



CALLANDER, FROM THE WEST.

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BY JOHN JAMIESON, F.E.I.S.

CALLANDER, which lies sixteen miles north-west of Stirling, has singularly picturesque surroundings. It is reached by the railway from Stirling, and is the terminus of the Oban line. The tourist, when at Stirling, will have seen on the western horizon Ben Ledi, Ben Lomond, Ben Voirlich, and other peaks of the Grampians. Now he finds himself under the shadow of Ben Ledi. All around him is fine mountain scenery, and the Teith—

“Which, daughter of three mighty lakes,
From Vennacher in silver breaks”—

flows with a rapid current past the town. The main street contains all the chief buildings. The old Parish Church has been entirely rebuilt and enlarged. The finely proportioned spire enhances considerably its architectural beauty. The Free Church of Scotland, the United Presbyterian Church, and the Episcopal Church, have places of worship, and there is a Mission Hall. The town has two banks, a Post and Telegraph Office, and a Public Hall. Recently an institution for higher education has been established, called the M'Laren High School. It is endowed by money left by the late Mr. M'Laren for educational purposes. There is also a Public School and a Boarding-House for young gentlemen, to supply the educational requirements of the district. The town is well supplied with water. The gravitation water supply is taken from the River Leny at a point about half-a-mile from Loch Lubnaig. There are a number of hotels to suit the convenience of all classes. In addition to these, board can be obtained in many establishments. The principal hotel is the Dreadnought. The original portion is said to have been built by the chief of the Clan M'Nab, and there is to be seen their motto—“Na cuireadh ni air bith eagal oribh”—*i.e.*, Fear nothing or dread nought. Some pretty villas have been erected in the town. Many of these are let during the summer season to parties wishing to enjoy the invigorating and health-giving qualities of the town. The numerous and large shops seem as well fitted to supply the necessities of the residents as those of the larger Scottish towns.

Visitors flock to Callander during the summer season. Many come from the other side of the Atlantic, attracted by the beautiful Highland character of the surrounding district. The tourist can make from here many interesting excursions. The Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle, the Pass of Leny, Loch Lubnaig, and Strathyre, are not far distant, while the Braes of Balquhiddier

and the grave of Rob Roy would provide an interesting visit to the land of the Macgregors. Visitors should not leave Callander without seeing the Falls of Bracklinn, which may be reached by a short walk from the town. Helen Douglas, speaking of Rhoderick Dhu, says—

“I grant him brave,
But wild as Bracklinn’s thundering wave.”

These falls, although not on a large scale, have in their vicinity hazel copses and rocky gorges which charm the lover of the beautiful in nature. The visitor passes on the way the heights of Uam-Var, referred to in the “Lady of the Lake” :—

“Less loud the sound of sylvan war
Disturbed the heights of Uam-Var,
And roused the cavern where ’tis told
A giant made his den of old.”

There are a number of earthworks near Callander which are believed to have been made by the Romans during their occupation of Britain. These are the Roman Camp, the remains of Bochastle, and the old fort on Doun Mohr. Sir Walter Scott, in the “Lady of the Lake,” says :—

“Sweeps through the deep and ceaseless mines
Of Bochastle the mouldering lines,
Where Rome, the empress of the world,
Of yore her eagle wings unfurled.”

Should the visitor wish to enjoy the sport of angling, ample opportunity will be found for either loch or river fishing. Lochs Vennacher and Lubnaig, which are among the best salmon and trout lochs in Scotland, are free to all. Many streams are also free. Fishing can be had in the Teith on payment of a small fee.

The Callander Recreation Company, Limited, take care that visitors will be able to make the time spent in the town pass as pleasantly as possible. They have laid out a golf course which is beautifully situated on the road to the Falls of Bracklinn. Lawn tennis courts have been made in the west end of the town. In connection with the Dreadnought Hotel there is a bowling green. The roads in the vicinity are very suitable for cycling. Callander is a good centre for the devotees of the wheel. The town has had the honour of being visited by Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the occasion of her opening the Glasgow Waterworks in 1869. She stayed at that time at Invertrossachs House, the lovely Highland home of G. Addison Cox, Esq.

Gaelic was generally spoken in Callander forty years ago, but it has now almost entirely disappeared. Although the Gaelic language is fast disappearing, there is an annual Highland gathering which is patronised by the most famous of the Scottish athletes. It is interesting to know that in 1763 a number of soldiers, who had fought in the German war, were, on returning to this country, settled here by the Government.