

THE COMPLETE SCOTLAND

GLASGOW TO ABERFOYLE AND THE TROSSACHS.

NORTH and west of Glasgow are the **Campsie Fells** and the Kilpatrick Hills, and between these railway and roads pass northward by Killearn to Stirling and to Aberfoyle. The rebuilding of the road between Aberfoyle and the Trossachs has made this a very popular route, affording direct access to the heart of the Trossachs and also permitting a good circular road tour from Glasgow via Callander-Trossachs-Aberfoyle.

Campsie, on the southern slopes of its fells, has a pretty glen, and a mile or so westward and also at the foot of the fells is popular little **Strathblane**, with several interesting short excursions at hand. In the neighbourhood of Killearn the aqueduct which brings Glasgow's water from Loch Katrine is encountered, and then comes the flat strath in which the river Forth is born - country so graphically described in *Rob Roy* -

"Huge continuous heaths spread before, behind, and around in hopeless barrenness, now level and interspersed with swamps, green with treacherous verdure, or sable with turf, and now swelling into huge, heavy ascents, which wanted the dignity and form of hills, while they were still more toilsome to the passenger; neither trees nor bushes to relieve the eye from the russet livery of absolute sterility. The very heath was of that stunted, imperfect kind which has little or no flower, and affords the coarsest and meanest covering which Mother Earth is ever arrayed in."

The most interesting feature in Aberfoyle is the coulter fastened to the tree before the *Hotel*, and said (rather doubtfully) to be the veritable weapon with which Bailie Nicol Jarvie set fire to the quarrelsome Highlander's plaid (*see Rob Roy*).

Westward from Aberfoyle a beautiful road passes Loch Ard and Loch Chon and then descends to **Glen Arklet**, connecting Loch Katrine (at Stronachlachar) with Loch Lomond at Inversnaid (see later). Travellers should bear in mind that between Aberfoyle and Inversnaid there are no hotels, and that even a simple meal in any of the few cottages through the Glen is difficult to obtain owing to restrictions imposed by the Glasgow Waterworks Department, who maintain Loch Arklet as a reservoir. The only way out from either end of the Glen is by boat from either Stronachlachar or from Inversnaid, unless one is prepared to follow the rough but beautiful track along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond to the road above Ardlui or the fine but heavy track through Craig Royston to Rowardennan.

There is a very good walk over Ben Lomond to **Rowardennan** from the western end of Loch Ard. Go down the road which crosses the stream connecting Lochs Ard and Chon, and a short way farther, by a farmhouse called Blairhullichan, leave the road by a track which crosses the ridge in front to the Duchray Water, which is crossed by a wooden bridge. For **Ben Lomond**, however, turn to the right on the near side of the river and follow a rough track which goes some way up Glen Dubh, whence a steep climb leads to the

summit, the Rowardennan route (see later) being joined a little way below the top. For Rowardennan, after crossing the Duchray, follow the stream running down from the col between Ben Lomond and Beinn Uird; on reaching the top of the ridge Rowardennan is seen below, on the shores of Loch Lomond.

About 3 miles east of Aberfoyle, and skirted by the road to Stirling and Callander, is the **Lake of Menteith** ("Moor of the Teith"), from 1 to 1½ miles across in every direction. This is Scotland's only lake. On *Inch-ma-home*, the "Isle of Rest," (R. B. Cunninghame Graham, author and traveller, was buried here in 1936) are the ruins of a priory of Early English date (*admission 6d.; boat 6d. Open weekdays 10 - 4, 6 or 7; Sundays 11-3 or 4*). Here David II was married to his second wife in 1363, and here, nearly two centuries later, Queen Mary had her first experience of that nomad life during which she was made acquainted with the interiors of so many baronial and religious abodes in all parts of the country. *Queen Mary's Bower* is still shown on the south-east shore of the island, which, by the way, has some fine chestnut trees.

A second and much smaller island, called *Talla*, contains the ruins of a fortress once occupied by the Earls of Menteith. Boating on the lake is very popular.

Aberfoyle to the Trossachs, direct, 7 miles.- For many years a rough toll road, closed to motors, this has been rebuilt and thrown open to all. It ascends from Aberfoyle by a series of curves, from more than one point on which there is a very pretty view westward up the green valley in which lies Loch Ard, scarcely visible, to the abrupt slope of Ben Lomond, which hence shows a triple peak. Then Ben Ledi appears beyond the gap in front, which is the highest point of our route (796 feet). Descending, we get a glimpse of Loch Vennachar, but the prettiest object is little **Loch Drunkie**, lying in a deep wooded basin on the right. Then, as we bend sharp to the left, the prospect opens up over the Trossachs, A strip of the middle of Loch Katrine is seen with **Ben Venue** (2,393 feet) to the left and a mountain background in which the chief heights are Ben Lui, beyond the loch, and the twin pyramids of Stobinian and Ben More to the north.

The final mile or so lies between Loch Achray's wooded shores and the glossy slopes of Ben Venue, passing, as the main valley is reached, the *Achray Hotel* (30 rooms; *R. and b.*, 10*s. 6d.*). For the Trossachs, *see much later*.

GLASGOW TO STIRLING AND EDINBURGH.

Only 25 miles separate western Scotland at the Broomielaw from the waters of the Firth of Forth at Grangemouth, and roads, railways, the Forth and Clyde Canal and the rivers Kelvin and Bonny all crowd through the mile-wide "pass" below the Kilsyth Hills. The pass ends at Dennyloanhead, and here is a parting of the ways. Northward the main routes to the Highlands travel up between the hills and the Forth - another "pass," at the north end of which Stirling occupies a fine strategic position; eastward roads and railways follow the Forth to Edinburgh, passing through Falkirk and Linlithgow and giving good views of the Forth Bridge.

The Forth and Clyde Canal runs from Bowling, on the Clyde, to Grangemouth, a distance of 38 miles. The summit point is 156 feet above sea-level, necessitating 39 locks. A small steamer makes cruises along the canal in summer. The Canal closely follows the line of the **Antonine Wall**, a Roman rampart erected about A.D. 142 to restrict the raids of the northern tribes. Some 40 miles long, it consisted of a ditch 20 feet deep and 40 wide and a sod-and-stone rampart 10 feet high, and along the southern side ran a paved road, with

forts at intervals. Extensive remains are to be seen near Castlecary, and in recent years the remains of a fort have been laid bare at Cadder, near Bishopbriggs. The local name for the earthworks is "Grim's Dyke."

Other road routes between Glasgow and Edinburgh:

1. Leave Glasgow by Argyle Street, Trongate, Gallowgate, Great Eastern Road and Tollcross Road. Bellshill is 9 miles from Glasgow, **Whitburn** 28 miles, and **Edinburgh** 44 miles.

2. Leave Glasgow by Queen Street, George Street, Duke Street and Edinburgh Road. Thence via **Coatbridge** (9 miles), Airdrie (12 miles), **Bathgate** (25 miles), Broxburn (33 miles) and **Corstorphine** to **Edinburgh** (44 miles).

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THE RIVER AND FIRTH OF CLYDE.

(Glasgow to Ayr by the Coast.)

Railways.- Except for the short stretch between Wemyss Bay and Largs the L.M.S. Railway hugs the coast all the way.

HAMILTON, Lanark and other places on the Upper Clyde are described earlier. Here we go "doon the watter" from Glasgow to where the river merges into the Firth, the Firth into the sea.

Western Scotland, more than any other part of Britain, depends for its intercommunication upon the boat, and Glasgow is the centre of the extensive and busy system of coasting and other vessels which on many routes are so numerous and handy that in these peninsular parts they take the place of the trams and buses of cities. Steamers sail daily from the neighbourhood of the Broomielaw for Greenock and places farther on; but those who cannot afford the time taken in sailing all the way from Glasgow may go by L.M.S. Railway to Greenock, Gourock, or Wemyss Bay, or by L.N.E. Railway to Craigendoran, and join the steamers there. Through tickets are issued covering both rail and steamer, and special short-term season tickets are issued to cover unlimited travel over a special area, by train, or boat, or both. There are also numerous motor services.

The Clyde below Glasgow is under the control of the *Clyde Navigation Trust*, whose annual revenue of well over a million pounds is expended in dredging, embanking, dock building and repairing. The Clyde was not always a clear, deep waterway: less than two centuries ago it was a wide, indefinite stream which in places could boast a depth of only 14 inches of water at low tide.

The opening stages of the trip down-river are through a busy district of docks and wharves; then come the shipbuilding yards, many of them bearing names that are world-famous, and having been the birthplaces of ships which have played an incalculable and distinguished part in the world's affairs.

At Finnieston is the "floating bridge," below which is a road-tunnel. Then come **Princes**

Dock and *King George V Dock* on the left, and on the right *Queen's Dock* and the mouth of the Kelvin river. **Govan**, on the left has an old burying-ground containing early Christian monuments said by some to be coeval with the better-known monuments at Iona. **Whiteinch**, on the right, is the site of an electricity station of great importance to the Scottish "grid" system.

Renfrew, on the left, has important docks, but the most notable feature of the town is the fine old Steeple, a mile inland. Renfrew is interesting from its connection with the Royal House of Stewart. In 1157 Malcolm IV, confirming an earlier grant by David I, gave Renfrew Castle and adjoining lands to Walter Fitzalan, whom he appointed King's High Steward. This office remained hereditary in the family, who now assumed the name of Stewart. A descendant of Fitzalan, also named Walter, married the Bruce's daughter Marjory, whose son, the first of the Stewart line, ascended the Scottish Royal Throne in 1370. From the fifteenth century Renfrew has given the title of Baron to the Heir-Apparent to the Scottish Throne. Nothing now remains of Renfrew Castle. Renfrew is an important airport.

Below Renfrew, on the left bank of the river, is Blythswood House, the seat of Lord Blythswood.

Paisley,

a few miles south of Renfrew, is known the world over as a busy centre of the thread manufacture, being especially associated with the Coats concerns. It is a by no means uninteresting blend of old and new: on the one hand such modern work as the Coats Memorial Church, on the other the remains of the twelfth-century Abbey, parts of which have been restored to form the Parish Church. The Abbey was founded by that Walter Fitzalan who became first Lord High Steward, but the original building was destroyed by Edward I, and the present Abbey dates from the fourteenth century, though much of it is in an earlier style of architecture. The chief external feature is the fine west front, with deeply recessed doorway and graceful windows. Within the building attention is caught by the triforium of rounded arches and the clerestory passage, carried outside alternate pillars on corbels. In place of the south transept is the chapel of St. Mirren (the patron saint), with some curious old sculptures illustrating the saint's miracles.

In the Abbey was buried Marjory Bruce, whose son was the first monarch of the Stewart line; and in 1888 a memorial was placed in the choir "to the members of the Royal House of Stewart who are buried in Paisley Abbey, by their descendant, Queen Victoria."

In High Street is a *Museum (open daily from 11 to dusk; free)* with collections of shawls, some pictures, and relics of Christopher North (Professor Wilson), who was born in a house (rebuilt) in High Street.

Elderslie, near Paisley, is the reputed birthplace of William Wallace; but the so-called "Wallace's House" is more modern than that.

The **Braes of Gleniffer**, a mile or so south-west of the town, above the Johnstone Road, command magnificent views across the Clyde to the hills beyond, especially when a westward wind is holding back the smoke from busy Glasgow. A little to the south-east of Paisley, and on the banks of the White Cart River, are the ruins of **Crookston Castle**, where, according to

tradition, Mary Queen of Scots and Darnley were betrothed: it is certain that they stayed here after their marriage.

On the north side of the river from Renfrew is **Clydebank**, a great shipbuilding centre. Here are the yards of such well-known shipbuilders as Messrs. John Brown & Co., (builders of the liner *Queen Mary* and her sister ship) and Messrs. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., and from these yards have come many of the most celebrated Atlantic liners and most formidable battleships. Hereabouts, too, are large oil depots.

Erskine Ferry (*cars, 6d.; passengers, 1d.*) is useful for motorists travelling north or south and desiring to cross the Clyde without going through the traffic-laden streets of Glasgow. It takes its name from Erskine House, formerly the residence of the Lords Blantyre, but now a hospital for limbless sailors and soldiers. The obelisk on the hill beyond commemorates the eleventh Lord Blantyre, who passed unscathed through the Peninsular War, but was shot accidentally in Brussels in 1830.

On Dunglass Point, about half a mile farther down on the same side, is **Dunglass Castle**, an ancient seat of the Colquhouns of Colquhoun and Luss. The Roman wall of Antoninus, erected in A.D. 140, and extending from the Forth to the Clyde, terminated here. A conspicuous obelisk commemorates Henry Bell, who was the first in Europe to apply steam-power to marine purposes. His little steamer, the *Comet*, built at Port Glasgow, was launched in 1812. As was duly set forth in the newspaper advertisements of the time, it traded between Glasgow, Greenock and Helensburgh by the power of wind, air and steam.

On the right, at **Bowling**, are the western terminal locks of the Forth and Clyde Canal, and then the rugged rock of Dumbarton comes into view on the right. **Dumbarton** itself is industrial, and even the rock is usually so swathed in smoke as to appear anything but romantic; yet Dumbarton has its place in history. The rock is supposed to have been fortified in prehistoric times and has been identified with the *Theodosia* of the Romans. Its name is a corruption of Dun-Breton: "the hill of the Bretons," and for county purposes the name is still spelt *Dumbarton*. Dumbarton is held to have been the birthplace of St. Patrick (the claim is disputed by Old Kilpatrick).

According to tradition, Wallace was confined in the Castle for some time; certainly it was from Dumbarton Castle that Mary, Queen of Scots when a child was conveyed to France for safety, and it was while on her way to Dumbarton Castle that she met her final defeat at Langside. (*Castle open weekdays 10-4 or 6; Sundays 2 - 4 or 6.*)

Northward from Dumbarton to Loch Lomond stretches the Vale of Leven, associated with Tobias Smollett, who was born at Dalquhurn, near Renton, and is commemorated by a statue in Renton schoolyard; and Thomas Campbell, the poet, who for a time acted as tutor in the district. For Balloch and Loch Lomond see later.

Almost opposite Dumbarton Rock, across the Clyde, is *Finlayston House*, wherein Knox first dispensed the sacrament according to the rites of the Reformed Church, in 1556. A little farther west are the round towers and battlements of *Newark Castle* (*open weekdays*), an old stronghold of the Maxwells, and then comes **Port Glasgow**. This busy place originated in the determination of seventeenth-century Glasgow merchants to overcome the disadvantages of

the shallow river. Boats could not then come up to the city, so a new port was founded where there was deep water, and although its original purpose has long lapsed, Port Glasgow is still of considerable consequence on Clydeside. From the hills above Port Glasgow there are grand views across the Clyde to Ben Lomond and neighbouring heights: these are enjoyed by those who come over by road from Paisley by **Bridge of Weir** and **Kilmalcolm** - favourite residential suburbs for Glasgow folk.

Greenock is a busy port and industrial town which is important to tourists as a kind of distributing centre for numerous steamer routes, a popular practice being to travel from Glasgow to Greenock or Gourock by rail or road and there join the boat. It was the birthplace of James Watt and of Captain Kidd, and in the cemetery is the grave to which the remains of Burns's Highland Mary (see later) were removed in 1920 when the West Kirk Burying Ground was acquired for a shipyard extension. The Kirk itself has been re-erected on the esplanade a little west of Prince's Pier: it was the first to be built after the Reformation and the first Presbyterian church confirmed by National Parliament. It has some good modern stained glass.

Gourock.

Distances.- Ardrossan, 26 m.; Glasgow, 25 m.; Wemyss Bay, 8 m.

Early Closing.- Wednesday.

Hotels.- *Ashton, Veitch's, Albert*; numerous boarding-houses.

Sports.- Bathing (pools), bowls, golf, tennis, steamer trips, yachting.

Greenock merges into Gourock, built on and around Kempock Point. The sheltered bay is a great place for yachtsmen, and the town itself is a very popular resort, with bathing, boating of all kinds and splendid views of the unceasing traffic of the Clyde, with the cloud-capped hills beyond. For Dunoon see later; for Rothesay and Bute see later.

Onward from Gourock to Ardrossan and Ayr by the coast is a magnificent run, taken in either direction, the road running within a few yards of the shore for nearly the whole 26 miles to Ardrossan and within sight of the sea for the remaining 25 miles. The railway also skirts the shore for some way north of Wemyss Bay and south of Largs, but between those places there is no direct rail communication. **Cloch Point**, with its lighthouse, is opposite Dunoon; thence, skirting the grounds of Ardgowan Castle and by pretty Inverkip, to **Wemyss Bay** (*Wemyss Bay, Skelmorlie Hydro*), a modern and attractive resort with a large railway station, designed to cope with the rail-steamer excursion traffic, and a really magnificent outlook across the Firth. Castle Wemyss (Lord Inverclyde) lies on the north side of the bay; to the south the rocky foreshore runs along by **Skelmorlie**, now almost one with Wemyss Bay. Skelmorlie Castle is well placed, and the ruin of Knock Castle also attracts attention. Hence to Largs interest is principally in the views over the water to Cowal, Bute and Arran.

Largs.

Distances.- Glasgow, 40 m.; Gourock, 14 m.; Ardrossan, 10 m.

Early Closing.- Wednesday.

Hotels.- *Royal, Curling Hall Hydro, Victoria, White Hart, Brisbane*. Many boarding-houses.

Sports.- Two golf courses, tennis, bowls, yachting and steamer trips, bathing, sea-fishing.

Largs is a popular and progressive resort with bathing station, golf courses and a pavilion for dances, cinemas, etc. Like several other such places along this coast, it is

separated from the shore by a broad strip of turf which imparts a sense of spaciousness that accords well with the ever-interesting views westward.

It was at Largs that in 1263 King Haakon of Norway was surprised and routed by Alexander III before he had time to get his troops into battle array after their landing. The king himself managed to escape to Orkney, where however he died and was buried (see much later). His defeat caused the cession of the Isle of Man and the Hebrides to Scotland on condition of an annual tribute, which was paid until the days of James I.

Just off Largs is the north end of **Great Cumbrae Island**, which, with its companion, **Little Cumbrae**, provides a popular excursion from many Clyde resorts.

The chief town is **Millport** (population about 2,000) at the southern end of Great Cumbrae. It is an attractive little place with good bathing, boating, and golf. (*Hotels: Royal George, Garrison Hydro, Cumbrae.*)

The Cathedral of the Isles, in connection with the Scottish Episcopal Church, was built in 1849 from designs by Butterfield. In the churchyard is the tomb of the Rev. James Adams, minister of the parish from 1799 to 1831, and ever remembered for his habit of praying for "The Greater and Lesser Cumbrae and the adjacent islands of Great Britain and Ireland."

Not far from Millport is a most interesting Marine Biological Station, with a museum.

Great Cumbrae is encircled by a road (about 10 miles) which commands grand views, but the island itself is not particularly attractive. On the whole the Little Cumbrae better repays exploration.

Fairlie, on the mainland opposite the Great Cumbrae, is famous the world over on account of the skill of the Fifes in turning out fast and beautiful yachts. In the charming little glen are the ruins of the sixteenth-century Fairlie Castle. From Fairlie steamers run to Millport and also to Kilchattan, in Bute (see later).

South of Fairlie are **West Kilbride** and **Seamill**, unspoilt little places on the coast, and then comes **Ardrossan**, with steamer services to and from Arran and the north of Ireland. (*Hotels: Kilmeny, Eglinton Arms, Commercial; numerous apartments and boarding-houses.*) Ardrossan and **Saltcoats** (*Temperance Hotel*) together form a very popular resort. There is a yacht pond, bathing pool, putting, tennis, golf and a fine sandy bay. Being less than 30 miles from Glasgow by rail or road, Ardrossan is a very popular place at weekends. Ardrossan Castle, captured from the English by Wallace, was finally put into ruin by Cromwell.

Kilwinning, a few miles inland from Ardrossan by way of busy Stevenston, is notable as the home of freemasonry in Scotland, Mother Lodge Kilwinning (No. 0) having been founded in 1107, at the same time as the Abbey, of which the few remains have been incorporated into the present Parish Church. **Eglinton Castle** (the seat of the Earl of Eglinton) is chiefly remembered as the scene of the great tournament in 1839 by which it was hoped to revive certain aspects of ancient chivalry. Among the combatants was Napoleon III.

Between Kilwinning and the sea is a somewhat desolate area of sandhills in which are large explosive works. Through this the River Garnock winds to the sea, and the Irvine, after making an extraordinary loop, joins it just below the town of **Irvine** (*Eglinton Arms, Osborne (temp.)*), one of the most ancient royal burghs in Scotland. At Irvine Robert Burns spent some time (1781 - 3) as a flax-dresser; both his shop and the house in which he stayed have been

burned down. Lesser links with literature were the Scottish novelist John Galt, who was born here in 1779, and James Montgomery, the poet.

A few miles inland from Irvine is -

Kilmarnock,

(**Hotels.**- *Ossington* (8 rooms; R. & b., 7s. 6d.); *Station, Market, Broomhill*)

a busy industrial town that is of interest to Burns lovers as the place where "Wee Johnny" Wilson had his printing press, by the agency of which the first edition of Burns's poems was printed. In the graveyard of the Laigh Kirk lie the remains of Tam Samson, on whose grave Burns wrote:

"Tam Samson's weel-worn clay lies here,
Ye canting zealots spare him!
If honest worth to heaven rise,
Ye'll mend, or ye win near him."

But the principal place of Burns pilgrimage in Kilmarnock is the **Burns Monument** in Kay Park, which contains a museum with many relics of the poet. From the monument there are splendid views, by far the most striking feature being the peaks of Arran, seen to perfection across the low land lying between Kilmarnock and the coast.

For Mauchline, Tarbolton, and other haunts of Burns see shortly later.

At **Riccarton**, now a suburb of Kilmarnock, Wallace is reputed to have passed his youthful days; and the road eastward to Strathaven (20 miles) and Hamilton (27 miles) passes **Loudoun Hill**, where Wallace defeated the English and where in 1306 Bruce with 600 men gained a striking victory over the Earl of Pembroke and his army of 6,000. At **Drumclog**, farther east, Claverhouse was defeated by a Covenanting force in 1679.

Troon.

Distances.- Ayr, 8 m.; Glasgow, 30 m.; Kilmarnock, 10 m.

Early Closing.- Wednesday.

Hotels.- *Marine* (68 rooms; R. & b., fr. 11s. 6d.); *Craiglea* (17 rooms; R. & b., 8s. 6d.), *South Beach*.

Golf.- Of the five courses three are municipally controlled. Charges: 1s. 6d. round (Sundays, 2s. 6d.); 2s. 6d. day (Sundays, 5s.); 8s. 6d. week, 12s. 6d. fortnight (ladies, 1s., 1s 6d., 7s. and 10s.).

Approaching Troon, on the coast, one is made aware of the local importance of Golf. There are five first-class courses around the town, but Troon has other attractions and is in fact a very popular holiday resort. There are fine sands, with good bathing (there is an excellent open-air swimming pool), boating, tennis and other sports, and a pavilion, bandstand and other places of indoor amusement. Here again the sea-front is bordered by a wide strip of turf which adds considerably to the pleasures of the sands. On the north side of the little promontory which forms the southern horn of Irvine Bay is Troon Harbour, busy with the shipment of coal. The rocky islet with beacon and white lighthouse seen to seaward is **Lady Isle**; far away in the westward is Ailsa Craig (see shortly). The prominent building at the back of the town is *Marr College*, a free secondary school; another well-designed modern building is the Concert Hall.

Prestwick.

Early Closing. - Wednesday.

Hotels. - *St. Ninian's (temp.)* (20 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.); *Queen's* (30 rooms, R. & b., 10s. 6d.); and many private hotels.

Sports. - Golf, bowls, tennis, bathing-lake, sea-bathing and boating.

Four miles south of Troon is the ancient burgh of **Prestwick**, another great centre for golfers which has lately come to the fore as a general holiday resort. A recent development is a sea-water bathing lake 100 yards long. There are five 18-hole courses; the links of the Prestwick Club are one of the Championship courses (visitors *must* be introduced). The town is pleasing, and boasts a market cross and the remains of a lazaret house erected by Robert Bruce over a well at which he is reputed to have been cured of leprosy. Four miles south of Prestwick is Ayr.

AYR.

Distances. - Burns's Cottage, 1½ m.; Alloway Kirk, 2 m.; Ardrossan, 19 m.; Dumfries, 60 m.; Edinburgh, 70 m.; Glasgow, 36 m.; Kilmarnock, 12 m.

Early Closing. - Wednesday.

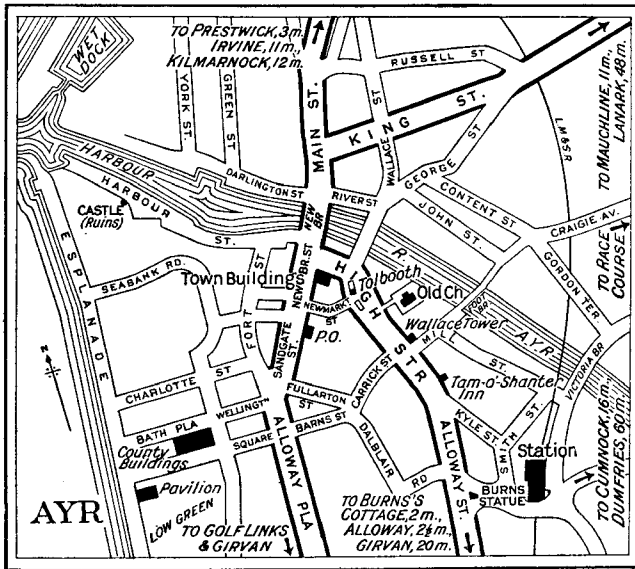
Hotels. - *Station* (45 rooms; R. & b., 12s. 6d.), *Dalblair*, Alloway Street (20 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.), *Carrick*, High Street, and others.

Population. - About 40,000.

Sports. - Golf (2 municipal courses), tennis, bowls, bathing, boating, sea-fishing, steamer trips. Race meetings in April, July, August and September.

Ayr is a busy and attractive town which owes some-thing at least of its prosperity to its connection with Robert Burns. The town stands on the banks of the Ayr at the point where that river enters the Firth of Clyde, so that it can also offer the attractions of a seaside resort. The sandy beach is bordered by a breezy expanse of turf, where are a pavilion, bandstand, etc. At the north end of the beach is the **Harbour**, whence pleasure steamers run to Arran and other Clyde resorts, and near the south end are two golf courses. Overlooking the beach are the County Buildings, but the town is dominated by the **Town Steeple**, a very fine piece of work which is perhaps best appreciated from a view-point at the far end of the **New Bridge**, by which the main road crosses the river. From this bridge also is a good view of the Auld Brig immortalized by Burns in his poem *The Brigs of Ayr*. Its antiquity is undoubted, and although a few years ago it was in peril of demolition and was only saved by the timely intervention of the Burns Clubs, it still stands a champion of the soundness of thirteenth-century workmanship. The New Bridge against which Burns imagined it inveighing was a predecessor of the present New Bridge. From the Steeple, **High Street** leads up to the Station, passing on the way the *Tam o' Shanter Inn*, still with its thatched roof and primitive fittings, but now boasting on its front a large picture showing Tam, mounted on his "grey meare Meg," setting off for Alloway and the exciting incidents related by Burns. Just outside the station yard is a Burns statue by G. A. Lawson, and the road to the south at this point leads in a couple of miles to Burns's Birthplace and Alloway (see below).

With Burns, Ayr honours Wallace: there is a Wallace tower (said to occupy the site of a tower in which he was confined) just below the *Tam o' Shanter* in High Street; on Barnweil Hill, about 6 miles north-east of the town, a prominent monument commemorates the patriot,



while closer at hand in the same direction is the cairn at **Auchincruive** to the joint memory of Burns and Wallace. The Auchincruive estate now belongs to the West of Scotland Agricultural College. On this side of the town also is Ayr's very popular Racecourse.

Ayr's **Parish Kirk** is entered by a narrow way a little below the Wallace Tower in High Street: in the lychgate are some of the heavy iron grave-covers which were common in the days of the body-snatchers. The grave-yard will interest epitaph hunters; the Martyrs' Tomb is near the river on the east side of the church - its inscription concluding:

"Boots, thumbkins, gibbets were in fashion then,
Lord, let us never see such days again."

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Ayr is said to have been the site of a Roman station, but there is little evidence as to this. William the Lion, who built a castle at the mouth of the River Ayr, granted the town a charter in 1202, raising it to the dignity of a Royal Burgh. It was here that Wallace first openly organized resistance against the English forces, and the town was the scene of one of his notable exploits, "the burning of the Barns of Ayr." A parliament convened by Robert the Bruce for the purpose of settling the succession to the Scottish throne met here, and it was from the port of Ayr that Edward Bruce embarked in 1315 with a small army for the purpose of invading Ireland. In 1652 the English Commonwealth built the fort of Ayr, of which traces remain on the height to the west of the harbour. The ancient church of St. John, founded in the twelfth century, which stood here, was converted into an armoury. By way of compensation, the Protector gave a donation of 2000 merks to assist in building the Church already referred to.

Excursions from Ayr include walks beside the river and to the Wallace and Burns memorials mentioned above; steamer trips to Arran and other Clyde resorts and visits by rail or road to various spots associated with Burns, pre-eminent being that to -

Burns's Birthplace.

Admission to Cottage and Museum, 6d. Catalogues, 3d. Open every week-day and on Sundays in summer, 2-7 p.m.

The "Auld Clay Biggin" built by Burns's father stands beside the road to Alloway, about 2 miles south of Ayr steeple. On the way from Ayr one passes various points associated with the wild ride of Tam o' Shanter. About a mile from the steeple, the Alloway road crosses the Slaphouse Burn about 200 yards east of -

"the ford

Whare in the snaw the chapman smoor'd,"

and a short distance beyond the ford in the garden of a wayside cottage may be found the -

"meikle stane

Whare drunken Charlie brak's neck-bane."

A little farther on an ash-tree surrounded by a paling marks -

"the cairn
Whare hunters fand the murder'd bairn."

Burns's Birthplace is a low thatched cottage abutting on to the pavement and with little external suggestion of its value and importance in the world of literature. In recent years it has been rather obviously restored, but the inner rooms contain various articles of simple furniture, and there is a "set-in" bed like unto that in which Burns was born on January 25, 1759.

Adjoining the birthplace is a museum of manuscripts, letters and other relics of the poet, and the gardens are pleasantly laid out.

Robert Burns was born at Alloway, January 25, 1759, and died at Dumfries, July 21, 1796. The first seven years of his life were spent here; in 1766 the family moved to Mount Oliphant, 2 miles from Alloway. His father was a peasant farmer who gave his son the best available education, and this education inclined to the literary side. His youth was spent working on the farm, with a brief interlude at Irvine, where he tried his fortunes as a flax-dresser. When William Burns died in 1784 Robert and his brother took on the farm at Mossgiel and shouldered the maintenance of the widow and several younger children. It was, however, an unfortunate venture, and Robert's interest in the farm was lessened by his affair with Jean Armour - an affair which so incensed the Armour family that Burns thought it best to seek his fortunes abroad. Meanwhile, Jean Armour and he parted with some show of recrimination, and Burns turned to "Highland Mary" - Mary Campbell, dairymaid at Montgomery Castle near Mossgiel - who, however, died shortly afterwards. Burns decided to go to Jamaica, and had indeed composed his farewell song ("The Gloomy Night is Gathering Fast") when the success of his first book of poems introduced him to literary circles in Edinburgh, and brought in a sum of money that was welcome, if small, and sufficed to banish ideas of emigration.

After a tour of the Border, he returned to Mossgiel, this time to be received with open arms by the Armours - a welcome not without embarrassment, one imagines, for by now the correspondence with Clarinda (Mrs. Macle hose) was flourishing. However, in 1788 he rented the farm of Ellisland near Dumfries and married his Jean. Farming was no more prosperous at Ellisland than at Mossgiel, and ere long he applied for the post of excise officer, which brought him in an additional £50 per annum. Once again, too, farming was subjugated to other interests, and in 1791 he sold the farm, moved to a small house in Dumfries, and turned from poems to political squibs which, as the work of an excise officer, were looked at askance by some of his strictly loyal and carefully-spoken superiors. Then came that almost quixotic period when, notwithstanding his poverty and that of his family, he refused to accept payment for the grand series of songs he contributed to Thomson's *Collection*; refused, too, an annuity of £50 offered in return for poetical articles for the *Morning Chronicle*. Scotland has been much blamed for the poverty of his final days, but the blame can hardly go undivided.

Following the main road southward from Burns's Birthplace for less than a mile, one comes on the right to the old Church of Alloway, where Tam o' Shanter -

"saw an unco sight!
Warlocks and witches in a dance..."

and from the winnock-bunker in the east wall "Auld Nick" -

"Screwed the pipes and gart them skirl
Till roof and rafters a' did dirl."

Another side of the poet's genius is displayed in the inscription on his father's tombstone -

"O ye whose cheek the tear of pity stains."

Across the road from the Church is the **Burns Monument** (*admission, 6d.; open weekdays all day, Sundays in summer, 2 - 7*) - a Grecian temple copied from the monument of Lysicrates at Athens. It contains various relics, including Jean Armour's wedding ring, and two Bibles said to have been exchanged between Burns and Highland Mary. Many admirers of Burns will consider that a more fitting memorial than the Grecian temple is the summer-house in the garden containing Thorn's clever sculptures, representing Tam o' Shanter and Souter Johnnie. The gardens are pretty and give nice views of the Auld Brig o' Doon, and the riverside grounds of the adjoining Burns Monument Hotel are also open for a small fee.

The farm of **Mount Oliphant**, to which the Burns family removed in 1766, is on rising ground about a mile east of the Auld Brig. It was here that Burns composed his first song, "My Handsome Nell."

The road crossing the New Brig O' Doon climbs to give good views eastward and in about 5 miles reaches **Maybole** (*King's Arms, Commercial*), a sleepy old town with a reputation for the manufacture of boots and shoes, and of interest to Burns students as the place where the poet's father and mother first met.

From Maybole our road to Turnberry is across the hills, passing the ruins of **Crossraguel Abbey** on the left a few miles out. The ruins (*weekdays 10 - 4, 6, or 7; Sundays, June to September 2 - 6; other months 1 - 3 or 4; admission, 6d.*) comprise nave and chancel of the abbey Church, the chapter house, south of the chancel, remains of the cloisters, dovecot, and the gatehouse at the south-west, still imposing.

Kirkoswald is a neat village notable as the burial place of Burns's Tam o' Shanter. (The gravestone is at the west end of the Church, Tam's real name being Grahame.) A mile or so west of the village is *Shanter Farm*, on the site of the house to which Tam was returning when he fell upon the "unco sight" at Alloway's "auld haunted kirk."

The farm is between Kirkoswald and the coast, along which a road has come from Ayr by way of **Dunure**, where is a ruined cliff castle. It was in the black vault of this grim keep that the fourth Earl of Cassillis, anxious to enrich himself at the expense of the Church in 1570 "roasted in sope" a commandator (= lay abbot) of the neighbouring Abbey of Crossraguel in an attempt to secure a share of the ecclesiastical revenue. The dignitary, however, remained obdurate, and, escaping, appealed to the Privy Council, with but little satisfaction. The Kennedys of Dunure are now represented by the Marquis of Ailsa, whose principal seat, **Culzean Castle**, is the next notable building passed.

Turnberry of to-day consists of little more than the large hotel (340 rooms; *R. & b., fr. 14s. 6d*) and the splendid seaside golf links; but in times past its Castle, of which few ruins are left, was of some importance and is said to have been the birthplace of Robert Bruce. On the neighbouring "Bogle's Brae" was kindled the mysterious beacon fire which summoned Bruce and his followers from Arran: an incident familiar to readers of Scott's *Lord of the Isles*.

Girvan, 5 miles south of Turnberry, is one of those interesting combinations of small seaport and rising holiday resort, neither side being strong enough to submerge the other. (*Hotels: King's Arms (35 rooms; R. and b., 10s. 6d.), Hamilton Arms; many boarding-houses,*

etc.) There is good golf and fishing, and steamer trips to the lonely rock of **Ailsa Craig**, 10 miles out at sea, are popular, although the rock is uninhabited except for the keepers of its lighthouse and the myriads of seabirds.

Dalquharran Castle, finely situated above the *Girvan water*, about 6 miles from Girvan, is now a Youth Hostel.

For the coast southward to Stranraer and the Mull of Galloway see shortly.

Ten miles north-east of Ayr by road or rail is Mauchline (*Black Bull, Loudoun Arms*), "the Mecca of Burns pilgrims." Most of the buildings associated with the poems have gone, but Poosie Nansie's hostelry remains. The churchyard was the scene of "The Holy Fair," and here are the graves of Daddy Auld, Mary Morison, Holy Willie and many others mentioned by Burns. Close by the churchyard and the ruins of Mauchline Castle is the house where Gavin Hamilton lived and where Burns and Jean Armour were married. Also close at hand is the small house in which they lived until the house at Ellisland was ready.

Chief interest of the neighbourhood centres in the farm of **Mossgiel**, where Burns lived for seven years. It is 1½ miles north-west of Mauchline, on the Tarbolton road. Burns and his brother, Gilbert, rented this farm for four years from the time of their father's death, in 1784, and here were written *The Cottar's Saturday Night* and many other of his best poems. Here is the field where he ploughed up the daisy and turned up the mouse's nest - simple events which his muse has immortalized. The house has been rebuilt. Some way farther along the Tarbolton road is a turning leading to the farmstead of **Lochlea**, which was Burns's home from his seventeenth to his twenty-fourth year, his father having moved here from Mount Oliphant. It was at Lochlea that the elder Burns died.

At **Tarbolton** Burns became a freemason. Here he founded his first debating club and in the vicinity he laid the scene of *Death and Dr. Hornbook*. At Coilsfield House (now Montgomerie Castle) near by, "Highland Mary" was a dairymaid. Still pointed out is the spot near the old thorn tree, at the junction of the Fail with the River Ayr near the main road 2½ miles west of Mauchline, where Burns and Mary last met "to live one day of parting love." (Mary, it will be remembered, went to visit relatives in Argyllshire, and fell sick and died at Greenock, on her return journey.)

ROTHESAY AND BUTE.

Rothesay is the chief - in fact the only - town on the **Island of Bute**, which (about 15 miles long by 6 across at the widest part) lies to the south of the Cowal Peninsula and about 7 miles across the Firth of Clyde from Wemyss Bay. It is immensely popular with Glasgow and Clydeside folk.

ROTHESAY.

Access.- From Glasgow and the mainland either via Wemyss Bay - the quickest route - via Gourock, via Greenock, or via Craigendoran.

Early Closing.- Wednesday, except during the season.

Golf.- Municipal 18-hole course, ls. round. 14-hole course at Port Bannatyne. 9-hole course at Kilchattan. Putting greens on Esplanade.

Hotels.- *Bute Arms, Grand Marine* (50 rooms; R. & b., 9s. 6d.), *Royal Victoria*, and numerous private and

temperance hotels.

Population. - Resident in winter, 9,346; in summer the population is considerably increased.

Sports. - Boating of all kinds in the Bay; bathing, bowls, tennis, golf (*see above*), dancing and other amusements; and there is good fishing, special "fishing cruises" being organized.

Yachting. - In connection with the "Clyde Fortnight" the Royal Northern Yacht Club arranges two regattas in the early part of July.

The rousing resort of Rothesay, is probably the most popular watering-place on the Clyde. In addition to the natural beauty of its situation, the mild and equable climate of the island of Bute is an attraction of great importance to invalids. The range of temperature is about 18 degrees less than the average of Scotland, being 13 degrees warmer in winter and 5 degrees cooler in summer.

The **Pier**, the focus of Rothesay life, is seldom without one or more steamers landing or embarking passengers, and in the variety of trips it offers it rivals many a railway station. During Rothesay Fair (the third Wednesday of July) the neighbourhood of the Pier is further enlivened by numerous stalls and side-shows presided over by loud-voiced beings of wonderful persuasiveness. Rothesay Esplanade at this season ranks among the sights of Scotland.

Rothesay Castle (*grounds open to the public from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.*) was possibly one of the fortresses erected in 1098 by Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway, to secure his conquest of the Western Isles. The fortress was captured by Haakon in the thirteenth century, but his defeat at Largs restored the stronghold to Scottish hands. The castle played an important part in the wars of Wallace and Bruce, and was a favourite residence of Robert II, the first of the Stewarts. The newer portion, known as the Palace, was built by James V.

The **Norman Stewart Institute** was erected from funds provided by the late Norman Stewart, of Richmond, Virginia, and his nephews, John, Daniel, and Bryce Stewart - all natives of Rothesay. There is a refreshment room on the ground floor, and on the upper floors are reading, writing, billiard, smoking, and recreation rooms. The lending library contains about eleven thousand volumes. Resident members have yearly tickets, and visitors are admitted at 2*d.* per day; 1*s.* per week; 2*s.* 6*d.* per month.

The **Museum** of the Natural History Society is in Stuart Street.

The shore road by Craigmore and Ascog to Mount Stuart, the seat of the Marquis of Bute (about 5 miles), affords a variety of views. The model village of **Kerrycroys**, which was designed by a former Marchioness of Bute, is 3½ miles from Rothesay. Here the splendid avenue leading to *Mount Stuart House* begins. In the extensive grounds are fine beech and lime avenues.

The village of **Kilchattan Bay**, a favourite resort of summer visitors, is connected with Rothesay by a regular service of conveyances, and from the pier there is communication (in summer) by steamer with Millport, Fairlie, Largs and Wemyss Bay.

Near Kilchattan Bay, at the south end of the island, are the ruins of the ancient **Chapel of St. Blane**, amid most attractive scenery and commanding a fine view of the Arran hills. St. Blane had two cemeteries attached to the Church, one for men, the other for women. This arrangement is accounted for by the following tradition:

At the time the Church was built, St. Blane brought some consecrated earth from Rome. This earth was taken from the ship at Kilchattan Bay, placed in two creels, and slung over horses' backs to be carried to the burying-ground. Before it had been carried far the back-band broke, and the priest in attendance asked a woman who was gathering shell-fish to lend him her belt to supply the place of the broken back-band. She refused, and the priest declared that no women should ever lie in the holy earth. The consecrated earth was therefore placed in the upper ground alone, and women were buried in the lower ground.

In the neighbourhood is a circular enclosure of ancient masonry known locally as the *Devil's Cauldron*; it may have been used as a place of penance in the Middle Ages. About a mile from it is *Dunagoil*, a vitrified fort and the site of a very early British village.

Port Bannatyne (*Kyles of Bute Hydro*) nestles among the trees on the eastern shores of Kames Bay. **Kames Castle**, with its woods and lawns, is at the head of the bay. The oldest part of the Castle, a large tower, dates from the fourteenth century. Kames was the birthplace of John Sterling, the friend of Carlyle. **Ettrick Bay**, on the western side of the island, is a lovely beach of white sand and shells, a real summer playground, in the best sense of the term. In the neighbourhood are remains of a hill fort, and some traces of "Druidical" circles.

A charming short trip is that by steamer to **Ormidale**, on Loch Riddon; thence by road to *Glendaruel* (see shortly). The return may be made by the road along the eastern shore of Loch Riddon to **Colintraive**, where the steamer for Rothesay can be joined.

ARRAN.

Access.- The most direct route to Arran is from Ardrossan by L.M.S. steamers, which run all the year round in connection with express trains from Glasgow.

Excursion steamer in summer from Greenock and Gourock, calling at Kirn, Dunoon, Largs, Rothesay and Tighnabruaich. The first call in Arran is made at Corrie, and, cruising southward, along the east coast of the island, Brodick, Lamash, and Whiting Bay are taken in succession.

The Campbeltown steamers call at Loch Ranza and Pirnmill.

Arran is the largest and most picturesque of the islands in the Firth of Clyde. For the antiquary there are tumuli and monoliths of considerable interest; the flora embraces some rare mountain plants; and for the geologist the island displays a greater succession of strata than any other part of the British Isles of equal extent. The standard work on the subject is Bryce's *Geology of Arran*. The island is about 12 miles distant from the Ayrshire coast, and is 20 miles long, 11 broad, and about 56 in circumference. There is a good but at times rather rough and arduous road all the way round. Nearly the whole island belongs to the Duchess of Montrose, daughter of the twelfth Duke of Hamilton.

Arran, from the Ayrshire coast, seems a mass of bold, rugged mountains rising from the sea, but on nearer approach this effect is softened by cultivated fields and stretches of woodland. The first place of call for the railway boats from Ardrossan is **Brodick** (*Douglas Hotel, Altana Private Hotel*), on the bay of the same name. The view on entering is exceedingly pleasing. Brodick Castle is mainly modern, but incorporates part of an old stronghold supposed to date from the time of the Norse occupation of the island. The old castle is associated with the adventures of King Robert Bruce, as is duly recorded by Barbour, and by Sir Walter Scott in the *Lord of the Isles*. The village consists mainly of a single row of houses. The beach affords good bathing.

Every visitor to Arran will, of course, climb -

GOAT FELL

(2,866 feet), weather permitting, to enjoy the magnificent prospect from its summit (where is a useful *Indicator*). The ascent commences at the south entrance to the grounds of Brodick Castle, and is not difficult. Five hours should be allowed for the ascent and descent.

Near the bronze statue to the Duke of Hamilton in front of the schoolhouse a path (finger-post) leads across a bridge over the Rosa Burn, and thus cutting off a corner comes out into the road again opposite the park of Brodick Castle. Turning to the right, the path for Goat Fell (finger-post) is soon reached on the left, leading through a little wood to the open moor. Hence to the top of the eastern ridge of Goat Fell the track cannot be mistaken. From the top of the ridge the route to the summit of the mountain is over rough granite boulders, and in places is steep, though nowhere difficult. When the boulders appear insuperable in front, "fetch a compass" slightly to the left.

The *summit* of Goat Fell (*Ben Gobhar*) consists of a confused group of boulders, whose perpendicular sides afford shelter from every wind that blows. The broad belt of sea which surrounds the island gives a wonderful extent and variety to the prospect. Only on the western side, where the jagged ridges on the other side of Glen Rosa rise to an almost equal height, is the view at all curtailed. Northwards Loch Fyne stretches far away to Lochgilphead and the low hills of Argyllshire, over which, in a north-westerly direction, the Paps of Zura are visible. Ben Cruachan is in the remote distance, a little to the right of Loch Fyne, in which direction the western arm of the Kyles of Bute extends. Then, further east, come the mountains grouped round the heads of Loch Long and Loch Lomond. Ben Lomond rises almost in a line with the Firth of Clyde, at the entrance to which the Great and Little Cumbrae Islands are visible, the white houses of Millport gracefully fringing the snug little bay at the southern end of the former. Due east is Ardrossan, with its neighbouring chimneys and other signs of commercial activity, and further south Ayr is recognizable by its lofty spire. Then over the southern extremity of the island we note Ailsa Craig, backed by the peninsula on which stand Stranraer and Portpatrick; while south-west we look over Campbeltown and the Mull of Kintyre to the Antrim coast. The Isle of Man is sometimes to be seen. The most striking object close at hand is Glen Rosa, some 2,000 feet below - an emeraldine vale intersected by a silver thread.

Besides the way by which we have ascended, and that which we are about to describe, there are two practicable **routes down** the mountain - the first to **Corrie** by the Whitewater Glen, the second by the southern spur of the mountain, inclining left towards the end of the ridge and rejoining the line of ascent.

Glen Rosa may be included by a detour of 4 miles (there and back). At Brodick Church cross the Shirag burn at a very pretty spot and then, bending to the right again, reach the *Glenrosa Farm*, beyond which a plain track threads the green pastures of *Glen Shant* - as this lower part of the valley is called. The great point of the walk is the marvellously quick change afforded by it into the wildest possible mountain scenery. In twenty minutes the turn of the glen is reached at the foot of a little torrent, the Garbh Allt, and, unless you are going on over the *col* between Cir Mhor and Goat Fell - the "Saddle"- into Glen Sannox, you can fully comprehend Glen Rosa from the little humps just beyond the crossing. The view is one of the finest of its kind.

A fine expedition may be made from Glen Rosa up the Garbh Allt over Ben Nuis (Noosh) and Ben Tarsuinn, and then along the ridge to the foot of A'Chir. Skirt A'Chir low down on the Glen Iorsa side. (A'Chir itself is only for experienced rock climbers) until you reach the A'Chir-Cir Mhor *col*, from which point a short

scramble takes you to the summit of Cir Mhor itself. Continue along the ridge over the Castle to Fergus' Seat, and descend westwards to the main road at Sannox. There is a precipitous gap in the ridge between the Castle and Fergus' Seat, known as the Carlin's Leap or the Witch's Step. This must be avoided by descending a little to the left, or north side, at that point. Note, this whole expedition involves a good deal of scrambling, and should only be attempted by strong walkers in fine and clear weather. The views are magnificent. Time, about 12 hours.

The descent to the *col* or saddle between Glen Rosa and Glen Sannox should be attempted only in good weather. From the summit of Goat Fell a track amongst boulders descends to the ridge leading to North Goat Fell. Some granite tors block the way, and these should be passed by sheep tracks on the Whitewater Glen side. Reaching North Goat Fell summit, an arm of the mountain stretching in a north-easterly direction must be avoided, and a rapid descent made along the top of the ridge in a north-westerly direction to the *col*, which is plainly visible below, backed by the precipitous crags of *Cir Mhor*. Hands as well as feet may be called into requisition during this part of the descent, but there is no real danger. From the *col* there may be some difficulty in finding a route down into Glen Sannox. Do not attempt to descend directly from the *col*. Proceed along the ridge west for some 150 yards, then descend sharply to your right over turf and stones. After descending some 50 feet you will see on your left a wall of rock, at the base of which runs a dyke with the usual stair-like rock steps. Go down this dyke, and then the bed of a burn and the path intertwine and charge into each other amid heather and rock till the main burn in Glen Sannox is reached.

In descending the glen this burn should be crossed (to the north side) if the water permits, and a rough track followed down the left bank to a bridge about ½ mile from the coast road. Cross this near a barytes mine and, passing a graveyard, join the main road, 1½ miles north from Corrie Hotel.

Five miles south from Brodick is **Holy Isle**, which is more than a mile in length, rises to an altitude of 1,030 feet, and acts as a natural breakwater to Lamlash Bay. Here, after his defeat at the battle of Largs in 1263, Haakon mustered his fleet. Holy Isle has a most picturesque appearance, with its grassy slopes, heath-clad acclivities, and, higher, its rugged columnar masses. The view from the summit is fine, but the ascent is difficult. The island takes its name from a tradition that St. Molaise, a disciple of St. Columbia, resided on it. The **Saint's Cave** is a water-worn recess in the sandstone rock, about 30 feet above the level of the sea. The roof and sides of the cave are covered with rude marks and inscriptions of different periods, including a short Runic inscription cut in the roof in characters about 1½ inches in length. On the shore below the cave a circular well is pointed out as the bath of St. Molaise, and a large block of sand-stone, surrounded by a number of artificial recesses, is called the Saint's Chair. The well had for centuries a great repute for curing all kinds of disease.

LAMLASH,

the largest village in the island, has a picturesque appearance from the sea. The Parish Church of Kilbride, erected by the late Duke of Hamilton in 1885, is the most prominent building. Hotels (*Lamlash and Ship*) and boarding-houses. Golf course.

At the southern extremity of the bay is **King's Cross Point**, where, according to tradition, King Robert Bruce embarked for the mainland when he received the assumed signal from Turnberry (see earlier), and beyond the point is the pleasant village of **Whiting Bay**.

Southward by road from Whiting Bay is **Glen Ashdale**, with its two waterfalls. The second fall, at the head of the glen, known as *Eas a Chranaig*, is the highest waterfall in Arran.

Southward again the road, which is now a rather stiff climb, passes Dippin Head, near which are some interesting basaltic pillars. Beyond Dippin Lodge the direct road passes a charming little glen, which is seen at its best on a bright summer day after heavy rain, when the burn brawls over its many cascades.

It is well to make a circuit and visit **Kildonan Castle**, an old ruin on an elevated site overlooking the sea. It was used as a hunting-seat by the Scottish kings when Arran was Crown property. A little farther, near the shore, is *Kildonan Inn*, from which a fine view is obtained of the small island of **Pladda**, immediately south of Arran. Away in the distance Ailsa Craig is seen. Shortly after leaving the inn we may rejoin the main road round the south of the island. On the coast **Struey Rocks**, at Bennan Head, will repay inspection. Here is the famous *Black Cave*, which runs into the cliffs for about 50 yards and is 80 feet high. A detour may be made northward to visit the pretty waterfall called **Essiemore** ("Great Fall"), under the shadow of Auchenhew Hill.

Beyond Bennan there is a fine view of the Mull of Kintyre in front, across Kilbrannan Sound, Campbeltown being almost due west. Thence through a pleasantly wooded country to the village of **Lagg** (hotel), "the hollow," a charming resort for a quiet holiday. The *Torrylin Water*, which runs through the glen, affords fishing.

A mile beyond Lagg the high-road is joined by the hill-road from Lamlash, which passes through Scorrodale and **Glen Monamore**, affording a series of charmingly varied views of hill and vale. The descent to *Sliddery Water* brings us to the west side of the island, and after crossing the stream the road turns northward, keeping pretty close to the shore. On the shore at **Sliddery** is a green mound, known as *Castle Hill*, on which are remains of a keep, supposed to have been built by the Norsemen.

We now journey along the west coast of the island, and a walk of fully 5 miles along a picturesque road brings us to the pleasant village of **Blackwaterfoot** (*temperance hotel*), on Drumadoon Bay. A pier would be an advantage, as at present visitors to this part of the island, which is rich in legendary interest, have to drive from Brodick. The route is through the fertile *Shiskine Vale*, passing **Shedog** (*Hamilton Arms Hotel*).

At the northern extremity of Drumadoon Bay is **Drumadoon Point**, which has interesting basaltic columns. At the top are the remains of an old fort, and near them is a standing stone, which, according to popular tradition, marks the grave of Fingal's daughter. Farther north is the **King's Hill**, with a number of caves in which King Robert Bruce, Sir James Douglas, and their followers are said to have lain in hiding for months. The largest is known as the **King's Cave**, and the others as his Kitchen, Cellar, and Stable. There is also a tradition that these caves were used by Fingal, of Ossianic legendary repute.

At **Tormore**, about two and a half miles north of Blackwaterfoot, it is worth walking

about a mile east from the road, where, on a moor close to Machrie Water, are the *Standing Stones of Tormore*, the most important prehistoric remains in Arran.

Resuming our journey northward, we skirt the shores of **Machrie Bay**, and passing the village of **Auchencar**, on the slope of Beinn Lochain, reach *Iorsa Water*, which rushes down a wild glen overshadowed by lofty, boulder-strewn mountains. At **Pirnmill** the Campbeltown steamers call. About 4 miles farther is the village of **Catacol**, at the foot of a glen of the same name. From Catacol, a walk of about 2 miles round the White Point, and eastward along the romantic shores of **Loch Ranza**, brings us to the picturesque village of Loch Ranza. Loch Ranza Castle, of which the ruins remain, is associated with the name of Bruce. The scenery in the neighbourhood of Loch Ranza, with its background of greensward, wild ravines, and cloud-reaching mountains, is justly reckoned among the finest in Scotland.

From Loch Ranza to Corrie is 10 miles in a south-easterly direction. Towards the north the **Cock of Arran** (1,083 feet) shuts out the view of the sea. About 3 miles from Loch Ranza the head of **Glen Chalmadale** is reached, and through this lonely valley the road descends towards the east side of the island. Approaching the coast at Sannox Bay, we get a good view up **Glen Sannox**, the wildest of the Arran glens. From this point a walk northwards along the coast for about a couple of miles would bring us to the *Fallen Rocks*, huge sandstone blocks of all shapes and sizes that have fallen from the top of the cliffs.

At the southern end of **Sannox Bay** lies the village of **Corrie**, and 6 miles farther is **Brodict**. The scenery all the way is most attractive.

GLASGOW TO ARDRISHAIG AND OBAN (THE "COLUMBA" ROUTE).

Steamer to Ardrishaig, thence to Oban by motor.

This is one of the most popular cruises from Clyde resorts. The *Columba* leaves Glasgow about 7 a.m., but connecting trains to Greenock, Gourock or Craigendoran may be taken fully an hour later.

The route as far as Gourock has been described on earlier pages.

Steaming across from **Gourock** to Dunoon, a distance of about 4 miles, we enjoy on a fine day a prospect scarcely equalled and certainly not surpassed in Britain. In front is the Argyllshire shore, with its magnificent background of hills. On our right we have a fine view of Loch Long, stretching away northwards, with the pleasant summer resorts of **Kilcreggan** and **Cove** on one side, and **Strone** and **Blairmore** on the other. The shorter and smaller inlet to the south, of Loch Long is the **Holy Loch**. The prominent mansion on the height at **Strone Point**, between Loch Long and the Holy Loch, is Dunselma, long the residence of one of the Coats family, of the famous Paisley thread company.

On the left, when **Cloch Point** with its lighthouse is passed, an extensive stretch of the Renfrewshire and Ayrshire coast is disclosed. Away to the south, over the extensive waters, Bute and the Islands of Cumbrae are seen.

Dunoon (see next chapter) is one of the most popular and central seaside resorts on the Firth of Clyde. Here passengers who have travelled via Craigendoran are taken on board.

Innellan (see next chapter) is the next place of call.

Nearly opposite Innellan is **Wemyss Bay**, beyond which Skelmorlie and Largs are visible on the Ayrshire side, and towards the south-west a glimpse may be had of the peaks of Arran.

Beyond Innellan is **Toward Point**, the southern extremity of the Cowal district of Argyllshire (see next chapter). Here is a lighthouse. We now head to westward, making for Rothesay Bay, and with grand views of **Loch Striven**, which stretches northward for 9 miles amid lonely hills. It affords a most pleasant prospect when the sun shines brightly, but in stormy weather has a dark and gloomy aspect. It is known as the "Rothesay weatherglass," and it is said that it is sure to rain in Rothesay whenever a mist hangs over this loch.

From **Rothesay** (see earlier) we head northward and pass **Kames Bay**, on the south side of which the village of **Port Bannatyne**, which is practically a continuation of Rothesay, ranges itself in crescent form. Behind the bay is the green hill of Kames (875 feet).

Continuing our north-west course, we enter the **Kyles of Bute**, and are amid the most enchanting scenery of the Firth of Clyde. The word Kyle, of Gaelic origin, means a narrow passage or strait. These particular Kyles are from half a mile to a mile in width. The northern end is the more picturesque. After clearing the mouth of Loch Striven, we notice on the Cowal shore, on the right, *South Hall*. The extensive woods with which it is surrounded were planted to represent the position of the British and French armies at the Battle of Waterloo.

Shortly before reaching the mouth of Loch Riddon, we touch at **Colintraive**. This is a favourite place for picnic parties, as there are many delightful walks in the neighbourhood. Passengers by the *Columba* land here for **Glendaruel**, at the head of Loch Riddon. At this part of the Kyles the Bute graziers used to swim their cattle across from the mainland, on their return from the Argyllshire markets, and hence arose the name of Colintraive, which means the "swimming narrows."

Beyond Colintraive the small Burnt Islands that dot the surface of the water, as well as the hills on the Bute and Cowal shores, seem every few minutes as if they would bar all further progress.

Eilean Dearg, or Red Island, is the small island on the east side of Loch Riddon about a mile from the entrance. It was selected as his chief place of arms by Archibald, ninth Earl of Argyll, in his unfortunate rising in conjunction with the Duke of Monmouth, in 1685. The place was so protected by rocks and the water so shallow that it was believed, falsely, as the event proved, to be secure from attack by the King's frigates.

Soon after rounding the north end of Bute, we touch at **Tighnabruaich**, which signifies in Gaelic, "the house on the brae," and was so called from an inn that was formerly the only dwelling on the spot. It is a delightful seaside retreat with a 9-hole golf course.

Having passed **Kames Pier**, we skirt the west, or Cowal, shore for about 5 miles, till abreast of **Ardlamont Point**, nearly opposite which is Ettrick Bay, in Bute.

Rounding Ardlamont Point we enter **Loch Fyne**, the longest of the many arms of the Firth of Clyde. Stretching far up into the heart of Argyllshire, this loch affords a clear run of 36 miles to Inveraray, or of 42 to its northern extremity. Loch Fyne is famous for the size and superior quality of its herrings.

After calling at **Tarbert** (see next chapter), we enter **Loch Gilp**, an inlet of Loch Fyne,

with its two ports, Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead, which are about a mile apart. At Ardrishaig (the "height full of briars") (see next chapter) the outward voyage of the *Columba* ends, and passengers for Oban and the north land and proceed to the motor-coach which is waiting to convey them to Oban (see next chapter).

The *Columba* leaves Ardrishaig on the return journey about 1 p.m. The distance from Glasgow to Ardrishaig and back is about 180 miles, and for anyone who has only a day to spare the trip is most enjoyable and gives an excellent impression of the picturesque scenery of Scotland's indented western coast.

Glasgow to Oban by Steamer via the Mull of Kintyre. About thrice a month Messrs. MacBrayne and Messrs. McCallum, Orme & Co. each send a passenger steamer from Glasgow to Oban and the Western Isles via the Mull of Kintyre. The latter Company's steamer usually touches at Islay and Colonsay on the way to Oban. The complete tour of these boats (Glasgow to the North and back to Glasgow) lasts about a week, and good sailors can in this way enjoy a delightful trip to Skye and the Hebrides.

Glasgow to Inveraray. (For the **Loch Eck Route** from Dunoon to Strachur, a very fine motor run of about 24 miles, see next chapter). The trip to Inveraray is second to none of the cruises on the Firth of Clyde in beauty and variety. The route is the same as that described on foregoing pages as far as the middle of Loch Fyne, but instead of calling at Tarbert and Ardrishaig the steamer pursues its way through the charming scenery of the upper reaches of Loch Fyne to Inveraray. This part of the loch is described in the next chapter.