

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

THE SCOTT MONUMENT.

SIR,—A statement, extracted from your journal, has recently been going the round of the papers, to the effect that the Scott Monument here cost £30,000—this assertion being made use of to contrast advantageously with the extraordinary cheapness of what you term the “most striking monument in Scotland,” namely, that to Wallace’s memory on the Abbey Craig, which, it seems, will take no more than £11,000 or £12,000. Now, permit me to say that you have greatly overstated the expense of the Scott Monument, which appears to me not likely to be surpassed even by the Wallace tower, as it is emphatically the most striking and most beautiful thing of its kind not only in Scotland, but in all Britain. On referring to several books, I find the cost of the Scott Monument stated in all of them to have been £15,650—a sum not much above the price of the Abbey Craig memorial. To this, of course, must be added the cost of the statue at the base, somewhere about £2000 or £3000; but even with that addition, the total amount falls greatly short of Dr Rogers’ hobby; while the excess required for the one was certainly well spent in making it superior to the other.—Yours truly,

J. MACRAE MACKENZIE.

Edinburgh, 25th Dec., 1863.

[If the Scott Monument only cost some £18,650, can Mr Mackenzie tell us what was done with the rest of the money subscribed?—*Ed. S. O.*]