

# A Guide To Stirling In 1911

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### STIRLING.

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### ILLUSTRATIONS.

EAST AND WEST CHURCHES, STIRLING.

OLD BRIDGE.

STIRLING CASTLE.

CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY.

NATIONAL WALLACE MONUMENT, CAUSEWAYHEAD.



# Guide to Stirling.



**S**TIRLING is a place of old renown—how old no one can exactly say. As a commanding, rocky site, rising in the midst of what must have been in early times a marshy level, it had probably been a place of strength in Caledonian tribal warfare, even before the advent of the Romans. When Agricola established his line of forts between Forth and Clyde, it is likely that a place so naturally adapted for an outpost would not be neglected by him. The Roman Road afterwards constructed led from Camelon north by Stirling—either passing the rock on the west or going over it by Ballengeich—and it is easy enough to believe that the Roman Generals took care to establish a fort on the summit of the rock to protect the road and guard the passages of the river. So natural does this seem that we scarcely require the assurance of Boece or—what is more important, if it can be satisfactorily settled—the evidence of the disputed Roman Stone on the Gowan Hills, to strengthen

our belief.\* But, during the whole period of the Roman occupation, and for at least five centuries beyond that, the history of Stirling is buried in obscurity. The obscurity is scarcely lightened by the statements of Hector Boece and the historians who have followed him. Some, at any rate, of these statements can be proved to be little better than fable. The story that the Northumbrians, under Osbrecht and Ella, took possession of the place, about the middle of the ninth century, erected a strong fortress on the rock and constructed a bridge over the river, and after holding it for 20 years gave it back to the Scots as a bribe or reward for their help against the Danes, must be classed among those that are dubious or even extremely improbable. Osbrecht and Ella were really rival claimants of the throne of Northumbria, and therefore not likely to unite in a war of conquest—although necessity did compel them to unite for self-defence against the Danes, by whom they were slain in a battle at York in 867.

When Stirling at length—early in the twelfth century—emerges into the light of history, it has already become a place of some importance. It had a castle and garrison of sufficient size to require a Chapel: and the Chapel was founded by Alexander I. about 1110. In a charter granted to the Church of the Holy Trinity of Dunfermline, *circa* 1124-7, David I. speaks of Stirling as “my burgh;” and in another

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\* The Roman Stone is really a rock-surface on a summit of the Gowan Hills, on the north side of the pass of Ballengeich, on which may still be traced an inscription now difficult of decipherment. Sir Robert Sibbald, who saw it two hundred years ago, has transcribed it as follows: *In excu. agit. leg. II*: which he extended into *In excubias agitantes legionis secundae*, and translated, ‘for the daily and nightly watch of the second legion.’ The second legion was one of those under the command of Agricola in Britain (78-84 A.D.). Inscriptions found in the course of the Roman vallum, that connected Agricola’s forts and was constructed by Lollius Urbicus, 140-2 A.D., show that about one-half of that work was done by men of the same legion. So that if Sibbald’s transcript and the interpretation thereof are correct, the stone may refer to either of these periods or may be of later date. But there are antiquaries who affirm that the inscription is what they call a “false” one—whatever they may mean by that. Others are convinced of its antiquity, but are not satisfied that Sibbald’s transcript is a correct one.

charter to the same church, of date *circa* 1129, he bestows on it *two* churches, besides other property, in the burgh of Stirling. So also King William the Lion, who lived much at Stirling, and, at his own request, was taken there during his last illness, in one of his charters (*circa* 1188-99) describes it as "my burgh" (*in burgo meo de Striuelin*). These charters, and others that might be referred to, sufficiently prove that Stirling was a considerable town—as towns were reckoned at that time—and was regarded as a king's burgh, at least as early as the beginning of the twelfth century. Its first recorded royal charter, however, bestowing on "our burgesses of Stirling" a weekly market, a Merchant Guild, and other privileges, was granted by Alexander II. on the 18th August, 1226.

The Castle seems to have been much in favour as a place of residence with all the Scoto-Saxon Kings down to the termination of the line in Alexander III. By the Stewart monarchs it was held in still greater favour; so that it may be regarded as their principal place of residence. Under them the town was an active and bustling place, the scene of many a stately court pageant and gay festivity, as also, it must be said, of not a few tragic events in Scottish history. The removal of the Court from Scotland, on the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, was a distinct blow to its prosperity. For more than a hundred years after that it seems to have stood still, or even decayed—although not to the extent that might have been expected. The desertion of their mansions in the town by the nobles, and even the neighbouring lairds, and the comparative insignificance to which the Castle had been reduced by long years of peace—interrupted only by the English occupation in the time of the Commonwealth, and the events of the Highland Rebellions in the eighteenth century—were at least partially compensated by the growing industry of the burghers. It was not, how-

ever, till the second half of the eighteenth century was well advanced that it fairly shook off the lethargy that had been oppressing it since the departure of courtiers, statesmen, and men of arms, awoke to new life, and entered on a course of progress that still continues. This progress, if it has never at any time had fits and starts, and has never been specially rapid, has yet been steady and gradually accelerating; so that the opening of the twentieth century finds Stirling a much larger, handsomer, and better cared for town than it ever was in the most brilliant period of its connection with royalty. What its population in the time of its greatest ancient prosperity may have been, it is not now possible to say; but, judging from the extent of the town, it could not have greatly exceeded—if it reached—5000 inhabitants. About the middle of the eighteenth century, the population was reckoned at something under 4000. It took about 80 years to double that number: and 60 years more saw another duplication. The population has more than quadrupled in the last hundred and fifty years; and, in everything that makes for comfort and convenience, the town has been immensely improved. It ought, in justice, to be added that of late years a spirit of greater reverence and regard for the places of historical interest in the town, and a determination to preserve intact—so far as it is now possible—the numerous memorials of the olden times and of the ancient glories of the place, have characterized both private citizens and the municipal rulers.

It is not the purpose of this Guide-Book to attempt a history of Stirling. That would be in effect to venture on a large portion of the history of Scotland. Such a work—even if kept within the narrowest lines of local history—must necessarily be one of large dimensions and of much importance. There are indeed several local Histories already in existence—excellent enough in their way, although not quite

up to the results of the most recent research. Local antiquarians have never been busier than in recent years. They have ransacked all the records preserved in public and private manuscript collections, and have diligently searched the transcripts of the National MSS. issued by the Record Office, with the result that many corrections have been made on what has hitherto passed as local history, and many previously unknown facts have been unearthed. Much of this new information has been embodied in papers that have appeared in the Transactions of the local Archæological Society, and in recently published volumes that have been issuing, thick and fast, from the Stirling Press, and some of it still remains unpublished with the students who have been devoting time and care to the work. The time seems now to have come when some competent hand should undertake the task of co-ordinating, condensing, and incorporating in a methodical History the results of all this active research. Fortunately there is good hope that this will soon be done, and that Stirling will by-and-by have a complete and accurate record of its most interesting history. The function of this little book is a much humbler one. It is merely to conduct the visitor to the places of interest in the town, to point out to him the scenes of great events or curious incidents, and to indicate, in the briefest way, what these were.

The first thing probably that will strike the stranger is the contrast that the town still presents between the old and the new. Side by side with tramway cars, electric lights, and the most recent developments of sanitary science, he will find buildings that take him back into the sixteenth century, and to even earlier periods still. The lower portion of the town and the fine suburbs are largely the creation of the nineteenth century; but the further one moves up the rocky slope towards the Castle, the further back into the centuries does he get. Many of the old houses

built for lairds and lords and frequenters or dependents of the Court, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, are still in existence, though now inhabited for the most part by a greatly different class from that for which they were built. The Church, even in its newer portion, is now close on four hundred years of age, while the western and older part goes back a hundred years more; and the expert can point out an existing fragment which must have belonged to the still earlier church that was burned in 1406. The Castle which crowns the rock is, in its history at any rate, still older. As to its fabric, although it was a favourite royal residence from the time of Alexander I. to the Union of the Crowns, it would not be safe to say that any portion of Alexander's Castle or that of his successor, David I., now remains; for it was more than once burned down and rebuilt during the Wars of the Independence. But there are walls which may possibly go back to the time of Robert II., the first of the Stewart Kings. The oldest part of the building within the walls dates in the reign of James II.; the Parliament House is due to James III.; while the fourth and fifth Kings of the name were responsible for the erection of the Palace. The last-named building was finished in 1539; so that even it is now of sufficiently venerable age to satisfy the lover of antiquity.

## FROM THE PORT TO THE BRIDGE.

The principal thoroughfare of the town now keeps the lower ground, leading the highway from Edinburgh and Glasgow to the north through the town, by way of Port Street, Murray Place, Barnton Street, and Wallace Street, to the New Bridge. As the visitor will find himself landed in this thoroughfare by whatever conveyance—tramcar, rail, or steamer—

he may have come, we shall walk along it before ascending to the older town and the Castle.

### The Ancient Port.

Entering from the south by a road, lined on either side by terraced villas, and overhung by the great branches of old trees, he finds himself in *Port Street*—so called because here was the fortified entrance known of old as the Barrasyet or Burrowsgate or Outer Port. This ancient gateway seems to have existed at a very early period in the history of the town; but its strong fortifications were due to the troublous times of the infancy of Queen Mary and the minority of James VI. It was at that time that the Town Wall was erected and the Barrasyet—the only entrance to the town from the south, as the Bridge Port was the only entrance from the north—fortified and strengthened. This strong work consisted of a solid wall 20 feet thick, with an embrasured parapet on the top, and pierced by a narrow archway, which was closed with an iron portcullis. The last time the portcullis was opened to admit a hostile force was during the Highland Rebellion. In the internal peace and consequent progress of business which afterwards prevailed, it was found to be an obstruction to the traffic of the town, and by an order of the Magistrates it was demolished in 1770. Even the ends of the wall, which remained to mark the site for some years longer, were swept away in 1795. For many years there was nothing to indicate the spot where the old gate had stood. But now the Town Council has caused the position to be indicated by marking the causeway. This mark can easily enough be found on the street just at the place where the Dumbarton Road diverges to the west. Without and within the Port are many fine shops and business premises, and the handsome



building of the Stirling Club stands on the right hand.

At the foot of King Street, Port Street ends, and *Murray Place* begins. This is a street with many churches, banks, hotels, the County Club, the Post Office, and other large buildings, which there is not time or space to mention in detail. The fine building at the corner of Murray Place and King Street is now occupied by the British Linen Company Bank, but was built for the Stirling Tract Enterprise, originated by the late Peter Drummond. This explains the sculptured heads of Reformers and Divines with which the building is profusely adorned, and which do not seem altogether appropriate to the business of a banking company. The Tract Enterprise so grew in dimensions that even this large building was found too small for its requirements, and a new and larger Depot was some years ago erected in Dumbarton Road off Port Street. About half-way along Murray Place, on the right hand side, is the Railway Station. The short road leading down to it cuts through what was in ancient times the burying-ground of the Dominican or Preaching Friars—the Black Friars as they were called, to distinguish them from the Franciscans or Grey Friars. The *Monastery* itself appears to have stood somewhat more to the north, in the neighbourhood of what still goes by the name of Friars' Wynd. This Monastery was founded by Alexander II. in 1233. In 1298 it afforded a lodging to Edward I. of England, when he advanced to Stirling after defeating the Scottish army at Falkirk. The Scots had burned the town, but, perhaps from religious motives, had spared the convent. A church in connection with the monastery was built in 1397. In this church, near the horn of the High Altar, there was buried, in 1419, the mysterious personage who claimed to be Richard II. of England, and who had been maintained for several years at the Courts of Robert III. and Regent Albany. The lines inscribed on his tomb are still

preserved. Here, too, on the south side of the great altar, were interred the bodies of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, and his sons Walter and Alexander, executed on the Heading Hill in 1425. In forming streets and digging foundations for houses in this vicinity, human bones have frequently been found: but whether these are the remains of monks or burgesses or barons—who can tell? The bones of the noble are not distinguished from those of the plebeian. The Monastery was demolished at the time of the Reformation, in 1559. At the Post Office the road on the right leads to the steamboat quay and to the ferry for Cambuskenneth Abbey. *Barnton Street* now begins, named after the laird (Ramsay) of Barnton and Sauchie, just as Murray Place commemorates the lairds of Polmaise. Here, on the right hand side, stands the handsome pile of *County Buildings*, where Sheriff Courts are held and all the usual county business transacted. Almost in front of the County Buildings, but in a nook between two converging streets where it offers no obstruction to the traffic, is a nicely-designed fountain with a tall shaft, erected in honour of the jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. Keeping to the right where the roads again diverge, the way is down *Wallace Street*—a street on one side only, on the other side cattle marts, coal yards, and railway sidings—to the *New Bridge*. It may be added, for the guidance of the antiquarian visitor, that over here, in the place now occupied by these developments of modern industry, ran the ancient Stank or fosse, by which the town was guarded from hostile approach on the east. The Bridge is one of four, which span the river almost side by side. First and furthest up the river, and far away the most picturesque, is the venerable Old Bridge—a graceful structure of hewn stone. About a hundred yards lower down is the New Bridge, also of hewn stone—modern, massive, and convenient. About the same

distance below, are two great iron bridges, close together, carrying respectively the lines of the Caledonian and North British Railways. Still further down is the Boathouse of the Stirling Amateur Boating and Swimming Club—a flourishing association which holds annual regattas on the river. The New Bridge was completed and opened for traffic early in 1832. It was built from designs by Robert Stevenson, and cost about £17,000.

### The Old Bridge.

While we are here let us take a look at the *Old Bridge*, and thus save ourselves the trouble of returning to it afterwards. As seen from where we stand on its modern successor, it presents a singularly beautiful and picturesque appearance. Observe the reflections of its finely-rounded arches in the still waters of the river—whether it be by sunlight or by moonlight—and note the grace of its lines, and how well these fit into the surrounding landscape, and harmonise with the curves of the distant chain of hills, and you will readily appreciate the artist's love of its time-mellowed beauty. But it is also well worth the trouble to approach it more closely and to examine its construction. By crossing the New Bridge, and taking the first road on the left, we get to the north end of the ancient bridge, on the *Lang Causey* which led to the north, and which has left its name to the village of Causewayhead. The roadway of the bridge is supported on four arches; and the careful observer will scarcely fail to note that no two of these arches have the same width of span, as also that the line of the bridge is not straight but slightly concave on the upper side. Whatever may have been the structural reasons for these features, they certainly add to the picturesque effect. It rises, like all old bridges, in

the centre; but this rise is not so excessive as to give it the hump-backed appearance that so many of them exhibit. In former times it bore at either end massive towers, through which were arched gateways. The foundations of the tower on the north side of the bridge may still be seen. The archway on that side was closed by an iron gate, with lock and key—a silver duplicate of the key is still preserved and in the custody of the Town Clerk. Whether a similar gate shut in the archway on the south is not certainly known. The probability rather is that the gateway was open on that side, as there was no necessity for guarding the access to the bridge from the town. Rising from the central pier on either side are square buttresses, which, when they reach the level of the roadway, are hollowed into recesses. The walls of these recesses are now of the same height as the parapet of the bridge, but in old times they rose to a greater height and were roofed over, so as to form guard-houses for those on guard at the bridge gate. Probably the last occasions on which they were used for this purpose were in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. They were unroofed and dismantled in 1804, the areas being left open as convenient places into which passengers might step to avoid vehicles that might be crossing at the same time. In December, 1745, General Blakeney, Governor of the Castle, deemed it necessary, for military purposes, to destroy the south arch of the bridge. This operation necessitated the removal at the same time of the gateway at that end. When the Duke of Cumberland reached the town in pursuit of the rebels in the beginning of 1746, the arch had to be temporarily repaired with wood to enable his men to pass. But it was not till three years later that it was rebuilt. In the interval the whole traffic between Stirling and the north had to be conducted by means of ferryboats. The northern tower and gateway were removed in 1773. The pyramidal

pillars at either end mark where these ancient gateways stood. The Bridge is now close on five hundred years old, as its erection dates between 1400 and 1415. It was begun under Robert III., but the principal part of the construction and the completion of the work were due to the fostering care of the Regent Albany. The Bridge has had a long and most interesting history, for which the reader must look elsewhere.\* It crosses the river most probably at the same place as the still older Stirling Bridge—Blind Harry's "bryg of tre"—which was destroyed on the occasion of Wallace's victory in 1297. That, at any rate, is the opinion now generally held: although the older writers used to maintain that the Wallace bridge was at Kildean, about a mile further up the river. That position, however, does not very well suit the circumstances of the battle—so far as we know them—and there are other circumstances which render it unlikely that there was a bridge at Kildean at that time. There is certainly some ground for believing that there may have once been a bridge over the Forth at Kildean, but, if so, it must have been at a period long anterior to the time of Wallace.

## FROM THE OLD BRIDGE TO THE CASTLE.

We can now proceed from the Bridge to the Castle in the line of what used to be the old thoroughfare through the town from port to port. The locality in the immediate neighbourhood of the bridge is of some interest to the antiquarian. On the right hand were the *Tron or Weigh House, St. Marroch's Chapel, St.*

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\* A complete account of the Old Bridge and its history will be found in *Ronald's Landmarks of Old Stirling*, to which book we have to acknowledge our obligations.

*Lawrence Croft*, and other ecclesiastical lands ; and on the left, the old *Brig Mill* of the burgh, and the lands of *St. James' Hospital* with their orchards. A part of *St. James's* lands are orchards still, and a portion is occupied by the present Poor House. When we have traversed the two Bridge Streets (Lower and Upper) we enter *The Mary Wynd*, or *St. Mary's Wynd*—old, crooked, and narrow, and at one time even narrower than it now is, by reason of the numerous forestairs that were wont to project from its ancient houses, but have now been removed. The street is said to have obtained its name from its being the exit from the town to the road leading to the Church of *St. Mary* (the Abbey) at *Cambuskenneth*. A *Gate* or *Port* once closed this narrow entrance to the town. The position of this gate was just where a lane leads off, on the right hand, towards the Castle. This lane, by the way, goes by the name of the *King's Stables*, from which it may be inferred that the royal horses had their accommodation somewhere on its line. These, however, were the later royal stables, for it appears that the *Auld Stables* of the Kings were on quite the opposite or western side of the Castle Rock. Above the entrance to this lane stands an ancient and extremely interesting building. Up till fifty years ago it was fairly entire, but the neglect of recent years has allowed it to stand for some time empty and ruinous. This fine old house has the popular name of *Queen Mary's Palace*. How this misnomer originated it is not worth while to enquire : perhaps it is due to some confusion between the street and the Queen. than the palace or great house in the *Mary Wynd*. At any rate, it was not a palace of *Mary, Queen of Scots*. It does not seem to have been built—in its final form—till almost half-a-century after her death ; although there probably was a building on the site at a period considerably earlier. Nevertheless, the house has a special interest of its own, as the residence of *John*



STIRLING OLD BRIDGE

Cowane, Stirling's greatest benefactor. The Cowane family had possessed a house on the site from at any rate the middle of the sixteenth century; but the erection of the great house appears to have been the work of the brothers John and Alexander Cowane, whose initials appeared on one of the window pediments with the date 1633—which apparently marks the completion of their building.

Emerging from the narrow and tortuous Mary Wynd, we find ourselves in the spacious place—the heart of the old town—which is now appropriately called the *Broad Street*, but was formerly known as the *Hie Gait* of the burgh. All around stand the tall houses of the old local or national magnates—impressive even yet by their age and height and air of antique dignity. Many of them present their crow-stepped gables to the street, or show curiously designed dormer-windows, and display quaintly lettered mottoes. The visitor may well spend some time in trying to decipher these inscriptions or in examining the architecture of the buildings. If he penetrates into the closes, he will find some of the original court-yards, not yet entirely built up; and, on the east side particularly, some fine old terraced gardens commanding magnificent views. We cannot here particularize these interesting mansions and their former owners, but will merely refer the curious to the local histories in which they are described.\* The stranger, however, must be cautioned against the legend on a tablet in front of a large house at the foot of the street. This legend sets forth that this was *Darnley's House* and “The Nursery of James VI. and his son Prince Henry.” There never was any necessity for nursing these princes outside of the Castle; but, in the case of the former at least, every reason why he should be carefully guarded within the

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\* *Fleming's Old Ludgings of Stirling* contains excellent drawings and concise accounts of all the more interesting of these mansions.



walls. The popular tradition, which calls the place Darnley's House, is nearer the mark ; for "Willie Bell's ludging," in which Darnley occasionally resided in Stirling, seems to have been in the court behind. The front house belonging to the Erskines ; and was in the 17th century a famous hostelry, known as Janet Kilbowie's Tavern.

### Market Cross.

In the centre of Broad Street stands the restored *Market Cross* of the burgh. The original Cross—of unknown antiquity, but supposed to date from the thirteenth century—was, along with the *Tron*, which stood a little higher up, removed in 1792, as it was considered an obstruction to the traffic and a danger to the lieges from its ruinous condition. Only the unicorn, which surmounted the ancient pillar, was preserved. As there is now plenty of room for all the traffic that finds its way through the Broad Street, the time was propitious for the re-erection of this old landmark. Accordingly in 1891, Mr. Robert Yellowlees, then Provost of the Burgh, had the whole Cross restored to its ancient form and appearance—as nearly as the remaining descriptions of it and the advice of experts could determine—and generously presented the structure as a gift to the town. On a base of four broad and shallow circular steps rises an octagonal pillar, the capital of which—perhaps the only part in which the restored differs from the original Cross—shows medallions of the burgh seals and the Guildry mark ; and above all sits the Ancient Unicorn, holding a shield with the royal arms of Scotland. Opposite the Cross, on the left is the *Old Townhouse* and *Tol-booth*—still occupied as Burgh Court-Rooms, and Police and Poor Board Offices, though the Town Council has now found Chambers in the lower part of the town. The Townhouse was built in

1703-5, according to "ane draught or sceme" prepared by Sir William Bruce of Kinross, architect. It has a handsome clock tower and spire, with good bells, and a chime of "music bells," which were got in 1729. The older citizens still remember the not unpleasant chiming of these music bells, but of late years they have fallen silent. In front of the Tolbooth Steeple was the place, or, to be quite correct, one of the places, where malefactors were executed, or otherwise punished, in the olden times. Here four priests of Dunblane, who had been sentenced to death by the Regent Murray, in 1569, for saying mass, were chained to the Market Cross—their sentence having been commuted—and scoffed at and pelted with stones for an hour by the jeering mob; here Archbishop Hamilton was hanged in 1571; a fate which also befell two poor poets who had satirized the Regent Morton, in 1579; and here Baird and Hardie, the political martyrs, were beheaded in 1820. At the top of the street and to the left, in what is now a vacant space, stood the *Old Manse*. Originally an ancient Almshouse, the building was renewed by means of a liberal gift from the famous Stirling warrior in the Low Countries, Colonel Edmond, aided by subscriptions and church collections. The work seems to have been completed about 1613, and some time thereafter the building was handed over to the town, and became a manse for the parish minister. It survived till 1824, when the stones of it were sold and the site cleared.

### Mar's Work.

At the head of Broad Street, looking down the open Place, is the massive and dignified ruin known as *Mar's Work*. It is all that now remains of the "stately house" built by the Earl of Mar in 1570. The buildings appear to have originally surrounded a

central court, but only the front portion is now left. Above the central gateway is an excellent carving of the royal arms of Scotland, with date 1570, and the flanking towers display the armorial bearings of the Earl of Mar and his Countess. Other carved work of an interesting character adorns the face of the wall. But what will most probably claim the chief attention of the visitor are three curious inscriptions, of a character that appears to be partly apologetic, partly defiant. It is quite possible still to make them out without aid; but, to save time in deciphering them, they may be here set down in full. On the lintel of the doorway of one of the towers, the inscription runs:—

I . PRAY . AL . LVIKARS . ON . THIS . LVGING  
VITH . GENTIL . E . TO . GIF . THAIR . JVGING.

On the other—

THE . MOIR . I . STAND . ON . OPPIN . HITHT  
MY . FAULTIS . MOIR . SVBJECT . AR . TO . SITHT.

Above the interior of the main entrance—

ESSPY . SPEIK . FURTH . AND . SPAIR . NOTHT  
CONSIDDIR . VEIL . I . CAIR . NOTHT.

The usual explanation of these verses is that they were intended to show how little the Earl regarded the reproaches with which he was popularly assailed for building his new house of materials masterfully taken from the ecclesiastical buildings of the neighbourhood—chiefly, it is said, of Cambuskenneth Abbey—which the Reformation had left vacant and dismantled. Whether that is a correct explanation or not, it must be admitted that they do seem to ring out a challenge to adverse opinion of some sort. The

house was never a fortunate one for its possessors—could there be any superstitious reason for that?—and some writers have affirmed that it never was finished. It was certainly completed far enough for occupation, for we know that it was occupied by the Earl of Mar. Even James VI. and his Queen are said to have dwelt in it for a short time in 1593. The last member of the Mar family to occupy it was the unhappy Earl who headed the rebellion of 1715. He is said to have stayed in the house for some time in 1710.

From Mar's Work we turn to the right into the *Castle Wynd*; and the stranger may be informed that a little above, on the left hand side of the Wynd, there stood, till 1835, a picturesque old house, which was known as *George Buchanan's House*, and reputed to have been the place of residence of the great Scottish scholar, when he was superintending the education of the young James VI. On the other side of the Wynd is a building of much architectural merit, an examination of which will well repay the time spent on it. It dates from 1632, and is certainly the finest specimen of the architecture of that period to be found in the district. It was built by Sir William Alexander of Menstrie, afterwards Earl of Stirling, poet, courtier, and statesman, and the crest and motto (*per mare per terras*) over the doorway are his. After his death, in 1640, the house became the property of the Earl of Argyll. Hence the name of *Argyll's Lodging*, by which it has ever since been known. Argyll made considerable additions—said by experts to be not in quite so good taste as the original—to the building, and sprinkled the walls liberally with the boar's-head crest of the family. The property was held by the Argylls till well on in the eighteenth century, and then passed through several hands, till, just about a hundred years ago, it was purchased by the Government and converted into a military hospital—a purpose it

still serves. Argyll's Lodging, besides affording house room to its proprietors when required, has had its royal residents. It was occupied by Charles II., when he was here in 1650 endeavouring to regain the throne his father had lost. Charles' brother, James II., when, as Duke of York, he visited Stirling in 1681, and, with a large number of his attendants, was presented with the freedom of the burgh, also resided in it. The last royal personage who spent a night under its roof was the Duke of Cumberland, in 1746, who rested here, in his pursuit of Prince Charlie, till the bridge was sufficiently repaired to allow him and his army to resume their northward march. He also was presented with the freedom of the burgh—the tickets for him and the Prince of Hesse being delivered in silver boxes “richly made and gilded”—perhaps to cover the facility with which the Magistrates had admitted the rebel prince into the town. At the head of the Wynd, on the left hand side, beyond the corner of the Cemetery, is the Militia Storehouse—formerly the *Grammar School* of the town.

### Esplanade.

Here a flight of steps leads up to the Castle Esplanade. The formation of the Esplanade was begun in 1809. Previously the place had been rough and rocky ground, with a narrow path leading through it to the Castle gate. It now forms a broad and nearly level terrace that affords ample scope for drilling the troops. At its most northerly point there has been erected a statue of King Robert the Bruce. The figure, about 11 feet in height and standing on a pedestal still higher, represents the hero-king, in the full armour of the period, in the act of sheathing his sword as he looks towards the field of his greatest victory. This statue, which was the work of Currie,



STIRLING CASTLE (AUTUMN)

the Melrose sculptor, was erected by the subscription of patriotic Scotsmen, and was unveiled on the 24th November, 1877.

### View from the Esplanade.

It is not likely that anyone will leave the Esplanade without a lingering look at the wonderful scene that presents itself to the eye eastwards and to the north. Rather, he will find it difficult to tear himself away from the splendid prospect. He will find himself no doubt trying to disentangle the many windings of the river as it twists its way through the lands of the Carse—from this height seeming to lose their natural inequalities of surface, and appearing quite flat—forming those “crooks of Forth,” each of which, the old rhyme assures us, “is worth an earldom in the north;” and his eye will be led past Alloa, till it rests on the broad waters of the Firth, and, if the atmosphere be sufficiently clear, catches a glimpse of “Scotia’s darling seat.” The whole of this picture of water and woods and cultivated fields, interspersed with town and village, mansion house and farm, ruined abbey and castle, is set between two ranges of hills. The range to the south of the river and Firth is rather distant for clear definition, and is seen mainly in outline. But closer, on the north side, are the ever-beautiful Ochils, presenting their boldest rampart at the near western extremity in Dunmyat, but maintaining a softer line, though always steep, all along their southern front. On the summit and sides of this charming hill-range there is a perpetual play of light and shade, as the winds drive the light clouds between it and the sun. The lower slopes are well clothed with wood, peeping out from which may be descried the frequent hill-foot villages. Leaving this entrancing view, let us now enter the Castle.

## THE CASTLE.

### The Outer Works.

The *Outer Gateway* of the Castle is guarded by a fosse, about 20 feet in depth, which is crossed by a drawbridge: then a passage through the arch-way of the gate gives admittance to the outer works of the Castle. On the right is a guard-room, and to the left stables and their adjuncts. A second fosse and arched-gateway again bar—or might bar—the access. This is called *Queen Anne's Gateway*, and shows her initials surmounted by a crown on the key-stone of the arch. A considerable addition to the outer defences of the Castle was made during the reign of that Queen. The battery within the gateway, on the left hand side, is known also by her name. It is worth while to walk along this *Queen Anne's Battery* to the extremity, for the sake of the magnificent view to the southward that is presented from that point. On the right hand side of the gateway is the *Spur* or *French Battery*—receiving the former name from its shape, and the latter because it was erected by the French engineers in the service of Mary of Lorraine, the widow of James V., during her regency. It commands the Gowan Hills, and was effective in demolishing the fortifications erected there in the rebellion of the Forty-five. On the left hand is the space called the Tennis Court, overlooked by the *Prince's Walk*. The third gateway, which now appears in front, is the *Old Entrance* to the Castle. It was at this gate, in 1515, that Queen Margaret, widow of James IV., and at the time wife of the young Earl of Angus, delivered up the fortress to the Duke of Albany, handing the keys of the Castle to her son, the infant James V., to be



by him transferred to the Regent. In front of this gateway also was a ditch, over which was laid a bridge—not a drawbridge, but a wooden structure, which could be easily removed on the approach of an enemy. The entrance is flanked by two towers, now cut down to the height of the battlemented wall though formerly they rose much higher with picturesque conical roofs—as may be seen in old prints. Originally there were four of these towers, two on each side. A portion of the westernmost is still left; but that to the right has disappeared, although its foundations are said to exist beneath the gun sheds on that side. Besides the great central arch-way, there were two side entrances, now built up. All these were closed with portcullises, and gates or doors both on the outside and inside. The marks of some of these defensive arrangements can still be observed. This splendid gateway, with its towers and battlements, was built by James III.—the architect possibly being the unfortunate Cochrane.

### Lower Square.

Passing through the visitor is fairly within the ancient Castle, and in what is called the *Outer* or *Lower Square*. On the right hand side is the *Grand Battery*, looking to the Gowan Hills and the passages of the Forth. At the far end of this ground may be found the position of an old entrance into the Castle from Ballengeich. The way to it went through an arched passage provided with the usual portcullis; and just outside the wall, at the point where this entrance opened, are portions of the foundations of a tower, which a competent authority supposes may be the last remains of the Castle that was besieged by Edward I. Over the arched passage rises a square building, which is known as *The Mint*. It is evidently of great age—certainly one of the oldest portions of

the existing buildings—and has been ascribed to the time of James II. (1436-60). Tradition carries the minting of coins in Stirling Castle back to the time of Alexander I. What is quite certain is that coins of Alexander II., and of the early Jameses, bear to have been struck at Stirling, but whether they were all coined here, or—at least some of them—in the house in the town that used to be called the Old Mint, has not been absolutely determined.

### The Keep.

On the left hand side of the entrance to the Outer Courtyard there is seen another very ancient portion of the buildings—a square tower or *Keep*, which seems to be contemporary with the Mint. Here, too, may be observed a stone stair which is said to have led to the schoolroom of James VI., when that monarch, in his boyhood, was under the instruction of Maisteris George Buchanan and Peter Young.

### The Palace.

The *Palace*, which projects one of its fronts on the left of the Lower Square, has been—as it still shows—a building of great magnificence. It was mainly the work of James V., and seems to indicate a period when the strong, if somewhat rude, fortifications in which the earlier monarchs dwelt, were giving way to the requirements of greater refinement and more luxurious accommodation. It is one of the earliest examples of the Renaissance style in Scotland. It is built round a small court; and three of its fronts are profusely ornamented with carved work and sculptured figures—some of them grotesque enough, but all spirited and effective. The fourth side, as being hidden from the



NATIONAL WALLACE MONUMENT—ABBAY CRAIG



EAST AND WEST CHURCHES

view, did not receive or require this elaborate adornment. The small court in the centre is called *The Lions' Den*. This is not a mere fanciful name, but refers to the fact—well authenticated by the accounts of the royal expenses—that lions and other wild animals really were kept here, either for the amusement of the sovereigns, or, perhaps, as symbols of the regal power. The Lions' Den is reached by a vaulted corridor on the south side of the Palace, which, when followed through, leads to the Castle wall at a place called the *Ladies' Look-Out*. The name is probably an old one, carrying the thoughts back to the ladies of the Stewart Courts, who may have sunned themselves on this perch just above the loftiest part of the Castle Rock, which is here quite perpendicular, as they gazed over the far-stretching landscape. The view presented is a superb one, embracing in its sweep the Gillies' Hill and Field of Bannockburn, and much else of historic and romantic interest.

The basement floor of the Palace was divided into vaulted compartments, which seem to have been used for cellarage and store-rooms. On the first floor were the state rooms; and above, the sleeping chambers and private rooms of the royal family. The windows of the first floor are barred with massive iron gratings. Tradition says that these were inserted for the protection of James VI., and that the workman was a St. Ninians blacksmith, who, when His Majesty had ascended the throne of England, rendered his account made up in pounds Scots, and received payment in pounds sterling, with which sum—twelve times larger than was his due—it is further said he purchased an estate in the neighbourhood. The story is a good one, but has no authority beyond tradition. In the identification of the estate said to be purchased with the money, it is certainly wrong. The walls of the three conspicuous fronts of the Palace are divided into compartments slightly recessed and arched, and within

these the statuary is set on pillars. We shall not stay to indicate what the various figures are supposed to represent. The visitor can find out for himself those that are taken from the classical mythology, Cleopatra with her asp, and the Gudeman of Ballengeich. Those on the south side may specially interest him as being seemingly representatives of fighting men and their arms. The interior has been much mutilated. In particular, the devastation of the room or rooms which contained the oak carvings known as the *Stirling Heads* is much to be regretted. These fine specimens of wood-carving were taken down in 1777, because one of them had fallen from the ceiling upon a soldier, and were condemned to be used for firewood. Mr. E. Brown, who was at the time governor of the jail, accidentally discovered some of them on their way to a cottage fire in the Raploch, and set himself to rescue and collect as many of them as he could. During his lifetime those he had succeeded in saving were mostly kept in safety in the prison. At his death they were dispersed; but fortunately some of them have been preserved to the town. These and some other panels of carved oak from the Castle may now be seen in the galleries of the Smith Institute.

### The Upper Square.

Let us now enter the *Upper Square*. Standing with back to the Palace, we have, on the right, the Parliament Hall; on the left, the Officers' Quarters, and some very old portions of the Castle buildings; and, in front, the Chapel Royal.

### The Parliament Hall.

The *Parliament Hall* has been even more defaced than the Palace—both externally and internally. Its

erection is ascribed to James III., and the designer is said to have been the royal architect Cochrane. Cochrane was certainly the King's master mason on the Castle works, and the opinion of experts confirms the tradition as to the period of the erection of the Hall. Whoever designed it, it has been a noble building. It has two great oriels thrown out from the sides near the one end. It is still possible to admire these fine windows, for though mutilated they are yet fairly entire. The windows high up in the side walls are arranged in pairs. Between them are overcanopied niches for statues. All these have been greatly destroyed. The parapets and battlements, round which ran a walk, are gone. The whole roof-work appears to have been altered before the close of the eighteenth century—perhaps about the time when the Hall was converted into barracks (1777). Internally the Hall was a noble apartment, over 126 feet in length, and fully 36 feet wide, with a gallery running round it, and a fine oaken roof. The platform or dais was at the south end. Many brilliant assemblies have been held in this Hall, and—although it does not seem to have been built specially for this purpose—several Parliaments, *e.g.*, those of 1545, 1571, 1578, 1645, and 1650. The best remembered of them perhaps is Lennox's Parliament of 1571, because it was illumined by a portentous remark of the infant Solomon, James VI. The boy King—five years of age—was taken by his Governor, the Earl of Mar, to the meeting, and duly recited the speech that had been prepared for him. Then, as he sat looking about him, he espied a hole in the roof, or, as the story is otherwise told, in the cloth that covered the board at which he sat, and enquired of his attendant what house they were in. On being told that it was the House of Parliament, he gravely said, "There is a hole in this Parliament." And it was noted by those who had regard to the wisdom of babes that the delibera-

tions of this Parliament came to nought, as the Regent Lennox was slain immediately thereafter. The Hall has long been occupied as a barracks, and has suffered almost every indignity that the military artificers could inflict on it.

### The Chapel.

From the earliest times of which we have written record there has been a Chapel in the Castle. It is known that Alexander I. founded a chapel within the walls early in the twelfth century. There is also record of a new chapel built by the Regent Albany. It is not known for certain where the first of these chapels was situated, although it has been conjectured that it was somewhere near the Ladies' Look-Out, on what was afterwards a portion of the site of the Palace. The Duke of Albany's Chapel is believed to have stood where still stands the *Chapel Royal*. It was to James III. that the organisation called the Chapel Royal was due. Chiefly as a college for the cultivation of music, sacred, and perhaps secular also, it was built and endowed: for music was among the arts to which that unfortunate monarch was devoted. The appropriation for the endowment of this Chapel Royal of the temporalities of the Abbey of Coldingham was resented by the powerful family of Hume, and was thus the proximate cause of the insurrection which cost the King his life. His son, James IV., is known to have bitterly repented of the part he had been induced to take against his father; and he selected this chapel as the scene of his religious penances therefor. As if to emphasize his penitence, he carried out the intentions of his father with regard to this favourite institution of his, and endowed the Chapel Royal with large revenues. Here, in 1543, the infant Queen Mary was crowned—Arran bearing the crown, Lennox



the sceptre, and Argyll the sword—"with suche solempnitie," says the English Sadler rather viciously, "as they doo use in this countrey, which is not verie costelie." Perhaps the most imposing ceremony it witnessed was the baptism of James VI. on the 17th of December, 1566. Next year its ornaments and musical instruments were destroyed; and thereafter it fell into neglect and decay. A report, in 1583, states that the roof had been badly constructed, that many of the couples were broken, and that the "thak" let in the wet, so that "the Kingis hieness may nocht weill remaine within the same in tyme of weitt or rane;" and proposed to remedy this state of matters by giving the chapel a new roof. That was not done; but, in 1594, the whole building was pulled down to make way for a new and larger one, in which the baptism of Prince Henry might be fittingly celebrated. A full account of the magnificent ceremonial at that baptism and the wonderful revels that followed in the Parliament Hall has been preserved, and may be read in the pages of the local historians. The chapel then built is that which still exists. After King James went to England, the glory of the Chapel Royal departed. It has fallen to baser uses—as an arsenal, a refreshment room for visitors, and a store-room. The adaptation of the place for an armoury involved the removal or destruction of the internal decorations and considerable alteration of the external features; although probably it never was a very ornate structure.

The buildings on the left side of the square are now used as *Officers' Quarters* and military offices. Among them are some of the oldest bits of the Castle. This part, in fact, and the old tower on the south side of the Palace seem to be all that remains of the residential buildings occupied by the Sovereigns till James V. built his new Palace. Originally the buildings were of three storeys, with vaulted basement and parapetted

roof. A portion of the parapet still remains on the outside wall. But great alterations have been made since the Castle ceased to have a resident governor, and since the fire which destroyed part of the block at the west end in 1855. The burned portion has been restored, or rather replaced by a structure which is by some much admired, although one eminent authority in architecture has called it "a very pretentious building of so-called Scottish architecture, utterly out of harmony with all the surroundings, and a great disfigurement to the Castle." The centre of interest in this block is the *Douglas Closet*, where King James II., in 1452, with his dagger broke the "band" into which the Earl of Douglas had entered with others against him. He stabbed the traitor Earl in the throat, and the murder was completed by Sir Patrick Gray and other nobles who were with the King. The passage leading from the Upper Square, on the left of the Chapel Royal, passes underneath the Closet, in which, or in the larger *Douglas Room* adjoining, the tragedy was enacted. The Douglas Room is part of the restored building, and is used to house a number of rather interesting antiquities and curiosities. A few steps lead downwards to the Closet, a very small apartment lit by a single window. The stained-glass, with the Douglas arms and the motto "Look sickar" was inserted in the window by order of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in commemoration of her visit to the Castle in 1842. Out of this window tradition affirms that the body of the murdered Earl was thrown, and adds that he was buried on the spot. This tradition was supposed to have been confirmed by the discovery in 1798, on the ground under the window, of the remains of a man who appeared to have been buried in his armour. It is, however, right to add that there is authority for the statement that the corpse was interred in the Dominican Monastery.

## Douglas Gardens.

We are now in the *Douglas Garden*, round which runs a rampart of stone with a walk on the inner side. The interest now is scenic rather than historical, or, perhaps it is more near the truth to say, combines both elements in a high degree. There are two special points of view, which the visitor will readily find—the nearer called *Queen Victoria's Look-Out*, and that further on *Queen Mary's Look-Out*. But disregarding, in the meantime, these special view-points, let us lightly and briefly indicate what may be seen in a walk round the rampart. To the eastward stretches the Carse of the Forth and the long line of the Ochils melting into cloud-like forms in the distance, with the Abbey Craig in the foreground, and nearer still the historic Old Bridge. Northwards are the wooded hills of Airthrey and the villas of Bridge of Allan embowered in trees, and looked down on from behind by the ridge on which was fought the battle of Sheriffmuir. All to the west lies the fair and fertile Vale of Menteith, illumined by the sun-glance on the waters of Forth and Teith uniting not far off, and bounded by the Menteith Hills on the north and the Lennox Hills on the south, while the loftier Grampian peaks shut in the view all round the north and west. Many stately and historic mansions—Blair Drummond, Cardross, Buchanan, Touch, Sauchie, to name a few—adorn this beautiful valley. Cast the eye down to the river where it flows not far from the base of the rock, and observe the point where its course, previously almost north and south, takes a sharp bend to the east. That is *Kildean Ford*, where the older writers placed the bridge that figured in Wallace's Battle of Stirling. Near it, the wooded rock rising abruptly from the level is Craigforth—

“one of the wonders of the world,” say the country people, “a craig in a kerse.” Almost in a line with this, but further off, may be descried the towers of lordly Doune, where the ancient Albanies held sway till James I. swept off the family at one fell stroke. To the south, passing over the nearer scenes, which we may find occasion yet to visit, the view takes in the Field of Bannockburn and the dark fir-clad Gillies Hill, and, looking past the flag-staff, the field of Sauchie, from which James III. galloped to his death. Further south still is the Torwood, recalling memories of the Roman legionaries who formed the causeway leading through its depths, of Wallace who sheltered in its great oak, of the daring Covenanters who feared not to excommunicate kings and princes, and of the marchings and countermarchings of Cromwell and Lesley. And a little more distant still is Falkirk, renowned for the defeat of Wallace in 1298, and the victory of Prince Charlie in 1746. All these historic events, and others that might have been mentioned, are set in a scene so fair, as viewed from this place of prospect, that it may well rivet the attention and charm the heart of the most indifferent observer.

The old Castle occupies a large place in the history of Scotland: but space forbids us to offer even the baldest summary of the noteworthy events of which it has been the theatre. For the Scottish monarchs who have been born or baptised, who have lived and died within its walls; for the frequent sieges it has undergone; for the Courts and Parliaments and pageants that have been held in and about it; for the political plots and counter plots that have centred round it; and for many romantic side-incidents, so to speak, in its history, reference must be made to the books of history, local and general.

## FROM THE CASTLE TO PORT STREET.

## The Valley.

We shall leave the Castle by a stair on the west side of the Esplanade, and descend into *The Valley*—a rock-surrounded hollow occupying a summit of the hill of less elevation than that on which the Castle is built. Once the scene of tournaments and other open-air functions of the Court, it became in later times a place of public meetings, a horse market, a stance for travelling circuses and cheap-jacks, and a general play-ground; and now it is one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the country. Much of the beauty of the place is due to the taste and liberality of the late William Drummond—a member of the well-known and highly distinguished Stirling family of that name. He adorned the ground with shrubberies, and garnished it with statues of Scottish reformers and martyrs—John Knox, Andrew Melville, Alexander Henderson, James Renwick, James Guthrie (erected by subscription), Ebenezer Erskine—and on ground which he had himself purchased and laid out, the *Star Pyramid*, with its Scripture texts and curious symbolic designs, and last of all the beautiful marble group that commemorates the faith and heroism of the *Wigtown Martyrs*. Not content with all this, he bequeathed to the town a sum, of which the interest is to be employed in maintaining the grounds in order. His own tomb—he died in 1868—simple but massive, is to be seen near the Pyramid. To the west of it is a fine granite cross, erected by the officers and men of the old 75th or Stirlingshire Regiment to the memory of their comrades who fell in the Indian Mutiny. There are

many other fine monuments in the New Cemetery; as well as many in the Old Burying-Ground, which lies around the Church, that will be found of special interest from their quaint inscriptions or from the persons they commemorate.

### The Ladies' Rock.

The rocky knoll, which overlooks the Valley on the west side, is called the *Ladies' Rock*—so named, it is said, because it was here that the ladies of the Court were wont to sit, as on a gallery built for them by nature, and view the knightly sports in the arena below. When the visitor ascends to the summit of this crag, if his imagination does not permit him to fancy himself looking with the eyes of these old Court ladies on tilt and tournament, he will nevertheless be fascinated with the splendid scene which nature still preserves for his delectation. His enjoyment of the prospect will not be lessened by consulting the useful indicator on the rock. On the top of a pillar, under a glass cover, has been placed a chart of the whole surrounding country, on which the hill contours are shown and named. Lines radiating from the centre direct the eye to all the principal points, and sketches of the chief features aid the identification.

### The Church.

Let us now walk across the old churchyard to *The Church*—or rather the Churches—for the fabric has been built in two parts and at different dates, and now accommodates two congregations. It was the wont of writers on Stirling to call this old building the Greyfriars Church, and to affirm that it belonged to the Franciscan Monastery founded by James IV. That is now known to be a mistake. The Franciscan

Monastery was not on this spot, and, indeed, the Church is much older than the date of that foundation. In the oldest records it is called simply the Parish Church, and in later documents the Parish Church of the Holy Cross or Holy Rood of the Burgh of Stirling, or, more shortly, the Rude Kirk. It is mentioned as early as the first half of the twelfth century when by a Charter of David I. it was granted to the Abbey of Dunfermline. Whether there was only one church building that continued to exist from that time to the beginning of the fifteenth century is uncertain. But it is known that in the beginning of 1406 there was a great fire in Stirling in which the Church was almost, if not entirely consumed. The older portion of the present building therefore dates from early in the fifteenth century. Mr. James Ronald (*Landmarks of Old Stirling*), the principal authority on the Church, dates the building of the tower, the nave, and the south aisle of the West Church in 1414, while he assigns the erection of the north aisle to 1456. There were three chapels attached externally to this Church—of later date, most probably than the Church itself. Only one of these now remains. The one on the south side, long known as *Bowie's Aisle*, became the property of the Earl of Stirling in 1632, and there he was buried in 1640. At the north-west corner was *Queen Margaret's Chapel*—so named, it is said, because it was built by James IV. for his English Queen; but the story is doubtful. It was afterwards called *Paterson's Aisle*, from a Stirling family who acquired it. It was taken down in the unfortunate "restoration" of 1816. The other chapel on the north side—fortunately still left—was called *St. Andrew's Chapel*, though it has been for long known as *Garden's Aisle*. It is of the greatest interest, both from its architecture, and from the circumstance that a part of its wall seems to have belonged to the old church burned in 1406. It has

recently undergone careful restoration, and it is to be hoped that it will long be preserved. The age of the eastern or Choir portion is not in doubt. It was erected as the result of an agreement, in 1507, between the town and James Beaton, Abbot of Dunfermline, afterwards Archbishop of St. Andrews. Hence it is that the chancel still goes by the name of *Beaton's Aisle*. The Choir probably took about 20 years to complete. When finished, the wall that had closed the earlier portion was cut, and the whole building opened from end to end. It then measured 200 feet in length, with a breadth in the nave of 54, and in the choir of 56 feet. There were twenty altars in the Church—all cast out and destroyed at the Reformation. The choir was the the first portion of the building to be occupied for Protestant worship. In 1656, the division between choir and nave was built up, and two churches formed. About five years afterwards, however, the West Church was left unoccupied, and remained so till 1731, when it was opened for the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, who preached in it till his deposition in 1740. From that time it suffered a good deal from neglect. In 1818 it was altered and re-occupied. The transept doorway was added in 1867; and the East Church was "restored" in 1869. Unfortunately none of these alterations have been very successful. The "restorations" have destroyed some interesting features of the old building. But even still the churches may be regarded as very fine specimens of fifteenth and sixteenth century architecture. If the west or older portion of the building is superior in its simple and massive dignity, the eastern part is loftier, lighter, and more ornate. In its elegant buttresses—of which ten out of the original twelve remain—are niches which have obviously been intended to receive sculpture. The story is that these niches once held statues of the twelve apostles. It is not unlikely; but there is no trace of them now. The *Tower*, at the





CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY.

west end, is one of the most striking features; and is in excellent preservation. It looks as fresh as if it had been but recently erected. It is square in shape, bearing at top a small turret at one of the corners. The total height from the base to the top of the stone-work of the turret is 100 feet. The tower is of two portions, seemingly of different dates. While the lower portion is contemporaneous with the older part of the Church, it is conjectured that the upper part was added when the choir was erected. Access can be had to the top of the tower, from which, it is needless to say, a very fine view is obtained. General Monk is said to have occupied the tower for military purposes, when he was besieging the Castle in 1651. He had certainly batteries in the churchyard—perhaps about the Ladies' Rock. There are certain marks in the wall of the tower said to have been made by bullets fired from the Castle against the batteries in the Churchyard. The Highlanders in 1746 also planted batteries in the Churchyard; and they mounted the Tower, fired off their muskets from the top, and set the church bells a-ringing to celebrate the victory of Prince Charlie at Falkirk.

There are four *Bells* in the Tower. The oldest is the Saints' or Mary Bell. It belongs to a period long antecedent to the Reformation; but has no date. Lord Madertie's bell was purchased from that nobleman in 1631. It was re-cast in 1657, and bears an inscription with that date and the statement that it was made by Cornelius Overdogge of Rotterdam. The Over Hospital bell—so called because it was originally intended for the steeple of Cowane's Hospital—is the largest. It dates from 1669, but has been more than once broken and recast. The last recasting was done by David Bryce, Glasgow, in 1853. The Managers' bell was added "to complete the chyme," when the burgh was rejoicing over the restoration of its burghal rights and privileges, of which it had been deprived

for a period of six years. It bears the name of its founder, William Chapman, London, and the date 1781.

The original main entrance to the Church was through the Tower. This was afterwards closed and converted into a window; and was finally destroyed by the "improvements" of 1818, when, to lengthen the window above, the top of the fine arch was cut out and the rest of the ancient doorway built up. The windows of both churches are well filled with stained-glass, mostly of excellent quality; although, as the work has all been gifted by private persons or public bodies, its merit is varied. The great eastern window in the chancel is taken up by a very fine work in memory of John Cowane, the founder of the Hospital. The other windows of the choir are all filled with memorial glass. In the West Church, besides illuminated windows, there is a series of seven mural monuments, in niches under the west window, to as many generous benefactors of the town. There is also a marble monument to Dr. David Doig, a former Rector of the Grammar School, erected by the town, and inscribed with some elegant stanzas in Latin elegiac verse written by himself.

The fine old church, which has for so many centuries been identified with the religious life of the town, is also not without its interesting points of contact with the general history of the country. Here it was that in 1543 the Regent Arran, under the influence of Cardinal Beaton, in the presence of the Queen Dowager (Mary of Lorraine) and a large number of nobles, abjured his Protestant opinions and received absolution for his apostacy from the Catholic faith. In the same place, about a year afterwards, a convention met and deprived Arran of his office, conferring the Regency on the Queen Dowager. An imposing ceremonial marked the coronation of James VI., which took place in the church on the 29th of

July, 1567. There was a great assembly of nobles and burgesses; Knox preached the sermon; the Bishop of Orkney performed the ceremony of anointing—to which Knox was opposed; and the Earl of Mar held the crown over the head of the infant King.

### The Over Hospital.

Close by the church tower stands the *Guild Hall*, built for Cowane's Hospital. It is a pleasing example of seventeenth century architecture, with projecting wings and quaint tower and steeple in the centre. The entrance to the Hall is through this tower, and in a niche above the doorway stands a statue of the founder. The Hall has been altered to form a single apartment open from floor to roof, and is used as the meeting place of the Guildry. It has a large stained-glass memorial window in the east end, and the walls are adorned with portraits of bye-gone Deans. There are also some curiosities and antiquities preserved in the building. John Cowane, an old Stirling merchant and Dean of Guild, bequeathed a sum of 40,000 merks to build and endow a Hospital for the maintenance of ten decayed Guild brethren; and this building was accordingly erected in 1639 and the following years. The decayed brethren did not, however, long continue to stay in the house. They preferred the freedom of their own homes or of lodgings in the town; and so a system of outdoor pensions was begun and still continues. The funds of the Hospital have been well managed and have greatly increased. By the Endowed Schools and Hospitals Commission a considerable portion of the revenue has been diverted to educational purposes; but there are still numerous pensioners on the foundation. At the east end of the Hall is an old-fashioned garden and a bowling green, on the balustraded terrace of which are placed two

of the cannon that were captured at Sebastopol in the Crimean War.

Passing out by the church gate we descend St. John Street, the old *Back Row*, with its tall old houses, which take the fancy of the artist—especially one with a picturesque turret stair, said to have been the town residence of the Earl of Linlithgow. The *Prison*, a large modern building (1848) in the castellated style, is on the right hand. Just below it is the *Erskine Church*, in front of which, and on the site of a former church, is a monument to Ebenezer Erskine, the leader of the Secession. At the beginning of Spittal Street, at a corner where the road leads down to Baker Street, there stood till 1871 a building which was known as the *Old Mint*. The second from that is a large old house, with a still older stone built into its front bearing the following inscription—

THIS HOUSE IS FOUNDIT FOR  
SUPPORT OF YE PUIR BE ROBERT SPITTAL  
TAILLYOUR TO JAMES YE 4TH  
ANNO 1530.

R.S.—And the device of the tailor s shears.

Opposite is the *High School*, the most important modern building in Stirling, erected one portion in 1856, and the other and finer part in 1890. Built into the doorway in Spittal Street is a fine arch of Jacobean style, preserved from an old Stirling building. The High School is the representative of the Old Grammar School, and can now look back on a continued existence of almost eight centuries. It has had many famous masters and many distinguished scholars in the course of its long life. The school occupies the site and grounds of the old *Franciscan Monastery*, founded by James IV. in 1494, and destroyed at the Reformation. In digging the foundations of the

school buildings many bones and skulls were found—doubtless the remains of Grey Friars of old—and foundations of what appeared to have been cloister walls were uncovered. Behind the school is the *Trades Hall*, now utilised for manual training. This was built by the Incorporated Trades, who claim to be the special beneficiaries on Spittal's endowment, in 1751; and an inscribed tablet on the outside states that it was "Erected in honour of Robert Spittal, Taylor to King James the Fourth, Donor of the Hospital in this Burgh for relief of Decayed Tradesmen. The Liberal Man Deviseth Liberal Things:" and the shears are again emblazoned. There is also an inscription on a tablet inside the building, which, after narrating his benefactions to the burgh, adds—"He likewise gave part of his wealth for building useful bridges in this neighbourhood. Forget not, reader, that the scissors of this man do more honour to human nature than the swords of conquerors."

Below the High School, in Spittal Street, are the *Royal Infirmary*, the *Allan's School*—named after another benefactor of the town—the *Ragged School* buildings, and, at the foot, the *Corn Exchange*, erected in 1838, and now partly demolished to make way for a new street, beside which is to be built the *Public Library* gifted to the town by the great founder of libraries, Andrew Carnegie. Opposite the Corn Exchange, on the corner between Spittal Street and Baker Street, are the present *Council Chambers*. Built on the site of the Old Meal Market, in 1814-16, the upper floors of the erection were for some time occupied as a Reading-Room and Library, and bore the somewhat grandiose name of *The Athenæum*. Some years ago they were adapted for Council Chambers and Town Clerk's Offices. In point of architecture the building has no great merit. Its principal features are a lofty spire and an ornamental porch. The portico is surmounted by a fine statue of Sir

William Wallace, the work of the Scottish sculptor Handyside Ritchie. Statue and portico were presented by the late William Drummond. Here the visitor may take a turn up Baker Street, if only to look at the picturesque old houses, which still stand with their gables to the street. The moderniser has done much to get rid of some of the most characteristic features of many of the old buildings. One curious inscription on a front gable still attracts attention:—

HEIR . I . FORBEIRE . MY . NAME . OR . ARMES .  
 TO . FIX  
 LEAST . I . OR . MINE . SHOULD . SELL . THESE .  
 STONES . AND . STICKS.

There is a popular explanation of this quaint device. Let us leave it, however, to the reader's imagination.

In *King Street* there are many handsome buildings, all modern. About midway down the street will be observed the coloured stones in the roadway which mark the place where stood the *Inner or New Port*. This port, a somewhat massive erection with vaults which bestrode "the Gait," was probably set up about 1585, and stood for nearly 200 years. It was in existence when the town was attacked by the Highlanders in 1746, and was at that time guarded by the Rev. Captain Erskine and his loyal seceders. We have again arrived at Port Street, and now, with a stroll round the *Back Walk*, we shall conclude our survey of the ancient town.

## ROUND THE BACK WALK.

This beautiful walk, Stirling's finest promenade, was begun in 1724, the credit of the idea being due to William Edmonstone of Cambuswallace (now Doune

Lodge), who had recently left his estate and become resident in Stirling. The first part—from the High School to the Ladies' Rock—was constructed under his superintendence. He also planted the sloping Back Brae with the trees which now form its noble adornment. In 1791, the walk was continued down to the pyramids of the old Burrowsgate. In 1798 the portion from the Ladies' Rock round the back of the Castle to Ballengeich was formed, and in 1832 the walk was completed to the Mote Hill.

Starting from the site of the Burrowsgate, at the junction of Port Street and Dumbarton Road, we have on the right hand the spot on which rose the rock called the *Wolf Craig* connected with the legendary history of Stirling in a story which is said to have originated the device on the Burgh Seal. Although the real Wolf Craig has been removed, an ivy-crowned rock still stands, making an effective and appropriate beginning to the beauties of the walk. There is a lower as well as an upper walk, although it is to the latter that the name Back Walk properly belongs.

### The Lower Walk.

The Lower Walk leads through the shade of great trees, past *Allan Park Church*, the *Public Halls*, the *Episcopal Church*, the *Bowling Green*, and the *Smith Institute* to the *Butt Well* and the *Raploch*. The stranger would do well to visit at least the Smith Institute, which is the munificent gift to the district of the late Thomas Smith of Glassingall; because there he will find carefully preserved many rare and interesting relics of old Stirling municipal and social life. In addition to these there are splendid Picture Galleries, with fine collections of oil and water colour paintings; a large Consulting Library and Reading-Room; extensive natural history collections methodic-



ally classified; and a gathering of articles illustrating various phases and epochs of domestic and social life in Scotland, so full and so thoroughly arranged in historical sequence as to be unique in the country. A visit to this collection will do more to help the student to a knowledge of old Scottish life and its evolution than the most elaborate written account could do.

Returning now to the High Walk, we follow it up by the course of the old *Town Wall*. It will be observed that some parts of the wall do not look so old as others. This has arisen from decay and necessary repair at certain places. Several doors open through the wall on to the walk, but these are almost all of quite modern construction—at any rate since the last siege of the town. A curious small circular tower with a domed roof rises above the wall. Its history is not known, but it is not supposed to be as old as the wall itself. Higher up an opening leads to the High School. Though this has been much widened, it would seem that there had always been an entrance through the wall at this point, to give the inhabitants access to the Back Brae. It used to be known as the *Plane Trees Entry*. Through this entry the banished lords found their way into the town in 1585, and made themselves masters of the Castle and the person of the King. The event is known in Scottish history as *the Raid of Stirling*. Further up, at the corner of the Guild Hall is another original entrance, leading to and from the Churchyard. By this passage Munro entered in 1648, surprised the Marquis of Argyle, and pursued his Highland followers to the Bridge, where most of them were slain or drowned. A few yards beyond we come to a seat, which an inscription tells us was erected in honour of William Edmonstone in 1724, and renewed in 1855. Another recess near is called the *Invalids' Seat*, so called because it is placed in the “lownest” spot on all the walk, where the sun

shines on it all day long, and no rude winds disturb its calm.

When the summit of the walk, at the Ladies' Rock, is reached, the full magnificence of the view, which has been with us more or less throughout the whole ascent, is displayed. Near at hand also there is much to interest. On the sloping bank beneath were the royal orchards and fruit gardens; and at their foot may be seen the curious but effective bit of ornamental gardening known as the *King's Knot*. The Knot, which about forty years ago had its outlines sharpened and cleared up, still shows its plan and structure, and the lines of the garden walks all round can be traced. But it has a history much older than those days of the Stewart Kings when it was in its prime. Before it became the King's Knot, it was the *Round Table*—as such it is mentioned by Barbour in his account of the Battle of Bannockburn—and that name carries the thoughts back to the days of the semi-mythic King Arthur and his Knights. What purpose it served as Round Table, and whether it was an early judgment mound or moot, cannot be here discussed. Beyond the King's Knot spreads the spacious *King's Park*, sloping back from a craggy western front—like that of the Castle, but not so high—and fringed around with tree-adorned terraces, where the elite of the town and Glasgow merchants who have retired from business to enjoy some years of leisure have their dwellings.

From this point the walk continues round the back of the Castle, under the precipitous rock—the view changing at every turn, but never losing its charm. When the wind-swept pass of *Ballangeich* has been crossed, we are on the *Gowan Hills*—sometimes called *Gowlan Hills*, perhaps by a mere corruption; at any rate the usual tale, which connects the name with the lamentation (*Scotticé, gowling*) of the populace on the occasion of the execution of the Albanies, is not a

likely one. Above, on about the highest point of the hill, is the inscription, supposed to be Roman, to which reference has already been made. The walk ends on the *Heading Hill*, the northernmost spur of the ridge. Another name for it is the *Mote Hill*, and this name may indicate a very ancient use. The mound has obvious marks of having been artificially shaped and terraced either for a mote or for an early fortification. Sadder memories connect it with a later period. Here, in the summer of 1425, Murdoch Duke of Albany, formerly Regent of the Kingdom, his two sons Walter and Alexander, and his father-in-law, Duncan Earl of Lennox, after a trial at which King James I. presided, were executed, within sight of the Regent's Castle of Doune. After King James himself had been assassinated, his murderers, Sir Robert Graham and his accomplices, were here put to death, in 1437, in circumstances of the most barbarous cruelty. A still later memory—happily of a more pleasing character—attaches to the hill, and has given it the name of *Hurly Hawky*. It was the scene of the boyish sports of James V. and his young companions, who used to slide down the slope on some rude sort of sledge—some say the skull of a cow (*sc. hawky*), and thence derived the name. The sport is referred to by Sir David Lyndsay in his "Complaynt." However ridiculous the amusement may have been, we prefer to leave the hill with the echo of boyish laughter rather than the sound of the headsman's axe ringing in our ears.