arms of Scotland is the date 1509. Although it professed to be instituted for liberal education, "studium generale et universitas existat studii generalis tam in Theologia," &c., it was in reality a training school for the Roman Catholic clergy. Be that as it may, the "*bull*," barring its Roman birth, was the best of the breed ever imported into this country. There does not appear to be any certainty with regard to the erection of the older parts of the College; the above date may mark that of its completion. The beautiful structure would take some years to complete. Bishop Elphinston furnished it with a chime of thirteen bells. They were sold in the beginning of this century, and are more than likely doing duty in some of the village churches in England at the present time. Hector Boethius was chosen the first Principal of the College by the Bishop, with a salary of *forty merks*. Bishop Elphinston died in the year 1514, and was buried in the Chapel of the King's College before the high altar. He left ten thousand pounds Scots at his death to the College. In the 1532, Bishop Gavin Dunbar built the "south quarter" of the College, the money for the purpose having been left by Bishop Elphinston. Boethius was angry with, and "would not allow, Bishop Dunbar to place his name and armorial coat upon the south work of the College." All previous grants in favour of the College and University had been ratified and confirmed by King James V. in 1527. In 1574, James VI. granted several chaplainries, and the revenues of

the Carmelite friars at Banff, with the parsonage and vicarage of the ill-fated Forvie. In the year 1633 the beautiful steeple crown and arches were blown down. They were rebuilt in 1634 by an architect and contractor who undertook the work for ten thousand merks. He failed to perform it, and was put into prison by the Masters of the College. However, they were obliged to give him his freedom, and allowed him daily wages till the structure was finished. George Thomson was the man's name. In 1651, General Monk sent his *celebrated commission* to visit the College. It consisted of Colonels Fenwick, Molsey, Owen, Desborough, and Smith. They dismissed the Principal and the Sub-principal. Next year John Row was appointed Principal; and, in 1657, the large square block of building at the north-east corner of the quadrangle was begun. It was six storeys high, and contained twenty-four rooms, a school, and a *billiard room*. Next year General Monk and his officers give a contribution to the College. With this money a tower was built at the south-east corner for an observatory. In 1715, a small spire that had been erected on one of the buildings in 1675 was blown down; whether this made the Masters look to *the steeple* or not, in 1719 they were apprehensive that it would fall. The Piazza in the south side of the quadrangle was built in the year 1723, and two years after, the Professors take part of the stone from the Choir of the Cathedral to erect some buildings at the College.

Fifty years ago it had quite a cloistered appearance, differing very much from the bright and clean look of the new buildings lately added. In the year 1826, the west front was built from the south side of the steeple, including the gateway, museum, and chemical class rooms. From the year 1862 great additions have been made since Marischal and King's College have been both done away, and united as "the University of Aberdeen." Without doubt the most beautiful part of the building is the interior of the College Chapel. *Billings* is of opinion that the carved oak with which it is fitted up, for the great variety of the designs and the beauty of the execution, may be equalled, but not excelled by the finest specimens to be met with either

in England or Scotland. The office of Sacrist was, in the days of the institution of the College, of great importance, and at first had to be filled by a priest. He appears to have had the general control and management of all the arrangements for conducting the duties connected with the College; a sort of major domo and superintendent of the household arrangements, while he was the head beadle in the class arrangements, and a sort of proctor, having to keep a sharp eye on the conduct of the students while in College as well as when out of it.

It may be worth while to keep on record an old King's College story, as it appears in "*Things in General*," published in 1825, and said to be written by Mr. Moody, who apparently had studied at King's College, and afterwards was a teacher at Inverness. From that he went to London, and ultimately became attached to the "Press." The book contains many strange and curious stories about Aberdeen and some of the inhabitants seventy to ninety years back, and is now scarce.

The story has given rise to a proverb, the signification being, that if two or more join together to accomplish any end for good or evil, and it is not found out, any person suspected is said to be—

"AIRT AND PAIRT IN DAUNEY'S SLAUCHTER."

This phrase, says Moody, "became a bye-word and proverb among the people, as well women as men,—who, to this day, when they are unable to unravel any plot or chancing, to find who lead on, and who follow in the same, do say that they are 'art and part, as in Dauney's slaughter.' Now, this Dauney was precursor to my grandfather in the office of Sacristan, to the terror of the students, against whose snow-ballings and other tumultuous and unseemly sports, he did lift up both his voice and his cudgel—each of which was terrible in its way. Nor was this all; for, when at the close of day, the students would go toward the banks of the Don—as well to study the rising of *Capella* and the flow of *Berenice* her hair, as to take the longitude of *Andromeda* and the elevation of the *Polc*—then would he watch diligently, lest they should aberrate and

wander from the paths of celestial science, and hold dalliance with the young damsels who do attend and labour at the mills and manufactories in these parts; and if he did find any of them so wandering and so dallying, then did he not only come upon them with his cudgel, but did report them to the Regents, and publicly in the area and the hall, so that they were sorely bruised and beaten, both in the outward and the inner man. Against these his laudable efforts towards the preservation of virtue, regularity, and decorum, the grumblings of the students were frequent, though private; and often did they take counsel together how they might put their revenge in execution. Howbeit, they were for many years restrained, as well through fear of Dauney as through suspicion of each other.

"One season, however, when the supreme judicature of our Lord the King had come into the county for the punishment of all manner of offences, ... when the Judges of the land had come into the city, in gorgeous apparel, and with the sound of trumpets,—when the Magistrates had gone forth to meet them, with their wigs newly combed and powdered, and the halberds of their attendant guards made bright of the grinding-stone of Peter Gow, the blacksmith,—when the Sheriff of the Shire had gone forth, girt with a great sword, instead of the book and ink-horn of his usual calling,—when the Judges had ascended the awful bench, and the Jurors, according to the original nomination of His Majesty's Solicitor, and the immediate election of the Judge, had sworn a great oath, and entered their box,—when His Majesty's Advocate for His Majesty's interest had indicted, and demanded the pains of the law upon, a sore offender named James Massie,—when the case had been stated, proved, and argued by the Bar,—when the Jury had returned their verdict of 'Guilty of wilful murder,' committed upon the bodies of three pullets, the property of Baillie Broadface, while in the act of harrowing the seeds in the 'kail-yard' of the said James Massie,—when the awful sentence of the law had gone forth against him, that he should be 'transported—to *England* for life';—then did the

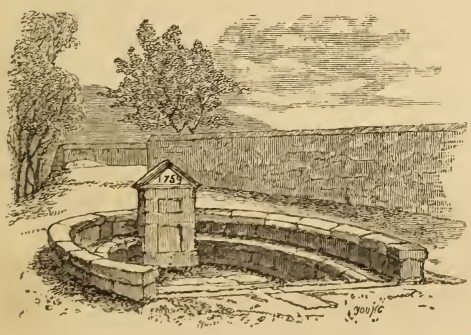
great men retire to the *Lemon Tree*, there to eat flesh, and drink wine, for the refreshment of their bodies and the renovation of their minds, after these their important services to their country.

"Among those who did assemble upon this memorable occasion were the Principal and Regents of the King's College,—nothing loath to fare sumptuously without cost; and barely had their rearmost file entered the Gallowgate, when an awful tragedy began to be enacted in the College. The students, to the number of twenty, came round Dauney, the sacristan, and, laying violent hands upon him, constrained him to enter an apartment, wherein was erected the mimicry of a Court of Justice, with all its concomitants. At the bar of this mimic court was Dauney arraigned and tried, and found guilty of tyranny in his office; and for that (like as other tyrants have been, and may or should be) sentenced to be beheaded.

"No sooner had the sentence been pronounced, than they blindfolded Dauney, and led him (he the while striking lustily with his hands, and essaying to make light of the matter) into another apartment, where, after having bound his hands behind his back, they took the bandage from his eyes, and he beheld with horror the preparations that had been made. The walls of the room were hung with black, and the floor was covered with the same. Here stood a great block, and fast by it one of the strongest of the students, trying against his finger the keenness of a great axe; there stood a vast basket of saw-dust and a tub of water, and beside them another student with a towel in his hands. A doomster approached the astonished Dauney, and told him that, as he had but a few moments to live, it were wise in him to employ them in preparing for eternity; in which he would have the assistance of two in canonicals, who at that moment entered the room, singing a psalm. In vain did he threaten, in vain did he remonstrate, in vain did he wheedle and tell them the whole must be a jest. The doomster pointed in silence to the index of the clock, which was but five minutes from the hour;

the executioner tried the keenness of his axe anew; and he with the towel began to scatter saw-dust around the block. It was then that the heart of Dauney died within him; and he was fain to drop on his knees, and implore the aid of those in canonicals. Then did he confess the number, and the enormity of his own sins,—among them were those for which he caused the students to be most grievously afflicted. Swift flies the wing of time, when its progress is toward the gallows. The index pointed to the fatal hour; he was laid upon the block; his face was covered, and the covering of his neck and throat removed. Then did he who held the towel dip the same in the tub of cold water, and smite therewith upon the neck of Dauney, who uttered a groan and expired. The Principal and Regents, having been abundant in their feastings and their cups, returned; but, ere they returned, the court with all its parapharnalia had vanished; the students had gone about their own ways; and the corpse of Dauney lay cold and stiff in the middle of the library, without wound,—the key, marvellous to relate, being found in his own pocket. The circumstances of his death transpired; but so true to each other were the perpetrators, that their names and numbers rest unknown even to this day."

Some years ago might be seen a green mound in a hollow to the north of Belmont. This was "Dauney's Howe"; and tradition pointed to the mound as the Sacrist's last resting place.



G. CORNWALL AND SONS, PRINTERS, ABERDEEN.