

George the Third's birth day was celebrated on the fourth of June.— This being the most pleasant season of the year, it was held by every body as a holiday. Steam-boats and railways being yet among the mysteries of futurity, those who were disposed to ruralize, proceeded to the country on foot, with their families, to get curds and cream. Delightful walks were also supplied by the Town's-muir, and Craigie-hill; and the magnificent prospect from Kinnoul-hill, was open to the public, till the passing of the Reform Bill; when, by a curious coincidence, this walk was shut up exactly at the time the elective franchise was thrown open to the people. Early in the morning of the royal nativity, the fronts of the houses were profusely decorated with boughs and flowers, the principal streets presenting the appearance of an avenue in a wood. At twelve o'clock, the bells were set a ringing; the great guns fired a royal salute; the military fired a *feu de joie*; and the whole town turned out to see the sights, and give vent to their ardent feelings of loyalty. These were the days, when the people had not acquired the felicity of making themselves miserable; when the cry for Reform and Retrenchment was not heard; and when every sound politician judged of the prosperity of the state by the tension of his doublet.

In the afternoon, the Magistrates assembled in the Council Room, where the officers of the troops, the officers of customs, and a numerous company of strangers and gentry, were invited to join in drinking his Majesty's health. A band of music attended in the anti-room; and a body of troops was stationed in the street, who fired a volley every toast. No cost was spared on wines and sweetmeats; and each officer was presented with a burgess ticket.

By four o'clock, the High-street was completely filled with young men and boys, with their pockets well charged with squibs, crackers, and sky-

rockets; and an incessant discharge of fire-works and fire-arms, of every kind and calibre, was kept up for the remainder of the evening, to the inexpressible joy and delight of the inhabitants: even for many previous and succeeding evenings, the quantity of powder exploded on the streets was immense. By and bye, the splendour of these exhibitions, and the ardour of the people greatly abated. Democrats began to make their appearance; dead cats and basses were hurled about, and dirt thrown; and the birth day fell into great disrepute. These proved the fruitful source of bickerings and heart-burnings, till the authorities were often under the necessity of endeavouring to put a stop to the fire-works altogether. The inhabitants of Perth have been admirers of the wonders of hydraulics, from the introduction of the first force pump, down to the celebrated display under the patronage of the late Magistrates. When *fire-works* were interdicted on the birth day, the *water-works* were drawn in triumph through the streets; and every well dressed person that appeared at a window, was instantly overwhelmed with a torrent of water.

#### THE TOWN PIPER.

Down to the year 1800, in addition to a drummer, the town had an official under the above title; the last functionary was known by the appellation of Johnny Smout, and was famous for his skill in playing the Irish pipes. Johnny's official costume was a scarlet cloak, with wide sleeves and white cuffs; the sleeves hanging down loose by the side of his arms, and the pipes were carried under the cloak. The principal duty of Johnny Smout appeared to be, in conjunction with Geordie Munro, or, as he was called, the Rough Black Dog, to go round the town every morning at five o'clock, summer and winter, and disturb all and sundry with their ill-timed harmony. There was also an evening performance at seven o'clock, when these musicians were always accompanied by an immense number of idle women and children. After Munro's death, one Sandy Bell, a regular bred drummer, succeeded him, when the improved quality of the music created quite a sensation in the town, as they paraded the streets, playing Rosslyn Castle, and other old Scottish tunes. An officer, who had been in the Indian War against Hyder Alley, related the following anecdote in allusion to Johnny's pipes:—As the soldiers were ascending the Ghauts, a piper struck up an old Scottish air, when the officer heard one of the soldiers in his rear say to his neighbour, "L—d, man! does na' that mind you o' Johnny Smout in the Shoe-gate in the mornings?" The salary of the drummer and piper was three shillings a week each; in addition to which they realized a considerable sum by going through among the respectables with the drum and pipe on Handsel Monday.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

Has always been held in Scotland as a day of special hilarity. The festivities commenced on the evening of the last night of the old year. In addition to a sufficient supply of stimulants, each family provided a quantity of *carls*. These were oatmeal cakes of a triangular shape, prepared with treacle or other condiments. The whole circle of acquaintance visited for *carls*; and each individual had to sing for his supper, or at least for his cake. This practice has greatly fallen off; none but a rabble of children, called "Guisarda," now maintain the custom. New Year's morning was ushered in by a dram from the gudewife's bottle. It was then the practice to wait up for what was called the cream of the well,—the fortunate damsel who succeeded in getting the first water of the year, being assured of a good husband before the end of it. The streets were crowded all night, by parties wishing to see what was going on, and by others on their way to call upon acquaintances. The ordinary restraints of society were thrown aside; and every man claimed the privilege of kissing any woman he chanced to meet. To this ancient and edifying practice, the whisky bottle came to be added, and the oblations of Bacchus were offered at the shrine of Venus. The changes which took place in trade about 1780, brought a great number of spinners and cloth printers to this neighbourhood, who introduced the custom of hot pints. On going to the houses of their friends, as first foot, they took with them a tea kettle full of a warm mixture of ale, whisky, and sugar; and as the visiter had also to do honour to the host's bottle, the parties, long before day-light, found they had taken rather more than enough.

Handsel Monday was the principal day with the working classes. By one in the morning the streets were in an uproar with young people, who appeared to consider themselves privileged to do whatever mischief they pleased. It was a constant practice to pull down sign boards, or any thing that came in the way, and make a large bonfire with them at the cross,—all being for the benefit of trade, and the support of the good old customs. Numbers of boys, belonging to the Glover Incorporation, were to be heard in every quarter selling small purses at a half-penny each; these were made of the parings of leather, and enabled the lads to gather something to hold Handsel Monday with. They were generally all sold off early in the morning. The tradesmen were all idle this day, and considered themselves entitled to handsel from their employers; and even from individuals in any way connected with the business. Thus the weavers, having received their handsel from the manufacturer, a deputation from the shop was sent to the wright who made their utensils; another to the reed-maker, and to the chandler who supplied them with candles; and a third to the company who boiled the yarn. The whole proceeds of

these begging commissions were put together, and spent in the evening in a tavern.

Formerly, Christmas, as a period of festivity, was but little attended to, excepting among the Episcopalians. Latterly, as the above customs declined among the operatives, parties among the higher and middling classes, during the Christmas holidays, have rapidly increased.

#### PERTSHIRE HUNT.

Horse racing and archery were formerly much practiced in this quarter. It is a well authenticated fact, that the affair of 1745 was concocted at Perth races, which, prior to that period, were attended by noblemen from all parts of the kingdom. The disastrous events of that year put a stop to these amusements, and scattered the Scottish gentry to different parts of the continent; the effects of which were felt for 30 years. About 1784, the exiled families began to return, and many of the forfeited estates being restored, a new impulse was given to the county. Many of the gentlemen formed themselves into a body, styled the Perthshire Hunt; and a pack of fox hounds was procured, and placed under the management of an experienced huntsman. Their meetings were held in October, and continued for a week, with balls and ordinaries every day. When the Caledonian Hunt held their meetings here, the assemblies continued for a fortnight. The present excellent race course was formed after the enlargement of the North Inch, and for a time the Perth Turf was among the best frequented in Scotland. Although races have continued to be held pretty regularly, they have lately greatly declined in point of attraction; seldom extending beyond two days, where they formerly occupied a week.

Many persons yet alive may recollect the stone at the foot of the South Inch, where the archers stood when they shot their arrows at the target on the scholars' knowe in front of Marshall Place. This ancient sport is now altogether unknown. The arrow, as a weapon of defence, by the altered practice of the age has long become useless; and as a game, it probably gave place to the discus and the golf; which, in their turn, have been doomed to give way to the more animated game of cricket, in which some of the Perth clubs have excelled.

#### RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

During last century, several murders occurred in Perth, for which the perpetrators were not brought to account at an earthly tribunal; but which were followed by circumstances that might well lead to the conviction, that the commission of crime is visited by Divine retribution. During

the unsettled period of the Rebellion, an English traveller on horseback, carrying a valise, arrived at a house in South-street, the second above the Moal-vennel. He was known to have entered the house; but man nor horse were ever seen afterwards. The landlord grew suddenly rich; and it was currently reported that the traveller had been murdered; but, owing to the troubled state of the country, the crime was never inquired into. Although human eye could not penetrate the mystery, the finger of Providence pointed to the deed. It was remarked, and acknowledged as a judgment, that the children of the family born after this event, were all insane; while those born previously were sound in body and mind. One of the daughters was afterwards well known in the town by the appellation of "Daft Lizzy Grant." Like the jewelled casket which was filled with worms and putrifying bones, Lizzy was remarkable for personal beauty; while of intellect she had little or none; and her moral faculties were so depraved, that she was incessantly committing petty thefts. After the old folks' death, the property passed into other hands. About the year 1808, the house was pulled down and rebuilt. In excavating the ground for vaults, a human skeleton was discovered under the spot occupied by the hearth-stone of the former kitchen.

About the year 1772, a son of Bailie Fife, (a very proud and arbitrary magistrate,) who had obtained a commission in the army, was on a visit to see him. Returning home with his gun one night, he encountered a man in one of the back passages leading to the Skinnergate. Some words having passed between them, young Fife, without the least hesitation, shot the man dead on the spot. When his trial came on, great exertions were made to get him off on the plea of insanity; and he was sentenced to confinement for life. He lay for some time in one of the Burgher rooms of the Jail, till his friends obtained a mitigation of the sentence, allowing him to be confined in his father's house. The public said, and firmly believed, that this was a judgment on the Bailie for his haughty cruel conduct on the bench. Be that as it may, his affairs did not prosper; and, after experiencing many difficulties, he died very poor.

A farmer of the name of Robertson, who had been in the habit of attending Perth markets, suddenly disappeared. He was last seen in life in the house of James Ross, brewer, in the Kirk-close. As it was known that he had that day received a considerable sum of money, it was believed that he had been robbed and murdered; and it was pretty generally surmised that Ross and his family were instrumental in his death. After some time the body was found in the river, but in a state which indicated that it had not lain in the water since the time of the decease. This circumstance was calculated to confirm suspicion; but although nothing

more transpired to criminate Ross, his business declined every day. He became very poor; attempted to drown himself; and at length went mad; and was for years in a deplorable state, confined in a strait jacket, and tied down to his bed. His wife's sister, who lived in the house with them at the time Robertson went amissing, was seized with a strange distress, lost the ability of part of her body, and lay for years on the floor, a most deplorable object. On one occasion, when a clergyman was visiting Ross, he seemed inclined to unburthen his mind of something which appeared to lie heavy on his spirits. But the wife, observing this, stormed on the clergyman, for presuming to suppose her husband could have been guilty of any crime that required a confession. Another opportunity never occurred to get Ross to speak on the subject, and the wretched man went to his grave with his secret undisclosed;—the pangs of the parting hour being aggravated by the want of sympathy of his fellow men, and by the terrors of meeting an indignant God.

A publican in the Spey-gate having quarrelled with his wife, who had an infant in her arms at the time, aimed an angry blow at her, which struck and killed the child. He kept out of the way for some time, and escaped on board of a small vessel, about to proceed on her voyage. The vessel with all on board perished. A similar occurrence took place with a man of the name of Bell, who lived at the west end of the town. In a quarrel with his wife, he struck his infant a deadly blow. He fled to escape punishment, and joined the army on the continent; but that Power which can raise up a fly to execute his will, can never want an instrument of justice. One day, when the fugitive was leaning on his loaded gun, the piece went off, and blew out his brains.

#### MILITARY STATION.

Perth has been a military station since the Rebellion in 1745. Immediately after that period it was strongly garrisoned; and there was also an encampment of 5000 German troops formed upon the North Inch; the more effectually to overawe, and secure the submission of the country.—There are many persons still alive who may recollect the hollow parallel lines on the west side of the old Dunkeld road, which marked the ground of the encampment. As has been stated, when the Duke of Cumberland was here with the Royal army, the obsequious magistrates made him a present of Gowrie house, which, on his arrival in London, he sold to the Board of Ordnance for an artillery barracks. Thus the immediate effect of their conduct in giving away that which was not their own, was to circumscribe the liberties of the people. There were always one or two companies of artillery stationed here, from whence many hundreds of fine

young men were sent up to the regiment. Some seasons they encamped on the South Inch, where they usually exercised, and frequently practised ball firing at a mark set up on the Friarton brae, where the Depot now stands.

During the German war, between 1750 and 1760, several regiments were embodied here, among which was a fine body of horse, called Keith's Light Dragoons. These troops were taught to leap high bars; to swim the river; and practised a great many clever manœuvres. The Rev. Mr Williamson of Auchtergaven, riding into town one review day, mounted on a *ci-divant* dragoon horse, entered the Inch at the White Dyke, as the kettle drum beat the charge; the animal sprang forward, and when the line halted, the worthy minister was found in the front rank, with the loss of hat and wig.

At this period so little regard was paid to the liberty of the subject, that Provost Robertson of Tullibelton, secretly signed a warrant authorising the captain of the troops in town to seize upon, and impress the inhabitants for soldiers. The time chosen was that of a grand review on the north Inch. The day being particularly fine, and no one dreading danger, the concourse of people was very great. During this review one of the soldiers, who had omitted to return his ramrod to its place, shot a girl dead in her father's arms; but the excitement produced by this accident was trifling, compared with what followed. When the review was nearly over, at an appointed signal, the soldiers sprang from their ranks, and each seized upon any man they could lay hold of. The guard houses and jail were immediately filled. Terror and dismay spread through the town, and the young men fled in every direction. It is probable that the burst of indignation produced throughout the country by this outrageous and tyrannical conduct, had led the ruling powers to question the *policy* of the business; for when the captives came to be examined as to their fitness to carry arms, they were almost all let off on some plea or other. One or two good looking fellows whom they were loth to part with, were induced to enter the artillery. One of them, a weaver, of the name of Stewart, rose to be colonel commandant in the artillery. As it is seldom a private rises far from the ranks, it is probable the lustre of his advancement was intended to eclipse the disgrace of his impressment. During his mother's life, an annuity was remitted to her in proportion to his rise; and he died during the late French war a lieutenant-general in the army. One hero being thought sufficient, others were discharged for unsoldier-like conduct.

The Provost, however, did not escape the just execrations of the inhabitants ; and he took the matter so much to heart, that he latterly became deranged in mind. His son, who proved to be even more insane than himself, made several attempts on his own life, and eventually succeeded.

During this war, the most unwarrantable means were adopted to fill up the army. Each parish was ordered to provide a certain number of men ; and these were selected, not by ballot, but by the arbitrary whim and caprice of the authorities. If any young man was accused of a natural child, or if any flaw could be found in his character, whether moral or political, he was instantly pitched upon and dragged away ; and, to prevent the possibility of escape, he was sent off immediately to the regiment abroad. This unnatural conscription rendered men callous to the yearnings of humanity : no appeal was listened to. The unfortunates were seized and sent off without a moment's notice ; although in many cases the heads of families, or the sole support of aged parents.

At the commencement of the late war, the artillery head quarters was removed to Leith fort. A detachment with four guns was still kept here, until government resolved to convert the old buildings into barracks for foot soldiers. The place was then new roofed and repaired, and the large halls were filled with beds. During the time the artillery lay here, the men were seldom changed, and they became in a manner associated with the place, and were much respected by the inhabitants. They messed together every day ; their broth was excellent, and many poor people were supplied with what was over. The large pot used for making their broth was hired at a penny a week, from an old man in the Watergate, who drew this sum for fifty years. One of their commanding-officers continued upwards of twelve years on the station.

About sixty years ago, an officer on duty here, of a witty but hasty disposition, employed Deacon Gibson to make a suit of clothes, to be ready for a dinner party. The deacon was reputed the first stitch in town, and was the most professional looking man imaginable. He wore, according to the custom of the trade at the time, a large cushion fastened on his sleeve, well stocked with the implements of the craft. His short snub nose stood sentry over a sharp chin ; his long slender neck was encased in a high white stock, and exhibited something of the appearance of a moulded candle. His legs had the true professional curve, and appeared as if fastened to his body like those of a Dutch doll ; and his spare visage was set off, surmounted by a full cut wig and cocked hat. The day and hour of dinner had arrived, and message after message had



been sent for the clothes, without obtaining any other satisfaction than an assurance that they would be ready in a few minutes. The captain, fretting and fuming on account of the disappointment, had got into a most uncontrollable rage, at the moment the deacon made his appearance with the suit. Drawing his sword, he threatened instant destruction to the unfortunate fraction of humanity. "Ay, ay, sir," boldly replied the deacon, "would you draw upon an unarmed man? But I'm a dealer in sharps as well as yourself! And if that's your cue, here's at you!" With that he whipt a needle from his sleeve, advanced with a flourish upon the astonished officer, and fairly pinned him into a corner. The captain, perceiving the ludicrousness of his position, politely begged pardon. The story afforded a good laugh at the dinner table; and was a subject of lasting triumph to the deacon; who declared, that having defied all the *ghosts* in Perth, he was not to be daunted by mere flesh and blood.

#### MEAL MOBS.

Between the years 1770 and 1777, there occurred a succession of bad seasons and wet harvests; and, as a natural consequence, provisions were both dear and scarce, and of very inferior quality. As yet little advancement had been made in the knowledge of the advantages of commerce, and the interchange of commodities, which, by extending the market, increases the production. In consequence, the shipment of grain was looked upon as most unwarrantable, and a direct infringement of the rights of the population of the district. Though a grain merchant might have imported fifty cargoes in the course of the season, if he attempted to export one, he was marked out as an object of persecution. On the first occurrence of scarcity, his effigy was paraded through the town, and afterwards burnt before his door; his windows broken; and sometimes the mob proceeded so far as to burst open the house, and destroy every thing in it. Even if a retailer was compelled to raise the meal a penny per peck, he was liable to the same unpleasant distinction. During Provost William Stewart's authority, Meal Mobs were frequent and outrageous. There were three worthies then alive who were particularly active in fomenting and heading these riots. The masses, in selecting their leaders, showed themselves above those little prejudices connected with personal appearance, moral rectitude, or worldly circumstance.

The first, James Wilson, by trade a barber, was a tall, gaunt looking personage, with a spare cadaverous visage; knock-knee'd, and splay-footed; he dressed in tawdry clothes, with tie-wig and cocked hat; his shoes

often disencumbered of soles, and his stockings ornamented with needlework up to the knees. Wilson possessed that essential to every popular leader,—an unbounded stock of impudence; he had also a good deal of satirical wit, and had made some appearance as a poet. In addition to his *barberous* performances, he carried on a considerable traffic in illegal marriages—saving the parties the expense of a journey to the famous Half-merk Kirk in Edinburgh; or the no less notorious Whins of Falkland.

The second, Blair Flight, by trade a watchmaker, was an odd-looking figure. His countenance was of that description which indicates a mind capable of any mean action. Like Wilson, he had attained no little celebrity, for his facility in ratifying marriages; and was at one time apprehended for this offence: but as many of the dissenting clergymen were in the habit of doing the same thing among their hearers, it was deemed imprudent to agitate the matter. Blair's exhortations on these occasions were somewhat original, and often tinged with a strain of sarcasm. On one occasion, the writer's father witnessed the marriage ceremony of a couple who had come all the way from Cupar Fife. Blair assured them that marriage was no child's play; but a thing that was to last for life. He continued—"You maun be good till her; and she'll be kind to you. You maanna fight, nor kick up a dust like fools. Tak' her hand man. And to you, lassie, I wish a happy moment—an' that, I trow, it will not be lang till." Blair then received five shillings; for which sum he thus made the girl an *honest* woman; and her offspring was that night born within the pale of matrimony.

The third, Ned Keillor, like Tom Thumb, a little hero with a great soul. A weaver to trade, he stood, when his legs were out of the treddle hole, nearly five feet high. He wore a short round jacket, wide Dutch-fashioned breeches, a large broad blue bonnet, and leather apron. When excited, whether with liquor or otherwise, Ned had one of the most loquacious, unscrapped tongues, that ever existed. Whenever he took a fancy for a jollyfication, he came down the town with a pipe in his cheek; the circumstance of not having a farthing in his pocket never gave him a moment's difficulty. There were a number of gentlemen to whom he occasionally paid a visit; and as these were not caring about casting out with him, Ned never left them without getting at least the price of a glass. In this way he would keep it up for days.

If at any time the price of meal advanced, these distinguished fountains of wisdom were sure to get up a mob. Notice was sent through the weavers' shops; the men turned out in a body; and came down the streets hallooing, and smashing the windows of the offenders; and sometimes

gutting the houses of every thing valuable. It does not appear to have then occurred to these politicians, who occupied themselves so much with other people's business to the neglect of their own, that they might have bettered their condition more, by seeking to raise their own prices, than by striving to depress those of others.

On one occasion, they resolved upon paying a visit to the farmer of Claypots. Being reputed to be rich, it was held as certain that he must have a great quantity of grain stored up beside him. Having got notice through the course of the day of the intended visit, the farmer got up a few friends to pass the evening with him, to persuade or control the multitude, if possible. The approach of the crowd was announced by the most outrageous yells. The writer's father, who was in the house at the time with the farmer, taking a candle in his hand, went out to them, and inquired what it was they wanted? "Corn, corn! meal, meal!" was at once exclaimed by a hundred voices: "Auld Davie has plenty, and we are starving!" It was proposed to them, that if they would appoint five of their number, every key in the house would be delivered up, and they could thus satisfy themselves that there was no hoard of grain on the premises. Luckily the proposal was entertained; and, after the most minute search, nothing more was found, than the necessary supply for the family, and a few bags of seed corn, which they had sense enough to see the propriety of the farmer retaining. When the delegates delivered their report, the people left the house with three cheers, in order to pursue the investigation elsewhere.

The party then proceeded in a body to Mr Donaldson's, at Elcho, who unfortunately did not escape so easily. Being disposed to resist these irresponsible inquisitors, a terrible scuffle ensued. The house was broken into, and the furniture destroyed. At this moment the house clock happening to strike twelve, a fellow who was swinging an axe, swore he would make it strike thirteen; with that he dashed it in pieces at a blow. Much damage was done about the place, and some persons were severely hurt.

On another occasion, that same year, a mob assembled in great force in the town, and were proceeding to such extremities, that the magistrates were constrained to call out the military to their assistance. The artillery planted a couple of field pieces, charged with grape shot, in front of the Council-room; and the cannoniers, with lighted lintstocks in their hands, awaited but for orders to sweep down the unthinking masses of living beings. The soldiers were drawn up in a compact body before the guns, and after suffering much from the incessant and unmerciful showers of stones from the multitude, they charged them up the High-street, and dispersed them; but, getting into the Horse-cross by the Skinner-

gate, and the closes leading from the High-street, they rallied, and came round by the road now occupied by Charlotte-street and George-street, (which had been newly opened, and laid with channel from the river) and commenced a second attack with redoubled fury. Still the Provost, with a tenderness for human life, and regard for the welfare of the people under his care, which does immortal honour to his feelings as a man and a magistrate, would not permit the military to fire. The soldiers again charged the mob up towards the Inch, where they dispersed in all directions. The infatuated multitude rallied once more behind the White-dyke, and seemed determined not to yield; when it was proposed that the Provost, accompanied by some individual, should go and endeavour to convince them of the folly of their conduct. The writer's father accompanied the Provost, and they were fortunately successful,—the people quietly dispersing on being assured that every means would be used to procure a supply of meal, if they would but allow it to be brought forward without molestation. No notice was taken of the offenders; but such was the dread of future disturbance, that for a long period afterwards, a burgher guard was assembled every night in the Council-room.

Much to the credit of the magistracy, and to the military for their forbearance under these trying circumstances, no person was seriously injured. When similar riots occurred in Glasgow some years afterwards, in which nine lives were lost, the conduct of the Glasgow magistracy was strongly contrasted with the conduct of those of Perth. At that time, the public mind was so feverish in regard to the supply of meal, that if a merchant ventured to send a cargo round to Leith or Glasgow, his house was assailed; and himself probably obliged to fly for his life.

#### THE HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.

We come now to a new era in military affairs. At the commencement of the first war with our American colonies, Perth became the centre of active operations for filling up the army for this ruinous contest.—The Highland Feudal Chiefs were at this time the instruments of giving the last and fatal blow to their own power, by sweeping the peasantry from the country. The Frazer Highlanders were levied in Perthshire, two of the battalions by officers, who procured their commissions by raising men. Almost all the officers were Highland lairds, who dragged out their tenants' sons to make up the appointed number. *Their* will was never consulted. They were compelled to submit, or their parents were instantly turned out of house and home. This is only an example of what took place all over the Highlands of Scotland. One Captain Frazer from the northern district, brought down a hundred of his clan, all of the

name of Frazer. Few of them could understand a word of English; and the only distinct idea they had of all the mustering of forces which they saw around them, was that they were going to fight for King Frazer and George ta Three.

These hardy fellows were dressed in short black coats, and small bonnets, the natural colour of the wool. So many of one name had a strange effect. In calling over the roll, the sergeants, for the sake of distinction, had frequently to add a number to the name; as Donald Frazer the twenty-third; Donald Cameron the eighteenth.

When about 1600 had been assembled, they were marched off in a body to Greenock for embarkation. Immense numbers of their friends were present from all parts of the county, and the whole population of the town turned out with the most intense interest to witness their departure. So many young men dragged away from the bosom of their families, victims to the remorseless demon of war,—parents, sisters, and friends clinging to them in tears,—the wailing pipes pouring out plaintive farewell airs,—presented a scene which could not be witnessed without pain, or remembered with indifference.

On their way they were joined by different recruiting parties, and various bodies which had been collected in other quarters; by which means, when they reached Glasgow, their numbers were increased to about 2000. On reaching Greenock, the company who were raised specially for the service of King Frazer, found that their leader was amissing, and nothing would induce them to go on-board without him. He was residing at Edinburgh at the time, and was far gone in a consumption. The state of his health was represented, but nothing would be listened to as an excuse; and it was found necessary to fetch the invalid from Edinburgh to embark with them. As might have been expected, he died before they were half-way across the Atlantic, his constitution proving unequal to the privations of a sea voyage in a crowded vessel. The men were equipped with their arms and accoutrements on their passage; and any little drill they received was on deck.

Immediately on landing, they suffered severely from an attack of a strong body of colonists. The Highlanders were armed with broadswords, in addition to the gun and bayonet, with the use of which they were not yet familiar. Being sorely galled, and seeing many of their comrades falling, they slung their guns upon their backs, drew their claymores, and rushed upon the enemy, crying "Hack 'em a'!" They however paid dear for their temerity.

This fine regiment was afterwards in much hard service, and behaved with distinguished bravery, until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis,

when they became prisoners of war, and continued such till the peace; when the remains of the corps came home, and were disembodied at Perth. On account of their long imprisonment they had arrears of pay to draw, amounting to nearly £30 a-man, which many of them spent with that recklessness so characteristic of those who have lived a life of peril. To get a wife appeared to be the order of the day; and for several weeks two or three dozen couples were regularly proclaimed. This was quite a windfall to the girls; and as there were plenty in the market, they were easily picked up. No doubt, little enquiry as to character being previously made on either side, several of the matches turned out rather unpleasant. Such of the men as went up to London received a pension of 4½d per day; and some of the sergeants got the King's letter, which entitled them to one shilling a-day. An ensign's half-pay then only amounted to one shilling and nine pence.

SERJEANT MENZIES, *alias*, ROUGH RAB.

Amongst the serjeants who went up to London and obtained the King's letter, we must not omit to mention Serjeant Menzies, better known by the cognomen of Rough Rab, who lived many years amongst us.

This strange character joined the army at the age of fifteen during the French American War. He was born in Athole, and continued a *true Highlandman* to the day of his death. He was a stout, robust personage, about five feet ten inches, much pitted with the small pox. His appearance was uncouth, and, at first sight, stern and forbidding: but the moment a person got into conversation with him, he was captivated with his free, blunt manner. His various and lengthened services during both the American wars, rendered him a living chronicle of the leading events of that period. The regiment he first enlisted for was lying in Ireland, when he joined. Having observed in the neighbourhood a loch well stored with wild duck, the day he received his gun, he set off for it, without leave asked or given. By the time he returned, the regiment was drawn up on parade, in the street he had to pass through. As the colonel was coming along the line, Robert was passing in front of his own company, with a long string of ducks hanging over his shoulder, and his white trousers wet with mud up to the middle of his thigh. In this plight he was observed by his captain. One corporal was ordered to take him into confinement, whilst another eased him of his game. Fortunately for Rob, the colonel came up and inquired into the matter, when the captain gave in a formal complaint, that he had absented himself without leave, and had made an improper use of his arms. The colonel seeing such a string of fine ducks,

and struck with the lad's open shrewd replies to some questions, ordered the captain to set him at liberty ; observing that he was certainly an excellent shot ; and desired Rob to call at his lodging, and he would give him a fowling piece that would answer him better. With the gun, he gave him permission to go to the loch at any time ; for which kindness the colonel's family were always well supplied with game. He was soon appointed serjeant, and went with the regiment to America, where he received a wound from a musket bullet in the thigh. Being eagerly engaged at the time, he was not sensible of the wound, until he happened to look down, and saw his white trousers covered with blood. He retired to the rear, got the wound tied up, and returned to the ranks determined to give as good as he had got. He was discharged from that regiment at the end of the war ; and when hostilities with the British Colonies broke out, he enlisted with the Frazer Highlanders, under Colonel Macdonald of Kinloch Moldart. Robert soon gained Colonel Macdonald's favour, and was appointed quarter-master-serjeant, then a pretty lucrative situation in a young corps. When they landed in America, their quarter-master was in a bad state of health. During his illness, Robert did the quarter-master's duty and his own, in such a manner as obtained the approbation of the General Officers, and also of the Commander-in-Chief. His blunt, open manner, led the officers to use a freedom with him seldom known in the army. Indeed, they took every opportunity of attacking him on some tender point, in order to draw from him that dry sarcastic wit in which he abounded. On these occasions, they were always sure to receive a hit ; but nothing he said was ever taken amiss.— One day, the quarter-masters of the different corps composing the army, were in attendance at the general store, to get the rations for each. They were all officers, excepting Robert, who was only serjeant. In his usual forward manner, he was pushing in for his share, when some one, considering him as intruding, ordered him to stand back till his betters were served. “ And who are my betters ?—not any of you, I'm sure ! ” “ Why so ? ” returned a quarter-master. Robin, as his colonel called him, slapping his hand on his thigh, told them he was an honest man, and that was more than the best of them could say. The quarter-master-general from that moment took a fancy for him, and kept him almost constantly in the store, where he performed the duty of general quarter-master and serjeant. Much of the duty of collecting stores of cattle, and such other necessaries as could be procured, was entrusted to him ; as well as the distribution of the provisions. Every one had unbounded confidence in him, and the highest officer in the service was treated with just the same respect as any of the men. I shall quote one trifling anecdote, to shew

what confidence was reposed in him :—He was in the habit of getting his own colonel to sign blank returns for stores and money, to be afterwards filled up when necessary. Being in want of returns one day, he bolted into the mess-room, where the general officers were assembled, and laid down a number of blank sheets of paper for his colonel to sign, which he instantly did. General Vaughan, who was present, seized Robert by the sleeve, and told him if he managed right, he might come and dine with him to-morrow. The colonel getting into a rage, told him to bring no more blanks to sign. Robert, however, continued the practice, but never afterwards offered them to him in public. At any spare time, the officers endeavoured to have a hit at him, but he generally had his revenge. On one occasion, a number of field officers were assembled in a wigwam they had got put together in a wood, and were enjoying themselves round a well furnished table. It occurred to Robin to play them a trick. In the vicinity there was a lake swarming with alligators ; observing some young ones basking themselves, he found means to get one entangled in a noose ; and pulling the creature up, he directed its head to the back of the wigwam. It so happened, that it made directly towards the hut : the ground was covered with dry leaves, which made a rustling noise, and attracted the attention of those inside ; when, to their consternation, they saw the head of the creature making its appearance through the branches. Instantly a rush was made for the door : table, bottles, glasses, men, and wigwam were overturned, and the disconcerted officers lay sprawling in an agony of fear in their endeavours to escape from the monster. Robin, who had been too eager to enjoy the sport, was discovered, and accused of sending the alligator amongst them ; but they found it impossible to be angry, their ludicrous exhibition rather inclining them to laugh at one another.

One night he took the duty of going round the outposts. The "Brig of Perth" was the watchword. On coming up to where a single sentinel was posted, one of his own Highlandmen, the man called out "Who comes?" Robin answered, "A friend." "Be she friend, or no friend," returned the honest Celt, "gin she dinna bring ta 'Brig o' Perth' wi' her, she'll shoot." The consequence was, the sign had to be changed round the whole sentinels.

On the line of march one day, the troops had to struggle through some miles of morass : in many places the men sunk nearly to the middle. Not having any horses, Colonel Macdonald, who was a heavy man, had great difficulty in getting on. Robin kept beside him to help him ; but had to give so many pulls that he at last lost his temper. At one time the Colonel stuck fast, and called for help ; but Robin being mired



himself, turned round, speaking gruffly, when he spied a large snake just about to dart on the Colonel. Drawing his sword, he cut the reptile in two; but the Colonel, not seeing the snake, cried out for mercy; thinking he had drawn his sword to dispatch him, in order to get rid of the trouble of helping him forward.

At one time the Colonel was without any money to pay the men. They had full rations of bread, beef, and rum, but still they had no money to tipple with. Being detached from the rest of the army, a general complaint was presented to Colonel Macdonald for their pay. He told them he had no money; but was willing to do every thing in his power to make them comfortable. Nothing would satisfy them. No pay, no service. Accordingly, their arms were piled up and belts hung upon them. During these proceedings, Robin had been out on a foraging excursion. On his return, he found the Colonel walking solus in front of the pile of arms. "What's all this?" exclaimed Robin in his usual manner: "Never mind," says the Colonel, "it's only a maggots of the men; they'll soon come to again." "Devil mak matter," says Rob, "this must not be;" and away he set to an old Stirling weaver, a character something like himself, who had fought his way up to the rank of Brigade-Major. The two contrived to lead a party from the next station into the wood near to where the unarmed and discontented men of the 71st were, and commenced a rapid bush firing. Apprehending it to be an onset of the enemy, every man rushed to his arms; and no more grumbling was heard about the pay.

Colonel Macdonald was the brother of the celebrated General Macdonald who was distinguished under Bonaparte. The General was then in the French service in America, a Lieutenant, and happened to be near where the Colonel was. The brothers had an interview by a flag of truce. The Colonel chose Robin to bear his flag, and the Lieutenant brought only a drum-boy with him. To this the Colonel objected; and ordered Robin to hold no communication with one so far below his rank. Accordingly, during the interview, the serjeant walked by himself, and the drum-boy did the same. The interview between the brothers lasted more than an hour, when they took a most affectionate leave of each other, and retired to their respective stations. On their return, the Colonel told Robin he was displeased with his brother for bringing only a drum-boy with him.

Robin used frequently to relate, that he had dined four of the first Generals in the British army on a piece of salt pork and biscuit; the ground for a table, and his pocket handkerchief for a cloth. He served them by cutting with his jockteleg a piece to each, and handing it round;

and gave them his canteen to apply to their mouths, for a drop of rum. Having finished their repast, they declared they had never enjoyed a better dinner.

Shortly after the regiment had landed in America, the whole tailors were collected at the general store to make clothing for the fresh troops that were sent over without either drill or regimentals. One day an alarm got up that a column of the enemy had made its appearance in a quarter whence no danger had been anticipated. It happened that the different divisions of the army were so posted that they could not be concentrated on that point, and there was no remedy but to bring the tailors off the shop-board. Accordingly, 900 of these knights were equipped in a few minutes. The only field officer who could take the command was the gallant Sir William Erskine, well known at that time as one of the bravest officers. The General, however, hesitated to take the command of such a battalion. Robin, with his usual forwardness, assured him that he had nothing to fear, for the 900 tailors would prove equal to 900 men. The result proved he was correct; the intrepid tailors completely routed the enemy, and captured a greater number of prisoners than the amount of their own body.

We must not omit the *coup de main* that obtained for him the appellation of "Rough Rob," by which he was afterwards known:—The division of the army to which he was attached, was at one time under the necessity of retreating and abandoning their baggage; which was left in his charge, with orders to destroy it, to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy. With the assistance of his own company of pioneers, and four light horsemen for carrying dispatches, he formed the resolution of bringing up the baggage. The British line had passed a river, and by the time Robin had commenced putting the baggage on board of boats, for the purpose of ferrying it across, the enemy had arrived on a neighbouring eminence. To keep them in check, he posted one of his dragoons at each end of a thick wood, that lay along the opposite side of the river, and the other two he kept riding express from one point to another, in such a bustling manner as led the enemy to imagine there was a strong force posted in the wood to receive them, should they attempt to descend to the river side. By this manœuvre, he succeeded in keeping them at bay until he got the whole over in safety; then, burning the boats, he remained with his light horse until the waggons were considerably advanced. On joining the army, the general officers, astonished to find the baggage all safe, asked him if he knew that he had forfeited his life by his disobedience of orders; to which he replied, in his usual independent style, "Deil mak

matter—your baggage is safe. I can only die once; and it'll be a' the same a hundred years hence."

When the army was on their way through the country, they came upon three Moravian villages, at about a mile distant from each other.— On their approach to the first, the commanding-officer, Lord Cornwallis, was addressed by a deputation of old men, with long grey beards, dressed in white gowns, girded round the middle with a broad belt; with white rods in their hands. The conversation lasted for a short time, and then the old men retired, and the army again advanced. When the first division reached the village, the order was given to charge; and each division as they advanced did the same, passing rapidly through the village.— They then halted, and moved on in line of march, until they reached the second and third villages, where the same orders were repeated. The whole army began to imagine that Cornwallis had gone mad; amongst others, Rough Rob was wondering what the world he was "squinting at now." Lord Cornwallis being just at his back, overheard the allusion to his oblique vision; when Robin, discovering his blunder, began to make an apology; but his Lordship took the joke in good part. It turned out that the Moravians had devised this plan to get the troops through their villages without offering any insult to their women; who were all shut up in their houses, peeping through the windows.

One day, Robin led on a division to the field; the weather was clear but calm, and the smoke rested on the spot, obscuring the parties from each other. Being supplied with gun and ammunition, he engaged pell-mell, and soon became so intent on the work, that he unwittingly got far a head of his division. A current of air clearing off the smoke, Robin found himself alone close in upon the enemy. Making a quick retreat, he fortunately regained his division in safety. The manoeuvre of leaving Robin in a scrape was considered a good joke by the officers, and was often played off, for the sake of putting him on his high horse.

Robin had but small pretensions as a drill serjeant, although he occasionally got a squad to exercise. One day when thus employed, he gave the word of command, "Make ready—present—shoot!" The adjutant, who was at hand, told him to use the word "Fire;" to which Robin replied, "If they shoot well, they'll mak' a good fire."

After the army surrendered, he maintained, by the force of his character, the same independent respectability among the men during the time they were prisoners.

During the time he was in America, there were some regiments raised there; and Robin was offered a commission, but his colonel would not allow him to go, under the idea that there would be no half-pay, and that he

would ensure him of a commission in the British army ; but unfortunately the colonel died on the passage home, and Robin lost his commission, principally from his own carelessness. When he went up to London to pass the Board, he was met by General Vaughan, who desired him to call on him next day, and he would see what would be done for him ; but Robin, happening to meet with some of his comrades, instead of waiting on the general, came off with them to Perth.

Robin was very successful as a recruiting serjeant. During the Nootka Sound alarm, when several independent companies were raised, he enlisted great numbers of young men. At the commencement of the French war, he was employed by the Earl of Breadalbane to procure men for the Fencibles ; by Colonel Graham for the 90th ; and by the Earl of Elgin for his Fencibles. When the Gentlemen Volunteers were embodied at Perth, he was appointed quarter master serjeant, with charge of the stores. He was much esteemed by this body, and held the situation until the corps was dismissed at the short peace.

Many of the officers who had served with him in America visited him during his residence in Perth ; apparently happy to renew their acquaintance. One day, a gentleman called upon him, and talked familiarly ; but Robin could not recollect him. The stranger at length asked if he remembered being at the taking of the Havannah ? “ I may remember that to the day of my death,” said Robin, “ for we lost our captain there, one of the best officers in the British army. I was close by his side when he received the fatal shot. There was a drum-boy near me, who burst into tears when he saw the captain fall ; and just as he was raising his hand to wipe the tears from his eyes, another shot carried off the laddie's thumb ?” The gentleman asked if he would know the drum-boy again ; at same time pulling off his glove, presented his mutilated hand. It was the identical drum-boy ; who had since been raised to the rank of major.

General Leslie inspected a young corps in Perth during the war ; when the review was over, Robin stepped up to the General and inquired how his Excellency did ? The General was somewhat at a loss to know who addressed him, although he recollected the face and voice. “ Indeed, your Excellency has seen and heard of me often,” replied Robin, “ for many a drop of rum I have given you from my canteen, in America.” The General immediately recognized his old friend, and invited him to a bottle of wine in the evening ; and, after fighting their battles over again, left him something substantial, as a token of his esteem.

After the regiment was reduced, his wife and family all died within a few weeks of each other. Being thus left solitary, the public house he

had formerly kept to help him was given up, and not having been bred to any business in his youth, the shilling a day was but a straitened allowance for a man who had formerly been on the general's staff. With that commendable solicitude for others' welfare, which a man's friends are so apt to exhibit when it costs them nothing, some of his relations, conceiving that he would be lonely, at his time of life, without a helpmate, sent down a middle aged woman from the Highlands, with orders to wait on him and offer her services. When sitting by the fire one night with some of his cronies, relating his most perilous adventures, she made her appearance: Robin, turning round, bluntly asked what she wanted; and she as bluntly told him, that she was come to be his wife! "The devil you are! On my conscience you are a droll one!" "Your friends in Athole sent me." "Oh, ho! that alters the case; step in bye and sit down, and we'll talk over the business." She accordingly sat down; the matter was settled in a few minutes; and she became his married wife with all convenient speed. Age crept on with its frailties: amongst others, he became nearly blind. He died a few years ago, amongst the last of the pensioners of that era.

#### SERGEANT PHILIPS.

We may here mention another individual of a different stamp, who, for a considerable time, was a distinguished character. He was a native of Perth, and had entered the army during this war when a mere boy. On his return he entered the dragoon guards, and for some time was remarkably steady; and was considered such an efficient duty man, that he was made pay-serjeant of the troop. He latterly fell into loose and dissipated habits; until becoming embarrassed, he decamped with his horse and the company's pay. He sold the horse, but was shortly afterwards apprehended and sentenced to receive a thousand lashes, which torture the poor fellow underwent at two different instalments. He was discharged shortly afterwards, and returned to Perth, where he acted as porter about the shore. He was subsequently employed by General Graham of Gorthy, to recruit for the 19th regiment, then on foreign service. For some time he acted with great prudence and industry. He enlisted a great number of young men, and succeeded in obtaining the confidence of the colonel. It was at last discovered that he had fallen into the practice of making false returns, and drawing sums of money not due, which he squandered in low houses. For these acts of swindling and breach of trust, he was tried before the Circuit Court, and sentenced to be publicly whipped through the town by the hands of the common hangman, and thereafter transported beyond seas for life. Severe as this judgment was, Philips, who had ex-

pected sentence of death, thanked the judge for his lenity. The sentence was carried into effect in the most degrading manner, and the wretched man, after lying long in Perth jail, during which time he made various attempts to escape, was at length sent off to end his miserable life in bondage and obscurity.

#### SERGEANT FORBES

Had been a drum boy in the 71st, and afterwards received an appointment to be recruiting sergeant in the 72d regiment. This was the corps which mutinied at Edinburgh, and encamped on Arthur's Seat till their grievances should be redressed. Being cajoled out of this resolution, they were sent to India for a long period of years, as a punishment. A recruiting party was stationed at Perth, and another at Inverness, for keeping up their complement of men. Forbes acted as sergeant-major in Perth, and had one or two sergeants under him. Great numbers of boys were enlisted, or rather entrapped, and sent to India. Forbes kept a public house; and being always ready to give drink on trust, or to lend them money, to be paid by a certain day, many young fellows were thus inveigled. When the day of payment came, they were often more involved than ever, and took the bounty, as the only apparent means of escape from their difficulties. Forbes generally contrived to get them to it spend about his house, instead of being laid out in the purchase of their necessary equipments. He was also occasionally employed by officers to raise men for their commissions. At the breaking out of the French war, he was employed by Lord Lynedoch to raise men for the 90th; and by various other officers. On every agreement he received a new suit of clothes. One officer presented him with a long full-made scarlet coat, and cocked hat. This he wore in conjunction with a highland kilt and hose, exhibiting rather a ludicrous appearance, as he swaggered along the streets, pursuing his vocation, on the market days. On the raising of the Elgin Fencibles, he undertook to get a sufficient number of men to obtain a lieutenancy for himself, and was so confident of success, that he procured a suit of uniform, in anticipation, and became one of the most consequential men imaginable. This being no way agreeable to his brother officers, who never liked him, they found means to get rid of him, by withdrawing their assistance in completing his men; and he was thus thrown back to his former station. The 72d having arrived from India, his services were no longer required. He then went to the west country, and became bellman or drummer in Glasgow; and afterwards got on the recruiting service at Inverness. Had this man acted with propriety or common prudence, he might have saved a great

deal of money during his stay in Perth; but his empty vulgar pride led him to be the dupe of those who knew how to take advantage of his weakness.

On one occasion, a recruit having decamped, Forbes stepped into a neighbouring cooper's shop, and in his usual blustering manner related what had happened; regretting that he could not obtain a horse in all Perth to ride after the scoundrel. The cooper drily observed, that "he could not promise him a horse, but thought he knew where he could find a good staunch *mare*!" The serjeant jumped at the offer, and requested that she should be immediately got ready, while he prepared himself. He shortly returned, booted and spurred for the journey, and inquired if the mare was ready? "Oh yes," replied the cooper, "my mare is always ready!" at same time pointing to the wooden tress on which he wrought. The rage of the man of war was ungovernable, and, in the charitable resolution of annihilating the individual who could presume to offer such an affront, he sent the cooper a challenge, defying him to mortal combat, as the only means of affording *satisfaction*. This was too important an affair for the serjeant to pass over in silence, so that by the appointed time a vast number of spectators had assembled at the White Dyke to witness the performance. Forbes was on the ground, parading in a very pompous manner, with a brace of pistols, affording no small amusement to the onlookers; but the honest cooper, who saw nothing satisfactory in the idea of being converted into a target for ball practice, paid no attention to the generous invitation. The affair having reached the ears of the Procurator Fiscal, the serjeant had not been long on the ground before he was arrested, and constrained to find proper security for the preservation of the peace.

#### THE ATHOLE HIGHLANDERS.

Shortly after the departure of the 71st, the Duke of Athole, then a young man, undertook to raise a regiment for government, and vigorous measures were adopted for procuring men, which created the most harrowing feelings throughout his Highland estates, where the young men were torn from their families in the most tyrannical manner. The city Council of Perth voted him a certain number of men, and each of the Corporations agreed to procure two. The trades' deacons were converted into recruiting sergeants, and paraded the streets at night with flambeaux, offering high bounties, and the freedom of the trade to all who would come forward. Amongst these, the deacon of the Glovers was most conspicuous; in his train the trades' officer, in the fantastic garb of a morris dancer, with jingling bells, performed a variety of antics. Be-

sides these, innumerable low shifts were adopted by hired agents, to kidnap the unwary. The complement of 1000 men was thus soon obtained.

An anecdote is told, which illustrates the manner in which some of these men were procured :—An Englishman in a journey through Athole, one morning, observed a poor fellow running to the hills as for his life, closely pursued by half a dozen of human blood hounds. Turning to his guide, the gentleman anxiously inquired the meaning of what he saw ? “ On,” replied the imperturbable Celt, “ It’s only the Duke raising the royal Athole *volunteers*.”

These men were enlisted for four years, or during the war. They were under orders for the East Indies, and were to be immediately embarked at Portsmouth, where they had arrived, together with some other regiments, under similar circumstances ; when the news of the conclusion of the war was proclaimed. That moment the troops refused to a man to go on board, demanding their discharge, in accordance with the terms of their enlistment. Many attempts were made to circumvent them, which was the occasion of a serious mutiny, in which several lives were lost. Nothing could prevail on them to embark ; the officers lost all authority, and durst not be seen amongst them. Instead of being brought back and disbanded in Perth, the corps was broke up on the spot, and each man was left to find his way home the best way he could. From this circumstance, a dreadful outcry was raised against the Athole family, and a prejudice existed amongst the working classes for many years ; it being currently reported, that the regiment had been sold by the Duke to the East India Company.

#### RIOTS ON ACCOUNT OF CRUELTY TO AN IRISH REGIMENT.

After the Athole Highlanders, the 2d battalion of the Black Watch were filled up at Perth ; and the Macdonald Highlanders, a fine body of newly raised men, 1000 strong, were trained here. They were succeeded by a body of Irish troops, called the White Boys, from being dressed in white jackets. This regiment was the cause of much disturbance in the place during their stay. It had been raised in haste, and at that time men of any description were eagerly taken into the army. Their officers were also of very indifferent character, and appeared to have little sympathy for the men. Those who know the army only in its present condition, can have but a faint idea of the privations and discomfort which the soldier had formerly to endure. Their daily pay was only 6d, which was subject to various weekly deductions for the doctor and chaplain ; they were also at considerable expense in cleaning their clothing, which was both scant and cold, and rendered still more uncomfort-



able by being continually daubed full of pipeclay. All their necessaries were obtained through the quarter-master and serjeants, at an extortionate rate, and of inferior value. There was no monthly settlement, and they were obliged to submit to exactions, which kept them in a continual state of misery. Those who had a wife and family were truly in a deplorable condition. A general muster took place only once in the year; and although a man died on the following day, his name was continued on the list till next inspection, the paymasters drawing the pay during the whole time. There was even instances of names being continued on the list for years after the parties were dead; substitutes representing the name being procured for the muster day from among the inhabitants.

There being no barracks, the soldiers were all billeted on the inhabitants, and in most cases were wretchedly lodged; often in open tiled garrets with an unglazed window, or in dismal vaults fit only for pigs.—Incredible as it may now appear, this regiment, when in Perth, were under stoppages, which left the men only 3½d a day. Their common breakfast was a half-penny roll, and a half-penny worth of Suffolk cheese; and those who sought to alleviate their sufferings by taking a glass of spirits, got no more food for twenty-four hours. The consequence was, that the men, from sheer necessity, were frequently driven to commit petty depredations; and as these, when discovered, were followed by punishments quite disproportionate to the offence, the North Inch became a scene of continual barbarity. It was no uncommon thing to see six, or even ten, of these unfortunate wretches suffer from 100 to 500 lashes each; and this was continued day after day, till sometimes the washerwomen interfered, and, partly by threats and partly by entreaty, succeeded in getting a few of them pardoned. At length a circumstance occurred which put an end to these *public* inhuman and disgusting exhibitions. A fine looking man, who had a wife and four children, driven by absolute want, entered a potato field in the vicinity, and pulled up a couple of shaws; nine potatoes were said to be the whole amount. Being detected in the act, he was complained of to the commanding officer, tried by a court martial, and sentenced to receive five hundred lashes. He was brought out to the Inch for punishment; but the peculiar circumstances of the case had created unusual sympathy in his behalf, and brought out a vast number of the inhabitants. On the way thither, the commanding officer was met by the wife, with an infant at her breast, and three at her side. She entreated him to have mercy on her husband; but he turned from her with contempt. She seized him by the sleeve, and implored, with tears in her eyes—but in vain; he thrust her from him with violence. These circumstances were soon communicated by those who had witness-

ed the interview, which inflamed the minds of the people still more against the commander. It so happened that seven men were brought out for punishment that evening, and several of them were tied up previous to this man. Some of them cried out terribly, which greatly roused the feelings of the multitude. When it came to his turn, he bore the first twenty-five lashes with considerable fortitude; but the second twenty-five being inflicted by a left-handed drummer, had the effect of tearing up the skin and flesh at every lash; and the unfortunate man was not able to endure the agony. His cries were piercing. His poor wife, who had lingered in the hope of getting some remission of his sentence, could restrain herself no longer. Setting down her child, she rushed through the ranks and held the drummer's arm, in the hope of arresting the punishment. She was seized, and dragged forth screaming; and the punishment was resumed. This was the signal for the washerwomen, who, with their laps full of stones, and backed by the willing multitude, broke through the line, drove the officers from the circle, and liberated the prisoners. The soldiers had only their side arms with them, except the guard on the prisoners, and appeared more willing to assist, than to resist the people. The moment the prisoner was untied from the halberts, a general attack was made upon the officers. The adjutant was less fortunate than some of the others in escaping. He got a terrible mauling from the women; who laid him down on his belly, in which position he was held by some scores of vigorous hands, till he had got a handsome flogging on the bare posteriors, in the presence of thousands—inflicted with an energy that would remain imprinted on his memory till the day of his death.

This put a stop to the flogging on the Inch; but although the public were no longer shocked by these inhuman exhibitions, the practice was still continued in the orderly room above the guard house.

Shortly after this affair, another event occurred which created even a greater excitement, and which threatened to be attended with serious consequences. Among the broken-spirited men in this regiment, were three who were decrepit with age and rheumatic pains. At best, there was then little sympathy between the officers and men; and these poor unfortunates experienced the full weight of official displeasure, from the adjutant down to the serjeant, who were in the practice of thrashing them continually with their canes, to make them stand erect; the frailty of nature being held to be a proof of obstinate temper. The public may have heard of the use of dumb bells, and various athletic contrivances for straightening or strengthening the body, founded on erroneous principles; but in this case a plan was devised, exhibiting profound ignorance of the delicate structure of the human frame, and outstripping everything that

can well be conceived of deliberate cruelty. A wright of the name of Gardiner was employed to construct a machine or press, which, by a series of screws, was to force straight what nature, age, and ill usage had made crooked. A report that this machine was being constructed had spread through the town, but few believed that such a thing could be resorted to. The machine, however, was finished, and smuggled into the orderly room. One forenoon, the neighbourhood was alarmed by dreadful screams from this place of torture. The cry was instantly abroad that the screws were at work. Immediately a mob assembled, the guard was disarmed, and the door forced open. It was found that one poor creature had undergone the rack; another was fixed in the engine; and a third victim was awaiting his fate in agony. The multitude, rushing from all quarters, had, by this time, greatly increased; and, when they came to understand the extent of the cruelty, their rage knew no bounds. The commanding officer ordered the drum to beat to arms; and the officers, in attempting to rally the men, were attacked individually with sticks and stones, and handled very unmercifully. The soldiers, being probably cool in the cause, did not assemble. The prisoners were liberated, and the screws were brought out and burned at the Cross. Gardiner, who constructed the machine, being more in their power than the adjutant who ordered it to be made, the fury of the mob was turned against him: everything in his shop was destroyed, and he only escaped by getting out at a back window. Even the officers' lodgings were beset, and many of them had to obtain safety by flight.

The mob, however, were not indiscriminate in their fury. Among the officers, there was one who was known to be opposed to the disgraceful mode of discipline pursued, and who had frequently fainted when compelled to be an unwilling spectator of the punishment of the men. This gentleman was permitted to go about unmolested, when his brother-officers had to fly for safety. Provost Faichney attempted to quell the riot, but was altogether unequal to the task; and only got himself abused and insulted. The riot continued for several hours, but fortunately no lives were lost, neither was there any serious damage done, further than the destruction of the wrights' shop, and the windows of the orderly room. On the news reaching Edinburgh, an order was instantly transmitted from the commander-in-chief, for the removal of the corps. As might be expected, from the treatment above detailed, there were always numbers of the men in Hospital. The premises allotted for this purpose were the third flat above the guard house, and another room in the South-street. The first consisted of a single room about twenty feet square, which was crammed with invalids; and it was only when

their discipline rendered this inadequate to the purpose, that the other was fitted up. When the regiment got the rout, they left their sick without any one to take charge of them; and a naked dead body was found at the head of the stair, for the town to bury. Besides the constant floggings, and the miseries of the guard house, this regiment, as an additional means of punishment, had the use of two dismal cells in Halkerstone's Tower, above the door of the West Church, where offenders were frequently confined for 24 hours, with their hands tied behind their back, and their mouths gagged with a drumstick.

The commander-in-chief, General Mackay, looking upon the treatment this regiment had received from the inhabitants in the light of an affront, resolved to send no more troops to Perth; which resolution he maintained during the time he was in command. This, however, was a crotchet for which the town had little cause to be sorry, for at that time the troops, however numerous, were billeted upon the inhabitants, who were obliged to find them lodgings, without any remuneration.

On the conclusion of the war with the Colonies, the 71st returned, and were disbanded in Perth. For some years there was little to disturb the equanimity of the town. The only troops lying here being a regiment of the line, and a company of artillery.

The next military hurly was on the occasion of a threatened war with Spain, about the Nootka Sound cat-skins. One hundred independent companies were ordered to be raised by officers in purchase of their commissions. Some of the Highland officers had again recourse to the old system of ordering out their tenants' sons; among these, the most distinguished was the Marquis of Huntly, then a stripling. He marched through the town at the head of a hundred young men. The streets of Perth were filled day and night with parties recruiting for the various officers, who had flocked here to procure men. The affair, however, was made up; and the best of the troops were drafted into regiments in India, and other foreign stations.