

Dr. Strang, in his "Glasgow and its Clubs," describes the appearance of the village at the beginning of this century, and it was not much altered in 1820:—"Among the many rural villages which at one time surrounded Glasgow, perhaps none surpassed Partick in beauty and interest. Situated on the banks of a limpid and gurgling stream which flows through the centre, and beautified as it was of yore with many fine and umbrageous trees, and, above all, ornamented with an old hoary castle, with whose history many true and many more fabulous tales were associated; and when to these were added its dozen or two comfortable, clean cottages, and its picturesquely planted mills, historically linked with the generous gift of the successful opponent of the lovely Mary at Langside, all combined to render this locality one of the most favourite of suburban retreats. It was, in fact, the resort of every citizen who enjoyed a lovely landscape, an antiquarian ramble, or a mouthful of fresh air. At that time there were still only a straggling house or two on the side of the turnpike from Anderston to the *Craw Road*. The summit of Gilmour-hill had scarcely been two or three years crowned by Mr. Bogle's handsome mansion, and the house of Dowan-hill was just being finished, while the trees in front of it, which are now so leafy and lofty, were only being planted under the boyish eye of him who now pens this

notice. The fact is, Partick was then truly in the country. Its thatched and whitewashed cottages, with its ruinous Castle, were such as to evoke the admiration of every tasteful limner; and its river, while it suggested a theme for the poet's lyre, likewise offered an attraction for the angler's rod."

After referring to its progress, he adds—"The ground on which these cottages stood soon became too valuable to be occupied by such humble dwellings, which were ere long supplanted by more formidable, though less picturesque tenements; while the once honoured though now ruinous-gabled Castle was some years ago converted into a quarry." We quote this latter sentence to show how strong the belief was as to Hutcheson's ruin being that of the ancient Castle, even up to 1855, the date of the Doctor's book.

When the ruin of what was termed the Castle was removed, the ground was disposed of to Messrs. Laird & Thomson, on which they built a dyehouse. It is now occupied by an engineering work. As to tales true and fabulous connected with the Castle, we have not been fortunate enough to hear any, excepting stories of apparitions often seen about the ruins at dark *gloaming*, or gray of morning; however, in a verse of a ballad, which Mrs. Colquhoun (Old Nancy) taught me when a boy, there is an indication of some love romance having been connected with the Castle. We give the verse as she sung it, but she remembered no more of the ballad—

" Partick Castle stands on a height,  
 'Twas broken into by a gentle thief,  
 But not for the sake of gear or cash,  
 But for the love of a bonny lass."

We cannot refrain from adding a verse which Mr. Hugh Macdonald, in his "Rambles Round Glasgow," has given. To those who have been brought up near the old ruin, within the sound of the waterfall, and spent many days paddling in Kelvin's limpid stream, the verse is quite refreshing:—

"Lo! Partick Castle, drear and lone,  
 Stands like a silent looker-on  
 Where Clyde and Kelvina meet.  
 The long lank grass waves o'er its walls,  
 No sound is heard within its halls  
 Save noise of distant waterfalls  
 Where children lave their feet."

Although Partick contains no ancient building of any note, the oldest house standing, dated 1619, being that shown in the accompanying Sketch, nevertheless the village has long maintained a notoriety in respect to its mills. While we have collected a good deal of information about the old mills in Partick, we have not in all cases been able to identify the mills named or referred to in old deeds with the mills presently existing, or their exact sites, having depended in a great measure for our information upon published statements, which are not at all times very accurate, and lead to no little confusion; neither are we sure as to the number of mills existing in old times, compared with the present. The following are the references:—Cleland, in his "History of Glasgow," writes—"Before the Reformation the bakers of Glasgow were in use to grind at the Town Mills at Partick, and also at a small mill which then belonged to the Archbishop, and subsequently to the Crown. The mill belonging to the Church was situated a little to

the east of the Town's Mill, and had nearly gone into decay. These mills, being of small dimensions, were barely sufficient to supply the inhabitants, and by no means capable of producing an extra supply on any emergency.

"In the year 1578 the forces of the Regent Murray, who successfully opposed those of Mary Queen of Scots at the battle of Langside, were quartered at Glasgow and neighbourhood. On this occasion the bakers were called upon for an extraordinary supply of bread for the troops, which they accomplished by uncommon exertion in bruising and bolting grain, not only in the mills, but also in their own houses, so much to the satisfaction of the Regent that he gave them a grant of the Archbishop's mill, which had now become the property of the Crown, and a piece of land adjoining it, which was annexed to the royalty of Glasgow in the first session of the first Parliament of Charles II." It appears from the annexation (which took place seventy-two years after the grant) that the town had also acquired some kind of right to this mill. The words are—"Dissolving the lands of the Wheat Mill on Kelvin, belonging to the town and the Baxters from the shire of Clydesdale, and annexing them to the City of Glasgow." Unless this wheat mill be a different mill from the Town's Mill referred to by the Doctor, there was little occasion for his surprise at the town having had a right to it. There is evidently an error in the above date, 1578, probably typographical. The battle of Langside was fought in 1568, and in the first volume of the "Annals of Glasgow" the Doctor says—"The Regent having returned to Glasgow, and offered up public thanks for his victory, was sumptuously entertained by the Magistrates and

Council. Having expressed his obligations for their fidelity and bravery, and particularly to the heads of Corporations, the Regent desired to know if, in return, he could be of any service to the Corporation? This condescension was so unexpected that no immediate reply was given. At length Matthew Fawside, who was Deacon of the Incorporation of Bakers, thinking this a fit opportunity, informed the Regent that the Corporation which he represented liberally supplied the army with bread during the time it had been quartered in the neighbourhood of Glasgow; that the mill at Partick belonged to the Crown; that the tacksmen exacted exorbitant muters, which greatly affected the price of bread to the community; and that if it pleased his Highness to give the Corporation a grant of the mill it would be acknowledged as a public benefit. This oration had the desired effect, as the Regent instantly gave the Corporation a grant of the mill and certain lands connected with it."

In Crawford's "History of Renfrewshire" it is stated that "in 1571 Captain Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill received from the Crown for his many services, and particularly for his taking of Dumbarton Castle, amongst other gifts the 'lands of Bishop's Meadows, Blockston-barns, and Mills of Partick.'" What and how many mills are included in this grant we cannot say.

In 1587 King James granted in feu to Walter, Commendator of Blantyre, the Bishopric lands; and there are named in the list—"Miln of Partick and Miln Lands, Waulk Mill of Partick, mill called Archd. Lyon's Mill, mill called Wheat Mill." That called by Dr. Cleland "The Town Mill" may be included in this

list, but certainly that given to the bakers by Regent Murray, and that given to Thomas Crawford in gift by the King, will not. We have here a list of at least six mills in Partick 300 years back.

In the Burgh Records there is the following:—

*May, 1577.*—“It is statute and condescendet be the Provest and Baillies, togedder with the consale under written, in the Counsale hous: Be reasone that the common Towne Milne is all uterlie ruinous, and gif na remeid be maid haistlie will not failze to fall and deokay, thairfore that all necessary materiales, tymmer, stanes, and other thing for bigging thairof, be preparid with diligence and braught to the milne, and craftsmen conducit for performing thairof, and that the maister (of) work be diligent and await thereupon. And ordanis the treasurer to be electit at Vitsondaye nixt to deburs the expens to be maid on the samyn.

“Becaus in respect of the statuts maid concernyng the cuming to the common Town Milnes, that altho the said milnes war reparit, zit wald not serve, nor be sufficient for grynding of the stuff that will cum thairto, and on purpose to accommodate the hail town thairfor with ane consent, thought gude to Blok (negotiate) with Archd. Lione for his miln, with quhome after lang avysement aggreit and appointit with him for the samyn conform to the contract to be maid thairupon, and they instantlie commonit and concentit to the heids thairof.”

*Oct., 1588.*—When all the Church lands were granted in feu to Walter, Commendator, there is the following minute of Council as regards Arch. Lyon’s mill:—“The quhilk day the present Baillies and Counsal, togedder with

the Deacons of the Crafts, for thameselfs and in name and behalfe of the communitie of the said toun, understanding altogidder that it behuiffit thame to tak the myln sumtyme pertyning to umquhill (late) Archd. Lyoun, in titill and feu fra my Lord Priour of Blantyre, Lord Fewar of the Baronie of Glasgow, or ellis to tyne the samyn incurre grit expenssis, labour, and pleg thairthrow, in the law and otherways."

Here Arch. Lyon's mill becomes the property of the town.

In 1595 the King grants a Charter of Confirmation confirming to the Provost and Bailies of Glasgow Arch. Lyon's mill on Kelvin.

The Church lands taken by the Crown after the Reformation were restored to the Church in 1606, again taken by the Crown in 1641, restored to the Church in 1661, and again taken by the Crown at the abolition of Episcopacy in 1738. George II., in virtue of these Acts, dated 3rd July, "Proceeding on a recital of the immemorial possession had by the Town of the Miln of Partick, and four acres of miln land, as kindly tenants of the Archbishop, and that the same had fallen to the Crown by the Act abolishing Episcopacy, and that it had been the constant practice to grant feu rights to kindly tennants for payment of their old rents, His Majesty therefore grants the said miln and miln lands to the Magistrates for behoof of the Council and community of the town, to be holden in feu, for payment of fifty bolls of grinded malt, eight bolls of horse corn, ten merks Scots, and four capons."

In the Burgh Records for the year 1660 occurs the following minute:—

“The said day the Dean of Gild Maid report that he and the Deacon Conveiner conforme to the Consall's ordours had maid search and vvall of the worth of the old mylne of Partick to the Towne, in respect of the great dewtie the Towne payis thairfor zeirlie, and having tryed almost the hail former tacksmen of the mylne, they find that the hail malt broune in Partick and Govane is scars worth ane furlott moultter per weik, but that the said mylne was werie stedable to the towne in tyme of ane drouthe or frost.”

This, we think, refers to the old Town's Mill.

Dr. Cleland, in his “Annals,” says:—

“In 1664 the bakers erected a small mill on the site of the old Bishop's Mill, which, in conjunction with the Town's Mill, served them till the year 1771, when they purchased from the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow the snuff and malt mill at Clayslaps, a few hundred yards above the Partick Mill.”

These are the principal notes we have been able to collect respecting the mills; but if we except the Wauk Mill of Partick, which is the Scotstoun Mill, and those granted to Captain Crawford, the sites of which we do not know, all the mills here spoken of were on the south side of the river Kelvin, or what may be termed Glasgow side, and the sites of these may be identified as follows:—

1st. **THE OLD MILL** (the Town's Mill referred to by Cleland) was situated at the south-east end of the old bridge. When the City of Glasgow got possession of this mill we have not yet been able to discover, but they retained possession of it until 1810, when they sold it to the proprietors of the Slit Mills. The Old Mill, we remember, was burned down in 1836; the mill now



standing was then erected on the same site, and named Bishop Mill. Why, we know not.

2nd. THE ARCHBISHOP'S MILL (on the site of which Dr. Cleland says the bakers built another mill). We extract the following respecting these mills from the *Glasgow Herald*, 1849, the insecure condition of their stores being before the Dean of Guild Court:—

“The Court, in considering the Report, ordered the Old Bunhouse to be taken down, and all the other stores to be strengthened to the satisfaction of the reporters. Mr. William Gilmour, writer, who appeared for the Incorporation of Bakers, stated in their name their cordial concurrence in the report, and expressed their anxiety to have the necessary operations executed forthwith. He also stated that tradesmen had been employed, and all the stores had already been lightened. The effect, however, of these alterations will be to remove one of the old landmarks of the Partick Mill. These mills were gifted by the Regent Murray, on the well-timed solicitations of Deacon Matthew Fawside, to the Baxters of Glasgow, for services rendered to the forces of King James VI. at the Battle of Langside. The original grant was the mill lying between the Old and New Roads, then known as the Archbishop's Mill. Long since, however, the name was changed by popular consent to the ‘Bunhouse Mill,’ from its proximity to the Bun and ‘Yill’ House, which stood at the gate. Although there is a stone inserted in the gable of the present mill, with the inscription, ‘M—1568—F,’ there is no doubt that it has been preserved from the wreck of the original gifted mill, where it had been placed in honour of Matthew Fawside, and that this public-house,

which stood on the ground-floor of the store now ordered down, is in reality the oldest of the existing buildings. Above the door is the date 1695, with a representation of the implements used in the baker's trade, such as the oven, peal, and 'rumpies.' "

There is another old relic of the Archbishop's Mill still existing—a vane in the form of an Archbishop's mitre, with the letters, "B G, 1555." Will this vane and letters be a sort of monogram reading—Archbishop Bethune, Glasguensis?

3rd. ARCHY LYON'S MILL.—This mill, as we have seen, was bought by the town from Walter Stewart, Commendator of Blantyre, in 1588. Through the kindness of Mr. John White of Scotstoun Mills, who obtained a sight of the titles of the Clayslaps Mills, bought from the town by the Bakers' Incorporation, we are enabled to identify it, as follows:—It is dated 7th May, 1771, and is clearly described (not as the Clayslaps Mill), but as that miln formerly called Archy Lyon's Miln. The purchase was made from the City of Glasgow, and included all lands, dams, ditches, etc., in connection with the said mill. In addition to Archy Lyon's Mill, they also purchased from the town a rood of land, bought by the town from John Craig, which is described as part of his lands of Nether-Newton, and lying contiguous and adjacent to their malt or meal and waulk milns. This rood of land is conveyed by the same title, and the boundaries given. There are at present three water-wheels at Clayslaps, or three set of mills. Might it not be the case that one of these was Archy Lyon's Mill, the other two being the Meal and Waulk Mills?

It is more than probable that the City extended



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WEE, OR LOWER SCOTSTOUN MILL. FROM THE DAMHEAD

Archy Lyon's Mill, during the 173 years they had possession of it, by adding other wheels, and even for other purposes than grinding grain, such as waulking cloth. While these sheets are passing through the press, the City has bought back these mills to have them removed for public improvements.

These were probably all the mills that were on the south side of the river at the date of the Reformation, but there were also mills on the north side. In the feu list of Walter, Commendator, there are named, besides these mills on south side which we have identified, the Waulk Mill of Partick, Miln of Partick and Miln Lands, Miln called Wheat Miln; and there are also milns given by the King to Thomas Crawford in gift, all of Partick. We have already stated as our opinion that the miln called "Wheat Miln" here and in the Act of Annexation of Clydesdale to the royalty of Glasgow was the *Old Mill*.

The Waulk Miln is that now termed Scotstoun Mill. The Scotstoun family having become proprietors of this mill, changed its name from Waulk Mill to Scotstoun Mill, but the titles still refer to it as the Waulk Miln of Partick. There was another small mill under the Scotstoun Mill, driven by the tail water of the above mill, collected by a dam. These were known in our day by the names of the *Wee Mill* and *Wee Dam*, in contradistinction to the Waulk Mill and *big dam* above the fall. The wee dam was artificial, which shows that the *Wee Mill* is of later date than the Waulk Mill. This mill was also named Lower Scotstoun Mill. Whether this mill is one of those referred to in the feu list we cannot say; from its entire dependence upon the

Scotstoun Mill for water, we are inclined to think that the two mills were under one proprietor. It is a mill of two stories, but originally it had only been of one story, and rightly named *wee* mill. It is now used as a machine shop. The accompanying *Sketch* of the back view of mill and dam will be recognized by many in Partick. These are all the old mills we have been able to identify with any now existing; however, there may have existed other mills that have been removed, and their places faded from memory.

The Slit Mills, which were situated on the south side of the Kelvin, exactly opposite where the Castle stood, are comparatively of modern date. A portion of these mills still stands, and is still used for grinding grain. These mills, with the *lade* and dam, were constructed about the year 1738 by the Smithfield Iron Company of Glasgow, for slitting and grinding iron. The Smithfield Iron-works were situated on the north side of the Clyde, near the Broomielaw, where Oswald and Robertson Streets now are. The mill and dam was a work of great magnitude. There were originally eight water-wheels for driving the different machinery, which was changed according to requirements; latterly, three wheels were used for rolling and slitting iron and grinding tools, and five for forging, but the success of the undertaking does not seem to have been permanent, for in 1781 they were advertised for sale. We quote the advertisement from "Old Glasgow, by 'Senex':"—"22nd November, 1781.—To be Sold, jointly or separately, the Smithfield Houses and Lands at Pointhouse, and the Slitting, Rolling, and Grinding Mills and Houses on Kelvin, with smith's tools and materials. Progress of



P. MacKinlay del.

**PART OF SLIT MILLS, LOOKING EAST, SHOWING JOINING OF CASTLE GREEN AND ORCHARD.**

Writ and Inventories of the whole to be seen in the hands of William Robertson, Smithfield." It appears that they were not sold at that time, for they were again put up for sale on 15th Feb., 1786, at the upset price of £2200, there being a street sixty feet wide delineated in the plan. The Pointhouse and ferry-boats were also in the possession of the Smithfield Company, and were advertised for sale by them in 1780.

The Slit Mills were shortly after this last date of sale converted into grain mills. A great portion of these mills was burned in 1815, and immediately rebuilt. The accompanying *Sketch*, taken in 1840, shows a portion of these mills, or rather stores and drying-houses connected with the mills proper by a covered passage, under which the carts were loaded with the products of the mills.

Whatever may have been the motives of, or inducements held out to, the Magistrates of the City of Glasgow for granting liberty to the Smithfield Iron Company to draw water from the Kelvin at the dam close to the Old Mill we do not know, but soon after the starting of the mills it became a prolific source of litigation, and subsequently the cause of great nuisance and expense to the Burgh of Partick, and hurtful to the proprietors alongside the river, between the bridge and the Slit Mills, which the following narration will show:—The Old Mill, by virtue of being the first mill built on the river at that part, had the right to be supplied with water from the dam in preference to any other mill. The Waulk, or Scotstoun Mill, built upon the north side of the river on the same dam, had right to the second supply of water. In ordinary circumstances

there was ample water for both mills during the greater part of the year, but in times of drought and scarcity of water these distinctive rights for the water supply were of consequence, and respected. Each of these mills had originally but one wheel of moderate size. The water from the Old Mill went directly into the bed of the river after passing through the mill; the water from the Waulk Mill was caught by a small dam that supplied the Wee Mill or Lower Scotstoun Mill; it then went into the bed of the river at the bridge. The right given to the Smithfield Iron Company to draw water from the dam above the town, by a lade leading to a dam behind the Slit Mills below the town, virtually diverted the water of the river past the village, with the exception of what was used by the two mills above named. However, the right of drawing the water from the river above the damhead, obtained by the Slit Mills, was not to prejudice the rights of the two mills, viz., Old Mill and Waulk Mill, of the first and second supply of water, consequently during dry weather the Slit Mills had not a sufficient supply for their purposes. Under these circumstances the proprietors of the Slit Mills purchased the Waulk Mill, and then let it out to tenants, with only the right of the third water supply, transferring the second supply to the Slit Mills. In 1780 the Smithfield Iron Company sold the Waulk Mill to Mr. John Craig, under restriction that "it shall have no right to the water of Kelvin until the Old Mill is first served, and until enough pass to the Slit Mills to drive three wheels."

In 1810 the proprietors of the Slit Mills purchased the Old Mill from the City of Glasgow, and thus



obtained the control over first supply of water, which they, however, let with the mill for some time; but the burning down of the Old Mill in 1836, and the erection of the present mill with steam-power, took away the necessity of using water-power; consequently, in time of scarcity the whole of the water of the river was and is carried past the village of Partick to the Slit Mill, and thus for several months of the year the bed of the river Kelvin, under the dam breast to the Slit Mills, lies as a receptacle of waste water, stagnating and creating a nuisance which has caused great expense to the burgh, it being obliged to carry a pipe sewer along the bed of the Kelvin for the lower part of the town. The proprietors upon the immediate banks of the Kelvin not having taken action against this diversion of the waters of the river in time, have allowed the Slit Mill proprietors a prescriptive right.

In the notice taken from the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper—"The Bunhouse Mills" (page 53)—there is a very suggestive remark respecting the grant of the Archbishop's Mill, as follows:—"The original grant was the mill lying between the Old and New Roads, then known as the Archbishop's Mill."

This description would be quite appropriate to the present roads, but that now termed the New Road was not made till the end of last or beginning of the present century. It is more than probable that what is now the Old Road, viz., the Bunhouse Road, was then the New Road, and the Old Road was probably one that was said to have passed immediately north of Scotstoun Mills, called Bishop's Road. This New Road was in all probability formed in connection with the Old Bridge

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of Partick, concerning which there is also a little confusion.