

confusion.

In Crawford's "Peerage," published in Edinburgh in 1829, it is stated, "that a great part of the Bridge of Partick was built by Captain Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill, about the year 1577, at which time that gallant soldier was Provost of Glasgow. Captain Crawford was the sixth son of Lawrance Crawford of Kilbirnie, and is famous for many warlike exploits; his surprising and taking the Castle of Dumbarton, on the 2nd of April, 1571, being perhaps the most memorable."

On the south side of the bridge is still to be seen his coat armorial, viz., the quartered coat of Kilbirnie—1st, A fesse ermine; 2nd, a chevron betwixt three cross pates for the name of Barclay; and in base of the coat of Crawford, for distinction, two swords saltierwise.

In Crawford's "History of the Shire of Renfrew" (1710), speaking of Captain Crawford of Jordanhill, he says "that he was Provost of the City of Glasgow an. 1577, about which time he built a great part of the Bridge of Partick over the river Kelvin, consisting of four arches, on which is his name and arms, viz., the quartered coat of the family of Kilbirnie: first, a fesse ermine; secondly, a chevron betwixt three cross-molins for the name of Barclay; and in base of the coat of Crawford, for distinction, two swords satyrewise, which are carried by all his descendants, and underneath his arms is this inscription :—

' He that by labour does any honestie,
The labour goes, the honour bides with thee.
He that by treason does any vice also,
The shame remains, the pleasure soon a' goes.' "



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OLD BRIDGE, SHEWING ADDITIONS TO BREADTH.

M'Ure, in his "History of Glasgow" (1736), says "that Thomas Crawford built an arch of the Bridge of Partick over the river Kelvin, where his name and arms are still to be seen."

In the recently published history of Glasgow, "Glasghu Facies," page 132, occurs the following entry, being an extract from the Kirk-Session:—"1651. *Bridge of Partick*.—Captain Crawford of Jordanhill was Provost of Glasgow, and built the bridge over the River Kelvin this year." If this be a correct extract, it is difficult to account for the insertion of such a minute, because it is in error both in date and fact.

It is difficult from these statements to make out how much of the bridge was built by Captain Crawford. Our opinion is that, as the Bunhouse Road at the gifting of the Archbishop's Mill to the bakers in 1568 was new, a bridge over the Kelvin was being erected in connection with it, but in these troublous times was not finished; that when Captain Crawford became Provost of Glasgow, he, having mills in Partick, for his own advantage completed the bridge, or, if previously completed after a sort, Captain Crawford may have added an arch, as referred to by M'Ure. In all probability the new road was his best way from Glasgow to Jordanhill. All seem to agree that on that part of the bridge which Captain Crawford erected was put his name and arms, and the rhyming inscription as given above. There is a coat of arms carved within a compartment on the north-west side of the bridge, but A. D. Robertson, Esq., artist, who is well versed in heraldry, assures us that this is not Crawford's coat of arms, but Stewart's quartered with another. In

a note to us upon this subject, he says—"It is a full arms, with supporters erect, and I am of opinion there is nothing about it belonging to the Crawford ensign, and there is no doubt about the arms in the first and fourth quarters being that of Stewart." One of the authors we have quoted says it was on the south side; the bridge runs due south and north—probably he means the south end. There have been no such arms nor inscription on the west side south end in our remembrance, nor have we heard of any. It may, however, have been on the east side south end, in which case it has been built over, but could be seen by M'Ure when he published his history in 1736. This makes it probable that Crawford's addition or arch was on the south end, and in all probability the original portion of the bridge was erected at the public expense, and will account for the presence of the Stewart coat of arms being on that portion.

Before the bridge was altered, probably as built or finished by Captain Crawford, it had very low parapets, and was not much more than half its present breadth, allowing only one cart to pass at a time. About the beginning of this century the bridge was altered to its present breadth, by adding several feet to the east side. This addition may be seen by going under the arches, and is shown in the *Sketch*. Whether this was the first stone bridge over the Kelvin at Partick we cannot say. Probably some wooden erection for the convenience of the mills may have been before this time; but houses on the south side of the river were very few. The ford below the bridge was passable for horses and carts, except on rare occasions of high floods.



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VIEW FROM KELVIN, LOOKING NORTH.

If a wooden bridge existed above the Archbishop's Mill, as tradition says there did, it would serve foot passengers. It may be mentioned that, until the bridge was widened, or until the present new bridge and road were made, a pontage was levied for cattle passing during certain days of the two great fairs in Dumbartonshire—Muir Fair in June, and Balloch in September. We well remember the person who last collected these pontages, Matthew Semple, who lived at the north-west end of the bridge, in the house termed "The Ark"—the two-story house seen on right hand of *Sketch*, "view from Kelvin, looking west."

Any person sixty years ago casting his eyes along the north side of the river Kelvin, from the Castle Brae to the foot of the Knowe, before any of the buildings were made on the side of the river, would at once perceive that in former times, probably when the Old Bridge was built, the river flowed along the base of the Brae, from the Knowe westward, forming a bay. On the west point stood the Castle; from this point upwards, along the north bank of the Kelvin, was a low flat or holm, forming, no doubt, what was known as Partick Holm or Meadow, and Gilmour Holm. The road leading north from the Old Bridge, as built or finished by Captain Crawford, was carried over this holm by an embankment having well-built retaining walls. The house standing at the north-west corner of the bridge, built by Thomas Craig, blacksmith, in 1717, stands partly on the abutment of the north arch of the bridge, the retaining wall of the road forming the wall of the lower flat of the house, which is still standing and inhabited. (*See Sketch*). Mr. A. C. Shanks told us that

he had seen a letter to Thomas Craig giving him liberty to use this retaining wall in the way stated. The lower part of the Old Bridge Inn is also on a level with the abutment of the bridge, and the retaining wall of the road is also the wall of the main room of the inn, which is several feet under the level of the street. From this view it is evident that the steps crossing the Kelvin at the Castle Brae were at the narrowest part of the river, and the part likely to be least fordable, and, being opposite to the west portion of the village, must have been very convenient for the workers at the Slit Mills, as well as for the Pointhouse ferry. The Old Bridge has also been built at the narrowest and lowest portion of the Kelvin, where a solid rock foundation could be got. The Brewster Burn ran between two braes, from Cooper's Well to foot of Knowe, forming a glen where were tanyards using the water of the burn, the existence and sites of which are only indicated by being named as boundaries in titles of neighbouring properties.

From Dr. Leishman's "Statistical Account of the Parish of Govan," we take the following:—"In a charter of James VI., dated November, 1587, wherein, proceeding on a recital of the Act in July, 1587, annexing Church lands to the Crown, and of the dissolution for granting these lands, offices, and regalities in feu, the King gives and grants a feu to Walter Stewart, Commendator of Blantyre, his heirs and assignees, of the Bishopric lands after-named, namely, Wester and Easter Side of Partick, Hindland, Miln of Partick and Miln Lands, Balshaggrie, Partick Yard, Waukmiln of Partick, Brewlands of Partick, Mill called Archie Lyon's Mill, Meadow of Partick, New and Old Parks of Partick, Mill called Wheat Mill.

After this transfer of Church lands to the Crown, the heritors who previously possessed these lands as rentalers of the Archbishop united in obtaining a charter of confirmation from the King." The following are the names of those holding lands in what is now known as Partick:—

- " Michael Hutchison, of the 8s. 8d. land of Balshagrae.
- John Stewart, of Rossland, of the other 8s. 8d. land in Balshagrae.
- William Alexander, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
- John Rowand, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
- John Reid and Robert Hutcheson, in Gartnavel, of the 8s. 11d. land there.
- William Anderson, of the 8s. 11d. land there
- John Shanks, of the 8s. 11d. land there.
- James Gibsone, in Balgray, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
- John and Bartholomew Duncans, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
- Henry Gibsone, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
- Agnes Gibsone, in Hynland, in life-rent, and Ninian Dennistoun, her son, in fee, of the 5s. land in Hynland.
- John Sheills and William Robertson, in Partick, of the 13s. 4d. land there.
- Robert Alaneson, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
- John Allan, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
- Walter Craig, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
- John Crawford, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
- William Younger, of the 6s. 8d. land which formerly belonged to William Harvie, and the 26s. 8d. land, and of the yard called the Bishop's Orchard, and of the 6s. 8d. land called Browland, and of three acres of mill land there.

John Cuming, in Byres of Partick, of the 20s. land there."

Among the names of the heritors and their titles there are a few that suggest inquiry. For instance, John Stewart of Rossland, heritor of part of the lands of Balshaggry, is described in the charter as holding the office of forester and custodier of the New Forests, called the Parks of Partick. In the grant to Walter Stewart these are named the New and Old Parks of Partick. Where were these forests and parks? The Bishops must have had a very comfortable time of it in these good old days.

Another holder of lands in Balshaggry is Henry Gibson. Exactly a century after the date of the charter (1687), Walter Gibson of Balshaggry is Lord Provost of Glasgow. M'Ure says that Walter was the son of John Gibson of Clayslaps and Overnewton, that he made a little money by malt-making, and then became a merchant. He began first with herring fishing and curing, taking them to France and bringing home brandy and salt, by which he made much money. He also traded with other countries, and was the first that imported iron to Glasgow from Stockholm. Whether Walter Gibson of Balshaggry, the Lord Provost of Glasgow in 1687, was a descendant of Henry Gibson of the same place of 1587, we cannot say, but the probability is in favour of the supposition. The family descendants of Gibson have still connection with Partick lands. It is remarkable that the lands named are mostly in Balshaggry and Hyndlands—places that are now only known as farms. How far such lands extended at that time it is now

difficult to determine. However, it is evident that they all existed on what is the north side of the village of Partick, and may not have included what was immediately round it.

There is also a Walter Craig of the 6s. 8d. land in Hyndlands. Half a century after this time the Craigs held a large portion of the lands in and around Partick, and we believe were the superiors of Dowanhill and Partickhill, and holders of a large portion of the household property in the village. The two oldest houses now standing, dating upwards of 200 years back, were built by the family of the Craigs. These lands have passed into other hands, and although there are many descendants of this once prominent family still living in the locality, the name is not now so potent as it was. We will have occasion to speak of several branches of this family in course.

In the foregoing list of heritors the name of Purdon does not occur; but not very long after this date the Purdons were also possessors of land and other property in and around the village, and were nearly as prominent lairds as the Craigs. However, the absence of the name from the list may be in consequence of a great part of their property being situated at the south end of the bridge, which, although included in Partick, is not in Govan parish. That locality was known as the "Bridge End," and the Purdons were consequently called the *Lairds of Brigend*, a title which they retained till within our day. In 1820 the Lady Bridgend lived in property of her own at the west end of the village, nearly opposite the Steps Lane. There were two sons and a daughter. The latter married George M'Farlane,

tenant of the bleachfield prior to Mr. Walker. He built as a printwork the four-story house so long afterwards used as a power-loom mill. The Purdons had also property in the Goat (Kelvin Street). In the beginning of the eighteenth century the most noted in tradition was John Purdon, nicknamed *Strawny*, probably from his being or having been Laird of the Goat, down one side of which ran an open burn, and on the other side, in winter, a gutter, either of which forms a *strawon*. He was very eccentric and penurious, and known also as the "riding beggar," having in his later days rode about upon an old horse, attending funerals, *kirns*, and the like, for the meat and drink then distributed, and did not fail even to ask alms on the road. Many stories were current in the village about his eccentricities, which it may be as well to leave untold. His son gave the grant of the burying-ground to the Society of Friends in 1733, and in 1790 John Purdon, laird of Bridgend, with Allan Craig and William Robb, jointly granted the land in the Goat for the building of a school, still standing, which we will have occasion to refer to further on. In connection with Partick, we find the name mentioned in the Burgh Records of Glasgow, 1589:—"The quhilk day Williame Purdeane and Johne Scott in Pertik are decernit, in ane wrang and amerciamento of Court for trubling of the toun under clud of nicht; and the said Johne Scott, for the bluiding and wounding of Arthur Millar, servand to the Bishop of Aberdene, he being reddand hame, and dome given thairupon."

Tradition states that a fraternity of Freemasons existed in Partick upwards of two hundred years back, holding a charter from the Old Mother Lodge of Kilwin-



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OLD MASONS' LODGE AND INN. BUILT 1819.

ning, called the Partick Kilwinning St. John, No. 77. I have endeavoured to find the true date of this Lodge, but have failed, as the books and papers belonging to the old Lodge of Kilwinning were destroyed by fire, and the Lodge of Partick St. John has become extinct since 1837. Whether William Miller, the contractor for the building of George Hutcheson's house, who was from Kilwinning, and contracted to supply masons, hewers, and barrowmen, brought with him from that ancient seat of Masonry a few of the Brotherhood, who founded the Partick Kilwinning St. John's, I cannot say, but think it very probable. This being what was termed an Operative Lodge, its leading members and office-bearers for a long time were confined to operative masons; but this rule was broken through, and others obtained admission, which increasing, led to a dispute on St. John's evening, 1763, at the election of office-bearers. The operative masons objected to any member holding office but an operative. The question being brought to a vote, there was a majority against the operatives, who left the Lodge under protest. The majority proceeded with the election, and continued to meet as the Lodge St. John's. Afterwards a committee of five was appointed to bring the protestors to account. This caused an appeal to the Sheriff, which, after continuing for some time, with no likelihood of an easy settlement, the contending parties mutually agreed to submit the whole to the arbitration of Brethren chosen by each from Lodges in Glasgow. The result was that the dissenting Brethren were to have the charter, register book, chests, and jewels, at a valuation, which, with the bills and money belonging to the Lodge, were to be equally divided between the parties.

The speculative party then petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a charter, which they received. This charter is dated 29th March, 1769. The number of the Lodge was then 150, but is now 117, and the name they adopted was the PARTICK ST. MARY'S. The Operative Lodge removed to Glasgow, and was called the Partick and Glasgow Kilwinning St. John's, which continued till 1837, when, as we have said, it became extinct. The following is a list of the names of the petitioners for the charter and the first office-bearers of the Partick St. Mary's, a few of whom we remember, having met them as sons of the same Mother, and with some we claim relationship:—

ROBERT OLIVER, *R. W. M.*
 ARCHIBALD M' AUSLAND, *S. W.*
 JOHN M' QUEEN, *J. W.*
 ROBERT STEVEN, *Sen. Stewart.*
 JAMES CRAIG, *Jun. Stewart.*
 JAMES INGLIS, *Treasurer.*
 JOHN ADAM, *Secretary.*

H. Corner.	Thomas Miller, Jun.
Thomas Miller, Sen.	Robert Craig.
A. Perrie.	James Colquhoun.
James Scot.	Hugh M' Morland.
William Edmond.	George Henderson.
James Ker.	William Semple.
James M' Murray.	James Millar.
John Balloch.	James Muir.
James Fulton.	Alexander Stewart.
James M' Lauchlan.	Thos. Sheila.
John Walker.	James M' Symon.
John Ferrier.	John Auchinclose.
James Wilson.	William M' Elldoe.
Archibald Buchanan.	John M' Elldoe.
William Baird.	George Bateson.
Allan Craig.	William Lammas.

Robert Risk.	Archd. Campbell.
John Cowper.	Robert Gray.
Alexander Cameron.	Edward Buttrie.
John Kirkwood.	John Bowie.
James Guilan.	John Gibson.
Daniel M'Gregor.	Andrew Gardner.
John M'Gregor.	James Algie.
Robert Hill.	William Govan.

The bye-laws of the Lodge enacted that the place of meeting must always be within the village. Like other societies, however, the Lodge had its periods of declension, sometimes to such an extent that meetings were entirely suspended, while again, from some favouring circumstance, a revival would take place. Early in the present century one of these periods of declension occurred, and in order to resuscitate the Lodge, the bye-law limiting the place of meeting to the village was rescinded in 1814, and at the same time a resolution was carried to hold their next meeting in Anderston, as many Anderston people were members. This had the desired effect, and for several years after their meetings were held in Anderston the master and many of the office-bearers belonged to that district. Again the Partick brethren increased in number, and St. Mary's once more flourished in Partick, but, unfortunately, as the objects of the Society were mostly confined to spending a few social evenings together, often ending after Lodge hours in a disgraceful debauch, the Lodge again declined, its periods of renewed but short-lived vigour depending generally on some public occasion, such as the laying of a foundation-stone. As the necessary result of this state of things, the management passed into the hands of a few unworthy brethren,

for the most part public-house keepers and their supporters, whereby the Lodge got a character which acted as a barrier to all respectable people holding fellowship with it. The scenes we have witnessed in the midst of sworn Brothers between thirty and forty years ago are better left untold. Again strangers gained the ascendancy, and in 1860 the Lodge meetings were transferred to Glasgow, and the name of the Lodge was changed to the Partick and Glasgow St. Mary's. This change, however, lasted only for a short period; Partick again had a majority, and we are glad to say, as one of St. Mary's sons, that she is again in the ascendant, her office-bearers being respectable men, and the aims of the Lodge are becoming more consistent with the order, viz., a fraternity for mutual help in times of need and trouble, bound to support and strengthen the weak, raise the fallen, resist evil, and encourage morality in all men, but particularly in Brothers and their wives and families, for the basis of Masonry is Christianity.

We may relate here a circumstance in connection with a Masonic procession that put the whole village in alarm. In the year 1822 was laid the foundation-stone of a bridge over the Kelvin at Woodside, called King's Bridge, in honour of George the Fourth's visit to Edinburgh that year, but more commonly named Gibson's Bridge. The stone was laid with Masonic honours by the Partick St. Mary's Lodge, at least that Lodge was there. The procession home was followed by a great crowd, in which were many from the printwork at Maryhill. When the brethren had entered their Lodge the crowd were left without anything to see or hear, and finding nothing better to do, the Partick youth took to throwing stones at

the Maryhill people as they retired, a practice common at the annual processions in March against the Anderston youths. The Maryhill people retaliated with vigour, when it became a regular running fight, the Partick youths continuing the pursuit to Horslet Hill, the Great Western Road not being then made. In the evening some two dozen Maryhill calico printers, incited with drink and thirsting for revenge, entered the village armed with sticks and broken paling, swearing and threatening the villagers with vengeance, which they soon put into execution, striking and knocking down every one they met, man or woman. This continued for some time. The inhabitants, barring their doors and putting to their shutters, remained in their houses. There was then a colony of Highlanders who worked at the Soap Works at Slit Mills, and occupied houses on the Vennel at the Knowe. One of their women having been out for water, was abused by the raiders. This roused the Highland blood of the colony, who, arming themselves with regular cudgels, sallied out, and meeting the enemy in Cooper's Well Road, a vigorous *mêlée* ensued. In a short time the streets were cleared, several of the printers having to beseech shelter from the villagers, and some of them were so punished that they were unable to return to Maryhill till next day, with their heads bandaged. This raid left ill-feeling between the two towns for some time, and a few private encounters took place at the Pear Tree Well by the more thoughtless on the Sabbath afternoons during that season.

We think it may be interesting to relate some of the circumstances which we happen still to remember in

connection with one or two of the parties whose names appear in the petition for the charter.

A. Perrie was a bleacher in Gilmourholm Field, at the foot of Gilmourhill, on the side of the Kelvin. One winter evening he and his wife had been in the village at a friend's house, and going home late, the night being dark, they both fell into the open shaft of an old coal pit, and were drowned. There was no new Dumbarton Road from Clayslaps to Partick in those days, and they could only reach their home by threading their way among the trees. The morning after, finding him absent from the works, some of the workers went to his house and found it unoccupied. A search was then made, when his hat was seen floating in the old pit. The bodies were recovered, and the affair, as was to be expected, caused a great sensation in the village. For long after few of the villagers would pass the place on a dark night, many declaring that they had seen the pair walking arm-in-arm about the spot at the dead of night. After this accident the old pit was filled up.

John Ferrier we remember as a hale, hearty, and very popular man. Having a halt, he had to move about with the support of a staff. He dealt in coals, and to him the villagers were indebted for the introduction of what is termed the club system—that is, a system of credit in which payments are received in weekly instalments. This was a great boon at the time, as weaving, the staple trade of the village, was very dull, and rapidly declining, from the introduction of steam-looms.

Allan Craig, when we first remember him, lived in

a two-storied thatched house in Cooper's Well Road, directly opposite Knowehead. He wore powdered hair, and had a long *queue* hanging down his back. In his earlier days he had been a man of considerable property and importance, which he continued to assume. He had not the most amiable temper, which made him disagreeable in many public matters, as he claimed the right to rule in these. We remember him as a terror to boys. He always carried a staff, which he freely used against the bigger boys, and this caused him often to be made the butt of their sport, in which they were sometimes encouraged by older heads, as the following instance will show:—The house, we have said, was a two-storied one. Outside, in front, was a stone stair leading to the floor above, the landing of which was supported by a stone pillar. The old man passed many hours standing under this landing at his door, leaning against the pillar. One wet afternoon Allan was standing as usual with his shoulder against the pillar. On the landing was a large crock filled with water. This suggested an evil thought in the mind of an ingenious weaver, who took two straws, cut and arranged them in the form of Λ by a thread and rosin, and instructed a willing, barefooted lad how to set it going as a siphon. It was soon placed over the mouth of the crock, and a small stream of water run down on Allan's neck, who, putting up his hand, and finding what was wrong, in the impulse of the moment struck the crock with his stick, bringing it and its contents over him.