

SUBURBS.

“When the population of Edinburgh,” says Sir Walter Scott, “appeared first disposed to burst from the walls within which it had been so long confined, it seemed natural to suppose that the tide would have extended to the south side of Edinburgh, and that the New Town would have occupied the extensive plain on the south side of the college.” Circumstances prevented this natural fitness of the south side being taken advantage of at the time, but now Scott’s view has been fairly carried out, and both streets and ranges of suburban residences cover the districts of Newington, Grange, Bruntsfield, Morningside, and Merchiston. No parts of Edinburgh, it may be said, have such an agreeable southern exposure as these, and the large open spaces of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links confer a peculiar charm, and contribute doubtless to the benefit of health. There is little to attract particularly the tourist’s attention here.

THE MEADOWS AND BRUNTSFIELD LINKS,

Which may be reached by the Meadow Walk, lined by a beautiful avenue of aged trees, consist of an extensive common or public park, lying contiguous, and forming one of the favourite golfing * grounds about Edinburgh.

* The game of golf is played with a club and ball. The club is formed of ash, flexible and finely tapered, measuring from three to four feet long, according to the player’s height or length of arm. The head is faced with horn and loaded with lead. The ball is about the size of a common tennis-ball, made of gutta-percha. The game consists in striking the ball successively into a certain number of small holes, about a quarter of a mile apart, the player who does so in the smallest number of strokes being the victor. Each player carries an assortment of clubs varying in elasticity, and thus adapted to the distance the ball has to be driven, the best club for a long stroke being laid aside for one less elastic when the distance becomes shortened. An expert player will strike a ball from 130 to 200 yards. The principal golf-clubs are the Burgess, the Bruntsfield Links, and the Warrander, each of which has its arms and crest and particular uniform. Among the most memorable feats in the annals of golfing is that of a player who struck a ball over the top of St. Giles’s steeple from a point within the Parliament Square. Another player, still alive, struck his ball over Melville’s Monument, which, from the ground to the head of the statue, measures 150 feet. Charles I. was on Leith Links when a letter was

At the Grange is situated the Southern Cemetery, where the late Dr. Chalmers and Hugh Miller are buried. In the same locality is the Grange Mansion-house, the property of Sir John Dick Lauder, Bart., and long the residence of the late Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, author of the account of the Morayshire floods, *Highland Rambles*, etc. At Merchiston is Merchiston Castle Academy, where the celebrated Napier, the inventor of logarithms, was born about the year 1550; and a small room in the summit of the building is pointed out as the study in which he secluded himself while engaged in the mathematical researches which led to his great discovery.

The space of ground which extends from Morningside to the bottom of Blackford Hill was formerly called the Borough Moor. Here James IV. arrayed his army previous to his departure for the fatal battle of Flodden (1513). The BORE STONE, to which the royal standard was fixed, is still to be seen built into the wall (at the gate of Blackford House, near Morningside Church) which runs along the side of the footpath.*

In this neighbourhood is the HERMITAGE OF BRAID (J. Gordon, Esq. of Clunie), situated at the bottom of a narrow



THE BORE STONE.

The rendezvous of the Scottish army before the battle of Flodden. (A.D. 1513.)

delivered into his hands giving him the first account of the rebellion in Ireland, which caused him to leave Edinburgh the next day. James VII., also, while Duke of York, played with a keen relish on the same ground.

* At about half-a-mile's distance to the southward there is another stone called the Buck Stone, upon which the proprietor of the barony of Penicuik is bound by his charter to wind three blasts of a horn whenever the king shall visit the spot, and from which circumstance the Clerks of Penicuik have for a crest a horn, with the motto "Free for a blast."

and wooded dell, through which strays the Braid Burn. The hills here of the same name afford a delightful walk on the south side of Edinburgh, and command one of the most beautiful views of the metropolis, with the Firth of Forth, islands and shores of Fife in the distance. This is the spot referred to in *Marmion* where it is said—

“Still on the spot Lord Marmion stay'd,
For fairer scene he ne'er survey'd,” etc.

On the southern slope of the Braid Hills is Mortonhall, the seat of Richard Trotter, Esq.; and further to the north-west on the northern slope of the Pentland Hills, is Dreghorn Castle Academy, near which are the village of Colinton and Colinton House (*Lady Dunfermline*).

The suburbs to the north of Edinburgh consist of Inverleith, Stockbridge, and Trinity. About the middle of Inverleith Row is situated

THE BOTANIC GARDEN,

Admission free every lawful day, in summer from 6 A.M. till 6 P.M.; on Saturday (June, July, and August) till 8 P.M.;—in winter from daylight till dusk.

The regius keeper of which is Professor John Hutton Balfour, M.D., the professor of botany in the University. The garden embraces an extent of 17 English acres, and presents every facility for prosecuting the study of botany. It includes an Arboretum, Herbarium, and Winter Garden. Besides the collection of British plants is a magnetic observatory, superintended by the professor of natural philosophy. The classroom of the professor of botany and the house of the superintendent are situated on the right-hand side of the entrance. The Palm-house, one of the finest in the kingdom, is 100 feet in length, 57 in breadth, and 70 feet in height. The Museum contains an extensive and interesting collection. The late Prince Albert was very much struck by the view of Edinburgh from the Botanic Garden, and the spot from which it was obtained is still pointed out. There is a pond in the garden used for the cultivation of water plants.

THE EDINBURGH CEMETERY

In the same neighbourhood, and entering from nearly opposite the Botanic Garden, is laid out with much taste, and commands a beautiful view of the town. This was the earliest, and remains the most popular cemetery in Edinburgh, owing to the beauty of its situation, fitness of the soil, and the tasteful manner in which the ground is laid out. The most recent monument of note here is one erected over the grave of the late Alexander Smith, near the eastern gate, "and which claims special notice as one of the most artistic and appropriate works of the kind to be seen in any of our cemeteries. It is in the form of an Iona or West Highland Cross, of Binny stone, 12 feet in height, set in a massive square base 4 feet high. In the centre of the shaft is a bronze medallion of the poet, by Mr. William Brodie, R.S.A.—an excellent work of art, and a striking likeness. Above which is the inscription, 'Alexander Smith, Poet and Essayist,' and below are the places and dates of his birth and death. The upper part of the shaft and the cross itself are elaborately carved in a style of ornament which, though novel in design, is strictly characteristic. For the design of this very striking and beautiful monument, the friends of the poet are indebted to Mr. James Drummond, R.S.A.—a labour of love in which artistic skill and antiquarian knowledge have combined to the production of a work which is in its own kind quite unique, and commands at once the admiration of the least-instructed eye."—*Scotsman*, February 1868.

At Stockbridge (the arch which carries the roadway across the turbid Water of Leith) is situated

ST. BERNARD'S MINERAL WELL.

The well (or pump-room as it might be called) stands close on the banks of the river, immediately below the Dean Bridge. The water is an excellent sulphureous liquid, possessing the usual medicinal qualities, similar to those of Moffat, and Harrogate. The late Lord Gardenstone was the first to appreciate the properties of the spring, and erected the present classical temple enclosing a statue of Hygeia, whose face very properly "is expressive of sympathy and kindness." Attend-

ance is given at the well every morning from 6 A.M. till dusk ; charge, 1d. per visit.

In the same district is situated

THE FETTES COLLEGE.

This building, which forms so conspicuous an object in the view from the Dean Bridge and other parts of Edinburgh, is erected in conformity with the endowment of the late Sir William Fettes, a merchant in Edinburgh, as a college for the education of youth. The building is a most elegant structure designed by David Bryce, R.S.A., and is covered with the finest work, which does not show from a distance, but bears minute inspection. It is intended that this college should be conducted somewhat on the plan of the great English schools, where boys may have the advantage of boarding, under the charge of the masters, and there is to be a head-master.

The effect of the building is not improved when seen from a distance by the neighbouring poor-house, but this will be obviated after the growth of the shrubberies.

To the west of Edinburgh (with access from Princes Street) is the suburb of Murrayfield, where are some pleasantly-situated villas looking towards the Pentland Hills. In this direction (about a mile from the west end of Princes Street) is Donaldson's Hospital, a noble building designed by the late W. H. Playfair, architect, for the purposes of a charitable institution. The founder was a benevolent printer, who bequeathed a vast fortune (£200,000) for the maintenance and education of a limited number of poor and deaf and dumb children.