



MURRAY PLACE (South), STIRLING.

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**M**URRAY PLACE is commercially one of the best parts of Stirling. All the buildings, though moderate in size, are handsome in design, and substantially built. They are comparatively modern. Many of the inhabitants now living can remember when Murray Place was only a narrow lane leading to the orchards which existed where the railway station now is, especially the goods department. It was in the year 1843 that the street was named Murray Place, in honour of the late Mr. William Murray of Polmaise; and at the same time Maxwell Place was named in honour of Mrs. Murray.

We will suppose the tourist or the stranger to Stirling to have come up from the railway station, and to have turned into the town in front of the Station Hotel. Immediately beyond the hotel stands the Baptist Chapel, of which for many years the Rev. Dr. Culross, late Principal of Bristol Baptist College, was minister. The present minister is the Rev. Mr. Yuille. Next to the Chapel stands the North Parish Church, or the church of the third charge of the Parish of Stirling. The building is after the Norman style of architecture. It was built some time before the Disruption in 1843, and cost upwards of £4000, nearly one-half of that sum having been raised by public subscription before the church was opened for worship in 1842. It was opened by the late Rev. Dr. Beith, who, with the majority of his people, left the Church of Scotland in 1843. The building accommodates 1200 persons. Within recent time it has been considerably altered and improved. The present incumbent is the Rev. D. P. M'Lees, transferred from Woodside, Aberdeen, in 1895.

Beyond the church, occupied by the Railway as a coal depôt, is the place long known as the May Day Yard. It was here that Ramsay of Barnton built his stables for the stage coach horses prior to the opening of the railway between Glasgow and the north of Scotland. Whether the terms May Day Yard specially refer to the opening of Mr. Ramsay's stables on the first day of May, or to the observance of certain May Day customs on ground there belonging at one time to the Dominican Friars, the writer has not been able to ascertain. It is possible that the May Day pole may have been erected there annually for ages anterior to the running of the stage coaches. To the

right we see the building which was called the Union Hall, and which for many years was the only public hall in Stirling. It is now occupied as a bonded store. Adjoining the store are the coachbuilding works of Mr. Thomson.

Turning right about and facing Murray Place, we see the publishing offices of the *People's Journal*. Walking along Murray Place, we see the building which was formerly occupied as the County Club, beneath which are the drapery stores of Messrs. Fearnside & M'Donald. Immediately opposite are very fine buildings erected in 1893 by the late enterprising Councillor William Crawford. We come now to the chief building in our panoramic view—a building known in Stirling and neighbourhood for many years as Mr Peter Drummond's Tract Depôt. The building is now occupied by the British Linen Company's Bank. This building is not only one of the most handsome and substantially-built structures in the City of the Rock, but in its connection with Mr. Drummond's Tract Enterprise, it is of more than ordinary interest. The late Mr. Peter Drummond was not only a good man, but he had the courage of his convictions. He was not what the Bishop of Liverpool calls "a jelly-fish Christian." It is said that he unconsciously originated the Stirling Tract Enterprise by publishing a tract on Sabbath desecration. This was in the month of August, 1848, the year when the Scottish Central Railway was opened from Greenhill to Perth. Ten thousand copies of this tract were printed and distributed among the Sabbath breakers in Cambuskenneth gardens and elsewhere, and within three months one hundred thousand copies were in demand. So gratifying were the results, that Mr. Drummond resolved to continue the good work. He leased as his place of business, if I mistake not, the premises immediately opposite, occupied by M'Lachlan & Brown, and there continued the work till the year 1862. That year the beautiful building to which I refer was opened, and Mr. Drummond's large staff of workers with their work were transferred to it. Above the main doorway, near the top, we see two angelic figures, and in the centre a sparkling pearl, representing, it may be dimly, the messengers of the Gospel and the "Pearl of Great Price." The uppermost bust on the King Street side of the building represents Guthrie, the martyr; next is John Knox, then Luther; and on the Murray Place side of the building are the busts of Zuingle, Wickliffe, Whitfield, and Chalmers. On the opposite side of the street, in Murray Place, is the Waverley Hotel, under the management of Mr. M'Alpine.