



BRUCE STATUE, STIRLING.

## THE BRUCE STATUE.

BY WILLIAM CHRISTIE.

THE Bruce Monument, Castle Esplanade, was erected by subscriptions received from Scotsmen residing all over their native land, and from the officers and men of our Highland regiments. Money likewise came in for the erection from Scots in America, Australia, and New Zealand. The sculptor selected for the statue was the late Mr. Currie, Darnick, Melrose, whose design was to represent King Robert, with all kingliness, as a knight of the highest rank, clad in the fighting armour of the period, and in the act of sheathing his sword after the victory. The figure is nearly 11 feet high, and is looking in the direction of Bannockburn. The centre block of the pedestal has in front the Scottish shield, with the lion rampant in deep relief. On the western face is the inscription:—"King Robert the Bruce: June 24th, 1314"—the date of the battle of Bannockburn. The stone of the figure and the blocks of the pedestal are from the same quarry, Fairloans, Northumberland. On Saturday, 24th November, 1877, in the presence of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, detachments of the 21st North British Fusiliers, and the 91st Highlanders from the Castle, and an immense crowd of spectators who had gathered together from different parts of Scotland to witness the imposing ceremony, Lady Alexander, of Westerton, Bridge of Allan, from an adjacent platform unveiled the statue. When the sheet that enveloped the King fell away, the hero of Bannockburn stood out in bold relief, the face expressing conscious dignity, and the whole figure manly bearing and great courage, the enthusiasm of the vast assemblage burst into loud cheers, which were followed by a royal salute of cannon from the ramparts of the Castle. In the evening a banquet was held in the town, where patriotic and heart-stirring speeches were delivered in honour of this memorable occasion.

