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# HISTORY

OF THE

## CATHEDRAL,

OR

## High Church

OF

## GLASGOW,

From the time of its Foundation, in the  
Year 1136, till the present day, being  
a Period of 683 Years.

ALSO,

An Account of the BATTLE of GLASGOW,  
Fought in the year 1272, betwixt the  
English General PERCY, and the Valiant  
Scots Hero, Sir WILLIAM WALLACE,  
and the Battles of *Falkirk and Roslin*

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1825



THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
HIGH CHURCH OF GLASGOW.

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THIS Edifice, the most complete piece of Gothic architecture in the kingdom was founded in the year 1120, by John Achais, Bishop of Glasgow during the reign of David I. and in whose presence it was consecrated in the year 1130. In the time of Joceline who continued to carry on the building, it appears to have been dedicated as we are informed from an inscription upon a stone, immediately above the door of the Choir in the year 1197, though at that time the building was not far advanced.

It was a work of such magnitude, that the wealth of the See of Glasgow was unable to accomplish it, and therefore they had recourse to a general contribution throughout Scotland, which was accordingly levied and applied to this purpose. This we learn from the 48th Canon of the Provincial Councils of the Church of Scotland, held at Perth in 1243 and 1269, of the following tenor: — "Moreover, we strictly enact that the business of the building of the Church of Glasgow, be, upon all Lord's

days and festives, faithfully and diligently explained in all Churches, after saving of the Male, from the beginning of Lent to the 8th day after Esther; and that the Indulgences granted to those assisting at the building, which we have ordered to be written in every Church may be distinctly explained in the vulgar language to be parishioners; and that their alms the effect of persons dying intestated and pious legacies may be faithfully collected, according to usage hitherto approved and delivered to the Deacons of places in the nearest Chapter without any deduction, and that during the said space of time no Sermon for any of her business, be admitted in the parochial Churches."

Altho' the name of the Architect by whom the Church was designed does not now appear from any inscription about the building, yet, from one upon the abbey Church of Melros in. 1146 We are informed with regard to this particular, in the following uncouth rhyme;

JOHN MURDO *sun time callit was I,*  
*And born in Parysse certainly,*  
*And had in keeping all mason werk,*  
*O Sanctuary the Hye Kirk*  
*Of Glasgow Melros and Paslay,*  
*Of Niddisdayl and of Galway,*  
*Pray to God and Virgin Mary,*  
*And sweet St. John keep this*  
*holy Kirk frae skaith.*

The Cathedral stands at the upper or north end of the High Street upon the summit of a ridge which declines to the Molendinar or Gallowgate Burn. Its form like most other edifices of the kind erected during the reign of superstition in this country, is that of a Cross whose greatest length lies East and West, and consequently the transverse parts North and South. From the middle of the building springs the great Tower, which for at least 30 feet above the roof, is of a square form, and terminates in a battlement and ballustrade. Within this rises an octangular Squire to a great height, that is again ornamented by two smaller ballustrades at equal distances from each other and the top of the Squire. The Octagon betwixt these is beautified with several Gothic windows and four small pyramidal Spires which rise from within the first battlement at the bottom of the Octagon. Upon the West end of the Cathedral rises another square Tower, till it is upon a level with the battlement of the great Steeple here it terminates in a pyramidal leaden roof, adorned with a fan. In this Steeple is placed the Clock and a very large Bell no less than 12 feet 1 inch in circumference which acts as the corfew to the inhabitants at the hour of ten each night; and from its grave and deeply sonorous note, is excellantly adapted to the purpose.

In the Winter of 1789, this Bell having been accidently cracken by some persons who had got admision to the Steeple it was

taken down and sent to London, where in the following year it was resounded by one Mears. On the outside in the following Inscription :

In the year of Grace,  
1594.

MARCUS KNOX,

A Merchant in Glasgow  
Zealous for the Interest of the reformed  
Religion,  
Caused me to be fabricated in Holland,  
For the use of his fellow Coizens of Glasgow,  
And placed me with Solémnity  
In the Tower of their Cathedral,  
My sunction  
Was announced by the impress on my bosom

*Come, that ye may learn holy doctrine.*

And

I was taught to proclaim the hours of  
unheeded time.  
195 years had I sounded these awful warnings,  
When I was broken  
By the hands of inconsiderate & unskilful men.  
In the year 1790  
I was cast into the furnace,  
Resounded at London,  
And returned to my sacred vocation,  
Reader,  
Thou also shalt know a resurrection,  
May it be unto eternal life.

*Thomas Mears, fecit, London, 1790.*



From east to west, the Cathedral is externally divided, on both sides into compartments by buttresses of equal dimensions, between which are placed Gothic windows of several different patterns. This succession of windows is interrupted in the middle of the building by the transverse section of the Cross as well as by two very large windows on opposite sides of the Cathedral, each 40 feet high and 22 feet wide at the base which are directly under the great tower, in the centre of the church. Above this first range of windows the wall terminates in a battlement, which springs the lowest roof, till it meets the second or inner wall, which rises from thence for a number of feet; and, in like manner with the four, or lower wall is divided into compartments by small square projections between each of which are placed three narrow Gothic windows, directly above each of these in the last story; it then terminates in the same manner with the lower wall, capped with a leaden roof.

Owing to the declivity of the ground upon which the Cathedral is placed, a great difference of height appears in favour of the East side where the ground is lowest, inasmuch, that although on the West of the Church, the bottom of the first range of windows are within a few feet of the ground yet by being carried horizontal when the succession arrives at the other end, they are very considerably elevated, and betwixt them and the ground

a lower tier of small windows extend from the East of the Cathedral to the transverse section, where they terminate: These give light to what is called the Barony Church.

From the South-west corner of the cathedral, the Consistorial-Aouse project, adorned on each side with abutments similar to those between the windows in the Church. In this house the Bishops Court were formerly held for taking cognizance of ecclesiastical disputes, within a certain district called the Commissariat.

The principal entry into the Cathedral was from the West betwixt the Consistorial-House and the Tower which both project a considerable way from the gable of the Church. This gate, which is very large and magnificent is now shut up and the common entries are by the south leading directly into the Cathedral which is divided into the Outer Church, Choir, Inner High and Barony Churches.

The most Westerly of these divisions in the Outer-Church, formerly a part of the Choir, and from which it is now seperated by a stone partition. Here two rows of Gothic columns, of great height and thickness, run from West to East parallel to the walls from which they are distant several feet. These pillars are connected with each other by arches which spring from the capitals, and at the top unite in a common centre.

Upon these arches are built the great inner walls formerly mentioned which contract the breadth of the building in the upper part as much as their supporters are distant from the outer wall. Between each pillar is placed, through the whole range Gothic windows, which illuminate the area of the Church on the ground floor. Another tier of smaller windows placed along the upper wall, enlighten the vacant space.

In the Choir the grandeur of the architecture manifests itself more strikingly than in the division we have last left. In this place the same range of pillars and windows are continued which were before described —

The four most Easterly of these columns, support a great Tower or Steeple in the centre of the Church; and, according to the weight they bear, are proportionally strong, each being 29 feet in circumference. Between the two, on each side, are the large opposite windows, which appear, when viewed from the outside in the centre of the Church——

The front window or that towards the South, is divided longitudinally by four pillars, or bars, which are crossed in the middle thereby forming twelve parallel windows. Over these is a large circular one ten feet in diameter, with two smaller windows to fill up the vacuity which a circle inscribed in a Gothic arch necessarily occasions. The window to the North is perfectly similar except that it has five bars which run from top to bottom, without being crossed. Between the great



pillars also from the floor of the Choir a flight of steps on each side descend into the large burying vault or Borony Church. And immediately above, at the east end four or five steps lead to the nave or main body of the Cathedral or Inner high Church.

In this place as in the Choir, two range of columns run parallel to the walls and support in like manner, though by a double tier of arches, the upper row of windows. The pillars here are consequently not so lofty as in the last mentioned place but are evidently of finer workmanship, and have their capital richly adorned with flowers and fruit. From these capitals spring the arches, which, together with those arising from the corresponding columns on the walls, intersect each other at the key stone, which is in every instance finely carved.

In this manner, amongst the Church, a gallery on both sides is formed with an arched roof, through which the light strikes from the windows into the body of the Church.— Above this range of columns is another succession, which support the highest tier of windows which enlighten the upper part of the Cathedral. From the top of the inner walls, immediately above these windows, an arched roof springs to a vast height, finely ornamented. On the East, or in the gable of the Church, is a great window divided by parallel bars, in the form of columns; and on the West is the situation of the Organ Loft

ornamented with a great variety of figures, now much defaced.

Receding from the body of the Church on the East and entering immediately below the great windows is the space formerly-occupied by the Alter—the roof here is supported by five pillars, over which was a terrace walk.

On the North side of the Alter, is the Vestry the roof arched and supported by one pillar in the centre of the house: arched pillars from every angle terminate in the grand pillar, which is 19-feet high.

In this Church upon the north is the Seat appointed for his Majesty directly opposite to the pulpit and projecting about three feet from the main body of the loft. Upon the front of the seat is the royal arms, on one side a Thistle, and on the other a Rose, both crowned and cut in cedar. Pillars of the Corinthian Order arise from the level of the left and support the Canopy, ornamented with carving.

The Barony Church, which was formerly used as a burying Vault, is situated immediately under the nave or Inner High Church, to the East of the Cross. The Pillars here, in like manner with those in the other divisions of the Cathedral run parallel to the wall: they are exceedingly strong and massive, and from their position and the smallness of the windows, which are no more than narrow apertures, the area is rendered dark and

gloomy, which combined with the grave and solemn air peculiar to the Gothic architecture, cannot fail to cast a temporary damp upon the most volitale spirit.

The principal entries to this Church, as we have already remarked, were situated betwixt the great pillars in the Choir which support the middle tower: these are now shut up and the passages lie in the North and South walls. To the East of this place, and immediately below the Alter, is situated the place of interment for the Heritors of the Barony Parish: and where is still shown the monument of St. Mungo, or Kentigern, as well as the Reservoir wherein the Priests formerly kept their holy water.—A still more dismal gloom here prevails! the walls are black and hung round with shreds of Resurrection. These shadowy emblems of human grandeur, while on every side lie "Sauls and coffins, snakes and worms.—The Barony Church in the Cathedral, being found very damp and inconvenient, it was shut up some time since and a handsome Church erected in its stead, a little to the South west of its old situation.

In the North Cross of the Cathedral was the Chapter-house which had a communication with the Nave by a vaulted entry.

The South Cross, immediately opposite, has never been completed, it is now used as a burying place for the Clergy of the City and is reckoned a very fine piece of archi-

ecture, and superior to any other part of the building. The roof, which is arched, is supported by a middle range of pillars, running North and South having their capitals very highly ornamented with the figures of fruit, flowers &c. Corresponding to these are columns adjoining to the walls, which, as they rise spring into semi-arches and are every where met at acute angles by their opposites, ornamented with carvings at the crossing and closing of the lines,—The outside, like the main body of the Cathedral, is also adorned with abutments and windows, over which figures of different animals are cut in stone, and above the roof, which rises to a great height from the ground, is now a small garden, ornamented with flower-pots and shrubbery, the life rent property of the Magistrate to whose care the disposing of the burying ground in the Church-yard is committed. This South Cross is of a much more recent date than the other parts of the Cathedral, having been founded and built to its present height by Bishop Blacader, about the year 1500.

The Cathedral is enlightened with 157 Windows including the old Barony Church; is supported with 147 Pillars, high and low; and is in circumference round the walls, without following the line of measure of the Isles 325 ells or 975 feet. Its length, within the walls is 284 feet, breadth 65 feet.

The height of the Choir from the floor to the roof, is 90 feet: that of the Nave, or

Inner High Church five feet less; the roof of the Barony Church 18 feet. The altitude of the great Tower or middle Steeple 223 feet from the floor of the Choir, which is 100 feet higher than the level of the Clyde at the Old Bridge of Glasgow.

This stately Edifice was preserved from destruction by the Townsmen, at the Reformation, who though zealous reformers listened to the judicious remonstrance of their chief Magistrate.— “I am not pulling down the High Church” said the Prevost, “but not till we have first built a new one.

Around the Cathedral is situated a Comety called the High Church Yard inclosed with a wall against which are built many Sepulchar Monuments. For many ages this spot has continued to be the principal burying ground of the City, and at present upwards of 750 are interred upon an avarage annually. Of late a new piece of ground, immediately adjoining the Church Yard upon the North, has been taken in for the purpose of making an addition to the Comety.

We are informed by Spottiswood, and it is now pretty generally allowed that a Religious Establishment was founded at Glasgow, as early as the year 590 of which a person of the name of St. Mungo or Kentigern, famous for his sanctity, was appointed Superincendant or Bishop. After his death which happened in the beginning of the year 601,



he was succeeded by Baldrede, formerly his disciple who amongst other act of piety, founded a religious house at Inchinnin; but as to the time of this Prelate's death, or even the names of his successors down to the year 1115 we have no account that can be relied upon. Indeed for this long space of nearly 500 years it appears that the possessions of the See of Glasgow were rent amongst the several petty nations who at that time, by their continual contentions deluged Scotland with blood: and from hence it is probable, that during that period, no regular Ecclesiastical institution was established within the Diocese.

At the ascension of David I. to the throne of Scotland, in 1124 he not only applied himself to the reforming of the many abuses that subsisted in his kingdom, but also of new endowed the See of Glasgow with a very ample revenue, and appointed John Achaius to the Bishopric, a man of great learning, and who had formerly served him in the quality of Preceptor.

To this Prelate the City Glasgow owes the foundation of her stately Cathedral, which he consecrated in presence of his illustrious Patron in the summer of the year 1136. The King, at that time in addition to his former grants, and in testimony of his esteem in which he held this Church bestowed upon it the lands of Patrick on the banks of the Kelvin, a river that runs into the Clyde, about two miles below the City.

The Cathedral of Glasgow did not escape the general rage at the Reformation, when the people having cast off the yoke of Rome, insulted and despised their former spiritual guides and wrecked their fury against every Church and monument of their ancient faith.

In the year 1573, it was not only robbed of what was valuable within but even stripped of its leaden roof. The Magistrates at this time, (to their honour,) contributed towards repairing of the Church: £200 Scots; but under protestation that, in so doing no precedent was to be inferred as the upholding of the Church belonged to the person in possession of the See.

In 1579, when the popular rage was sanctioned by an act of the Legislature, the Magistrates of Glasgow granted warrant for the final destruction of the High Church, and in the course of a few days it would probably have been levelled with the dust, had not the Incorporations of the city, as before mentioned exerted themselves in its favor, and at the risk of their lives preserved it from destruction; for no sooner were the workmen, to the amount of several hundreds, called together for this purpose, than the Crafts assembled and threatened with death the first that should begin the demolition.—

To them therefore, are we indebted for the preservation of this venerable structure, now the most perfect of the kind in the kingdom.

Though we have endeavoured in the foregoing description to be as clear and explicate as possible, with a view of conveying a proper

idea of this ancient Edifice, yet we are sensible that after all, no notion can be formed, from that description any thing adequate to what it merits, as it is one of those objects which to be fully understood must be seen.

From the elevated situation of the Cathedral its steeples command a most extensive prospect well worthy of attention either to the stranger or citizen from its almost unrivalled variety. To the East, the whole vale of Clyde rich in towns, in seats and in palaces, presents itself to view. In this direction for a considerable way, long lawns internixt with trees and villas, gratify the eye.

Beyond appear the lofty towers of Bothwell, and princely seat of the Hamiltons; and farther on, as the banks begin to grow more steep, a long succession of splendid houses towering from amongst the woods, tinged with azure the farther they recede captivate the attention. Still more remote appears the County Town, crowned as it were with the lofty mountain of Tinto, which fills up the back ground of this delightful scene.—

If you turn to the West, the populous manufacturing Town of Paisley and the Castle of Mearns and Crickstone, noted for the residence of the unfortunate Queen Mary Stewart and the Noble fortress of Dumbarton, perched upon a rock, appear full in view; the hills of Renfrewshire and the snow-capt mountains of Argyle, still farther off, terminate the prospect. To the North, the Camisie hills, at the distance of ten, and in the opposite direction those of Cathkin, distant five miles,

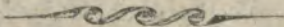
close an unrivalled landscape.

About the year 1524, and while Gavin Dunbar held possession of the See, the City of Glasgow was witness to one of those shocking executions on account of religion which at that time disgraced the country. Two persons here fell victims of the persecution of the priests, *Viz*: J. Russell a Grey Friar, seemingly more enlightened than his brethren, and John Kennedy, from the County of Ayr, scarcely exceeding 18 years of age. After a mock trial, they were found guilty of being enemies to the Church, and delivered over to the secular power, to see the dreadful sentence of the flames put in execution!—When near the stake, Russell a man of uncommon fortitude, addressed his fellow-sufferer bidding him not to fear; for though the pain they were about to suffer was acute yet it was of short duration, and led the way to everlasting happiness. They suffered at the East end of the Cathedral Church, but fortunately were the only persons sacrificed at that time here through the humanity of Archbishop Dunbar who was averse to their execution but was at last forced to acquiesce, being himself threatened by the other Judges who sat on the trial.

## SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

## BATTLE OF GLASGOW.



ABOUT the year 1272. Edward first of England had got possession of the chief Towns, Castles and Fortresses in Scotland: yet notwithstanding he had by no means subdued the spirit of the people; and although a great part of the Nobles submitted ignominiously to a foreign yoke, a chosen few headed by the brave *Sir William Wallace*, whose name must ever remain clear to every Scotchman, stood forth in behalf of their injured Country, and by continually harassing the English, rendered their possession of Scotland equally hazardous and disagreeable.

In a pitched battle, fought near the town of Biggar. between these parties, the forces of the English being defeated, a truce was agreed to for one year, and signed in the Church of Rutherglen. This, however. with



The English, was rather a matter of necessity than choice, as they found their forces broken and disconcerted through their ill success in the last engagement. And indeed, to regardless was Edward of the treaty, that in the following month of April long before truce had expired it was determined, in a Council held by him at Carlisle to employ treachery in order to effectuate that purpose which he found it so difficult to accomplish by the valour of his arms.

¶ With this view it was resolved to call a Court of Justice, consisting of the Barons who opposed his interest in Scotland, in two separate places, viz: Ayr and Glasgow in order that when so converted he might more easily accomplish their destruction.— Accordingly the English force was divided one party was detained for Ayr while the other under Percy of Northumberland, directed their course towards Glasgow.

On the day appointed for holding the Court at Ayr, a great number fell a sacrifice to this stratagem, though Wallace who was lurking in the neighbourhood with his forces, amply repaid them for their treacherous cruelty; but in such a manner as could only be justified by the nature of the attack. He next bent his march with three hundred cavalry, towards Glasgow, with a view of defeating the design entertained by the enemy at that place. Having arrived there at nine o'clock in the morning, he drew up his men at the North

end of the Old Bridge; and after reconnoitering the situation and numbers of the English he prepared for an assault, by dividing his force into two columns; the one, under the command of Boswell Laird of Auchinleck, and Adam Wallace, his uncle, he directed to form a corps of reserve, while he with the main body, attacked the enemy in front.—

When so engaged, Auchinleck's party were ordered to march by St. Mungo's lane, or Burnt Barns, towards the South-east quarter of the Drygate, near to which the English, to the amount of a thousand men were placed and thus fall upon the enemy on the flank.

The action having accordingly commenced, with great bravery on both sides, the English, from the superiority of their number, seemed for some time to have the better of the day.—However the column which was under Auchinleck, to the amount of 140, having arrived by marching up the Drygate, they unexpectedly attacked the enemy in flank, and thus turned the scale of victory in favour of the Scots: who, upon the flight of the English pursued them and Bishop Beck, to the Castle of Bothwell, nine miles east of the City, where they obtained shelter; and Wallace and his army, returned to Glasgow, after having killed in this engagement, Percy, the English General, and seven hundred of his men—if we can credit the accounts, handed down to us by the Scottish historians of that time.

EDWARD grieved at this fortunate success of WALLACE, and understanding that he was highly elated by the Earl of March, the Cummings the greatest surname then in Scotland, and divers ancient Nobl' men over whose honour Wallace's renown drew the veil, he stirred up Robert Bruce elder, and his faction persuaded them that Wallace was Bruce's only competitor for the Crown. Having by this means, made a strong party for himself; the next spring he came with an army of 40 800 men Scots and English to Falkirk, eleven miles from Stirling. The Scots army was very great, being 30 000 strong if they had been all of one mind; But John Cumming Lord of Culbernauld, who had an eye to the Crown, persuaded Lord John Stewart of Bute, being tutor and grandfather, by the mother to Lord James Stewart of Renfrew to contend with Wallace for the leading of the van-guard, alledging that the same belonged to Lord Stewart's of Renfrew by most ancient privilege. Wallace refusing this, they parted one from another, 10,000 only remaining with Wallace. Cumming with 1000 of his followers, after a small show of resistance, treacherously fled, leaving the valient Stewart inclosed by two battalions of the English, by whom, after he had fought valiently for a long time, he was cut off with all his followers. Wallace with his party defended themselves valiently until they were safely retired beyond the river Carron, losing besides others, the most noble Sir John Graham, the most valient worthy

of Scotland next to Wallace. Bruce whom Edward had brought with all his friends, into the field upon pretence to assist him to recover his right from the usurper perceiving Wallace on the other side of the Carron, desired to speak with him. After Bruce had upbraided him, as foolishly usurping the Kingdom of Scotland against so powerful a faction at home assisted by so mighty a King abroad. I answered Wallace 'I never intend to reign in Scotland; but finding my native country abandoned by you and Baliol who have right to the Crown have set myself to defend my friends and neighbours from the unjust tyranny and superstition of the King of England who setteth you forth most unnaturally to tear the bowels of your mother with your own hands.' After divers speeches to this purpose, Bruce perceiving the fraudulent and tyrannous dealing of Edward returned to the host.

The next morning Wallace understanding that the English army was but weakly entrenched and in great security amissing with his own army such as had escaped set upon them in the dawning before they could get arrayed, and killed many, so that the English King returned at that time without any further exploit.

Bruce remembering what he heard from Wallace, desired Edward according to his former promise to put him in possession of so much of the Kingdom of Scotland as then

was under his power: To which he answered in the French tongue, "Have we no more ado but conquer kingdoms for you?"

By this speech Lord Bruce conceived so great grief and anger that within few days he died, without seeing his eldest son Robert afterwards King he being kept in Calias Castle, as hostage for his fathers obedience.

After this unhappy battle, Wallace striving to recover such Castles as Edward had taken, found such opposition and backwardness by envious emulations that he returned to St. Johnstoun, and in the Assembly of the States resigned his charge of warden; and with eighteen men passed again into France, according to a promise he had given at his return therefrom. This fell out at the end of the year 1300.

The opposite faction having gained their desire chose John Cumming Governor; the rather because Edward had promised to assist him to the Crown of Scotland; but he found him as great an enemy as he had been to Wallace for after seven months, Bruce obtained by the means of the French King, Edward sent Sir Ralph Godfrey, with a great army to subdue the Scots and to put an end to the war which he expected would be easy, Wallace being now out of the way.



Cumming joining with Lord Simon Fraser, making eight or nine thousand of an army, came to resist the English, who having wasted the country as far as Rosland, about five miles from Edinburgh, not expecting any resistance divided themselves into three parties that they might spread desolation farther into the country. The Scots taking the advantage of this circumstance set upon the first division, and easily discomfited them; the second also, albeit stronger, by the joining of those who fled, was after a long conflict put to the rout. The third division coming up, strongly repulsed the Scots, they being much fatigued and weakened in the two former encounters, and having to withstand a fresh army of greater number than either of the two former Hereupon they were forced to kill all their prisoners, lest they should assist the enemy, and with their weapons to arm the baggage men: then engaging with the greatest intrepidity, after a long and desperate bloody conflict, they put the enemy to flight! This engagement was fought March 4th. 1301.

FINIS.