

ABERDEEN.

Access by Rail: The most direct route to Aberdeen from Edinburgh and the South (East Coast) is by the L.N.E.R., *via* the Forth and Tay Bridges, Dundee and Arbroath, joining the L.M.S. route from Perth near Montrose.

Road: *via* Perth and Stonehaven (*see* pp. 346-57); from Blairgowrie *via* Ballater and Deeside (*see* p. 357). Buses run to Aberdeen from Edinburgh and Glasgow *via* Stirling and Perth.

Steamboats to or from Edinburgh (Leith), North of Scotland ports, Newcastle, Hull, and London. Full particulars respecting fares and times of sailing may be obtained from the *North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company*, Aberdeen, *Aberdeen, Newcastle and Hull Steamship Co.*, Aberdeen, and the *Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company*, Aberdeen.

Angling.—Free or nominally free angling in the lower part of the *Dee*, *Don*, *Ullan* and *Ugie* are within easy reach. Information can be had from the various tackle makers in the city. Excellent sea-fishing.

Bathing.—Corporation Bathing Station on the sea front, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile by tram from Castle Street.

Distances.—Banchory, 18 m.; Banff, 46 m.; Birmingham, 434 m.; Braemar, 58 m.; Edinburgh, 131 m. (by Forth and Tay Bridges, 152 m. (*via* Stirling); 159 m. (by Larbert and Forfar); Elgin, 66 m.; Glasgow, 152 m.; Inverness, 108 m.; Liverpool, 356 m.; London, 540 m.; Perth, 90 m.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Golf.—The principal courses are: *Balgownie Links*, 18-holes, 2 miles from the centre of the city, the magnificent private course of the *Royal Aberdeen Club*. Visitors (introduced): 3s. 6d. per round; 5s. per day; 15s. per week. Adjoining it on the north is the course of the *Murcar Club*. Visitors: 2s. 6d. a day; Sundays, 5s.; Saturdays and public holidays, 3s. 6d. per day; 7s. 6d. per week (10s. 6d. including Sunday); 14s. per fortnight; 21s. per month. There is also a ladies' course of 9 holes. The 18-hole course of the *Balnagask Club*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles by bus: 1s. a round or 2s. a day; 7s. 6d. per week; 12s. 6d. per fortnight; £1 per month. There are also two *Municipal Courses*—the old course (18 holes) on the King's Links alongside the Beach Esplanade (6d. per round), and the new inland course at Hazlehead, 3 miles west from Castle Street (18 and 9 holes; tram service; 1s. per round). At Bieldside is the course of the *Deeside Club*: 3s. day, 12s. 6d. week.

Guide Book.—See the Ward, *Lock Guide to Aberdeen and Deeside*.

Hotels.—*Palace* (100 rooms; R. & b., fr. 12s. 6d.), *Imperial* (100 rooms, R. & b., 10s. 6d.), *Caledonian* (64 rooms), *Douglas* (60 rooms; R. & b., 10s.), *Station*, (60 rooms; R. & b. fr. 9s. 6d.); *Windsor (temp.)*, *Crown Street* (80 rooms; R. & b., 6s. 6d.); *North British (temp.)* (14 rooms; R. & b., 7s. 6d.), *Osborn (temp.)* (11 rooms; R. & b., 7s. 6d.), *Lennox (private)*, *Forsyth (temp.)*, and many others.

Population.—167,259.

Post Office.—The head office (hours, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for sale of stamps) is in Crown Street, on south side of Union Street, half a mile west of City Cross. The telegraph office is always open.

Library (Public) in Rosemount Viaduct. Reading-room open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Reference Department, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Various branch libraries and reading-rooms throughout the city.

Tennis, Bowls, etc., in public parks.

Theatres.—*His Majesty's Theatre* in Rosemount Viaduct; *Palace Theatre* and *Tivoli* (varieties), Guild Street. *Beach Pavilion* in summer. Cinemas.

Tramways connect the most important parts of the city; and there are also numerous buses connecting with places around. For a sightseeing tour the "Circular Route" is useful.

ABERDEEN is at once an ancient Cathedral and University city, a very popular seaside resort and a busy seaport with a thriving fishing industry. It lies

between the *Don* and the *Dee*, the mouth of the latter river forming also the entrance to the Harbour.

The principal thoroughfare is **Union Street**, running south-west to north-east, and ending in Castle Street, on the north side of which are the Town House, Sheriff Court House and the County Buildings. By Park Street and Constitution Street one comes to the Beach Esplanade, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and extending beside the sands from the mouth of the *Dee* to the mouth of the *Don*. Here are the public golf links, tennis courts, a bathing station, pavilions and other accessories of Aberdeen's pleasure beach; and turning southward by the Esplanade and then along one of the byways on the right one comes to the busy quays surrounding the Harbour. Such a tour includes most of the Aberdonian "lions"; notable exceptions being St. Machar's Cathedral, King's College and the Old Brig o' Balgownie, which lie to the north and are reached by way of King Street, branching off from Castle Street at the beautiful **Mercat Cross**, the finest piece of work of the kind and age in Scotland. The Cross was erected in 1686 and was designed as a reproduction of an old Edinburgh cross, the destruction of which was lamented by Sir Walter Scott in *Marmion*. The graceful central column is crowned by a unicorn bearing a shield charged with the Scottish lion.

Beside the Cross is a statue of the fifth and last Duke of Gordon, who as Marquis of Huntly was Colonel of the 42nd Highlanders, he whom Scott addressed in the well-known lines:

"Cock o' the North, my Huntly braw,
Whaur are you with the Forty-twa'?"

The **Municipal Buildings**, crowned by a fine tower, are a few yards westward of the statue (*daily*, 10-4; *Saturday*, 10-1; *tower is a fine viewpoint*). There are some good pictures by Jamesone, "The Vandyke of Scotland" (1587-1644), Wm. Dyce, R.A., John Phillip, R.A., and Sir George Reid, P.R.S.A., all Aberdonians. The Burgh Records are the most complete collection of civic documents in Scotland. At the east end of the Municipal Buildings is the old **Tolbooth**, the former Townhouse. The tower dates from 1616; the spire and clock are more modern copies of the originals.

Behind the Municipal Buildings, and fronting on Broad Street, is—

Marischal College.

Visiting Hours.—Mitchell Hall and Portrait Gallery (*admission, 3d.*) and Mitchell Tower (*admission, 3d.*), July to September, 11-12, 2.30-3.30. Other months, 11-12; Saturday, 11-12, 2.30-3.30. Tickets to be had from the Sacrist, to left on entering the Quadrangle.
The Geology and Anthropology Museums are open daily (*free*).

This fine pile, 420 feet in breadth and 548 in depth, and with an array of soaring pinnacles, is probably the largest and most imposing granite building in the world. The style of architecture is Gothic, of the English Perpendicular period.

The site once held a monastery and gardens belonging to the Order of Grey Friars, who were dispossessed; their property being assigned by James VI to George Keith, fifth Earl Marischal, who, in 1593, converted the monastery into a college. The present buildings were begun in 1840, but have in recent years been greatly extended.

Entrance from Broad Street is by a finely carved gateway giving on to a courtyard, from the far end of which rises the *Mitchell Tower* (220 feet), which gives entry to the central building.

Over the inner door, in quaint lettering and still quainter spelling, is the motto of the Keith Marischal family: *They haif said. Quhat say thay? Lat thame say.*

The story goes that the enrichment of the Earl Marischal with the spoils of the religious orders excited the indignation of the people, and troubled the conscience of his wife. But her husband only laughed at her forebodings, and to show his contempt for them and for the reproaches of the people took for his motto the defiant words quoted above.

The **Mitchell Hall** is very fine, granite and carved oak being well blended, and giving rich effect to the coloured glass in the windows.

Until 1860 the Marischal College formed a separate University, but in that year the **University of Aberdeen** was constituted by the amalgamation of Marischal College with **King's College**, which lies on the northern outskirts of the city, and is prominent for the delightful open lantern surmounting the tower of its Chapel, the only part of the original buildings remaining. Founded in 1495 by Bishop Elphinstone, King's College owes its name to the favour of James IV. The Chapel is a good example of Scottish Flamboyant Gothic of the early sixteenth century. The stalls and the choir screens are finely carved. The Library, containing some 190,000 volumes, is worth visiting.

The University of Aberdeen has some 30 professors, a large number of lecturers, and some 1,400 students. King's College is mainly devoted to Arts and Divinity, the Marischal College being chiefly concerned with Science, Medicine, Law, Engineering, Agriculture, and Commerce.

The curious Oriental gateway of *Powis House*, opposite King's College, was the outcome of intense Byron-worship, which was the vogue about a century ago.

Up till 1891, when an Amalgamation Act was passed, Aberdeen consisted of two separate burghs, Aberdeen proper and what was known as **Old Aberdeen**, in which are situated St. Machar Cathedral and King's College. Originally merely the precincts of the Cathedral, Old Aberdeen was in 1498 erected into a Burgh of Barony, and for nearly four centuries it remained a separate burgh with its own municipality.

A little north of King's College is—

St. Machar Cathedral,

(Entrance by the gate beside the Sexton's lodge, at which application should be made when the building is found closed.)

now consisting of nave and aisles only, built of granite, and used as the parish church of Old Machar.

The building occupies the site of a rude church, said to have been erected about 570 by St. Machar, one of Columba's contemporaries, who, according to tradition, was sent towards the northern part of the land of the Picts, with instructions to proceed until he came to a spot where the river took the form of a bishop's crook, and there he was to found a church.

The existing structure was begun about 1366 and completed in 1532. The most striking external features are the twin battlemented towers with short spires, at the west end, and the round-headed portal and the seven-lighted window of the west end. Internally, there is the flat ceiling of panelled oak, "with its eight-and-forty shields, glittering with the heraldries of the Pope (Leo X), the Emperor (Charles V), St. Margaret, the Kings and Princes of Christendom, the Bishops and the Earls of Scotland." In a richly carved niche in the south transept, now open to the sky, is the tomb of Bishop Gavin Dunbar (1519-32), but the effigy upon it is not the original. John Barbour (c. 1316-95), author of *The Bruce*, was Archdeacon of the cathedral for some forty years, and is here buried.

The third "lion" in this northern outskirts of the city is **The Auld Brig o' Balgownie**, or old Bridge of Don, a picturesque structure noteworthy as being the oldest first-class bridge in Scotland still in full use. It spans the river with a high, single-pointed Gothic arch, 57 feet wide, and was erected early in the fourteenth century. In 1605 Sir Alexander Hay devised for its maintenance a small property producing £2 5s. 8½d. a year, but so great became the increase in the value of the legacy that the proceeds sufficed for the erection of the New Bridge, and the capital now amounts to some £30,000.

Not a little of the interest which the Old Bridge excites must be attributed to Byron's resuscitation, in a note to *Don Juan*, of an old prophecy attributed to Thomas the Rhymer:

"Brig o' Balgownie, wight's your wa',
Wi' a wife's ae son, and a mear's ae foal,
Doun ye shall fa'!"

Westward of the Municipal Buildings, in Union Street, is the building known as the **East and West Churches**, and which at the Reformation was the largest parish church in Scotland. It was then divided into separate churches, but each half has been rebuilt since. North of the churches are *Robert Gordon's Colleges*, now a secondary day school and technical college; the **Art Gallery and Industrial Museum** (daily, 10-5; Saturdays, 10-9; Sundays, 2-5), with a large collection of paintings, engravings and sculpture and a series of artists' self-portraits probably unique in this country; *Gray's School of Art* (gallery open daily, 10-4; Saturdays, 10-1), the **Theatre** and the **Public Library**.

The **Fish Market**, when in "full cry," is by no means the least interesting spot in Aberdeen. The best time to come is at 8 a.m., when often as much as 1,000 tons of fish are auctioned, but during July and August an equally interesting sight is provided throughout the day by the herring industry. Few ports in the world have as large a trade in white fish and herrings. In recent years the annual value of the fish landed has exceeded £2,000,000. Aberdeen is also the chief Scottish port for the White Sea and Baltic trades, and the headquarters of the Scottish cattle trade.