

A WEEK
AT
BRIDGE OF ALLAN,
COMPRISING AN
ACCOUNT OF THE SPA,

BY
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A WEEK AT BRIDGE OF ALLAN.



Sweet Auburn! levellest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheer the labouring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visit pays,
And parting summer's ling'ring bloom delays—GOLDSMITH.



The Village and Spa.

The Situation—Vicinity—Origin and Aspect—The Copper and Silver Mines and Mineral Springs of Airthrey—The Medicinal Uses of Mineral Waters and mode of using them—Dietetics of a Spa—Climate of Village, Scenery and Rural Walks—Eminent Persons—Adaptation of Environs for Geological, Botanical, and Antiquarian Pursuits—Places of Lounge and Sources of Recreation and Amusement—The Characters—The Well House—Baths—Hotel and Lodging Accommodation—Ecclesiastical Advantages—Social Comforts—Accessibility and Prospects of the Spa.

As amply entitled, from the loveliness of its landscape, the interest of its neighbourhood, the salubrity of its climate, and the efficacy of its springs, BRIDGE OF ALLAN has for a series of years held a high rank among Scottish watering-places. Situated in the most central shire, as well as in one of the most sheltered and fertile regions of North Britain, at the southern base of the western termination of the Ochil hills,* it is environed by a district of beauty and romance. On the north or background of the picture, and extending eastward, rise the elevated tops of the Ochils,

* A mountain range, about 24 miles in length, extending from the heights of Keir north-eastward to Abernethy on the river Tay.



VIEW OF SICILY

their steep fronts garnished by the blooming heath, the variegated moss and thriving timber, and occasionally by verdant spots of herbage, clad by thriving flocks. Stretched out in the foreground, are the rich carse of Stirling and the vale of Menteith, irrigated by the meanderings of silvery streams, glittering in the sunbeams, and relieved by bold, picturesque, and elevated crags. The serpentine folds of the Forth, Teith, and Allan, seem to intermingle in the plain; and in front, Stirling Rock, with its imposing Castle, on the left, Abbey Craig, and on the right, Craig Forth, elevate their craggy crests. Towards the south-west, the prospect is terminated by the terraced hills of Touch, and on the west by the lofty peaks of the mountains of Benlomond and Benledi. Nor is the surrounding district less interesting as the scene of perilous enterprize, heroic exploit, and warlike adventure. "For miles around, there is not a foot of ground which has not heard the tread of marching armies; and the eye can be turned in no direction without lighting on the field of some memorable contest." A short distance southward of the village, the Caledonians, and afterwards the Romans, had an important station; and farther towards the south, Sir William Wallace laid his successful ambuscade for the English generals, Surrey and Cressingham. Beyond is Stirling, so famous in military annals, and a little farther south is Bannockburn, the birth-place of Scottish independence. Northward are Sheriffmuir, the battlefield of undecided victory, and the celebrated Roman camps at Ardoch. Eastward, at a short distance, is the supposed scene of the final overthrow of the kingdom of the ancient Picts; and westward, among the mountains, is a territory, renowned in history and famous in fiction—the region of Rob Roy and of Rhoderic Dhu.

In its present form, Bridge of Allan is essentially modern; for although, beyond the period of human recollection, a hamlet existed on the spot, this cannot be regarded as the embryo of the present village. According to Dr. James Robertson of Callander, who wrote the former statistical

account of the parish of Lecropt, the whole inhabitants of the hamlet in the last decade of the century were embraced in twenty-eight families, and these were "variously employed in ministering to the convenience of the country." The writer adds, that "no situation seems to be better adapted for erecting a village on a large scale." The village probably had not made much progress either in interest or population in 1827, when Mr. Robert Chambers, in his "Picture of Scotland," describes it as "a confusion of straw-roofed cottages and rich massy trees; possessed of a bridge and a mill, together with kail-yards, bee-skeps, colleys, callants, and old inns." To the discovery of the adjacent mineral springs of Airthrey, Bridge of Allan is primarily indebted for its rapid transmutation, from the sequestered retreat of rural life to the favoured resort of elegance and fashion. The first house in the modern village was erected so lately as 1837; but such has been the rapidity with which houses and villas have since sprung up at this rising Spa, that the visitor could scarcely credit the recentness of its origin. Handsome and commodious houses are annually reared, which from the liberal terms on which portions of ground for villas may be obtained in feu, and the inexhaustible supply of building materials that at very reasonable cost may be obtained in the immediate neighbourhood, are found to yield highly advantageous returns. Such is the demand for house-accommodation, that no sooner is the building of a new structure commenced, than offers are made to take it in lease, at least as a summer residence, on the fabric being finished.

The village derives its name from the bridge across the river Allan, which bounds it on the west. The Allan again has its designation from the Celtic *aluinn*, signifying beautiful, and hence several Scottish rivers claim the same etymon. The few houses comprising the original village are situated nearest the bridge; and with their white-washed walls, flower-garnished fronts, and woodbine-encircled doors, present a clean and cheerful aspect. The

main portion of the new village extends eastward of the older hamlet on the level carse, and immediately along the foot of the table-land on the north, on which the mansion-house and grounds of Westerton are situated. Villas are also erected on that portion of the table-land adjoining the Well House; and it is proposed to rear upon the spot several handsome crescents. The principal street of the village, designated *Keir Street*, in compliment to the present proprietor of Keir, extends from the bridge eastward to Ivy Lodge of Coneyhill, along the course of the turnpike between Stirling and Dunblane; but from the accompanying plan of the extended village, it will be observed that several other elegant streets and terraces will immediately be opened for building. The two best views of the village are obtained on the carse road from Stirling, at a point about half a mile southward, and at a curve of the turnpike eastward of Ivy Lodge. The former view is represented in the frontispiece to this volume, and the other fronts this page. The prospect presented in the latter, the pedestrian approaching the village from the south almost involuntarily pauses to admire. Beautifully ensconced at the base of a richly-wooded bank, the blue slates of the village glittering in the beams of the sun, the neat church of Lecropt appearing on the height beyond, the Allan stream gliding gently past, the surrounding region of luxuriant vegetation, with its farm homesteads and rustic cots—the whole features of the scene strikingly realize the poet's description of what the *Deserted Village* once was; for here is—

every charm,
 The shelter'd cot, the cultivated farm,
 The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
 The decent church that tops the neighbouring hill;
 The hawthorn bush, with seats beneath the shade,
 For talking age and whisp'ring lovers made.

The mineral springs of Airthrey, though but recently applied to practical utility, had been known to exist from a remote period. The working of a copper mine on the



View to Bridge of Allan, Scotland

BRIDGE OF ALLAN

From the East

Airthrey estate led to the discovery. In the course of the operations, which were chiefly carried on in the neighbourhood of the present Well House, it was found necessary, in order to preserve an outlet to the various shafts sunk in the edge of the Ochils, and the table-land adhering to its base, to open a level towards the carse, terminating at the middle of the present village. The water issuing from this outlet was regarded by the neighbouring peasantry, upwards of a century ago, as possessed of high medicinal virtues, and on account of these properties, was collected by them in a wooden trough. At the commencement of the century, numbers of the surrounding population frequented the spot early on the Sabbath mornings during summer, or when the weather was favourable, and partook of what they esteemed both a cure and preventive of sickness.*

When the copper mine of Airthrey was first wrought, cannot be accurately ascertained; but a tradition exists, that the *bawbees* coined at Stirling at the coronation of Queen Mary, being the first struck in the kingdom, were of copper from this mine. If the tradition be correct, the mine at Airthrey must have been opened before the middle of the sixteenth century. It had not, however, been wrought regularly, but at various intervals, depending on the taste of the proprietor or skill and enterprize of the age. Misfortune sometimes attended the too daring and adventurous miners. About the middle of last century, a contractor from Wales having realized a thousand pounds by sinking a single shaft, resolved on

* "Airthrey Well, 2 miles north of Stirling, flows from a mountain, where is a copper mine, with some mixture of gold; the water is very cold, and being tinctured with the minerals it flows through, is of use against outward distempers." A Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain by a Gentleman, vol. iv. p. 30, 6th edit. London, 1761, 4 vols. 12mo. (Of this work, the first three volumes were written by Daniel Defoe, who died on the 20th of April 1731. A fourth volume, added to the edition of 1782, is ascribed to Samuel Richardson. See Dr. Kippis's edition of the *Biographia Britannica* vol. v. p. 71.)

sinking another, in which he buried the whole amount of his gains, and thus was led to abandon his operations in despair.

On the subject of this mine, Williams, in his "Mineral Kingdom," writing in 1785, thus remarks—"I saw some very good regular perpendicular veins, bearing copper ore, near the Bridge of Allan, which have been worked, and a great deal of copper raised at different periods. The copper of this mining field is good in quality. The ores are yellow, green, and grey; and the yellow, which is very bright, and of a laminated structure, was the finest yellow copper I ever saw. From my own observations, joined with the information of skilful miners, I am of opinion, that the copper mines at the Bridge of Allan were rashly thrown up and stopped about twenty years ago, at a time when they had good copper in several foreheads, and still better in some of the soles, and as I thought, in sufficient quantity to be wrought with profit; but there being no furnaces and other apparatus for preparing and smelting the metal in Scotland, is a great detriment to the success of copper mines in this country. This mining field, however, promises a rich and plentiful produce of copper, if conducted with skill, spirit, and frugality."

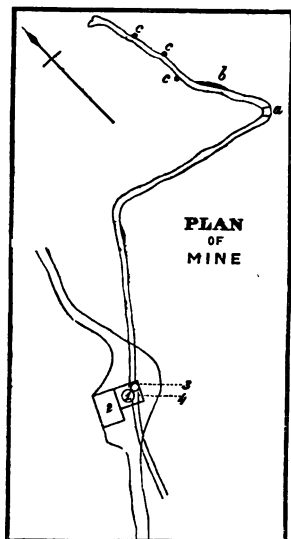
After the period when Williams wrote, the working of the copper was resumed for a short period, but operations finally ceased in 1807. According to the author of the old statistical account of Logie, a silver mine was also wrought in the vicinity of the copper mine, about the beginning of the sixth decade of last century, and might have yielded considerable remuneration to the proprietor and contractors, had not the unfortunate failure of the party to whom the ore was consigned suddenly put an end to the adventure.

Of the many shafts which had doubtless been sunk since the commencement of mining operations at Airthrey, only three are now visible. The first of these is opposite the Bath House; the second is used for drawing up the water

into the Well House; and the third is situated in the plantation, on the sloping bank, about three or four hundred yards towards the north of the Well House. This last excavation consists of a drift slanting into the rock for several yards, till it takes a somewhat perpendicular descent, evidently communicating with the other shafts by the level drift beneath.

The rubbish which had collected in the copper mine after the final abandonment of the mining operations in 1807, having intercepted the course of the springs, the mineral waters were for a number of years nearly in a state of total neglect; but in 1820, Sir Robert Abercromby, the liberal and enterprising proprietor of Airthrey, moved by the success of mineral springs elsewhere, had the mine reopened, the rubbish removed, and the springs, now permitted to flow copiously, submitted to the analysis of the late Dr. Thomson, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Thomson having reported most favourably as to their peculiarly high value and excellencies, Sir Robert made an offer of them, on very reasonable terms, to the magistrates of Stirling; but his offer being declined, he proceeded to the construction of the present Well House, which was finished in 1821. In 1826, he had the mine—which consists of a drift, proceeding in the general direction of north-east from the Well House, of the length of 400 yards, and of the average breadth of four, and height of six feet—completely arched in the roof, and the whole of the interior arrangements improved, at considerable cost, under the skilful superintendence of Messrs. Stevenson and Bald, civil engineers. Of the four springs which proceed from the eastern wall of the mine, three are collected in a cistern, about 300 yards from the bottom of the shaft, and from thence conducted, in two earthen pipes, to another cistern immediately under the shaft, from which the water is conveyed, by forcing pumps, up the shaft into the Well House. The shaft, which is thirty fathoms deep, is provided with a series of ladders,

fastened on platforms, at safe distances, by means of which the mine may be explored. A plan of the mine and of the



surface arrangements is represented in the accompanying figure; *a* being the collecting cistern, *b* the principal spring, *c c c* the other three springs, and the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, representing respectively, the pump room, sale room, cistern beneath the shaft, and the shaft itself.

The temperature of the water in the collecting cistern is 49° Fahrenheit at 9 A. M., and the quantity of water flowing into it about 1000 gallons per day—a supply sufficient to meet the wants of a very large number of visitors. The following is the result of

Dr. Thomson's analysis of the springs which are used—

SPRINGS NO. I. AND II. COMMONLY CALLED THE WEAK SPRINGS.

Specific gravity, 1.00714.

1000 grains contain—

Common salt . . .	5.1	grains.
Muriate of lime . . .	4.674	„
Sulphate of lime . . .	0.26	„
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	10.034	„

One English pint contains—

Common salt . . .	37·45	grains.
Muriate of lime . . .	34·32	„
Sulphate of lime . . .	1·19	„
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	72·96	„

SPRING NO. III. CALLED THE STRONG SPRING.

Specific gravity, 1·00915.

1000 grains contain—

Common salt . . .	6·746	grains.
Muriate of lime . . .	5·826	„
Sulphate of lime . . .	0·716	„
Muriate of magnesia . . .	0·086	„
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	13·374	„

An English pint contains—

Common salt . . .	47·534	grains.
Muriate of lime . . .	38·461	„
Sulphate of lime . . .	4·715	„
Muriate of magnesia . . .	0·450	„
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	91·160	„

Dr. Thomson was of opinion, that the springs proceed from the same red sandstone out of which arise the mineral waters of Dunblane and Pitcaithly, while they are much more impregnated with saline constituents. “In the amount of their saline impregnation,” writes Dr. Forrest of Stirling, in his valuable work on the mineral waters of Airthrey, “they far surpass the springs of Dunblane and Pitcaithly, and are only inferior to some of the springs at Cheltenham and Leamington.” It may even be doubted,” he adds, “if they are not, in reality, entitled to take the precedence of these springs on the list.” Speaking of the saline springs of Scotland, Professor Christison of Edinburgh, in his new and valuable Dispensatory, remarks, “The water of Airthrey is the strongest of the whole, and inferior in no respect to the strongest purgative waters of England.”

In the course of boring for an artesian well for the bleaching works of Keirfield, during the autumn of 1852, the boring apparatus would appear to have penetrated a portion of rock yielding a mineral spring. The water of this spring, issuing from the bore, but which is evidently mixed with a large proportion of the water of other springs, has been submitted to the analysis of several distinguished chemists; and the result of their examination would seem to warrant a careful search for the mineral spring in its pure condition.

The efficacy of mineral waters in removing cutaneous complaints and internal ailments, was early recognized in Scotland, while superstitious practices formerly attended their use. Renowned springs, which were not rare, were generally resorted to on the first day, or the first Sabbath of May, a practice evidently resting on the Druidical ceremonies of *Beltein*. On the first day of August, however, certain wells were reputed as most healing; others constantly maintained an equal efficacy. The cures effected were of a diversified order; mental and physical complaints alike yielded to their power, and the inferior animals derived benefit from their vicinity. Each well had its guardian saint,* the successor of the pagan deity; and in his honour, on quitting his domains, did each visitor deposit a votive offering on the margin of the fountain. The oblations were not valuable; a bit of thread or a portion of rag was deemed a sufficient indication of gratitude. When the water was drunk, the invalid, instead of pronouncing the words of the pagan charm, muttered the benediction; and if benefited, he returned to deck the well with flowers at the saint's anniversary.

The practice of making pilgrimages to wells from superstitious motives, was in the year 1579 prohibited by the

* A spring well in the terrace at Stirling is still known as St. Ninian's Well, that saint being formerly believed to have endowed it with peculiar virtues.

Scottish Parliament, and was again, in 1629, denounced by the Privy Council. From the pulpit it was inveighed against by the clergy, who subjected to church censure those who were detected in disobedience to the law.* The enactments of the state, and the increased intelligence of the people, who would be led to associate with the use of mineral springs the usages of superstition, had caused their virtues for a long time to be forgotten until a comparatively recent period. The efficacy of such waters in remedying many ailments, which otherwise could only be cured by a very lengthened course of aperient medicine, is now by the medical faculty universally acknowledged. It is found that mineral waters are much less apt to disorder the stomach than artificial solutions. The saline waters of Airthrey have not only been found signally efficacious in affections of the skin, stomach, and liver, but slight pulmonary attacks, and certain forms of gout, have also been essentially benefited by their use. Before proceeding however to Bridge of Allan, or any other watering-place, in the expectation of finding relief from the use of mineral springs, the invalid, in every case, would do well to consult his medical adviser; and should his symptoms be severe, he ought to carry from his usual professional attendant a statement of his case to the physician in the village whom he may intend to consult. Such caution is proper, in the case of every valetudinarian, but more especially in cases of stomachic disorder. Stomach complaints are of two kinds, organic and functional; and should the disease be of the former nature—that is, should there be inflammatory action in the mucous coat of the stomach—mineral waters are to be avoided, as causing irritation, and tending to foment rather than allay the distemper. It is in cases of

* A woman in Stirling, who had on the first Sabbath of May, 1617, taken a pint of water from Christ's Well, in the vicinity, for the benefit of a sick female relative, and left a portion of the invalid's "heidmuche" on a tree near the well as an oblation, was, on account of using the superstitious rite, subjected to the discipline of the kirk-session.

dyspepsy only—that is, of functional derangement—that mineral waters can avail; and as not unfrequently, during some stages of dyspepsy, and even of ordinary diseases, the mucous coat of the stomach is liable to affection, the importance arises of invalids at all times using mineral waters under the careful direction of the physician. But in residing at a Spa, care is also to be taken as to the quantity of the waters used, and the period of drinking them. From want of attention to these points, some invalids, while by proper attention they might have derived especial benefit from the use of mineral waters, have experienced decided injury. There are some indeed who imagine that the amount of benefit to be gained will depend on the quantity of water swallowed, or on the frequency with which the doses are administered; and hence the physicians at the Spa find themselves more occupied in attempting to cure those injured by the injudicious use of the waters than in any other branch of their professional practice. In few cases ought a larger quantity than the contents of four pint tumblers to be drunk each day, and these ought to be drunk early in the morning, while “the heat is less oppressive, the body and mind are refreshed by sleep, and the stomach is empty.” In scrofulous complaints, however, it is recommended that the water should be drunk in limited doses before each meal, and then the exact amount of the dose must depend on the state of the patient. For the sake of the gas, mineral water should always be drunk deliberately, and with an interval of at least a quarter of an hour between each tumbler. Gentle walking exercise should in the morning follow the drinking of the waters; but those unaccustomed to it, had better not attempt it, since it is the decided opinion of physicians, that fatigue is the very worst concomitant of water drinking. After his arrival at the watering-place, indeed, the invalid would do well not to partake of the Spa till he completely overcomes the fatigues of the journey. In the event of the patient generally requiring powerful medicine,

Dr. Granville, in his "Spas of Germany," states, that along with the mineral water, Carlsbad salts, cream of tartar, or any other gentle aperient, should be used. He mentions that Dr. Malfatti, the leading physician at Vienna, recommends in such cases, that during the use of mineral waters, half a tumbler of lukewarm new milk should be taken half an hour before the waters are drunk.

But not only ought the invalid at the watering-place to be careful in making use of the Spa, but he ought to be strictly attentive to his general habits, especially his dietetics, as otherwise the good effects of the mineral waters on his system may be negatived and lost. On this subject we cannot do better than exhibit the sentiments of Dr. Granville. "Before breakfast," says he, "I would recommend the patient to complete his toilet first, and, above all, never to omit cleaning his teeth with a brush and some proper tincture, burnt bread or sage leaves, in order to remove all vestige as well as the taste of the mineral water. The most appropriate time for breakfast is about an hour after drinking the last glass of the mineral water. It should consist of one or two cups of coffee, with white bread without butter. Chocolate is also admissible, or cocoa and milk, or a basin of broth with bread in it. After breakfast, the invalid may take a little more exercise, either on foot or horseback, or in a carriage, pay his visits, and attend to household affairs. The hours between breakfast and dinner should be so engaged, that neither the head nor the body should feel fatigued. Every severe exertion of the mind is forbidden, and no sleep must be suffered to intrude on the hours between breakfast and dinner. One o'clock is the hour for dinner. A moderately nourishing and easily digested dinner suits all patients. Fruit, raw vegetables, particularly potatoes, should be carefully excluded from all repasts by such as drink mineral waters. The contrary practice exposes the offender to the penalties of excessive noise in the

stomach, and to pains likewise, which will often last the whole day. It is not judicious to drink mineral water as a common beverage at meals. Wine is permitted, but in moderation; and if it produces heat after dinner, it must be omitted. A light and sufficiently fermented beer, with plenty of hops in it, is a preferable drink, but not porter or double beer. The supper should be very moderate, and the time for it about eight o'clock."

It is a fact so universally understood as to require no illustration here, that even superior in efficacy, in relieving slow and lingering diseases, is the influence of climate; and that though the invalid might, in a secondary degree, be benefited by drinking of certain mineral springs—should the climate of the locality in which they were to be had be unwholesome and insalubrious—he might sustain such injury by a residence at the Spa, breathing its atmosphere, and encountering its gales, as completely to counterbalance any advantage derived from the use of its waters. Thus, several watering-places are totally unfitted for the lengthened residence of invalids, and a few scarcely safe as the resort of enfeebled and delicate patients at any season. It is found that Harrowgate is only suitable for invalids between the beginning of August and middle of September; Scarborough, from the beginning of July till the middle of October; Buxton, from the beginning of July till the beginning of September; Cheltenham, from May till October; while Torquay is only adapted as a residence for patients from September till May. Bridge of Allan combines, in singularly happy unison, excellence of mineral springs with such general equability of climate, as to render it at every season a safe retreat for the enfeebled and valetudinary. So far back indeed as the reign of William the Lion, it seems to have been renowned for its general mildness and salubrity, that monarch having, in his last days, expressed a wish to be conveyed to this vicinity, that he might profit by its genial and wholesome

atmosphere.* And it is to be remarked, that general equality of temperature, and general absence from strong and unfavourable winds, are the characteristics which must recommend any region as a suitable permanent residence for invalids; for though the mean temperature of any locality be peculiarly mild, or the number of days when the wind may proceed from the unfavourable direction limited during the course of the year, yet if the temperature at any season be much subject to variation—for example, the day being warm and the evenings cold, as at Hastings, or the thermometrical indications during the day subject to rapid variation, as at Buxton; or if the wind proceeds at any season, for a continuation of days, from the unfavourable direction, though it should be mild and favourable during the rest of the year, as also happens at Hastings, the resident invalid must experience decided inconvenience and even injury. Bridge of Allan, then, though not laying claim to the high temperature of some of the English Spas, claims an equability of temperature, certainly equal to any, and superior to most of them, entitling it to be regarded as the Scottish Montpellier. Nature has shielded it on every side from the slightest approach to those very severe gales, that completely unfit Buxton for a place of summer residence. On the north, it is entirely protected by the Ochil range from the slightest breeze, and also by the same powerful barriers from the north-east winds, to which, in the early part of spring, Brighton is exposed. On the east, it is defended by the Abbey Craig from the easterly gales which are occasionally experienced at Scarborough, and on the west is sheltered by the heights of Keir; while the hills of Touch and other intervening mountains defend it from the south-western gales which frequently at Hastings and Torquay prove

* During the infancy of Queen Mary, her mother, Mary of Lorraine, especially desired to be removed to Stirling from Linlithgow, for the benefit of her own weakened health and that of her sacred charge.—(*Lives of the Queens of Scotland by Agnes Strickland*, vol. ii. p. 33. Edinburgh, 1851.)

injurious to the invalid. It is also free of the moisture which at certain seasons must be encountered by visitors at many of the southern Spas of Britain, and which proves very injurious to patients suffering from dyspepsy; while it cannot be regarded as too dry or bracing for patients liable to pulmonary attacks. At Harrowgate and Torquay, the visitor may, during the summer months, lay his account with rain on four days of the week; while he will seldom, at any season, find the sky perfectly free of lowering clouds. At Buxton, Bath, Hastings, and Cheltenham, he may very frequently calculate on showers. The dry climate of Brighton is decidedly unfavourable to those labouring under febrile symptoms, bilious attacks, and inflammatory complaints; while even the mild climate of Southampton, and Undercliff in the Isle of Wight, though advantageous to those suffering from pulmonary attacks, has the opposite influence on diseases of the digestive organs. Bridge of Allan is not only entirely free at every season from constant and severe rains; but from its fortunate position, being equidistant from the German and Atlantic Oceans, preserves a climate of the most happy medium, being free of the uncomfortable humidity of the western, and of the chilling fogs which in spring perpetually prevail on the eastern coast. During any part of the year, the climate is never too moist for the dyspeptic, or too bracing for the pulmonary patient; while at every season, from the equability of the temperature, the mineral water may be drunk by the invalid or visitor with safety and benefit. In proof of the salubrity of Bridge of Allan, it may be added, that instances of longevity are very common in the district, and infectious distempers are unknown.

Next to the advantages of inhaling a pure, wholesome, and equable atmosphere, and drinking the most salubrious and health-giving saline waters, the invalid at Bridge of Allan has the benefit of residing in a district, which in point of scenery, will stand in competition with most of the English and many of the continental Spas.

The village indeed unites the rural character of Harrowgate with the town-convenience and elegance of Cheltenham; while in the picturesque aspect of the surrounding country, it certainly equals the latter and far exceeds the former. Turn to whatever hand you may, and you have objects remarkable either for their freshness of scenery or mountain grandeur; and in the immediate vicinity of the village, especially on the table-land on the north, and extending eastward and westward at the foot of this part of the Ochil range, tasteful rural promenades have been laid out for the benefit of visitors—

The walks are ever pleasant; every scene
Is rich in beauty, lively or serene.

The Well House, which is situated about a quarter of a mile north of the village, is approached by a neat pathway, slanting along the rising bank at the back of the village, through a fresh and verdant plantation, till on reaching the level table-land at the top of the bank, we have in front the finely wooded sides of the Ochils, near the base of which the Well House is snugly ensconced. Immediately behind the Well House, from a beautiful garden, sloping along the side of the Ochils, is presented a commanding view of the extended carse and distant mountains. Proceeding along the table-ground, eastward from the Bath House, which is situated about a hundred yards south of the Well House, we pass on the left several beautiful villas on Lord Abercromby's feuing ground. Instead of descending to the plain by the road, at the back of Ivy Lodge, recently laid out by Mr. Macfarlane of Coneyhill, we may now enter on the footpath leading onwards to the manse of Logie, which is seen sweetly situated at the base of the Ochils, with its beautiful background of foliage. A little eastward of the manse, a footpath leads into a plantation, in which will be found, behind the manse, an interesting cascade, formed by a small rivulet falling over a rock about the height of 40 feet. At the side of the footpath, at a short distance east of the manse, are two

walls erected across a rivulet, in curious juxtaposition, which are reported to have been the contrivance of a landholder, to prevent the minister's cows from drinking in the stream. The erection is said to have been made during the incumbency of Mr. James Wright, minister of Logie, in the latter part of last century, who was not more distinguished for the faithful discharge of his ministerial duties, than for his successful exertions in wrenching from his *heritors* the rights and dues pertaining to his office. The insertion of the following story, illustrative of Mr. Wright's *naïveté* and humour, may be pardoned. The magistrates of Stirling held lands in the parish on behalf of the town, and had particularly opposed the wishes of the minister, who took occasion to indicate his extreme displeasure, by insisting on payment of his stipend from the them at the manse on the day when it became due, according to the express letter of the law. The magistrates, on their part, indignant at the minister's determination to afford them no delay in the payment of their quota of stipend, despatched to the manse of Logie, on the proper day, the public executioner of the borough with the amount, for which he was specially requested to procure a suitable discharge. Mr. Wright, on receiving the money, readily complied with the request for a receipt, and wrote thus — "Received from the Magistrates of Stirling the portion of stipend to me now due, by the hands of their *doer*, the hangman of Stirling." The stipend payable by the magistrates was afterwards punctually settled by the town chamberlain!

On returning to the footpath which passes in front of the manse, and pursuing our course eastward, we immediately reach the neat house of Blawlowan, situated as the name imports (*Blath-lon*, the warm little mead), in a genial and sheltered spot at the foot of a crag of the Ochils, sweetly studded with plantation. From the upper part of the garden, a lovely prospect of the carse, with its crags, rivers, and varied picturesque scenery, is presented.

Onward, we reach the old Sheriffmuir road leading up the hill, by which we may proceed to the farm house of Drumbrae, which likewise presents an interesting view. Having descended from Drumbrae, we enter on a broad promenade leading through the grounds of Lord Abercromby, by the southern base of the Ochils; and here the attention is at once arrested by the magnificent scenery immediately on the left. The precipitous side of the hill is studded by a majestic array of towering trees, which seem to raise their tops heavenwards; while the surface of the cliff is clad by the all-clustering ivy, which likewise entwines in its embrace the massy trunks of the lofty timber. The hill gradually becoming less precipitous, may soon be easily ascended, and the visitor (having previously obtained permission from the gardener), by walking up its sloping and wooded banks, will experience a picturesque entertainment which he cannot fail to appreciate. Foot-paths, tastefully and conveniently laid out, traverse in interesting foldings the side of the hill, penetrate its sylvan recesses, and conduct to its summit, from several points of which are commanded prospects rarely exceeded even in the more celebrated landscapes. The summer house, perched on the margin of a crag near the top of the mountain, and directly overlooking the park of Airthrey, affords a view which can only be represented, in the grandeur of its poetry, by the pencil of the artist. Below is Airthrey Castle, castellated and venerable, rising upon the deep greensward of the lawn, interspersed with the fairest trees; while the silvery surface of the winding lake, glittering in harmonious combination with the wider foldings of the Forth, spread out beyond in the spacious plain, with their numerous peninsulas* and varied accompaniments of

* The numerous windings of the Forth, called *Links*, form a great number of beautiful peninsulas, which being of a very luxuriant and fertile soil, gave rise to the following old rhyme—

“A crook o’ the Forth

Is worth an earldom o’ the north.”

Popular Rhymes of Scotland, by Robert Chambers, p. 43. Edinb. 1847.

scenery in crag, castle, and cluster, tend to excite no longing feeling for a close to the inspection. "Stirling Castle, Craig Forth, the Abbey Craig, and other striking objects, with the ruins of Cambuskenneth, all so rich in historical recollections, lend a deeper moral interest to the varied magnificence of the scene, more especially when the glow of the setting sun gilds the purple mountains with its changing hues, and diffuses a softer radiance over the varied realms of natural beauty."*

Near the summer house may be discovered the site of the *Hermitage*, a grotto built by Robert Haldane of Airthrey, of which we insert the description and history in the words of his biographer—"It was constructed after the model of the woodland retreat to which Goldsmith's Angelina is led by the 'taper's hospitable ray,' and discovers her slighted lover, who had sought for consolation in a hermit's life, away from the haunts of men. 'The wicket opening with a latch,' 'the rushy couch,' 'the scrip with herbs and fruits supplied'—all the other sylvan articles of furniture described by the poet were there; whilst on the sides of the adjacent rock, or within the hut itself, the lines of Goldsmith were painted at proper intervals—the invitation to 'the houseless child of want to accept the guiltless feast and the blessing and repose;' concluding at last with the sentimental moral—

'Then, pilgrim, turn, thy cares forego,
All earth-born cares are wrong;
Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long.'

"The erection of this hermitage," proceeds the biographer, "had nearly cost Mr. Haldane his life; for standing too near the edge of the rock on which it was placed, giving directions to the workmen, his foot slipped, and but for a post which he was enabled to grasp, he would have been precipitated to the bottom. The celebrated Henry Erskine,

* *Memoirs of the Lives of Robert and James Haldane*, p. 41. Lond. 1852, 8vo.

with his usual ready wit, exclaimed, 'It was a post for life.' But not content with the erection of this ideal hermitage, Mr. Haldane, who in his younger days always delighted in a practical joke, advertised for a real hermit, specifying the conditions, which were to be in accordance with the *beau ideal* of Goldsmith, including the prohibition of animal food. But the restrictions did not prevent the author of the jest from being obliged to deal seriously with applications for the place; and one man, in particular, professed himself ready to comply with all the conditions except one, which was, that he should never leave the wood. To the doom of perpetual seclusion the would-be hermit could not make up his mind to submit, and the advertisement was not repeated."

In walking along the level promenade through the grounds, and without ascending the hill, a beautiful object is presented, in the sudden appearance in front of Carlie Crag, a rock of the Ochils of the height of 200 feet, surmounted with a cluster of beautiful timber. With this crag is associated the following legend:—

About the second decade of last century, there lived in the parish of Logie several ill-favoured old women, to whom the reputation of witchcraft was confidently attached. They were believed to hold nocturnal dialogues and midnight revels with the Evil One, and Carlie Crag was regarded as one of their places of rendezvous. Satan, though he was believed to appear to them in various forms, was understood, in his interviews with the dreaded sisterhood, to appear most frequently in the aspect of a large shaggy dog, in which form it was alleged he had repeatedly been seen by the minister. An elder of the kirk had been returning of an evening from a shooting excursion among the hills, with a trusty musket, which he had picked up some years before on the field of Sheriffmuir, and discovering on the top of Carlie an animal realizing the description of the Satanic mastiff, resolved to try upon it the effects of a shot. He knelt down cautiously near the foot of the

crag, and after ejaculating a short prayer, and slipping into his musket a silver coin, fired with trembling heart but steady aim. His victim, evidently shot dead, tumbled to the base, and the delighted and astonished elder lost no time in personally communicating to the minister the success of his wonderful adventure. Though not a little superstitious, the minister was somewhat sceptical as to the mysterious dog being really dead. He however agreed to accompany his elder next morning to the foot of the crag to inspect the carcass; but on reaching the spot, they found the remains of no shaggy dog or evil genius, but the lifeless form of the beautiful pet goat of a poor and aged woman, a much respected parishioner. The minister and elder both shed tears. The wicked dog still lived, the innocent goat had perished. The elder however took credit to himself for his good intentions and valorous intrepidity; and the minister deemed it proper to improve the subject in his pulpit prelections on the following Sabbath. Discoursing on the subject of resistance to the Devil, he remarked, that the Evil One might assume numerous shapes and forms; that he went about as a roaring lion was declared in the Word, but he might take to himself various other aspects. He might even appear as a black colley dog. "But whatever form he may assume," added the minister, "he cannot be overcome or destroyed by powder and shot. There is a gun, however, that will shoot him, and it is this—it is the Bible. Shoot him then, every one of you, with this gun, and he shall be shot."*

We now reach the ivy-clad ruins of the old church of Logie,

"A hallowed fane, the pious work
Of names once famed, now dubious or forgot."

It is surrounded by a retired churchyard,† many of

* This anecdote is recorded, with a number of others, in a curiously interesting pamphlet, entitled "Dunblane Traditions," published in 1835, by Mr. John Menteith, schoolmaster, Dunblane.

† The key of the churchyard will be found in the house of Mr. Cathie nearly opposite.

whose old sculptured stones and quaint inscriptions denote

“ Where sleep the sires of ages flown,
The bards and heroes of the past.”

To a lover of our old literature, this is classical ground. Alexander Hume, an ingenious poet, was one of the first ministers of Logie after the Reformation. He was the second son of Patrick Hume of Polwarth. The grandson of his elder brother was created Lord Polwarth and afterwards Earl of Marchmont. A collection of his poems was printed by Waldegrave under the following title—“Hymnes or Sacred Songs, wherein the right vse of Poësie may be espied. Be Alexander Hume. Wherevnto are added, the experience of the Author’s Youth, and certaine Precepts seruing to the practise of Sanctification.” Edinb. 1599, 4to. This very rare volume was reprinted for the Bannatyne Club in the year 1832.

Hume was born about the year 1560, and prosecuted his studies in the University of St. Andrews. He afterwards proceeded to France, where during a period of four years, he pursued the study of law at one of the universities of that country. On his return, he began to practise in the courts of justice; but disgusted by the corruptions which then polluted the fountains of justice, after three years’ attendance at the bar he abandoned the profession of an advocate. He next sought preferment at court, but being speedily disgusted with the court and courtiers, he finally entered the church. He was ordained minister of Logie in 1598, and continued there till his death in 1609.

Hume’s poetry is replete with Scriptural metaphor, and pervaded by elegant illustrations, culled from the beauties of external nature. His verses everywhere breathe a piety fervent, but not overstrained, and are adorned by sentiments indicative—though he wrote in early life—of ripe scholarship, ample reflection, and earnest devotedness. Several of the “Hymnes,” slightly modernized, would still

be read with interest, and tend towards the awakening and strengthening of virtue.* The "Precepts" are the result

* The hymn on "The Day Estival," though somewhat lengthy, has been deemed worthy of transcription by Dr. Leyden in his volume of "Scottish Descriptive Poems," and is also exhibited by Campbell in his "Specimens of British Poets." The glories of the livelong summer day are pourtrayed in strains of touching simplicity, genuine pathos, and unaffected piety. The following stanzas, of which the orthography only has been modernized, represent the author's manner in this poem—

Morning—The dew upon the tender crops,
Like pearls white and round,
Or like to melted silver drops,
Refreshes all the ground.

* * * * *

Noon—The breathless flocks draw to the shade
And freshness of their fold,
The startling *nolt*,* as they were mad,
Run to the rivers cold.

* * * * *

With gilded eyes and open wings,
The cock his courage shows,
With claps of joy his breast he dings,†
And twenty times he crows.

* * * * *

Evening—The rayons‡ of the sun we see
Diminish in their strength,
The shade of every tower and tree
Extended is in length.

Great is the calm, for everywhere
The wind is sitten down,
The smoke throws right up in the air,
From every tower and town.

* * * * *

The gloaming comes, the day is spent,
The sun goes out of sight,
And painted is the occident
With purple sanguine bright.

The scarlet nor the golden thread,
Who would their beauty try,
Are nothing like the colour red,
And beauty of the sky.

A hymn or sacred ballad, entitled "Thanks for Deliverance of the Sicke," in the lengthened line occasionally adopted by Macaulay and Aytoun

* Cattle.

† Strikes.

‡ Rays.

of the author's Christian experiences, and abound in hal-
lowed instruction and virtuous counsels. Appended to the
volume printed by the Bannatyne Club, is a tract written
by Hume near the time of his decease, entitled "Ane
Afold Admonitioun to the Ministerie of Scotland:" which
was discovered among the Wodrow MSS. in the Advo-
cates' Library. This embraces an uncompromising defence
of church government by Presbytery, and a severe pasqui-
nade against those clergy, who to gratify the inclinations
of a weak and obstinate prince, consented to undertake the
duties of bishops in the church. It is probably from this
treatise, that Row, in his history of the church, commends
Hume as one of the faithful presbyters who "witnessed
against the hierarchy of prelates in this kirk."

A little north-east of the old church, and immediately
under Carlie Crag, is Logie Cottage, a beautiful little
dwelling; a few yards beyond which is a rustic cottage, the
possession of a respectable old woman, who until recently
possessed a claymore which was used by one of her ances-
tors at the battle of Sheriffmuir. The claymore is now in
the custody of a gentleman in Edinburgh. From the old
church of Logie a road ascends the hill, leading north-
ward to Sheriffmuir, by proceeding up which the visitor
will be enabled to obtain a gradual and easy ascent to the
Ochil summits. At a short distance south-east of the old,
we reach the new church of Logie, a plain commodious

in their esteemed Lays, may in some portions stand no unfavourable
comparison with the similar versification of these two great masters of
English ballad. Describing the sick man's anxiety for restoration to
health, the poet thus proceeds—

Who would not in his heavy plight and cruel pining pain,
All worldly wealth and glorie* renounce, to have his health again?
The beautiful would lose his hue, the strong would quit his strength,
The rich his store, his treasure great, and fertile lands of length;
The burning, most ambitious breast, would quit his noble fame,
And be content, without renown, to lead his life at *hame*.

* Glory.

structure, picturesquely situated; and on the way from the one to the other the Ochil heights of Yellow Craig, Blairhill, and Demyat, form beautiful objects. On reaching the turnpike, shortly after passing the new church, we turn to the right, and immediately gain the eastern entrance to the grounds of Airthrey. Of this place, the name is familiar to the religious public, as being the hereditary possession of Robert Haldane (to whom we have already transiently referred), the elder of two remarkable brothers, raised up as the moral lights of an age just past, and the savour of whose devoted piety will gratefully endure. Of Robert Haldane of Airthrey, and James Alexander Haldane his brother, interesting Memoirs, by a son of the latter,* were recently published; but as connected with the place which we are now visiting, a brief account of their career may not here be unsuitable. Robert was born at London on the 28th February 1764, James at Dundee on the 14th July 1768. Their father, Captain James Haldane of Airthrey, a cadet of the old family of Haldane of Gleneagles, died before the younger was born; and their mother, Katherine Duncan, daughter of the proprietor of Lundie, and sister of the subsequently distinguished Admiral Viscount Duncan, died before he had reached his sixth year. The pious example of Mrs. Haldane exercised an important influence on both her sons. They were educated under private tutors, and at the Grammar School of Dundee and the High School of Edinburgh. Towards the ministry of the Scottish Church Robert had early evinced a decided inclination; but a consideration of the poverty of the livings, and consequently inferior status of the Scottish clergy, induced his guardians to discourage this juvenile prepossession. In 1780 he joined "The Monarch" ship of war under his uncle, Admiral Duncan, from which he was shortly transferred to the "Foudroyant," in which he evinced proofs of naval skill

* *Memoirs of the Lives of Robert Haldane of Airthrey, and of his brother, James Alexander Haldane.* By Alexander Haldane, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. London, 1852, 8vo.

and unwonted intrepidity in the action with "The Pegasé," under the future Earl St. Vincent, and also when the vessel formed part of the fleet of Earl Howe in his successful expedition to Gibraltar. On the peace of 1783 he retired from the navy, and after residing for some time at Gosport, enjoying the intercourse of his friend Dr. Bogue, a clergyman of the Independent persuasion, he became a student in the University of Edinburgh before the close of the ensuing year. For two sessions he divided his time between studying at college and travelling abroad; and having married in 1785, he settled at Airthrey in the autumn of that year. James Haldane, who had attended the University of Edinburgh during three sessions, became midshipman of an East Indiaman in 1785, and having performed four voyages to India and China in this capacity, was appointed in 1793 to the captaincy of the "Melville Castle," a splendid vessel in the service of the East India Company.

It was when James Haldane remained on board his vessel at Portsmouth, preparing for a voyage, that his views underwent a favourable change; and at his brother's suggestion, he disposed of his appointment, and returned to Scotland. He partly resided at Airthrey and at Stirling Castle, having shortly before his return married the daughter and only child of the deputy governor. At first Robert had enthusiastically devoted himself towards the improvement of his estates, and the decoration of his domains; but gradually becoming influenced by the power of religion, from worldly pursuits he withdrew himself to the conversation of the pious. The piety of the brothers, generated apart, in each became fervid by mutual intercourse, and in 1795 Robert formed the scheme of selling Airthrey, and devoting the proceeds towards a Christian mission to the Hindus. But the Board of Control, and the Board of the India Company's Directors, misconceiving his intentions, severally refused their sanction to the expedition, and thus interposed an insurmountable barrier to the grand missionary enterprize.

Frustrated in this magnificent scheme, Robert Haldane resolved to dedicate himself to the propagation of the Gospel at home; and for this purpose accomplished the sale of Airthrey in 1798 to Sir Robert Abercromby, the uncle of his brother's wife. James, previously known as an active distributor of religious tracts, and as a lay preacher in Edinburgh, whither he had removed his residence in 1795, two years thereafter, aided by zealous fellow-labourers, preached the gospel in every town and village in Scotland, including Caithness and the Orkneys. Robert now erected large buildings for public worship, which were designated tabernacles, in many of the populous towns, to which pastors were appointed with adequate salaries, some of these being clergymen who seceded from other denominations. James was ordained to the pastorate of the Tabernacle at Edinburgh in 1799, and continued to devote himself with singular assiduity to his ministerial duties. Robert took a general superintendence of the churches, without any stated charge; made frequent tours for the distribution of copies of the Scriptures, and constituted classes for aspirants towards the ministry in various districts, afterwards sending them to preach in the dark places at home, and on missionary expeditions abroad. At the beginning of the century, he contributed towards bringing to this country, to educate in civilization and the truths of the Bible, thirty children of African chiefs, with the view of their becoming, on their return home, the instructors of their countrymen. Down to 1810, he had expended £70,000 in promoting his views for the extension of Christian truth in this country; but in 1816 he proceeded to Switzerland and France, where at Geneva and Montauban he resided during two years, striving to awake the dormant energies of the Protestants in those places, and instructing inquiring young men in correct Christian doctrine. One of those youths at Geneva, was Merle d'Aubigné, the future historian of the Reformation.

The peculiarity of some of the sentiments of the Haldanes in matters of church government, though at the outset their views accorded with the principles of the Scottish National Church, tended materially to impair the extent of their usefulness; while their subsequent opposition to infant baptism unhappily separated them from most of the other Christian sects, and engendered division in their own body. But the brothers were entirely free of sectarian bigotry, and entertained good feeling towards all the churches. The zealous exertions of Robert, along with Dr. Thomson, in preventing the corruption of the Scriptures by the incorporation of the Apocrypha in the volume, so successfully maintained—his works in defence of revelation, and in illustration of the leading doctrines of the Bible, would, even without his philanthropy, have secured him an enduring reputation. He died at Edinburgh on the 12th December, 1842. James, whose tracts and religious publications have also proved of essential benefit to society, survived his brother upwards of eight years. He died at Edinburgh on the 8th February, 1851.

The avenue leading from the east gate of Airthrey to the centre of the park, gradually reveals a spectacle of romantic beauty and grandeur rarely surpassed in any landscape scenery of this country, commanding as it does a view of the wooded and far-stretching Ochils, and the fertile plain beneath, with its beautiful combinations of crag, wood, and water, while on the fine old trees the gay squirrels prosecute their unceasing gambols. A Scottish nobleman of the past age pronounced it to be "a perfect heaven upon earth." The gardens, with their beautiful greenhouses and hotbeds, are attained before reaching the castle. The vineries merit particular inspection. The intelligent gardener, Mr. Cathie, by fitting them up with moveable flues, so constructed as to provide a similar degree of temperature for both root and branch, and to procure a constant supply of fresh air, has been able to raise grapes of

remarkable size and delicious flavour. On the lawn, east of the castle, are three upright stones; one of these, a modern erection, denotes the convergence, at that point, of the three counties of Perth, Stirling, and Clackmannan. With the other two a more interesting history is connected. One of them is about 8 feet in height above the ground, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet in girth, and the other rises 9 feet 4 inches in height above the surface, and is 14 feet 9 inches in girth. Both the stones are without inscription or emblem, and no historical account exists distinctly detailing the circumstances of their erection. It is however believed, that they had been reared to commemorate the total defeat of the Picts by the Scots, under Kenneth Macalpine, in the year 839, and which led to the destruction of the Pictish kingdom. It is beyond doubt, that the battle which finally overthrew the Picts was fought in this vicinity, and it seems probable, that the erect stones of Airthrey indicate its scene. According to Hector Boyce, the battle commenced by the Pictish army, which held possession of the town and castle of Stirling, suddenly attacking the Scots in their encampment, who being however prepared for the encounter, completely routed their opponents, driving many of them into the Forth. Of course the Scots must have been encamped on the north side of the river; while it is highly probable they would choose the rising ground for this purpose; and certainly, from no situation could they command such a distinct view of the enemy, and have more complete vantage ground, than the bank of Airthrey. Besides, a tract of ground in the vicinity bears the name of Cambuskenneth, the *bank** of *Kenneth*. In later times, but before the conversion of the grounds into a private

* "The name *Cambus*," says Dr. Wilson, "is understood to indicate a promontory or bank, enclosed by a crooked stream, from the Celtic *cam*, crooked," an etymology which is very happily illustrated in the present instance. The Abbey of Cambuskenneth is surrounded by the serpentine foldings of the Forth. (Wilson's *Archæology and Pre-historic Records of Scotland*, p. 93. Edinb. 1851, 8vo.)

park, the territory round the standing stones of Airthrey was the site of a tryst or cattle market, attended by all the farmers and graziers for many miles around ; and it is related as a curious incident, that on occasion of one of these trysts, a Highland grazier having accidentally left his purse on the top of the largest stone, and forgotten the circumstance, recovered it on the following annual fair in the same position, the sight of the stone having recalled the event to his remembrance.

The mansion, which is next passed, is a castellated structure of moderate size, but sufficiently adapted to the scenery. It was built in 1791, from a design by Adam, the father of the late Lord Chief Commissioner of that name, and who was the architect of his day. The avenue now leads westward by the northern side of the lake, which covers 30 acres, and has its surface adorned by graceful swans. It was constructed by Robert Haldane, shortly after his settling at Airthrey in 1785, and the water was conducted into it by streams from the Ochils. Shortly after its construction, Mr. Haldane had nearly perished in it. "It was winter," says his biographer, "and during the frost, there was a large party of visitors and others on the ice, enjoying the amusement of skating and curling. He was himself standing near a chair on which a lady had been seated, when the ice suddenly broke, and he was nearly carried under the surface. With his usual presence of mind, he seized on the chair, which supported him, and quietly gave directions to send for ropes, as a rash attempt to extricate him might have only involved others in the impending catastrophe. Providentially there was help at hand ; and by laying hold of the ropes brought by a gamekeeper and an old servant, he was happily extricated from his perilous position." The estate of Airthrey is now the property of George, fourth Lord Abercromby, great-grandson of Sir Ralph Abercromby, the hero of Alexandria, and great-grandnephew of Sir Robert Abercromby, who purchased Airthrey from Robert Haldane.

Leaving Airthrey Park by the western gateway, we may return to the village. We may now ascend the table-land on the north by one of the numerous promenades on the finely sloping grounds of Westerton, which have been liberally thrown open to the public,* and proceed along the *break-neck* and *velvet* walks, the former leading westward along the margin of the plateau, and the other conducting towards the north-west. Behind Westerton Park, in an extensive quarry from which the village has been reared, we discover a large section of the old red sandstone,† dipping towards the north-west, and capped by a ponderous mass of greenstone. This quarry, which bears the name of the *Wolf's Hole* Quarry, formerly contained a number of burrows, and a tradition obtained that these were the last haunts of the wolf in the kingdom. That formerly this ravenous animal existed in the country is stated by Boyce; and from the immediate vicinity of the Caledonian Forest, it is not improbable that the tradition may be correct. A wolf forms the crest of the town of Stirling, and a place in the town bears the name of the *Wolf Crag*. Edward I. in allusion to the badge of the municipality, designated the powerful engine which he had constructed for the demolition of the Castle of Stirling by the name of *The Wolf*. Passing the quarry a short distance, we reach the retired villas of Sunnyslaw, where visitors desirous of retirement may possess elegant accommodation.

Immediately in front of Sunnyslaw, on the same side of the river, and guarded by the river on one side, and enclosed by plantation on every other, is a sequestered spot,

* On Wednesday, 20th October, 1852, Major Henderson of Westerton was entertained at a public breakfast in Philp's Royal Hotel, in the village, on the occasion of his being presented with a dinner service of silver plate by the gentlemen, and a pianoforte by the ladies, in token of their appreciation of his devotedness towards the public welfare, and the comfort of visitors at the Spa, especially in the free admission of the public to his grounds.

† A single specimen of the *Ocephalaspis*, a fossil peculiar to the cornstone, or middle formation of the old red sandstone, has been found in the quarry.

which claims a visit, from the melancholy interest attaching to it. This spot bears the name of the *Fishers' Green*, and immediately in front of it, in the centre of the river, is a deep and dangerous pool, which was long designated *The Black Pot*, but is now called *The Ladies' Pool*, from the following very mournful incident, which we shall give in the words of one of the local prints at the time—"Seldom," says the journalist, "has it been our painful duty to record a more heartrending event, than one which occurred on the forenoon of Tuesday, the 1st of May (1832), near Bridge of Allan. About three weeks ago, Misses Mary and Isabella Bayne, daughters of the late Rev. Mr. Bayne, of the Gaelic Chapel, Greenock, came from Edinburgh, with their brother, to reside at Bridge of Allan, for the benefit of the health of the younger sister. On Tuesday forenoon, about eleven o'clock, the two sisters left their lodgings, as if for the purpose of taking a walk on the banks of the Allan, and perhaps bathing. Little more than an hour afterwards, a young gentleman, residing in Bridge of Allan, in going up the east side of the river with his fishing-rod, observed, at some distance before him, something that appeared like a towel or small tablecloth, spread out on what is termed *The Fishers' Green*, where the river is confined within high rocky banks, covered with wood. Observing a boy fishing about fifty yards beyond it, he concluded that the towel, or whatever it might be, belonged to some of the anglers, so that he pursued his course by the footpath, along the outer edge of the wood, with the intention of fishing this part of the water on his way homeward. On returning to this spot by the water side, about half an hour afterwards, he found that what had attracted his attention going up, was a quantity of female attire, which was recognized at a single glance as the dresses of the two young ladies whom he had seen the day before, and whom he knew to be strangers. Aware of the nature of the place, he was led to dread the worst, and on examining the banks of the river, he observed the

prints of their feet in the sand, pointing inwards, at the deepest part of the pool, but no marks of their return. Their bonnets were set close to the rock, while the rest of their clothes were a little out from it on the green, so that it appeared, beyond all doubt, that the young ladies had perished while bathing. On the alarm being given, and search being made, they were dimly seen at the bottom of the river, within two or three yards of each other, in a place about 18 feet deep. The younger was found in her bathing dress, the other in her usual dress, with the exception of her bonnet, shawl, and shoes, which were found upon the green, along with her bathing dress. It is conjectured, that the one in going in, had slid over a dangerous quicksand into the depth below, and that her sister, who was preparing to follow, on seeing what had happened, had rushed in to her rescue, but perished in the attempt."

We may return to the Bridge by the Airthrey Paper Mills, situated on the left bank of the river, a short distance downwards; and if the visitor has not previously witnessed the interesting process of paper-manufacture, we would recommend him to view the premises.* Many other interesting promenades have been laid out on every side of the village, but these can easily be discovered without a guide, and require no particular description. In the village, by the romantic banks of the Allan, in the

* At the Mill of Airthrey, Mr. James Haldane, towards the close of the century, performed one of his acts of intrepidity, for which, in addition to his eminent moral worth and Christian virtues, he is remembered. The tenant, a desperado, accused of certain criminal offences, had, with his sons, and servants, and dogs, beat off the officers who had come with warrants to apprehend him. The messengers of the law having gone to Airthrey to solicit a reinforcement of strength, Mr. James Haldane, with some of the domestics of Airthrey, accompanied them in a second attempt to execute their duties. The mill house was barricaded in its doors and windows, and the inmates were armed with bludgeons and firearms; but Mr. Haldane, nothing daunted, discovering an unguarded window, thrust himself through it, produced his pistols in presence of the astonished garrison, and opening the front entrance, admitted the officers to the full execution of their warrants.

plantations and on the lawn of Westerton, fountains play unceasingly; and a large one has just been erected in the village, which out of respect for the successful exertions of Mr. Layard, in excavating the stupendous relics of Assyrian architecture and statuary, has been designated *The Fountain of Nineveh*.

At Bridge of Allan, there is ample scope for the researches of the geologist and the botanist. Immediately north of the village, and extending along the base of the Ochils from the foot of the steep acclivity on the western side of Abbey Craig, to the church of Lecropt, a distance of about 2 miles, there is a plateau of considerable elevation, the cross breach caused by the channel of the Allan only intercepting the uniformity. This terrace is about 107 feet above the carse, and 132 above the level of the Forth at Stirling, its greatest breadth being in Airthrey Park, where it is nearly half a mile, while at Lecropt church it does not exceed 200 feet. Like the present sea-beaches, though generally, it is not uniformly level, there being occasional swells on it, some of the height of 15 or 20 feet. Portions of other sea-margins are traceable, though much less distinctly, at the base of the hills on the southern part of the carse, and also at the south-western base of Stirling Rock. The materials chiefly composing the terrace are sand and gravel, both of which in several openings in the bank above Bridge of Allan are seen alternating in regular layers, very nearly horizontal. There is however a nucleus of blue clay enclosing rolled and striated boulders, but no appearance of rock. That the carse of Stirling, and vale of Menteith which joins it, had at a remote era been submerged, is sufficiently attested from the numerous sea-shells which are from time to time found in the alluvial silt of their beds, which are in some places 100 feet in depth; these shells being, among others, the oyster,* cockle, mussel, and donax, the first of

* The oyster is found in large quantities on the banks of the Allan at Keirfield.

very large size and uncommon thickness. The cetaceous remains which were found at Airthrey and Blair-Drummond, afterwards to be noticed, also testify as to the plenary submersion. Sea-shells have certainly not hitherto been discovered in the terrace; but such organic remains, it has been established, while they will remain imbedded in clay impervious to water for a lengthened period, suffer decomposition when sepulchred in gravel and sand. The preservation of this remnant of the ancient sea-margin has been satisfactorily explained; Abbey Craig, which is two-thirds of a mile in breadth, being supposed to have acted as a breakwater in defending it from the assaults of the advancing and denuding influences of the receding tides, on the subsidence of the ocean from the higher levels consequent on the sudden or gradual elevation of the land.*

The plateau is also an important botanical field, its surface abounding in several scarce and in many valuable specimens of interesting plants. Dr. Balfour of Edinburgh found growing profusely on the wooded banks of the table-land behind the village, *Viola odorata*, and discovered a very interesting fern, *Hymenophyllum wilsoni*, growing on the Ochils, in the immediate vicinity. Dr. Forrest of Stirling found *Agrostis canina*, *Juncus glaucus*, *Anagallis arvensis*, *Mentha rubra*, *Symphytum officinale*, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, *Cichorium Intybus*, *Tanacetum vulgare*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Ribes niger*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Ononis arvensis*, and *Geranium pratense*. Dr. Paterson, one of the physicians in Bridge of Allan, has discovered *Ledum palustre*, *Andromeda polifolia*, and *Paris quadrifolia*.

To the student of northern antiquities and the archæologist, the district of the village peculiarly affords the

* See "Ancient Sea-Margins," by Mr. Robert Chambers; "Communication of Mr. Bald, C.E., in Edinburgh Phil. Journal, vol. I. pp. 293-96; and especially an able and ingenious paper on "Ancient Beaches near Stirling," by Charles Maclaren, Esq., F.R.S.E., published in the Edinburgh New Phil. Journal for October, 1846.

means of research and interesting speculation. *Alauna*, originally a Caledonian town or fortified place, and afterwards an important Roman station, was in the vicinity; the place is mentioned by Ptolemy the geographer; and Richard of Cirencester,* who is regarded as an accurate commentator on that ancient writer, fixes its position as between the stations of Camelon (*statio ad Vallum*) and Ardoch (*Lindum*), 13 Roman, that is, 12 English miles from the former, and 9 Roman, or 8½ English miles from the latter, a description of its site which distinctly places it in this locality. The exact situation has however been disputed. Stirling and Keir have both been named on very slender grounds; but the preponderance of evidence seems to establish it at the Kilhill of Keirfield. This place, which the railway now crosses, is situated a short distance south-west of the village, on the banks of the Allan, about a mile above its junction with the Forth, and is somewhat raised above the level of the cars. Being anciently protected by a morass, as well as partly by the river, it seems exactly such a position as the Romans, from their principles of castrametation, were likely to adopt; while at the same time it justifies the name of the station, and corresponds with the distances of the itinerary. The site is also near the ancient passage of the Forth, across which the Roman road had been conducted. At the station of *Alauna*, it has been said, Agricola first encamped north of the Forth; an opinion however not well founded. It will afterwards appear, that the course of the arms of the Roman general was eastward by the margin of the Forth, and his first warfare north of that river among the *Horestii* or natives of Fife. *Alauna* was probably seized and fortified by Agricola on his return

* The *Itinera Romana* of Ricardus Corinensis, or Richard of Cirencester, was discovered in Denmark by Mr. Bertram, an English gentleman, in 1757. The work was published at Copenhagen in 1758. It is believed to have been written in the fourteenth century, and though its genuineness has been questioned, no solid evidence has been attempted to impugn its authority.

by Strathallan from his victory at Mons Grampius, when its utility as a midway station from head quarters at Camelon to the camp at Ardoch would commend itself to his notice. At the period of the construction of the wall of Antoninus, the Horestii are said to have wrested *Alauna*, along with other strongholds, from the imperial invaders.

The numerous hill-forts which formerly existed along the summits of the western Ochils, especially on the heights of Keir, would indicate that the natives had offered every opposition to the advances of the Romans northward; and probably Agricola had, in following out his conquests, proceeded eastward by the Forth, in order to elude their assaults, while he had afterwards succeeded in reducing them, on his triumphant return from his victory at the Grampians. One of the forts, the *Fairy Knowe*, may be seen in the corner of a field in the heights above the village, and near the farm of Sunnylaw. It is 15 feet in height, and of circular form,* and completely commands the vales of Stirling and Strathallan.

A discovery respecting Caledonian or primitive sepulture was recently made at the village. In the course of removing a portion of the surface of the table-land, used as a sand pit, immediately behind the village, and near the south-east corner of Westerton Park, the workmen laid open two hollowed basins, which evidently had formed funeral pyres. They are of equal size, and are situated about 10 yards apart. Each is hollow in the centre, of which the depth from the surface is about 4 feet, and the diameter of each is about 9 feet. Of both, the exterior wall is formed of several inches of burned clay or brick, each portion being deeply indented by the mark of a rod, one inch in diameter. In the western pit, within the wall, and surrounding it, is a thick coating of cinerary

* The Caledonian forts were round or elliptical, and generally on the tops of the hills. The Roman *castella* were uniformly of a square formation.

matter, strewed with human bones and charred wood; some portions of the wood having the fibres entire. In the eastern basin there are no osseous remains, but along with a few pieces of charcoal, a large quantity of charred rye surrounding the exterior wall. Of the various modes of sepulture of our Caledonian predecessors, little is accurately known.* Might not the conjecture be entertained, that at some remote period they had burned the bodies of their dead with materials emblematic of their professions? Hence the warrior would be burned with the boughs of the oak, and the peaceful cultivator of the soil with part of the produce he had raised! Or are these pits the scenes of Druidical sacrificial offerings? The answer to these questions rests with the archæologist.

In addition to the charms inspired by the loveliness of its locality, and the romantic beauty of its surrounding scenery, the blessings bestowed by its health-restoring waters, and mild and ever-genial temperature, the convenience afforded by its rural walks and promenades, and the means which it affords for the prosecution of interesting sciences, Bridge of Allan is richly stored with places of agreeable lounge, and for the prosecution of in-door amusements and out-door recreations. As a place of lounge, the gallery of casts and paintings merits a first notice. For this valuable acquisition the public are indebted to the liberality of John Macfarlane, Esq. of Coneyhill, Bridge of Allan, and formerly of Manchester. Shortly after the foundation of the School of Design at Somerset House, Mr. Macfarlane contemplated the formation of a similar institution at Stirling, his native town, and with this view, had executed, at his own expense, a valuable collection of casts, which he forwarded to the School of Arts at Stirling, having strong reason to believe, that in the event of the inhabitants displaying an interest in the subject, an annual grant for

* "The more sepulchral deposits I examine, the less reason I find for believing in a constant uniformity pervading ancient sepulchral rites."
(*Extract from a Letter of Dr. Daniel Wilson to the Author.*)

the support of a School of Design in the town would be obtained. The proposal was not however entertained by the burgesses of Stirling. The beautiful casts were deposited in a hall, and remained for years unheeded and unvisited. In 1843, Major Henderson having erected a hall for their reception, the casts, along with a large number of valuable paintings and other interesting curiosities belonging to Mr. Macfarlane, were removed to the village. The collection is now very highly appreciated, and is an object of interest to every visitor. Among other well-executed casts from the antique, it contains the Venus de' Medici; Juno, colossal; Apollo Belvidere; Venus d'Arlas, colossal; Fighting Gladiator; Dying Gladiator; Discobulus in Action; Aristides; Boxers; Head of Melpomene, colossal; and the famous works of Canova, the three Graces, Venus leaving the Bath, and the Dancing Girl. There are also a fine cast of a battle piece, a magnificent cast of a dog, and many smaller valuable casts of heads. The cornice of the hall is composed of groups of figures, executed in stucco, in a reduced scale, by the late Mr. Henning of London, from the frieze of the Parthenon in the British Museum, by the renowned Phidias. The casts, which are all remarkable for their sharpness of outline, and the general care bestowed in their formation, were partly prepared for Mr. Macfarlane at the Louvre, Paris, and partly obtained from Rome. The paintings are generally of merit, the most valuable being the Holy Family, by Andrea del Sarto. A number of large illustrated works in the hall present the finest specimens of engraving. A neatly executed bust of Sir Walter Scott, after Chantrey, occupies a prominent position; and there is soon to be placed in the hall a very fine bust of Mr. Macfarlane, executed by Holme Cardwell, Esq., a young sculptor of great promise, a native of Manchester and now resident at Rome. It is worthy of remark, that the formation of a School of Design, in his native town of Stirling, by Mr. Macfarlane, was the first attempt of the kind following upon the one instituted by the Government in

Somerset House, and was several years in advance of those Schools of Design established at Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other large towns.* A catalogue of the statuary, engravings, and paintings, contained in the gallery, is in the course of preparation, for the convenience of visitors. Among the other in-door sources of interest and amusement, are a library, a reading hall, and a billiard room. The library, kept at the Post Office, is well selected, and is yearly receiving additions; and books may be procured from it every lawful day on the most moderate terms. The reading hall, an elegant rustic structure, fitted up with every internal convenience, and well supplied with the more popular and useful periodicals and newspapers, is an agreeable and useful resort for ladies and gentlemen, and on the Sabbath evenings, in summer, is used as a preaching station. The billiard room is convenient, and the table is regarded by players as excellently adapted for the game.

The means of out-door recreation and amusement are numerous and varied. The Allan river has long been justly regarded as one of the best trouting-streams north of the Tweed, and all have permission to fish in its waters. Cricket was some time since introduced at the village, a suitable piece of ground being laid out in the park of Westerton; and a large and beautiful bowling-green every pleasant summer evening is covered with players. Quoits are also in the list of games, and are frequently played by visitors.

But besides these sources of diurnal recreation and amusement, the village holds assemblies and merry meetings, and

* It is creditable to our northern kingdom, that in matters of Schools of Design, Scotsmen have led a prominent part. It is now nearly a century since the celebrated Messrs. Foulis of Glasgow projected an Academy of Painting in the College of Glasgow; and James Morrison, Esq., M.P. for Inverness, was the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire as to the best method to be adopted for improving the patterns and designs of the manufactures of Great Britain; out of which inquiry arose the first School of Design, instituted by Government in Somerset House, under Mr. Dyce.

is the scene of fetes and holiday exercises. The West of Scotland County Archery and Rifle Club has frequently held meets at Westerton; on which occasions the members, besides engaging in matches of archery and rifle-shooting, enter the lists on horseback, for the prosecution of that interesting sport, tilting at the ring, for which the ancient fraternity of chapmen, of the counties of Stirling and Clackmannan, received a special charter from James I. in 1423, and of which Major Henderson holds the office of Principal. The first meet of the Strathallan Gathering was held in Westerton Park on the 24th July 1852; and from the numerous and brilliant concourse of spectators on the occasion, and the spirit in which the amusements were conducted, it is confidently augured, that this recently-instituted association may continue to prosper.

A floral and horticultural association, connected with the village, holds three exhibitions in the season, when prizes are awarded for the successful cultivation and best specimens of flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The exhibitions generally take place towards the latter part of the months of April, June, and August. During the frosty days of winter, the Bridge of Allan Curling Club provides a source of amusement to all devoted to the healthful and national game of curling, the lake in Airthrey Park being granted to the club, for prosecuting the "roaring" sport; and as recently a winter curling pond* has been constructed on

* " In the park of Westerton, near Bridge of Allan, Major Henderson has, in the opinion of many curlers, entirely succeeded in the construction and adaptation of a model curling pond. . . . With the general aspect of the surface there has been no interference. In summer, the bottom of the pond is beautifully verdant, and is the scene of *Tilting at the Ring*, and other ancient Scottish fetes and pastimes. During winter, when the frost seems likely to set in, by contrivances alike simple and suitable, in a very short space of time, the portion of the slope appropriated as the scene of curling is converted into a beautiful sheet of water, which may, according to taste or circumstances, be contracted or extended at pleasure. The water is procured from the main pipes, conducting a constant supply from a large reservoir in the higher grounds, to the cistern on the bank beneath, from which the houses of the village are served. The pipes connecting the reservoir and cistern pass close by

the grounds of Westerton, winter visitors and residents may now calculate on ample opportunities for prosecuting this national amusement.

Every watering-place, as well as every little hamlet, has its characters; a class of persons who receive a pseudo-distinction from sundry eccentricities, and half humorous sayings, or from clothing in doggerel rhymes sentiments threadbare as their vestments, but which are calculated to excite good-humoured laughter.* Of the characters of the village, the most conspicuous is the poetess, Janet Reid, one of the best specimens of the class to which she belongs. Janet writes or utters poetry, such as it is, on any subject, with complete facility, on a moment's warning, and being devoid of any thing satirical in her nature, universally indulges in eulogistic strains. Her printed pieces are numerous, and by the vending of these to visitors at the Well House, she has contrived to eke out a decent livelihood. Another character who claims notice, is singing Johnnie, who at the morning rendezvous at the Well House indulges in strains eulogistic of the village, the mineral waters, or some more prominent or distinguished visitor. Such characters are not found to be troublesome; they form part and parcel of the place, casting an air of cheerfulness over it, and tending to awaken pleasing associations.

the curling portion of the lawn, and were laid down by the Major with the view of being used in filling the verdant hollow." (*Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club* for 1853, pp. 194, 195.)

* About half a century since, and while Bridge of Allan was only a humble agricultural hamlet, it could boast of a character somewhat more ingenious, and at the same time more ascetic than the great bulk of his tribe. This village Solomon owed his distinction to his quickness of retort and sharpness of repartee; and the extent of his powers in these respects the following anecdote may illustrate—Two young English officers from Stirling Castle, walking along the bridge, accosted the old man, whose demeanour indicated but little for his mind—"Pray, old father, could you tell us how far we have to go?" "Just three miles," gruffly rejoined the Solomon. "How do you know?" again asked one of the officers. "Why," smartly answered Sawney, "it's three miles to Stirling, and it's three to Dunblane, and you'll get a gallows at either."

In Bridge of Allan church accommodation is abundant. The parish church of Logie is 2 miles east, and the parish church of Lecropt half a mile west of the village. A handsome building, of middle-pointed Gothic, surmounted by a beautiful tower, of the height of 108 feet, from a plan by the Messrs. Hay of Liverpool, is now erecting for the Free Church; and there is a neat place of worship in connexion with the United Presbyterian Church, which has in its



W Hanks sculp
FREE CHURCH. BRIDGE OF ALLAN.

handsome front wall a public clock. There are some good schools; and an educational seminary is projected. A branch of the Union Bank is open during a portion of three days of the week.

Suitable Well House accommodation is desiderated; but every attention is shown to visitors by Mr. Millar, the lessee of the springs. Mineral water, of any quantity, is

obtained at the Well House, on the small payment of two-pence. Shock, shower, douche, and plunge baths of the mineral water are to be procured in the Bath House,* and convenient baths are to be had likewise in various parts of the village. For convenient and reasonable hotel and lodging accommodation, Bridge of Allan is not excelled by any British watering-place. The principal inns are the Royal Hotel, the Queen's Hotel, and the Westerton Arms,



ROYAL HOTEL. BRIDGE OF ALLAN.

respectively kept by Messrs. Philp, Anderson, and Watt, each of which contains extensive and elegant accommodation. To the large establishment of the Royal Hotel, pleasure grounds are attached, decorated by some neat

* Mr. Millar supplies jars of the mineral water to parties at a distance, and to those whose avocations do not permit any lengthened residence at the Spa. His charge for a large jar is extremely moderate; and as the price is paid by the Railway Company, parties are saved trouble in remitting the amount. The mineral water retains its virtues unabated for upwards of a year.

specimens of statuary and *jets d'eau*. The entire charge for accommodation and provision in the Royal Hotel does not exceed three guineas per week; and parties preferring private lodgings will be most comfortably accommodated at the rate of from seven to ten shillings weekly per room. Water and gas* were introduced into the dwelling-houses several years since, and the streets are provided with lamps. A register of the lodgings that are daily to let is kept at the New Medical Hall, a copy of which, made up by the necessary insertions, is regularly supplied.

Of monotony and dulness at Bridge of Allan there is no ground for complaint. Melancholy feelings, so severely prejudicial to invalids, have here nothing to awaken them; every thing speaks comfort and breathes felicity. "We have known," says a writer in a popular periodical, "individuals whose sunken eye, wan cheek, and feeble frame, indicated too plainly that disease was working sad havoc in the constitution, put on freshness and gather health, from visiting its wells, and wandering through its wooded braes. Those who at home are killed with *ennui*, are here inspired with the spirit of activity, and stroll about the livelong day, drinking pleasure from the numerous beauties that diversify the scene. The merchant, mingling in the gay circle, forgets his ledger, and exchanges the eternal din of the city for the morning chaunt of birds and the sweet murmur of rippling waters." The observation has become proverbial, that none visiting the Bridge, unless in the very last stages of an incurable distemper, will leave it without experiencing essential benefit. Here, indeed, the sickly and infirm may be sheltered during the whole year, receiving new vigour, and acquiring renovated strength; here, after a few months' residence,

* The gas work was erected through the exertions of John Ross Macvicar, Esq., late of Keirfield, and now of Stirling. On Mr. Macvicar's leaving the village for Stirling, in August 1851, he was entertained at a public dinner, and presented with a handsome piece of plate, in token of the estimation of his public services and private worth.

the countenance, sickly pale, assumes the ruddy hue of health, the careworn citizen the air of perfect cheerfulness, and the gloomy hypochondriac forgets his melancholy. Doubtless, many an invalid, after a residence at Bridge of Allan, has given utterance to the sentiments expressed in the following stanza, from a poem on the mineral springs of Dunblane, by Dr. Ainslie —

Nor season's change, nor healing art,
 Could move the wasting inward ill,
 Till drink I did from that bless'd well,
 And rambled by the Allan's side;
 When health came o'er me like a spell,
 And joy resumed her wonted tide.

The praises of the village have been celebrated by more than one bard ; we shall only adduce one song, to the tune of "Gala Water," composed by the late Robert Gilfillan—

THE MAID OF ALLAN.

Fair was the morn, an' clear the sky,
 On every flower the dew had fallen,
 While I, to join in simmer's joy,
 Strayed by the bonnie Brig of Allan.
 And there, in beauty's artless guise,
 A maiden fair did blooming wander,
 Pure as the morning light, that lies
 On Allan's stream o' sunny splendour.

The soft winds breathed among the woods,
 Whaur ne'er a leaf was sered or fallen,
 The sun flung gowd adown the cluds,
 To please the bonnie maid of Allan.
 Sweet bloom'd the flowers in simmer bowers,
 While birdies in their leafy dwallin'
 Together sang, an' echoes rang
 For joy around the maid of Allan.

How sweet the voice of wak'ning spring,
 On bud an' blossom fondly callin'!
 But nature lists when she does sing,
 For nane sing like the maid of Allan.
 I canna boast of fortune's smile,
 For aft her frown has on me fallen;
 Yet wealth could ne'er my care beguile,
 Like her, the bonnie maid of Allan.

O for a cot by Allan's stream,
Wi' her whose love could banish sorrow!
Then days would glide in blissfu' dream,
Wi' ne'er a dread of coming morrow.
I've wander'd far by burn an' brae,
Through many a Highland glen an' Lawlan';
But had I her that I wad hae,
'Twould be the bonnie maid of Allan.

In point of accessibility, Bridge of Allan vies with Harrogate south of the Tweed. Situated about the centre of the most densely peopled district of North Britain, it is likewise a centre in point of railway accommodation. By the Scottish Central Railway, of which it is a station, passengers may arrive direct from Aberdeen in six hours, from Edinburgh and Glasgow in less than two hours, and from London in fourteen hours. By the Stirling and Dunfermline, and Edinburgh, Dundee, and Perth lines, it is accessible from every railway district of the county of Fife on the east, passengers arriving from St. Andrews in less than four hours. The Forth and Clyde Junction Railway, through the valley of the Forth to Balloch, at the foot of Loch Lomond, there joining the Dumbartonshire line, and thus uniting the rivers Forth and Clyde—and the Doune and Callander, and Crieff branches of the Scottish Central Railway, have been projected under the most favourable auspices; and when they are completed, the most interesting scenery of which the district can boast will be made abundantly accessible to the resident at the Spa. During summer, elegant and commodious omnibuses run every hour between the village and Stirling, and every day between it and the Trosachs. For the last few years, upwards of thirty thousand visitors have arrived annually, and every season is rapidly adding to the numbers.

