



MURRAY PLACE (NORTH), STIRLING.

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(CONTINUED).

IN attempting to describe this beautiful picture, I shall take my stand beside the photographic apparatus where it was adjusted near Messrs. Cook & Wylie's printing and publishing establishment, opposite Bailie Macewen's, or Macewen Brothers', magnificent block of buildings in Barnton Street. The large building to the right of where I stand is the Royal Hotel, for many years the property and under the active management of the late Mr. Campbell, and now the property of Mr. Currie, and under his active management. On the opposite side of the street, in Maxwell Place, stands the new Post Office. It is a substantial and commodious building. In design, construction, and ornamentation, it is not what I and others would have desiderated for a residential town like Stirling. It is not quite in harmony with other buildings, or the amenities of the locality. It was opened for public business on the 24th of May, 1895. It is said to have cost £6000. Immediately adjoining the Post Office is the National Bank of Scotland. This building was erected in 1855. The style is called "a floreated Italian style." It is otherwise ornate and very substantial. It stands on the site of the "Old White House," which for many years was the home of the keeper of the orchard. The White House may also have been the residence of the sexton of the church and keeper of the cemetery, which existed in that locality. Part of the ground behind the Bank and the other houses, was used as a burial ground, and part as an orchard and flower garden. The convent, which stood on the ground behind the Post Office, is said to have been founded by Alexander II. in A.D. 1233, and the church connected with the convent is said to have been the only place of worship in Stirling for nearly three hundred years. The Friars' Wynd, on the other side of the street, leading down from what was known in olden times as the "Meal Market"—afterwards, as the Athenæum, and now as the Council Chambers,—indicates the locality of the Dominican convent and church.

On the opposite side of the street stands the Commercial Bank of Scotland. It is a large and handsome structure. It is built on the site of what was known as the "Eagle Inn." Immediately beyond, on the same side, stands the Congregational Chapel, a somewhat unpretentious building—rather a contrast to other buildings in its neighbourhood. The present minister of the chapel is the Rev. William Blair, a gentleman much beloved by his people, and deservedly respected in the community.

Adjoining the Congregational Chapel is the North Free Church. This handsome structure, with its tall and beautiful spire, is the third church or building occupied by the congregation since about the time of the Disruption in 1843. When they left the North Established Church they worshipped in the Corn Exchange, and afterwards in a brick building erected behind the Baptist Chapel. In the year 1852, under the leading and ministrations of the late Rev. Dr. Beith, they entered into possession of their present place of worship. The Stirling Drummond family, of whom perhaps the late Mr. Peter Drummond was best known, have all been connected with this church. The late Mr. Henry Drummond, sire of the more widely-known son, the late Professor Henry Drummond, was an elder of the congregation, and his son, Mr. James W. Drummond, now acts as clerk to the Kirk Session, under his brother-in-law, the Rev. John Chalmers, M.A., the devoted and much-respected minister of the congregation. The cost of the building was £5000. This sum was considerably augmented by the cost of a suitable hall and other necessary adjuncts.

Beyond the Free Church, on the same side, stands the Douglas Hotel, which forms part of Crawford's Arcade. The hotel and Mr. Thomson's drapery shops are built on the site of a house long known as the "Ark" public-house. The Arcade entrance leads from Murray Place to King Street.

On the opposite side of the street from the Arcade, and at the right-hand corner coming up the Station Road, stands the new County Club. It is a substantial but somewhat curious structure. The design or style of the building is not easily determined. The roof part of it reminds me of buildings I have seen in Switzerland. Some one has characterized it as Ionic! What matters it? There it is, erected on the site of the demolished Queen's Hotel, which was originally the property and residence of the late Dr. Moodie. Above the main doorway may be seen a representation of the new County seal. This seal had to be obtained under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, and is said to be a beautiful and artistic production.

