

Leith and its Vicinity.

THE sea-port and town of Leith, anciently Inverleith,¹ at the debouch of the Water of Leith stream, which flows through the harbour into the Frith of Forth, is nearly a mile and a half from Edinburgh. The town is a curious motley group of narrow streets, in which are numbers of old tenements, the architecture and interiors of which indicate the affluence of the former possessors. Although a place of considerable antiquity, and mentioned as Inverleith in David I.'s charter of Holyrood, the commercial importance of Leith dates only from the fourteenth century, when the magistrates of Edinburgh obtained a grant of the harbour and mills from King Robert Bruce for the annual payment of fifty-two merks. This appears to have been one of the first of those transactions by which the citizens of Edinburgh acquired the complete mastery over Leith, and they are accused of exercising their power in a most tyrannical manner. So completely, indeed, were the Town-Council of Edinburgh resolved to enslave Leith, that the inhabitants were not allowed to have shops or warehouses, and even inns or hostelries could be arbitrarily prohibited. This power was obtained in a very peculiar manner. In 1398 and 1413, Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig, then superior of the town, disputed the right of the Edinburgh corporation to the use of the banks of the Water of Leith, and the property was purchased from him at a considerable sum. This avaricious baron afterwards caused an infinitude of trouble to the Town-Council on legal points, but they were resolved to be the absolute rulers of Leith at any cost; and they advanced from their treasury a large sum, for which Logan granted a bond, placing Leith completely at the disposal of the Edinburgh Corporation, and retaining all the before-mentioned restrictions. James I., by charter dated 1454, granted to Edinburgh the "haven-silver, customs, and duties of ships, vessels, and merchandise, coming to the road and harbour of Leith," and in 1482 James III. conferred similar privileges. In 1485 the civic despots enacted that no merchant of Edinburgh should enter into partnership with a resident of Leith, under a penalty of forty shillings, and deprivation of the freedom of the city for one year. Sundry other oppressive acts followed, and the feudal subjection of Leith was finally completed by the purchase, in 1565, of the superiority of the town from Queen Mary, to whose mother, the Queen Regent, it had been sold by Logan of Restalrig for 10,000 merks. Warehouses were prohibited to be built, all goods were ordered to be removed as speedily as possible from the harbour, and every contrivance was adopted to depress and annoy the inhabitants.² So determined

¹ Inverleith is still the name of a mansion and estate about two miles inland, on the banks of the stream between Stockbridge and Inverleith Row, on the road to Granton and Newhaven. The Water of Leith rises from three springs in the Pentland Hills, and has a romantic course of about fourteen miles. Much of the stream being abstracted for mills, it is insignificant in dry weather, but after heavy rain it often descends with fearful rapidity, assuming the grandeur of a mountain torrent.

² It is stated by the local historian of Leith, that after the Town-Council had completed the purchase of the superiority from Queen Mary in 1565, the town was entered as a "conquered" place by the burgesses of Edinburgh, who subsequently adopted every device to torment the inhabitants as much as possible. In 1589 the Edinburgh magistrates summoned one-half of their Leith vassals to hear themselves prohibited from exercising their trades as incorporations, or choosing their deacons or presiding members in all time coming. Two unfortunate knights of St. Crispin had been previously committed

to prison by those authorities, the one for "pretending" that he was the legally elected deacon of the incorporation of shoemakers, and the other for acting as his official; and notwithstanding the remonstrances of the operatives, they were "proceeded against as a parcel of insolent and contumacious rascals."—History of Leith, by Alexander Campbell, 1827. It was not till 1737 that the Incorporated Trades of Leith were declared independent of those of Edinburgh by the Court of Session. For upwards of a century afterwards the ancient jealousies continued to increase, till the final separation of the port from the city by Act of Parliament in 1838. By that Act the judicial authority of Edinburgh over Leith was abolished; the city was prohibited from interfering with, or exercising any control over the affairs of the town; and the common good, customs, rates, imposts, and market dues, including the prison buildings, with the Admiralty jurisdiction, were vested in the provost and magistrates of Leith, with the only exception of the city's rights in the harbour and docks, and the revenues arising therefrom.

were the Edinburgh corporation to retain hold of Leith as an appendage to the city, that subsequent charters of Queen Mary, and that of James VI. in 1596, authorising a tax for the pier, were renewed by the latter in 1603, and by Charles I. in 1636.

The port, nevertheless, early possessed a considerable trade, which occasionally suffered from incursions by the English, who in 1313 and in 1410 burned the vessels in the harbour. Leith was occupied by the insurgent nobility who had taken arms against James III., after the murder of that monarch near Bannockburn in 1488; and the famous Admiral Sir Andrew Wood of Largo had soon afterwards an interview with his youthful successor, James IV., in the town. In 1544 the Earl of Hertford, who was at the head of 10,000 men, took possession of Leith, seized all the vessels in the harbour, garrisoned the place with 1500 men till he ravaged Edinburgh and the neighbourhood; and when he left with his booty he destroyed the pier, carried off the shipping, and burnt the town. Before his departure he had constructed a pier for his own accommodation, or renovated a previously existing one, but no vestige of it remains to indicate its exact site. Three years afterwards, in 1547, the same Earl of Hertford, who had become Duke of Somerset and Protector of England, and who had recently been the victor at the battle of Pinkie, again burnt Leith, though not so completely as at his former visitation, and carried off thirty-five vessels.

In 1548 the town was strongly fortified by the French General D'Esse, who had arrived with 6000 men to assist the Queen Regent against her opponents. The works consisted chiefly of ramparts of earth, and appear to have been of great strength, inclosing the town in an octangular form, with eight bastions, one at each angle; no traces of which remain, though the vestiges were distinctly visible in 1753.¹ From 1548 to 1559, Leith was the head-quarters of the Queen Regent's army and of her French auxiliaries, who are prominent in the civil strife between her and the Lords of the Congregation. At its port arrived the shipping and supplies for the Queen Regent's service, and from its gates rushed those sallying parties who fought many a hard skirmish with detachments of the besiegers on the plain between the town and Edinburgh.

The siege of Leith, in 1559 and 1560, is a curious episode in its history. During the former year, after the violent demolition of the churches and religious houses by lawless mobs, the Queen Regent came to an open rupture with the Lords of the Congregation, and both parties prepared to settle the contest by the sword. The death of Henry II. of France, and the accession of his son, who was the consort of Queen Mary, induced the Queen Regent to expect powerful reinforcements from her son-in-law and daughter; and on the 30th of July, 1559, she suddenly left Dunbar, whither she had been compelled to retreat after leaving Fife, and encamped on the common of Leith Links. The Lords of the Congregation marched to Leith with such a force as they could muster, commanded by the Prior of St. Andrews, afterwards the Regent Moray; but before he appeared the Queen Regent moved her troops into Leith, and commenced a thorough repair of the ramparts, assisted by her French auxiliaries—operations which greatly alarmed the Congregation leaders, and elicited an angry remonstrance from them on the 29th of September.² The Queen Regent is accused of duping the inhabitants of Leith of 3000*l.*, which they never recovered, but the allegation rests on very questionable authority. It was probably a loan, as it is said that she had signified her intention to grant the town a charter, emancipating it from the domination of Edinburgh, which was prevented by her death. Among other causes of offence, the Queen Regent ordered the minister's pulpit to be turned out of the church of South Leith, and the Roman Catholic service to be restored.

¹ The fortifications of Leith are severely satirised by the valiant Captain Colepepper in "The Fortunes of Nigel":—"You speak of the siege of Leith, and I have seen the place—a pretty kind of hamlet it is, with a plain wall or rampart, and a pigeon-house or two of a tower at every angle. Uds! daggers and scabbards! if a leaguer of our days had been twenty-four hours, not to say months, before it, without carrying the place and all its cocklofts one after another by pure storm, they would have deserved no better grace than the provost-marshal gives when his noose is reeved!" It resisted, however, all the attempts of the Lords of the Congregation in 1559, and the capitulation to those Lords and the English under Lord Grey of Wilton in 1560, was rather because both parties were tired of the war than by force.

² The Queen Regent, in her reply, places herself in the situation of a bullfinch or linnet surrounded by ferocious hawks, and in answer

to the charge of occupying and fortifying Leith, her Majesty stated — "And like as a small bird, when pursued, will provide some nest, so her Majesty could do no less, in case of pursuit, than provide some sure retreat for herself and her company; and to that effect chose the town of Leith, a place convenient for that purpose, because it was her dearest daughter's property, and no other person could claim title or interest thereto, and also because in former times it had been fortified." Queen Mary's "title or interest" to Leith as her "property" is difficult of explanation, more especially when the transactions of the Town-Council of Edinburgh with Logan of Restalrig are considered; and as to the fortifications, this is probably an allusion to those raised by Monsieur D'Esse ten years previously, as apparently no military works were constructed in Leith before the arrival of that commander.



THE BACK OF OLD LETHY PIER

from an Original Drawing by C. Stanfield R.A.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

The Lords of the Congregation invested Leith in October 1559, resolving to expel the Queen Regent and her "throat-cutters," by which epithet they designated the French auxiliaries. Before proceeding to extremities they sent a messenger to the walls, with a summons in the name of Francis and Mary, commanding all Scots and French to leave the town within twelve hours. They had provided themselves with scaling-ladders, constructed in St. Giles's church in Edinburgh, which greatly irritated the preachers, who declared that such wickedness and irreverence would not pass unpunished. As no answer was returned to the summons, the besiegers commenced their operations, but they soon discovered that their scaling-ladders were too short. This circumstance, and the denunciations of the preachers on the sin of constructing ladders in a church, had due effect on the forces of the Congregation, who evinced no inclination to fight, and who were mutinous for want of pay. A series of misfortunes befell the besiegers. They had no money; an attempt to erect a mint was frustrated by the absconding of a person with the instruments of coining; Cockburn of Ormiston was waylaid and robbed, by the afterwards notorious Earl of Bothwell, of four thousand crowns, which he had received for their use from Sir Ralph Sadler and Sir James Crofts at Berwick; a large supply of provisions was intercepted between Leith and Portobello by a sallying party of the French auxiliaries, and on another occasion the forces of the Congregation were pursued to the base of the Calton Hill. The victors of this latter exploit were joyfully welcomed on their return by the Queen Regent from the ramparts. Observing several of the French soldiers carrying plunder, she jocularly inquired "where they had bought their wares?" Many other remarks of the Queen Regent, who was particularly disliked by the leaders of the Congregation and the preachers, are recorded.

This defeat, and the want of money to pay their troops, induced the Lords of the Congregation to retire to Stirling, Glasgow, and some towns on the south coast of Fife. The Queen Regent obtained possession of Edinburgh, and removed to the Castle, in which she resided till her death on the 10th of June, 1560. Meanwhile fortune had declared against the French during several marauding expeditions into Fife, and the Lords of the Congregation ordered a general muster at Leith. On the 30th of March, 1560, Lord Grey of Wilton entered Scotland with a force variously stated at 6000 and 8000 men, protected by an English fleet, and on the 1st of April encamped at Restalrig, where he was joined by many influential persons and 2000 men.

The English selected the rising ground on the east end of Leith Links, extending to the locality of Hermitage Hill, and their position was well chosen; but it was found to be too distant to enable the artillery, such as it was in those times, to injure the fortifications, and they moved to the Links, where they constructed mounds of earth for their artillery, two of which remain. One is close to a spring on the south-east side of the Links called "Lady Fife's Well," and the second is about two hundred paces east from the Grammar School. As soon as the mounds were completed the English opened a fire upon the besieged, which they continued several days, and they dilapidated the tower and steeple of St. Anthony's Preceptory, which stood at the south-west corner of the alley known as St. Anthony's Wynd. Notwithstanding this exploit, which was harmless to the garrison, the siege continued nearly a month without any prospect of a termination, and the French auxiliaries were reduced to the greatest distress for want of provisions. The patience of the English was at last exhausted, and they resolved to try a general assault, in which they were repulsed with considerable loss. When the Queen Regent, who was then labouring under a malady in Edinburgh Castle, which in a short time proved mortal, saw the French colours waving triumphantly on the walls of Leith, she is accused by Knox of expressing her joy by exclaiming—"Now will I go to mass, and praise God for that which mine eyes have seen!" After protracted hostilities of upwards of two months, which proves that the English artillery was of little use, both parties became weary of a contest which promised no advantage, and a treaty was adjusted, by which it was agreed that the French were to embark unmolested to France, and the English were to commence their march homewards on the same day. This concluded the siege, which almost ruined the trade of the port. The fortifications were demolished, and the east rampart was alone preserved many years afterwards under the designation of the "Ladies' Walk," which intimates that it was a promenade.

On the 20th of August, 1561, Queen Mary landed at Leith from France, and proceeded direct to Holyrood. No vestige of the then existing pier remains, though it undoubtedly occupied the site of the present harbour. The town was the scene of various important transactions during the minority of James VI.; the High Court of Justiciary was held in it from November 1571 to August 1572, and again in 1596-7;

and a kind of General Assembly in 1572. In 1578, a reconciliation was effected between the Earl of Morton and certain of the nobility, and they dined together in one of the hostelrys of the place. In 1584, Leith was appointed the principal market for herrings and other fish in the Frith of Forth. On the 6th of May, 1590, James VI. landed at the pier with his Queen from his matrimonial expedition to Denmark, after a voyage during which he was sorely beset by the incantations of witches.

The subsequent historical notices of Leith are comparatively few. In July 1610, thirty English sailors were executed within flood-mark for piracies in the Hebrides; in December, eight others; and in 1612, two. In 1639, at the commencement of the rebellion against Charles I., it was proposed to re-fortify the town, and considerable progress was made in the work. The Solemn League and Covenant was zealously subscribed at Leith in 1643; and two years afterwards the place was almost depopulated by an epidemic, which caused the death of nearly two thousand five hundred persons, most of whom were interred in the south-west of the Links.

Charles II. lodged in the stately old mansion, then the property of the Lords Balmerino, in the Kirkgate, between Charlotte Street and Coatfield Lane, on the night of his arrival in 1650, when he was invited to Scotland by the Parliament. After the battle of Dunbar that year Cromwell possessed himself of Leith, and subjected the inhabitants to a monthly assessment of 22*l.*, with a proportion of 2400 pounds Scots levied upon Edinburgh and the vicinity. When he returned to England a strong fort was constructed by his orders in North Leith by General Monk, on the ground immediately behind the warehouses of the docks; and a tenement near an arch, the only remaining memorial of this fort, is said to have been for some time Monk's residence. This fort was of a pentagonal form, consisting of five bastions, and was erected at the expense of 10,000*l.* In 1691, the town was the scene of the murder of a military officer named Elias Porret, Sieur de la Roche, a French Protestant refugee, in a tavern in the Kirkgate much frequented by the gallants of the day. The parties implicated in this brawl were the Viscount Tarbet, afterwards second Earl of Cromarty, an officer named Mowat, and another individual. In 1705, Captain Green of the Worcester and three of his men were executed within flood-mark at Leith for piracy and murder committed on the crew of a Scottish vessel on the coast of Malabar in 1783, which was discovered by the unguarded statements and speeches of the crew in their cups or quarrels, while the Worcester was detained under embargo at Burntisland.

In 1715, Cromwell's fort or citadel was occupied by Brigadier M'Intosh of Borlam, and a party of the adventurers in the Enterprize of that year. The fear of an attack by the Duke of Argyll, then in Edinburgh, induced the Brigadier to vacate the fort during the night, after plundering the Custom-House, and liberating all the prisoners in the jail. In 1778, Leith was partly the scene of the revolt of the Seaforth regiment of Highlanders, and in 1779, of a detachment of fifty men recruited for the 42d and 71st regiments, who refused to embark in the transports provided for their destination. A sergeant commanding a party of the South Fencibles from Edinburgh Castle, with orders to apprehend the mutineers, was mortally wounded, and his enraged comrades discharged a volley upon the Highlanders, twelve of whom were killed, and twenty were severely injured. This occurred in front of the houses between the Old Ship Tavern and the tenement known as the Britannia Inn, on that part of the street at the harbour called the Shore. In the same year the appearance of Paul Jones in the Frith excited trepidation, and some old pieces of artillery were elevated on piles of timber and stones in the fort to protect the town. A storm, however, drove the redoubtable pirate commander out of the Frith; and this commotion of the elements was long believed to be raised by the prayers of an eccentric Dissenting minister in Kirkcaldy, named Sheriff. The great event in the recent annals of Leith was the landing of George IV. on the 15th of August, 1822, when a magnificent procession issued from the port, and preceded the King to Holyrood. On Saturday, the 3d of September, 1842, her Majesty Queen Victoria and Prince Albert traversed the south of Leith, after a progress in Edinburgh and a visit to Dalmeny Park, and proceeded by that route to Dalkeith.

Various tenements are assigned as the residence of the Queen Regent during the siege in 1559, but it is now admitted that the real one was a fabric of elegant exterior in Queen Street, formerly the "Paunch Market," which nearly a century afterwards was occupied by Cromwell. A fine old tenement, containing a profusion of sculptured crowns, sceptres, and other decorations, between the end of the Tolbooth Wynd and St. Andrew Street, in a small court dignified with the name of the "Parliament Square," entered from the north side of the latter street, is alleged to have been the residence of Regent Lennox. The "King's Work," a group of ancient buildings, occasionally the abode of royalty, stood betwixt Bernard Street and the Broad

Wynd; and in the vicinity of "Little London," which is between Bernard Street and Quality Street, is the Timber Bourse, corrupted into "Timber Bush," completely changed in appearance. Lord Balmerino's mansion is already mentioned. The house in which John Home, the author of the tragedy of "Douglas," was born in 1722, was at the corner of Quality Street, and has been succeeded by new buildings. Home is interred in the parish burying-ground of South Leith, where a stone on the south wall of the church is erected to his memory.

The Preceptory or "Mansion" of St. Anthony, said to have been founded by Robert Logan, of Restalrig, in 1435, and the only religious establishment of the kind in Scotland, was on the south-west corner of St. Anthony's Wynd, and the only vestiges are some vaults.¹ In 1612 or 1614, the revenues of the Preceptory, which had been confiscated at the Reformation, were assigned to the endowment of the Hospital of James VI., which stood in the south-west corner of the parish churchyard, close to the Kirkgate street. The former grammar-school, and the prison called "Kintore," were also near the parish church. That edifice was constituted parochial by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1609,² when it was stated that the original parish church at Restalrig had been ruinous for "fifty years past;" that the other building had been the resort of the inhabitants during that period, and was most convenient for the parishioners.³ This is the substantial Gothic edifice in the Kirkgate dedicated to the Virgin, and known as St. Mary's Church, the nave of which was destroyed by the Earl of Hertford in 1544, and the choir at the Reformation. Although the date is not ascertained, it was erected before 1490, and the various additions in its former cruciform and present oblong state are said to have been at the expense of the Incorporated Trades of Leith, who were the founders and patrons of the church.⁴ It is an edifice of no great architectural pretensions, surrounded by a cemetery. John Logan, the author of a tragedy entitled "Runnymede," now forgotten, a volume of eloquent sermons, and several poetical effusions of very great merit, was also one of the ministers of Leith from 1773 to 1786.

The denizens of Leith were formerly noted for their superstitious credulity and eccentricities. An amusing account is preserved of a youth known as the "Fairy Boy," who had the gift of second-sight and prophetic powers, and who acted as drummer to the elves, who were believed to hold a weekly nocturnal gathering on the Calton Hill. At twelve o'clock at night the inhabitants of the Tolbooth Wynd, an old street leading from the Kirkgate to the Harbour, regularly heard with horror the thundering noise of a coach driven by a tall gaunt person without a head, and drawn by decapitated horses. This was known as the "twelve-o'clock coach," and was supposed to be occupied by a mysterious female connected with the unseen world.

A celebrated amusement at Leith was the ancient game of golf, played on the extensive common of the Links. Charles I. and the Duke of York, afterwards James II., and many distinguished persons, practised this game on the Links. About the middle of the eighteenth century flourished a group of lively old gentlemen, who made golf on Leith Links almost the sole business of their lives; and Smollett declares that, though they were all upwards of fourscore, they never retired to sleep before they had each imbibed the greater part of a gallon of claret. Previous to the erection of a tenement for their accommodation on the south side of the Links near the Easter Road, the golfers frequented a tavern on the west side of the Kirkgate, near the foot of Leith Walk, and closed the day with copious libations of claret.

But the great annual carnival at Leith was the horse-racing on the sands east of the pier, introduced at the Restoration, and transferred to Musselburgh in 1816, though attempted to be revived since 1839. The races were continued daily during one week, and were under the special patronage of the Town-Council of Edinburgh. It was usual for one of the city officials to walk every forenoon from the Council Chambers to Leith, bearing a purse profusely decorated with ribbons suspended from the top of a pole, accompanied by the drummer and an escort of the Town-Guard in full costume. The grotesque procession gathered strength

¹ The seal of the Preceptory is preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh. It exhibits a figure of St. Anthony in a hermit's mantle, with a book in one hand, a staff in the other, a sow at his foot, and the strange contrast of a cross over his head, with the inscription—"S. COMMUNE PRECEPTORIE SANCTI ANTHONII PROPE LEICHT."

² Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. iv. p. 442.

³ In 1536, this edifice was considered or had been constituted the parish church, and the incumbent had feued the glebe, church lands, and manse of Easter Restalrig, where he had ceased to reside. It

is already stated that the Calton Hill was in the barony of Wester Restalrig.—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Edinburghshire, p. 777.

⁴ In a charter of James III., dated 1490, is a confirmation of a grant by Peter Falconer to a chaplain and his successors for celebrating divine service at the altar of St. Peter in "*nova ecclesia Beata Mariae in Leith.*"—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Edinburghshire, p. 777. The Incorporated Trades of Leith supported several altars in their church.

in the progress down Leith Walk, obtaining a constant accession of youths who were on the outlook for the appearance of this accredited civic body, and who preferred "going doon wi' the purse" to any other time. Such a dense mass finally preceded and followed the officials, that before they approached Leith, the only recognisable feature of their presence was the purse on the top of the pole. The "Town Rats" were also daily ordered down to the starting-post in full costume, and their march is ludicrously described by Fergusson. Saturday was the most joyous, drunken, and outrageous day of this extraordinary scene, which fortunately is now only a matter of local reminiscence.

The only access from South Leith to North Leith was by two drawbridges across the Harbour or Water of Leith. In that quarter are the Docks, the Custom-House, and the Artillery Fort, in the direction of the fishing village of Newhaven, the villas of Trinity, and the Duke of Buccleuch's Pier at Granton. The first dock was constructed in 1710, and is behind a tenement in the vicinity of Bridge Street, displaying the date 1622. On the site of the present Custom-House, which is an elegant modern building, was built the "Fury," the first line-of-battle ship constructed in Scotland after the Union. Immense sums have been expended in improving the Harbour, and hitherto without any commensurate benefit for the outlay, as the place has no natural advantages. In North Leith, a few houses near Cromwell's fort, the old parish church dedicated to St. Ninian, the diminutive spire of which is above the upper drawbridge, and a straggling street, comprised the whole of the suburb at the Union. North Leith is first mentioned in 1493, when Robert Bellenden, Abbot of Holyrood, who built a bridge over the river, founded a chapel for the accommodation of the inhabitants, the charter of which was confirmed by James IV. that same year. The district was constituted a separate parish by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1606. Before that year the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood was the parish church, and the whole district was included in the barony of Broughton. The inhabitants were then rated at one thousand communicants, who had erected the church on the north side of the "Brig of Leith" at their own charges, twenty years previously, and who declared that the church of Holyrood-house was most inconveniently situated, and "very far distant from their habitations." A chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is said to have occupied the site of Cromwell's citadel, every vestige of which has disappeared.

Nearly a mile eastward of Leith, and the same distance from the Palace of Holyrood, is the little church of Restalrig, within a cemetery, close to the decayed hamlet of that name, behind the cavalry barracks of Piershill, and the North British Railway, which passes over the old spring of excellent water known as St. Margaret's Well, the Gothic architecture of which, the groined roof supported by a pillar in the centre, is fortunately preserved, though the access is incommoded by the buildings of the Railway opposite the villa of Parson's Green. James III. founded this church for a fraternity of secular clergy, including residences for the dean and prebendaries, who were eight in number at the Reformation. In his reign, by the papal authority, the church of Lasswade, six miles south of Edinburgh, was detached from the church of St. Salvador in St. Andrews, Fife, and annexed to the collegiate church of Restalrig. The establishment was, it is said, improved by James IV., and completed by James V., but the parsonage of Restalrig was a different and earlier foundation; for in 1291, Adam of St. Edmund's was the incumbent, and obtained a writ to the Sheriff of Edinburgh to deliver to him his lands and rights. In 1296, the same Adam of St. Edmund's swore fealty to Edward I. in the then church of Restalrig. The parsonage continued after the Reformation, and evidently conferred the name of Parson's Green on the adjoining property at the east base of Arthur's Seat. Restalrig was then a distinct parish in which South Leith was included. In 1345, the patronage of the church was confirmed to Thomas Logan by William Landale, Bishop of St. Andrews. John Sinclair, Dean of Restalrig and Bishop of Brechin, performed the ceremonial of the marriage of Queen Mary to Lord Darnley in the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood in 1565. The church, which is a plain Gothic structure, was ordered to be demolished on the 21st of December, 1561, as a "monument of idolatry." The parishioners were at the same time enjoined to resort to St. Mary's, in South Leith, which has been since the parish church; and in 1609, the legal rights of the church and parish of Restalrig, with all the revenues and pertinents, were conferred on the said St. Mary's chapel, which was declared to be the legal parish of South Leith. The church of Restalrig stood roofless till 1837, when it was substantially restored.

Connected with the church on the south-west corner is a vault, erroneously said to be the cemetery of the Earls of Moray, though that family had no connexion with the property or barony of Restalrig

till after 1746. This vault was never opened without permission of the Earl of Moray. The interior is described as circular, supported by a central pillar, the whole richly ornamented with Gothic sculpture.¹ This intimates that the vault was originally used as a vestment-room by the dean and prebendaries, or it may have been the place of sepulture of the Logan family, as it certainly was of the Elphinstones, Lords Balmerino. John, second Lord, conspicuous in the Covenanting troubles in the reign of Charles I., was interred in the vault, which in 1650 was forcibly entered by Cromwell's soldiers, who violated his Lordship's grave, and appropriated the leaden coffin, and all others they could find, to manufacture bullets. John, third Lord, who died in 1704; his wife, Lady Margaret Campbell, only daughter of the stern Covenanting first Earl of Loudon, whom he married in Holyrood-house in 1649, and who died in 1666; their son John, fourth Lord, who died in 1734; and John, fifth Lord, were interred in this vault.

The surrounding cemetery has been long used as a place of burial, and was the only one for many years near Edinburgh, after the Revolution, in which the members of the deposed Episcopal Church of Scotland, and those of the Church of England, were allowed the last offices of religion as prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer. On this account Restalrig was held in peculiar veneration by the members of the depressed Communion. Dr. Alexander Rose, the last survivor of the Bishops, consecrated before the Revolution, was interred in the then roofless church in 1720, though no stone indicates the spot, and an inscription on a monument in the Canongate churchyard intimates that Arthur Ross, Archbishop of St. Andrews, was interred in his own family tomb at Restalrig in 1704. His daughter Anne became the second wife of the fourth Lord Balmerino, and was the mother of the unfortunate Arthur, sixth and last Lord, attainted and beheaded on Tower Hill in 1746 for his connexion with the Enterprise of 1745. A plain tombstone, with an inscription, near the door of the church, marks the grave of William Brougham, Esq., father of Lord Brougham. Several eminent, and not a few eccentric individuals, are interred at Restalrig.²

The village of Restalrig is now reduced to a few decayed houses. All vestiges of the residences of the dean and prebendaries have disappeared; but opposite the east end of the church, forming the lower walls of a plain modern tenement, is part of an edifice said to have been a castle of the Barons of Restalrig. Lady Balmerino,³ the widow of the last Lord, continued to reside in Restalrig, and died there in 1765.

At the death of William the Lion the property of Restalrig was possessed by a family of the same designation, and John de Restalrig was its baron at the death of Alexander III. In the reign of Robert Bruce the barony was acquired by the family of Logan by marriage. Robert Logan of Restalrig, who, it was discovered after his death, was implicated in the Gowrie Conspiracy in 1600, and who seems to have died a bankrupt, sold in 1604 his barony of Restalrig to James, first Lord Balmerino, and it continued in that family till the forfeiture in 1746. It was then purchased by James, seventh Earl of Moray, a descendant in the female line of the Lords Balmerino.

A short distance to the north of Restalrig is the Lake of Lochend, about half a mile in circumference, from which Leith was long supplied with water; and on a precipitous rock on the east side, close to the modern farm-house, are the ruins of a castellated edifice, said to have been the residence of the Logans.

Close to Restalrig is the Cavalry Barrack of Piershill, at the hamlet of Jock's Lodge, on the road to Haddington and Berwick-upon-Tweed, nearly two miles from Edinburgh. It is related that the name of Jock's Lodge was derived from a mendicant who early in the eighteenth century domiciled in a hovel

¹ Remarks on Local Scenery and Manners in Scotland during the Years 1799 and 1800, by Sir John Stoddart, LL.B. 8vo. London, 1801, vol. i. p. 91.

² An urn of white marble on a black slab, with a short inscription, is inserted in the wall of the interior of Restalrig church, to the memory of Mr. Louis Cauvin, long an eminent teacher of the French language in Edinburgh, and founder of the educational Hospital near the neighbouring village of Duddingstone, designated by his name. In the cemetery was interred a person of the name of Henry Prentice, who deserves notice as the first who is said to have introduced the cultivation of potatoes into the Lothians, about 1746. He is described as an eccentric individual, who travelled as a pedlar. In his declining years he pensioned himself on the Canongate Workhouse, by giving a

certain sum to the managers, and engaging to leave his effects to that institution, on the condition that the managers would defray his funeral expenses, part of which he provided by keeping his coffin above his bed. He caused a tombstone to be erected in the Canongate churchyard, on the west wall, with a laconic inscription, long before he died at Restalrig, and the boys continually exasperated him by defacing his mortuary memorial. Prentice resided a long time within the precincts of the Sanctuary of Holyrood, and was unmarried. He is said to have suggested the culture of potatoes to Lord Somerville, who was the first to plant them in a field on his property of Drum, near Edinburgh. No one would at first purchase them, when Prentice drove them in carts to Edinburgh for sale.

³ Lady Balmerino was Margaret, daughter of Captain Chalmers.

on the spot, but this must be an error, as the locality was designated by its present name in Cromwell's time.¹ Piershill is said to be so called from Colonel Piers, who commanded a cavalry regiment stationed at Edinburgh in the reign of George II., and who occupied a villa on the rising ground on which the apartments for the officers are erected, overlooking Restalrig. The Barrack was built in 1793, and the stones were procured from a freestone quarry at Craigmillar. The edifices form three sides of a quadrangle, and are delightfully situated amid villas and beautiful scenery near the eastern base of Arthur's Seat, between the North British Railway and the public road.

Nearly a mile west of Leith is the fishing village of Newhaven, a place of some antiquity, and locally noted for the peculiar habits and customs of its piscatory denizens, who form a kind of isolated community, intermarrying among themselves, and evincing many of the characteristics of a foreign origin. In the fifteenth century the village is said to have contained a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the place was designated "Our Lady's Port of Grace." A small part of the wall of this chapel is in the burying-ground, in the centre of the village. James IV. was apparently the founder of Newhaven, and conferred on the inhabitants certain burghal privileges; but in 1510 he granted to the Town-Council of Edinburgh a right to his "new port of Newhaven," which conferred on the civic authorities the complete superiority, and enabled them to pursue the system of thralldom which they exercised over Leith.² In 1511, James IV. built at Newhaven the celebrated ship called the "Great Michael," which was larger than any vessel in the navy of England or of France, and he resorted almost daily to the village to witness the progress of the work. All the oak forests in Fife, with the exception of that at Falkland, were exhausted in the construction, and large supplies of timber were brought from Norway. This vessel is described as two hundred and forty feet in length by thirty-six feet in breadth, its sides ten feet thick, with thirty-five pieces of artillery, three hundred mariners, and one hundred and twenty gunners, with accommodation for one thousand warriors. The expense was 7000*l.* sterling, a large sum for the time, exclusive of the artillery, which would be of rude formation; and this money, as the event proved, was literally thrown away. The ship never was of any use, and England soon taught the Scottish people a lesson at Flodden, which they had long cause to remember.

Newhaven was formerly an active, bustling village, the old part inhabited by the fishermen and their families. The place was a favourite resort of the citizens of Edinburgh for sea-bathing, and especially to partake of "fish dinners." The fisherwomen, who, in conjunction with those of Fisherrow at Musselburgh, supply the neighbouring city with the produce of the industry of their husbands and fathers, are noted for the loads they carry in their willow baskets on their backs, their peculiar dress, and their whisky-drinking; and yet the latter habit seems to have no injurious effects on their health, which may be probably explained on the principle that the exertion they daily encounter, and their constant exposure to the weather, neutralise the effects of their libations. The sea has made rapid encroachments in this quarter, and in reality Newhaven must have been in former times situated on a bay, as it is well known that a tract of land on the shore, known as the Links, has disappeared.

The Chain Pier and villas of Trinity are a short distance west of Newhaven, in the immediate vicinity of the Railway to Edinburgh and Granton. The Chain Pier was constructed by Captain Sir Samuel Brown, R.N., in 1821, at the expense of 4000*l.* It was used for steam-boat traffic, as was also Newhaven Pier; both of which are now entirely superseded by Granton Pier. That of Newhaven, like Leith harbour, is tidal, or dry at low water, which caused many inconveniences to passengers.

A mile west from Newhaven and Trinity is the magnificent Granton Pier, erected at the sole expense of the Duke of Buccleuch, who is proprietor of the adjoining estate, now called Caroline Park. This great work, the finest landing-place in the Frith of Forth, and accessible to its jetties at any state of the tide,³ was begun in November 1835, and finished in 1845, though partially opened on the 28th of June, 1838, the day of the coronation of her Majesty Queen Victoria, by Lord John Scott, the brother of the Duke, in presence of an

¹ Nicoll's Diary, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. p. 21.

² By this grant of James IV. a right was given to the Town-Council of Edinburgh to the "new port, designated Newhaven, lately made by the said King on the sea-coast, with the lands thereunto belonging, lying between the Chapel of St. Nicholas and the lands of Wardie Brae." These lands are immediately east of Granton Pier. — Parliamentary Reports on Municipal Corporations in Scotland—Leith, folio, vol. ii. p. 205.

³ As a proof of the advance of the tide in some parts of the shore in the vicinity of Granton Pier, vestiges of a sea-wall were discovered within low-water mark, which must have extended along a margin of green turf forming the boundary of the beach. This sea-wall is supposed to have been constructed by the great John, Duke of Argyll, who, at the Enterprise of 1715, was the proprietor of Caroline Park. — New Statistical Account of Scotland—Edinburghshire, p. 595.



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From an Original Drawing by C. Stanfield, R.A.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

immense concourse of spectators. In commemoration of the day, one of the jetties on the west side of the Pier, extending to ninety feet, is named "Victoria Jetty." The length of the Pier is 1700 feet, the breadth varying from 80 to 100 feet. A massive wall, which has entrances to each side of the Pier, runs up the centre; and the whole structure is of beautiful masonry, the stones taken from an extensive quarry on the Duke of Buccleuch's property a mile westward. A slip 325 feet in length, on each side of the Pier, is constructed for shipping and landing cattle. In 1847 the Pier contained ten jetties, two low-water slips, eleven warehouses, all since increased. From sunset to sunrise a brilliant red light is exhibited at the northern extremity of this magnificent structure, which will remain a lasting memorial of the Duke of Buccleuch, to whom Scotland is under a debt of gratitude for this undertaking.¹ Granton Pier is the direct channel of intercourse with the opposite Pier at Burntisland, about five miles across, erected by the Duke of Buccleuch and Sir John Gladstone, Bart. The Pier is in connexion with the entire net of railways which extend to the extreme north of Scotland.

Granton is noted in Scottish history as the locality where the English disembarked under the Earl of Hertford, afterwards the Protector Duke of Somerset, in 1544. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert landed at Granton on the morning of Thursday, the 1st of September, 1842.² On the morning of the 15th of that month, Granton Pier was the scene of the royal embarkation for England.

EDINBURGH: THE FRITH OF FORTH.

THE Frith of Forth, the "Bodotria" of the Romans, and the "Scottish Sea" of the ancient Scottish writers, is one of the largest estuaries of the German Ocean, and peninsulates the country to a breadth, between Alloa and Dunbarton, of only thirty-two miles. The width of the estuary from St. Abb's Head on the south, to Fifeness on the north, is calculated at from thirty-five to forty miles. In this part of the German Ocean, as is the case generally, the depth is comparatively shallow, and the bottom encumbered by extensive banks, one of which extends not less than one hundred miles eastward at the entrance of the estuary. After passing the Island of May and the Bass Rock the breadth varies, and the Frith expands into a capacious basin between the counties of Edinburgh and Fife, from Musselburgh to Largo at least twenty miles wide, and from Gulane Point, on the opposite side of the bay, near North Berwick, to Buckhaven, about twelve miles. Above this the Frith contracts for ten miles in the direction of Queensferry, where it is not two miles broad. Westward the estuary is from three to four miles, and at Alloa it may be said to terminate, as the navigation above that port is strictly in the river Forth. The channel is on the south or Linlithgowshire side.

The tide flows to within a short distance of Stirling Bridge, which is nearly eighty miles distant from the German Ocean. Near Stirling the flow is interrupted by a rock crossing the Forth, on which is a rise of five feet at spring tides. Above Queensferry occur the singular tidal irregularities locally designated

¹ The Duke of Buccleuch is supposed to have expended on Granton Pier, including the erection of the splendid hotel, residences for the officers, and other accommodation, the sum of at least 160,000*l.* The gas, which extends to the end of the Pier, is brought from Leith; and the water for supplying the houses forming the nucleus of the town, and the vessels frequenting the Pier, is obtained from the Corstorphine Hills. — *New Statistical Account of Scotland — Edinburghshire*, p. 601, 602. By the Act 7 William IV. c. 15, the Duke of Buccleuch is entitled to levy certain dues on all persons entering within the gates of the Pier, and on cattle, horses, carriages, and all kinds of conveyances and goods. The passengers on the Edinburgh and Northern Railways were exempted from these dues, and also from payment of the ferry from Granton to Burntisland, both of which were included in the railway fares.

² On that memorable occasion "the royal yacht," says Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart., "bearing the sacred person of the sovereign, approached the Granton Pier, towed majestically by the Black Eagle and Shearwater steamers. At about half-past eight o'clock the yacht reached the eastern side of the Pier. The moment the gangway,

covered with scarlet cloth, was placed so as to produce a bridge of connexion between the pier and the ship, Sir Robert Peel hastened on board, and advanced to that part of the quarter-deck where the Queen and the Prince were standing. When he had retired, the Duke of Buccleuch approached, as Lord-Lieutenant of the county. The royal carriages were quickly landed; and everything being in readiness, her Majesty was conducted to the gangway by Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, and at about five minutes before nine o'clock, whilst the royal standard flew up to the flagstaff at the end of the pier, Queen Victoria was handed on shore by Prince Albert." Two hundred men of the 53d Regiment, from the Castle, under the command of Major Hill, formed the guard of honour; and her Majesty and the Prince, escorted by cavalry, passed through the city from Granton by Inverleith, Brandon Street, Pitt Street, Dundas Street, Prince's Street, and the Calton Hill, to Dalkeith House, "followed by a miscellaneous crowd, where the handsome private equipages of distinguished individuals mingled with vehicles of a meaner description, all whipping and spurring after the Queen in glorious confusion."—*Memorial of the Royal Progress in Scotland in 1842, 4to, 1843, p. 80.*

“leakies;” the explanation of which is, that before high water the tide begins to ebb, and before low water it begins to flow, then turns, and ebbs till low water. The contraction at Queensferry is supposed to be the cause of these phenomena.

The islands of the Frith of Forth have an important influence on the current, the depositions from the water, and the encroachments on the shore. The May and the Bass are the most conspicuous near the entrance, and higher up Inchkeith affects the tides, channels, bays, and banks, for several miles. Between Inchkeith and Queensferry are Cramond Island on the south coast, Inchcolm on the Fife side, Inchmickery and Inchgarvie between south and north Queensferry, and farther up is an islet known as Preston Island, dry at low water, in the bay off the village of Torryburn.

The depth of the Frith of Forth below the Island of May is said to be upwards of thirty fathoms, declining to fourteen or fifteen fathoms at the northern and southern shores. West from Elie Point the greatest depth is about twenty-eight fathoms, from which, in the middle of the Channel to Inchkeith, it varies from sixteen to seventeen fathoms. The middle bank extends from Inchkeith to Hound Point, and the north channel is on the north of the bank, varying in depth from sixteen to twenty-five fathoms. On the south side of Inchkeith, in the vicinity of Leith, are numerous projecting rocks, between which and the middle bank is the south channel, from three to sixteen fathoms deep. The greatest depth between South Queensferry and Inchgarvie island, and any part above the May, is thirty-seven fathoms. The basin gradually shallows upwards, though the depth is very considerable opposite Kincardine and Alloa, where the roadstead and anchorage are excellent.

The harbours are numerous in the Frith of Forth, of which only those of Burmtisland and Alloa on the north, and Granton on the south side, are approachable at low water. All the others are merely tidal, and those on the Fife coast are of hazardous access in stormy weather. The only harbour of any importance in the mouth of the Frith is that of Dunbar, the improvement and extension of which were commenced in 1842. Along the coasts of the Frith are communities of hardy and industrious fishermen; and their avocations, especially that of the “deep-sea fishing,” are the sources of considerable wealth, which could be much increased if they would relinquish their obstinate prejudices.

The fishes of the Frith of Forth are scientifically arranged into “osseous” and “cartilaginous,” the former of which comprise four orders, and the latter three, all known by most outrageous and pedantic names. Divested of the technical phraseology of the learned in what is called “ichthyology,” such fish as cod, skate, flounders, haddocks, mackerel, salmon, and herrings, are in abundance at particular seasons. Upwards of three hundred kinds are found,¹ and the estuary is occasionally visited by certain strangers, some of which are captured by the fishermen, and duly chronicled at the time as wonders of the deep. Sometimes a luckless “phoca,” or seal, suffers for its curiosity in entering the Frith, and occasionally a whale appears, to become the gossip of the neighbouring citizens of Edinburgh, and of the denizens of the towns and villages on its shores.² The other important productions of the Frith for domestic use are oysters, mussels, lobsters, and other shell-fish. The oyster-beds are chiefly opposite Prestonpans, Portobello, Newhaven, and Granton on the south side, and Aberdour on the north. They are the property of the Marquis of Abercorn, the City of Edinburgh, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Morton, and the Earl of Moray. Those belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earls of Morton and Moray, and the City of Edinburgh, are rented by the fishermen of Newhaven.

The view of Edinburgh from the Frith of Forth is remarkably grand and impressive, and the estuary is considered by competent judges to be equal to the scenery of the Bay of Naples. The towns on the Fife side, from near Inverkeithing on the west, to Crail at the “East Neuk,” or Fifeness, are seen reposing at the

¹ Dr. Patrick Neill of Edinburgh published, in 1805, a catalogue of the fishes of the coast of Scotland, in the first volume of the Wernerian Society's Memoirs, and enumerated seventy-six species. Dr. Richard Parnell contributed a list in the fourteenth volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1839, which is not given as complete, but presents one hundred and twenty-three specimens, about forty of which were added by the learned writer from personal observation, three not previously described as fishes of Scotland, and two are new to the British Fauna.

² An account of an extraordinary capture of a shark appeared in the “Edinburgh Courant” of June 18, 1842. This shark was caught

in the turbot nets off the Island of May, and was five feet in length, with six rows of teeth. In its stomach were found a small tin canister, containing a seal with a beautifully engraved Roman head, thirty-four coins, consisting of British (Charles II. and George II.), French, Dutch, Roman, Brazilian, Hindostance, and others, apparently Chinese or East Indian, but so corroded as to be undecipherable; an old map of Scotland by Jeffrey; a portion of the “Edinburgh Evening Courant,” dated 9th September, 1811, in which two of the silver coins, one of them of 1671, were folded; and a piece of the “London Courier,” dated 10th May, 1811, in which the seal was enveloped.

base of the high grounds which rise more or less precipitously from the shore. The Ochil Hills are in the back-ground on the north-west, with a view of the summit of Ben-Lomond and others of the Highland mountains. On the north are the volcanic elevations behind Burntisland, and inland the two Lomonds. Eastward is the conical mountain of Largo Law, commencing a ridge which slopes toward Fifeness, and is only varied by the elevation of Keltie Law. On the Edinburgh and Haddington side are the Scottish metropolis, Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Crags, the Calton Hill, Corstorphine Hills, the Pentland and Moorfoot range, in the back-ground; the Lammermuir range, the towns of Leith, Portobello, Musselburgh, and Prestonpans, the seat of Gosford House belonging to the Earl of Wemyss, the conical hill of North Berwick Law, beyond which appears the "sea-rock immense, amazing Bass." Farther inland the Byre or Byrie Hill to the south, in the vicinity of the town of Haddington, is indicated by a pillar on its summit, to the memory of John fourth Earl of Hopetoun, one of the heroes of the Peninsular War, in which he is conspicuous as General Sir John Hope.¹

The basin of the Frith of Forth and of the river Forth includes the counties of Haddington, Edinburgh, Linlithgowshire, part of Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire, and parts of the counties of Kinross and Fife. The parishes of Culross and Tulliallan, which are on the north shore, between Fifeshire and Clackmannanshire, and form an isolated portion of Perthshire, must be added.

¹ A pillar in Linlithgowshire, and another in Fifeshire, commemorative of this gallant soldier, are within view of the pillar on Byrie Hill. They were erected at the expense of the several counties, in all of which the Earls of Hopetoun possess extensive estates.