



KING STREET, STIRLING.

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**K**ING STREET was part of the old Hie Gait or High Street of Stirling, and before it received its present name was known as Quality Street. Until Murray Place was opened in the present century, it formed the main thoroughfare of the Burgh. It was then the main thoroughfare, not of the Burgh only, but was part of the only continuous highway from the south to the north of Scotland. It was not until after the beginning of this century, however, that it became an important business street, the centre of civic life even within the memory of those now living having been further up the hill.

The building on the right at the foot of the street, now occupied by the British Linen Bank, was erected for the Stirling Tract Enterprise by the late Mr. Peter Drummond, and was sold to the Bank when the increase in the circulation of the publications made larger premises necessary. The sculpture adorning it, including the carved heads of distinguished Reformers which form the key-stones of the lower tier of windows, was the gift of his brother, Mr. William Drummond, who also presented to the town the statue of Wallace and the porch of the Council Chambers at the head of the street.

Above the Golden Lion Hotel is the site of one of the Burgh Gates, known as the New Port, conjectured by Bailie Ronald to have been built about the middle of the sixteenth century, and removed in the eighteenth. The spot is marked by a different colour and arrangement of the causeway blocks.

The greater part of the building with the Gothic spire at the head of the street is used as the Council Chamber and Burgh Offices. It was opened in 1817 as a subscription library and reading room, and was then dignified by the name of the Athenæum.

To the left of the Council Chambers is the opening to the Corn Exchange, in which the weekly grain market is held. Before the railways relieved the roads of the market traffic, the Corn Exchange yard used to be filled with carts on Fridays, and those which were unable to get accommodation there were permitted to line the streets, the horses being meanwhile stabled.