A

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

EAST COAST

OF

SCOTLAND,

FROM

EDINBURGH TO CULLEN;

Including a brief Account of the

UNIVERSITIES OF

ST. ANDREW'S AND ABERDEEN,

Of the Trade and Manufactures carried on in the large Towns,

AND THE

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

By FRANCIS DOUGLAS.

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MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

FRANCIS DOUGLAS was bred to the business of a baker, went to London, and, while working there as a journeyman, (about 1741,) wrote "Rural Love, a Tale, in the Scottish Dialect;" but did not venture to publish it. He afterwards returned to Scotland; turned printer and bookseller at Aberdeen; and, in 1759, produced his poetical essay, which could now boast of having had twice the benefit of the Horatian precept, for it had lain fully eighteen years in his hands. A modest advertisement was prefixed, in which the author apologizes for publishing the poem, by saying, "He thinks it contains nothing indecent or immoral; and if, in common with many others, it be found dull, let it be also considered that it is short." The piece is one which would not have discredited much higher pretensions. In the first lines, we recognize the hand of no mere poetaster.

> When merry Charles the sceptre sway'd,
> And none through force or fear obey'd,
> There liv'd a man in Watercairn,
> A widower, with ae lass bairn:
> Twa hunder merks he had to gie her,
> Brought men and lads, a fouth, to see her.—&c.

In 1778, Mr. Douglas published another Poem, not so good, called "The Birth Day." When the celebrated Douglas cause occupied the public attention, he wrote a spirited pamphlet, in support of *The Douglas*, which gained him the favour of that nobleman; who granted him an advantageous lease of a farm at Inchinnan Bridge, near Paisley, where he spent the remainder of his days. Besides the works which have been mentioned, he was the author of a "Description of the East Coast of Scotland," 12mo. and some Metaphysical Tracts.

A

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

EAST COAST OF SCOTLAND,

&c.

LETTER I.

INTRODUCTION—PROSPECTS OF EDINBURGH.

Dear Sir, *Edinburgh, May*, 1780.

WHEN I spoke of taking a jaunt into the north, you insisted upon having some account of the country, and what seemed most remarkable in it. I have all the inclination in the world to oblige you, and the rather comply with your request, that I know you will candidly overlook involuntary mistakes. It may however be proper, in the commencement of our correspondence, to settle preliminaries, lest you should expect more than I intend to perform. First, then, you are not to look for a very extensive or particular description of the country; it is but a little of it that I shall see, and what I see not with my own eyes I shall but slightly mention. Neither are you to expect a minute detail of its trade and manufactures, as I only purpose to give a general view of them. Nothing is easier than to procure such information, in these particulars, as we usually meet with in books of travels, nor less to be depended upon. Some of the informants have no other authority than common report; others, who have had better opportunities of knowing the truth of facts, give that account of them which best suits their own views and prejudices.—

Some men, engaged in business, magnify their dealings, from vanity; others conceal them, from a selfish dread of rivals; while those who have been unfortunate, always represent matters in a gloomy light.

When I may have occasion to mention living persons, you are not to expect characters of them; though I mean not to preclude myself from the privilege of doing justice to those distinguished in the republic of letters. In giving characters of those he visits, or converses with, a traveller is apt to say too little, or too much; in both which cases he would have done better to have said nothing. Personal neglects, or attentions, are not interesting to third parties. I shall endeavour to treasure up in my memory the civilities I receive: these are often paid to the stranger, when the man has but a very moderate claim to them. Next to an ungrateful insensibility of favours received, the worst return that one can make for them is a fulsome acknowledgment. I shall make free remarks upon whatever falls within my observation; they may be sometimes not much to the purpose, but, where they seem to be well intended, I shall hope your forgiveness. When I may have occasion to mention facts which do honour to private characters, you are not to suppose that I mean to flatter; you well know that I am not blest with that convenient talent. I may say, that, by his example and liberality, a gentleman has introduced a spirit of industry among his tenants, though I never owed him a dinner. I may say, that another wishes to let his lands no higher than that the tenants can live comfortably, and pay their rent, though he may have personally injured myself or my friends; for no man's character is to be estimated from one, or even a few, detached facts. Were I to pass over circumstances of this nature, where they should properly come in, nothing could vindicate the neglect, but that I had not heard of them. Such acknowledgments are justly due to strangers, and certainly not less to our friends. A writer, who has but a common regard for his own character, will be cautious of mentioning facts liable to be controverted; but in proof of such as those I have in my eye, he

can appeal to the whole neighbourhood, and needs but to point to the face of the country around. If I ride, at my ease, on a good road, especially in a country where no turnpike dues are levied, am I not bound, in gratitude, to acknowledge the attention of those who made it? If I enjoy the agreeable prospect of fields in fine culture, and am sheltered from the storm by hedges and plantations, may I not justly say, that the proprietor is a public benefactor? If I ride past a gentleman's seat, where the lands are neglected, and the houses ready to tumble down, I shall mark him, in my own mind, very poor, or very indolent; but to point out an individual distinguished in both, or either of these respects, would be indelicate and personal: I had much rather excite to well-doing, by exhibiting a fair example. When you meet with a moral reflection, you are not to suppose that I wish to lead your sentiments; I only express my own. Of the best things there may be too much; but a well-timed reflection rarely offends those whom a sensible man would wish to please.

It is somewhat difficult to hold the due medium between prolixity, and that current galloping style, where objects so rapidly succeed one another, that they leave no impression on the reader's mind. Perhaps of the two, the first is the more pardonable extreme: verbosity may disgust, but neither can one be entertained by a mere itinerary. A miscellaneous writer must often vary his style; because he may frequently have occasion to personate different characters, and to describe dissimilar scenes. One would not speak with the same cool indifference (for there is a glow even in words) of a good man scattering blessings around him, averting his eye from the object he relieves, and feeling that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," that he would speak of one, who, with equal gravity and attention, plods on, from day to day, that he may die a hundred pounds richer.—When you are serious, knit your brow as much as you please; but why tell us common things with the gravity of a philosopher? Instead of saying, in a few words, that "in a foggy morning one is apt to catch

cold," why tell us, with the solemnity of an eastern monitor, that "one who goes early abroad in fogs should have his breast and throat well protected by coverings and bandages, sufficiently thick to absorb the acute pestilential vapours that then float in the air, and may, by congealing the blood, capitally affect the animal economy." I abominate your stately formalists, who would see their book drop from the reader's hand, rather than write as men usually speak. They put me in mind of a remark made by a very good friend of mine, "When a lady's petticoat comes down to her heels, it rarely covers a pair of handsome limbs." An eminent writer hath told us, that "works may have more wit than does them good;" mine shall not offend in this way. Where you find me inclining too much to the other side, give me a gentle twitch, but do not slap me on the face. Consider, that even the love of fame cannot keep one always awake. A little nonsense, occasionally thrown in, is a kind of seasoning, and serves to keep the reader awake. I had rather you sometimes laughed at my expense, than not laugh at all. I shall not always write in the same health and spirits; can I help that I was born a man? Neither do I expect that you will read all my letters in the same humour: must my remarks be very silly, if your dinner has not been dressed to your mind? The east wind will blow; accidents will happen; let us therefore expect them. This is fair warning, pray remember it.

I see, in a strong light, the disadvantage of following the ingenious Mr. Pennant, in the same track, and wish he had kept on the south side of the Forth. I shall probably visit some places which he did not see, and I intend to give a more particular description of others than was consistent with his plan of travelling. Where I may have occasion to speak of the antiquities which he so much enjoyed, and so scientifically describes, I shall never hope to equal his descriptions. Facts and circumstances may come to the knowledge of one man, which had escaped the observation of another; and the same objects will appear in different lights, and excite various ideas, in different minds. In

natural history, the description of family pictures, and many other curious articles, I shall keep my due distance. In some cases, I shall but just refer to Mr. Pennant's work, and when I wish to be more minute, I shall endeavour to forget that I read it: nothing is more execrable than a bad copy of an excellent original. I wish, however, (which I am sure he will readily pardon,) that I may be able to copy him in that candour and good manners for which his Tour is distinguished.

The city of Edinburgh has been so recently and so accurately described by a gentleman of the law, that I need only refer you to his work. What I chiefly enjoyed were, the different views as we approach to it, and from the Castle and Calton hills. Some of these I shall attempt to delineate, for your amusement. Entering from the south, we have a fine view of the Castle, the Parliament-house, the buildings on the steep ascent from the Cowgate to the High-street, and of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Craigs on the south-east. When we enter from the west, the immense rock on which the Castle is built takes off the eye from every other object; the houses below appear as huts; a high adjacent ground on the south, but as a mole-hill; the fort, the buildings and works around, as a child's head on the body of a giant.—Entering from the north, by Leith-walk, the prospect is very grand, and the nearer we approach to the city, becomes, every step, the more agreeable; the Castle on the west; the Calton-hill and its Observatory on the east; Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Craigs, and the buildings on the north side of the High-street, in front. From the rapid declivity of the ground on which the buildings on the north of the High-street stand, the upper ones have a semicircular appearance; in which the tower or belfry of the cathedral is seen to great advantage. The New Town, the east side of which is here seen, cannot for a moment take a stranger's eye off Old Reekie, which, though less elegant, has infinitely more grandeur, from its romantic situation, and the immense assemblage of high buildings crowded together. The deep winding hollow

between the Calton-hill and the head of Leith-wynd, with the height of the buildings on each side, give no favourable idea of the city. When, turning west, a stranger enters the High-street, where the Nether-bow-port stood, if he has weak lungs, he must shake every joint: who, without terror, can think of climbing seven or eight pairs of stairs?* When we are about half way up the street, there is a noble opening on the right hand; one of the finest views I ever enjoyed in a town; it is of the New-street, the bridge, and the front of the Register-Office, at the further end; which is unfortunately a little intercepted by other buildings. After having seen these, the Exchange and Parliament-square appear to disadvantage; as neither of them has a vista. Entering from the East, we have a fine distant view of the Castle, and of the high buildings in the city and Canongate, gradually sloping to the Royal Palace of Holyrood-house. A noble palace deserted, and a royal chapel in ruins, at the entry of the capital of Scotland, are objects on which I choose not to expatiate.

Round the brow of the Calton-hill, a broad gravel-walk has been lately made out; it is said, from a plan of the late ingenious David Hume, Esq; in memory of whom a monument is erected on the south-west corner of the hill. Perhaps, few public walks in Great Britain have grander and more extensive prospects. From the south side of the hill, we look down upon the palace, and all the fine buildings in the Canongate, over which Salisbury Craigs seem to hang in air. On the west, we have a commanding prospect of the city, the new buildings on the south, and the New Town on the north, with the Castle between them. To the north-west, we have a fine corn country, skirted by the Forth; on the south bank of which the land sinks and swells, alternately, for a great way up. In a cloudy, blowing day, when the sun breaks forth upon these little eminences and hollows, they appear as if they were

* Many of the houses are much higher; one at the back of the Parliament-close is thirteen storeys.

undulating, like their neighbouring waves. From the north, we overlook the town and harbour of Leith, Inchkeith, the Forth, and all the fine fields and villas on its south banks; and have a most agreeable distant view of the towns, bays, and high hills on the northern shore. From the east, we have an uninterrupted prospect of the gradual widening of the Forth, till it is lost in the German Ocean; of the Bass, North-Berwick-Law, and the fertile coast of East-Lothian. From the Castle-hill, the prospect is grand and beautiful; besides taking in much of those already described, it has some views peculiar to itself: here we stand just under the guns of the Castle, and shaded by the happy wing of peace, can, without emotion, view those horrid engines of destruction, which the villany of mankind has made necessary. Now that the laws are held in just reverence, and the spirit of faction annihilated, Edinburgh and Stirling having nothing to fear from their Castles; but the lives and property of the inhabitants must have been very insecure in former ages, when factions within these Castles, were often at war with factions without them. Whatever side the inhabitants took in these quarrels, they were exposed to great danger, and often sustained much damage. If foreign enemies could not subdue the forts, they generally wreaked their vengeance on the towns. From this station, turning southward, we overlook the Grass-market, where the roofs of the highest houses seem to be a hundred yards below the eye. We also overlook Heriot's Hospital, the Grey Friars Church, and all the new squares on that side of the town; and have a very extensive prospect of a fine country, terminated by a long range of distant mountains. There is a fine deception when we look from the south-west to the north-east, over the New Town; Leith, at a mile's distance, appears one contiguous mass of building with it; as the height of the buildings, and of the ground on which the first stands, totally eclipse the intermediate ground. And as the Leith buildings shade the distance from them to the Forth, the New Town of Edinburgh seems to

terminate at the water edge. The great den or hollow between the New and Old Towns, formerly called the Loch, one of the dirtiest puddles upon earth, is now converted into fine meadow-ground, with a small brook in the middle of it.

While I stood here, I recollected a story I had heard of two gentlemen who enjoyed the same prospect about the beginning of this century. One of them, a dabbler in poetry, said, "I have made one excellent line, but cannot find a fellow to it." "Repeat your line."

"Here may we see, upon the northern shore"—

"Add," said the other gentleman,

"Kinghorn standing, where it stood before."

"Excellent," said the poet, "quite sentimental! You shall dine with me to-day—Dryden never wrote a finer couplet." So true it is, that there is no disputing of tastes. This may suffice to give you a general idea of the situation of Edinburgh; and of every thing else, worth notice, you have a minute detail in Arnot's history;—a work which performs more than its title-page promises; for he that only hopes to find in it the history of Edinburgh, will find himself agreeably disappointed; as it contains many curious particulars relating to the history and manners of the country and times in general; the progress of religious sentiment, of learning, arts and sciences, &c. and abounds with sensible and spirited remarks. I purpose to cross the Forth to-morrow morning, and shall write to you from Saint Andrew's. In the mean time, I am, &c.

LETTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COAST FROM KINGHORN TO CRAIL.

St. Andrew's.

We crossed the Forth, from Leith to Kinghorn, in an hour and ten minutes, which is esteemed a good passage, and landed at Pettycur harbour,

a little below a high precipice, by a fall from which Alexander the III. king of Scotland, broke his neck, about the end of the thirteenth century. This, with the death of his grand-daughter, the maid of Norway, some years after, were, perhaps, the most dismal accidents that ever happened to this kingdom, as they produced a desolating war which nearly put an end to our liberty and independence. To the incomparable spirit and bravery of a very few men, we owe it, that we are not at this day a province dependant upon England. May their memory be for ever revered!—Half a mile east of Pettycur, lies Kinghorn, an irregular ill built town, which has a manufacture of white thread stockings carried on in it, but chiefly depends upon agriculture, and the profits arising from the ferry. It has a few small vessels, and a pretty good harbour, sheltered by high rocks, on the north and north-west. The passage-boats are under the check of the magistrates, to whom strangers must apply, in the case of impositions. The public fares and regulations are printed.

Two miles east lies Kirkaldy, in a fine bay, stretching a mile along the shore. The houses are generally mean, with stone stairs from the street to the second storey, very clumsily adjected to them. The streets are ill paved, and the terror of strangers, who must ride them, when the tide is out. A brisk trade is carried on in the place, and many of the inhabitants are possessed of considerable property.—When we have just passed Kirkaldy, we come up with Pathhead, a village remarkable for its manufacture of nails, esteemed equal in quality to any made in the kingdom. A mile east of this lies Dysart, a pretty large town, with a good harbour, and considerable trade. As we enter it, we pass a good house, the property of Colonel Saint Clare. A mile further on, we pass West Wemyss, near to which, on the summit of a rock, hard by the Forth, stands the house of Mr. Wemyss of Wemyss, a fine modern building, with an extensive policy on the north of it. A little to the east, stand the ruins of the Old Castle of Wemyss, the ancient seat of the family. West

Wemyss is a burgh of regality, and has some trade carried on in it. A mile further on, we come up with East Wemyss, a small fishing town, and at the same distance from it, pass another, called Buckhaven. A mile further, lies Methuel, a small sea-port town, where considerable quantities of coal and lime are shipped. Half a mile further, lie Dubbieside and Leven, separated by the river Leven, on which there is a good salmon fishery. Leven is a pretty large market town, and has a large bleachfield and linen manufactory hard by it, where a great deal of business is done. A little south of Leven the land stretches a great way to the north, and forms a side of the bay of Largo, by much the most beautiful on this coast; it is a semicircular bason, the radius of which seems to be about three miles. The land on the south-east corner is called Kincraigie Point. Just opposite, on the south shore, is the bay of Aberlady, where the Forth, including the depth of both bays, is twenty-four miles broad, though at Earlsferry, three miles east, it is only fourteen. In the centre of the bay, two miles north-east of Leven, lie the villages of Largo and Drumlachy, separated by a large burn, which runs through a deep and very rugged den, called Kingsdale. North of the bay, stands the high conical mountain called Largo-Law, which, with the Lomonds of Fife, is seen at a great distance. On the east, is a wide bottom, separated from the Forth by high hills, opposite to which, it has another range of mountains on the north. In this bottom, there is an extensive rabbit-warren, which from the looseness of the sand, several inlets of water, when the tide is high, and the whole being full of shells, and other marine substances, seems to have been formerly a part of the bay.

Earlsferry is an ancient burgh of regality, and has three magistrates; it is nearly opposite to North-Berwick, on the south shore. About a quarter of a mile further east, lies Ely, a pretty large sea-port town, with a good harbour, some trade, and a very pleasant country on the north of it. A mile east

of Ely lies Saint Manock, a small fishing town, and, at the same distance further, the town of Pittenweem. A mile further on, lie the towns of Wester and Easter Anst'er, separated by a bridge thrown over a small river. Easter-Anst'er has a good harbour, with about twelve feet water at spring tides, and eight feet at low tides. A large manufacture of pound threads is carried on here, a considerable trade in flax, and a great deal of grain and kelp are shipped off for other ports upon the Forth. The town had formerly fourteen or fifteen vessels belonging to it, from one hundred to two hundred tons burden, and a shipbuilder's yard; though at present it has only a few small sloops. When the man at whose house I put up settled there, about thirty-nine years ago, there were twenty-seven brewers in town; now there are only three. Hard by Easter-Anst'er is Cellardykes, which, with Kilrenny, about half a mile up in the country, makes one royal borough; neither of them are of much account.

Two miles east of Kilrenny lies Crail, an ancient royal borough, which has three baillies, a good harbour, and several trading vessels belonging to it. The towns stand high, and is nearly opposite to the island of May, six miles distant from the north shore of the Forth. One of our kings gave the town of Crail three mills, a few miles to the northward, still called the King's Mills. I know not whether, upon that occasion, they did his majesty the honour of choosing him for their first magistrate, but ever since the king has been held to be provost of Crail;—a title which his present majesty, perhaps, never heard of. The magistrates are superiors of a wynd, or lane, in Saint Andrew's, called Crail-wynd, and the houses built on it pay the town an annual quit-rent. I heard of no manufactures carried on here, but, in plentiful years, a good deal of grain is shipped off from the port. They have seven incorporated trades, who are governed by a convener; and the town has a revenue of about two hundred pounds sterling a-year. It is supposed to have about one thousand inhabitants, who are all of the

established church, if it be not a few episcopalians, who have the divine offices occasionally performed by a clergyman of that communion. Mr. Peter Glass was settled minister here, forty-eight years ago, during which period he has never been indisposed, nor have his parishioners been once without sermon on the Sunday. Though now in the seventy-ninth year of his age, he constantly preaches twice on the Sunday, besides lecturing, when the days are long. His stipend is ten chalders of victual, and, as the just reward of his zeal and diligence, he is reverenced and esteemed by all his parishioners. It was on a fast-day, preparatory to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, that I was in Crail, when I should have certainly gone to church, had the gentleman himself been to preach. I never saw Mr. Glass, and therefore have no undue prejudice in his favour.

After "pure description has so long held the place of sense," I dare say you wish for something jocular; and you must be in a very grave, or very sullen mood, if I cannot fit you. While the good people in church were much better employed, I took a few turns in the burying-ground; on the wall of which many memorials of the dead have been erected, some of them in a good taste; but these are ancient. I observed a very showy modern one, made up to it, and took off the following inscription:—

"Here lyes inter'd before this tomb
The corpse of Bailie Thomas Young,
An honest man of good renoun,
Three times a bailie of this toun,
He sixteen years conveener was,
But now into the dust he lyes,
The 20th of October born was he,
In anno 1683,
And dyed December 6th, inter'd the eight,
In anno 1758.
Then he with great composure left this stage,
And in the 76 year of his age.
Isabel Mairten his spouse does ly here,
As also doth six of their children dear."

One ancient tomb, much defaced, is very lofty, and has a double row of small Gothic columns in front. In the centre, over their capitals, stands a

lion, staring you in the face, as if just ready to spring upon any who should dare to violate the retirement of the dead. Time has made free with the animal's mouth and upper-jaw, but has furnished him with a close covering of grey fog; not much shorter than his natural hair. I never saw any thing that had a more venerably antique appearance. The lettering is much obliterated, but I think the tomb has belonged to some of the Grahame family. On another tomb, a little below, is the following inscription:

"Of dochty Douglas kynd he cam
And so he did wel prove,
He lived always in good fame,
And died with all men's love.
John Douglas"—(the rest illegible.)

The country from Anst'er to Crail, and for some miles further north, is beautiful beyond description; all the way a fine bank of land stretching to the sea, and Forth, and not an inch of waste ground to be seen. It is generally uninclosed, but in excellent culture. I should not have been so minutely particular in the description of the coast from Kinghorn, but for this reason, that I know no place in the island where, in so little bounds, there are so many towns and harbours.

When I left Crail, the day was uncommonly fine; the sun shone forth, and not a speck in the horizon intercepted his influence; the prospect is, on all hands, grand and striking. The German Ocean on the east; the Forth, the island of May, the Bass, North-Berwick-Law, and the long extended coast of East-Lothian, on the south; on the west, a range of lofty mountains, whose blue tops seemed to be hid in the skies; and on the north, a bold rocky coast, skirted by high cliffs, which look down upon the liquid element, as if they would say, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further." When we contemplate detached parts of nature with a philosophic eye, and consider them but as parts of an amazing whole, we are conscious that they owe much of their apparent grandeur to the narrowness of our faculties, which

cannot take in great objects but by detail. Though to the bodily eye the German Ocean appears boundless, we know it is but a rivulet to the Atlantic and great South Sea; that all the land our eye can take in, is but as the scratch of a pin to some kingdoms in Europe; and that all the lands and seas upon this globe, are but as the dot of a pen to many of the heavenly bodies. What are the sun, the moon, and all the orbs on high, but spangles that glow in infinite space, where Jupiter and his satellites dwindle into a point. When in this just light the human mind contemplates the works of the Creator, it rises above them all; they are still great; but how much greater He who made them! Thus, by the scale of things visible, we ascend to the great First Cause, and see him who is invisible; though clouds and darkness surround his throne, though beyond these he dwells in light inaccessible, the soul feels itself a spark of his essence, and, with devout reverence, adopts the sublime language of inspiration; "Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord! in wisdom hast thou made them all, the earth is full of thy goodness. Great art thou, O Lord! and greatly to be had in reverence, for thou createst all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

I am, &c.

LETTER III.

SITUATION AND PRESENT STATE OF SAINT ANDREW'S.

St. Andrew's.

Two miles north-east of Crail stands Fifeness, a high promontory, the most easterly point upon this coast, and nearly opposite Saint Abb's Head, on the south side of the Forth. Near to this point stands Balcomie, the elegant seat of the late General Scott. On the west of Balcomie, I passed a very extensive farm, said to be four thrown into one, (the property of Mr. Chartyres) let to a Lothian farmer. A very neat farm house and offices are already built, and

a great deal of the land is inclosed with a stone and lime fence. In a few years, it bids fair to be a great ornament to the country. Four miles further on, I reached Saint Andrew's. The approach to this ancient city is very agreeable; it stands on an eminence, hard by the sea, in a fine bay, which opens at Fifeness, and stretches a good way west into the land, where the river Eden falls into it four miles below Cupar. The shore, on both sides of the bay, is flat, and, if there be a sufficient depth of water, would be fine situations for large towns. The city is first seen on the south, from the summit of a hill, and as we descend to it, the prospect varies every minute. On the south and south-east are seen the grand ruins of the castle and cathedral, which with part of the town, are still inclosed by a wall about twenty feet high, with lofty towers in it at equal distances. When we enter the town, we see on each hand, the tottering remains of fine buildings, with mean huts and sheds adjected to them, and very naturally think on the instability of all earthly things. It is truly humiliating, to see a noble street almost without inhabitants, terminated on the east end by the august ruins of a church so long the boast of this city. It is supposed that not above an eighth part of it is now inhabited. It appears, from the ancient records, that there were at some times an hundred and fifty-three brewers in it; there are but thirty at present. There were fifty-three bakers, now there are only four.*

The entry to the cathedral from the west, by what was called the Golden-gate, has been very grand; the arch over it is exceedingly enriched with carving, admirably executed; much of it has been gilt, from which perhaps it had its name. Over the gate is a large Gothic window, and the gable is almost entire. On each side of it rises a tall spire, of an antique construction, something resembling, at top, the Pictish steeple at Brechin. The north wall of the church is levelled with the ground, and overgrown

* The great decrease of the trade and inhabitants of Saint Andrew's, may be inferred from the tax-roll of the royal boroughs; in 1556, it paid L.410; in 1695, only L.72.

with grass, but the south wall of the quire, for about thirty feet high, is almost entire to the cape-stones, and connected with the west gable; it is about a hundred and eighty feet long. The whole length of the church seems to have been about three hundred and fifty feet, and its inside breadth about sixty-two. Much of the east end is still standing, which has had two spires corresponding with those on the west. One of these, yet remaining, seems to be about sixty feet high. South of the cathedral are the ruins of a great many buildings, but so totally demolished, that one can form no idea of what they once were, if it be not from the north entry, which is a noble gateway, with two others a little within it, all which have been arched above, and connected with one another. On a little hill adjacent, are the ruins of a small chapel, in which, it is said, the pious Mr. George Wishart preached the sermon which brought him to the stake, by the enraged fury of that merciless bigot, Cardinal Beaton. In the burying ground, near the cathedral, stands the steeple of Saint Rule, a huge square tower, a hundred and six feet high, said to have been built in the fourth century, and probably had a church formerly connected with it, though it has now only a low chapel, or burying place, at the east end, about twenty-four feet by eighteen, within walls. The tower is quite perpendicular, and by order of the barons of exchequer, the magistrates of Saint Andrew's are now repairing it, and carrying up a stone stair to the top.

The castle stands on the north of the cathedral, on a ridge of black rocks, within the flood-mark, and can only be entered to, by a narrow passage, on the west. On the east and north, the ruins of the walls, and the perpendicular rock below are a great height above the sea, which beats upon them at high water. The south wall is tumbled down, and lies a frightful ruin to the water edge. Large fragments of the east and south-east walls have tumbled down inward, and now form a very high and steep bank, covered with a thick green turf, which one has some difficulty in climbing, This castle was built in the year 1155, at

which time it appears that the sea did not approach to its walls; for a little to the south-east are still to be seen, at low water, the remains of a small chapel, which, for some ages past, have been cut off from the land. Besides this, it appears, from the writings of an estate in the neighbourhood, that, of old, the proprietor had the privilege of driving his cattle and goods on the east of the castle, which for some centuries past no man could have done; for, even at low water there is a long ridge of shelving rocks which come close to the foot of the wall and extend under it. These rocks surround the base on all sides but the west, where the great deepness of the earth above conceals them. I can easily figure to myself a reason, why a low rocky coast, shelving to the sea, should, in the course of ages, be stripped of its soil, while little alteration can be observed on a flat sandy one. On a rocky coast, the earth, without the flood-mark, produces a short sweet grass, such as we find upon the Ochil mountains, but none of those strong plants, which require a sour deep soil. The finer the herbage is, the smaller are its roots, and consequently the less do they bind the soil; as the foliage is small, there is little to rot and thicken it. When the roots of these fine grasses touch the rock below, they are repulsed, and push horizontally, till they become matted as a web, or net. When thus entangled in one another, if at the extreme point the action of the sea raises them from the surface, they first wither and decline, and then break off in large pieces, which are carried off by the waves, and separated by the liquid mass. Thus, by gradual encroachments, the sea gains ground from year to year, till her ravages are stopped by high impending cliffs, that brave the fury of her waves; while, on sandy coasts, the sand and mud carried off by one storm, are generally replaced by another. Sand is a proper matrix for coarse benty grass, which is strong, and strikes a deep root, and as it grows to a great length, and is long before it rots, its withered tops are a receptacle for blowing sand, which still raiseth the bank, and strengthens it. The tide, on the east coast, flows from

north to south, and I take it for granted, that, at all times, nearly an equal quantity of water has flowed at spring and ebb; though certainly it has not always flowed in equal quantities into the different bays and estuaries on this coast. There is every reason to believe that in former ages it flowed more plentifully into the estuary of the Tay, for a good way above Dundee, at a considerable distance from what has been the extremity of the flood-mark for ages past, have been found ships' anchors, perpendicularly fixed in the soil. In other low grounds, near tide rivers, are found shells and other marine substances eight or nine feet deep in the most compact clay. No doubt, that great inundation of the sea which drowned the Earl Goodwin's fine estate, now called the Goodwin Sands, in the eleventh century, must have made a great alteration in the flowing of the tide upon the east coast; and we know that some towns in England, formerly sea-ports, are now some miles distant from the utmost flow of the tide.

But to return from this long digression. On the green before the castle, they still show the spot where Mr. Wishart was burned, and the window from which the haughty cardinal is said to have witnessed the horrid scene. The great state and splendour in which Beaton lived, had drawn much envy upon him; his pride, and the violence of his temper had made him many enemies, and this cruel execution of a worthy man quite reprobated the last remains of his character. Though he was, in his turn, illegally and barbarously used by his enemies, perhaps no man ever died less regretted.*

The new opinions, as they were then called, were known to be gaining ground, but while a few ignorant people, of the lower ranks, were only supposed to be infected with them, the clergy did not give themselves much trouble to stop their progress. But

* Cardinal David Beaton was murdered in May, 1546, from which time, to the end of July 1547, his barbarous and enthusiastic murderers kept possession of the castle. They surrendered to a French fleet, sent to reduce it, and were transported to France; after which the castle was demolished by act of council.

now that clergymen of distinguished merit countenanced, and even publicly preached them, at the seat of the archbishopric, it was thought full time to apply a remedy adequate to the supposed evil. It required no high degree of political acumen to discover that remedy, for it was written, in legible characters, in the laws of the land. By an act of King James the First's second parliament, it was enacted, "That heretics should be punished according to the law of the haly kirk, and that the secular power assist." Beaton having called to his assistance a few of the clergy, put this act summarily in execution. It is a pity that a law, so repugnant to religion and humanity, should reproach the reign of one of the wisest and best of our princes. The act is very cautiously worded; it does not mention burning, the usual punishment inflicted upon heretics, as the English statute did, but simply refers to the law of the haly kirk; perhaps from a presumption, that the merciful mother would inflict a milder punishment on her children. The same mistaken opinion seems to have prevailed long after the Reformation, and it is a doubt with me whether this law be not still in force. Sir James Stewart quotes it, in his abridgment of the Scots acts of parliament, but does not insinuate that it was ever virtually or formally repealed. Though the celebrated Elizabeth extinguished the flames which Popish superstition had kindled, she suffered the infamous law for burning heretics to disgrace the statute-book; and her brother, Edward VI. by putting it in execution against two Anabaptists, vindicated the inhuman severity of his father's reign. James the First seems to have thought it a good and godly law, as he not only suffered it to remain in force, but, to the many other meannesses of his administration, added the cruelty of putting two Arians to death upon this statute. Among all the complaints against grievances, and the oppression of severe laws, in the reforming reign of Charles the First, this act is never once mentioned; nor did the saints, under Cromwell's purer administration, choose to part with the legal right of putting to death those who held

different opinions in religion. Humanity is of no party; and therefore has but few friends in any. The honour of repealing this inhuman law was reserved for the dissipated reign of Charles the Second, when the dread of a Popish successor awakened the nation to a sense of its danger.

There are two churches in this city, Saint Andrew's, built in 1112, and the College Church, or chapel. In the last, the tomb of Bishop Kennedy merits the notice of the curious traveller, being a piece of admirable workmanship in the antique stile. I know not whether it was suspected that some valuables had been hid in it about the time of the Reformation, but upon opening part of it, long after, four large silver maces were found, some of them over-gilt with gold. The carving and imagery on the tops are exquisitely fine, and much in the stile of the carved work of the tomb. In the first, is the monument of Archbishop Sharp, very superb and lofty. It is of white marble, having on each side a Corinthian column, crowned with its capital, and a pediment above, with the family arms in its apex, and the arms of the see below. On the plinth of the pedestal, are finely represented, in *alto relievo*, the archbishop in his coach, the postilion straining to apply the lash, the horses at full gallop; some of the assassins, on horseback, are seen in the very act of committing the murder; while others, with their horses hard-reined, are looking towards the coach. Miss Sharp, the bishop's daughter, who had come out of the coach, appears to be fainting, and is supported by two angels. Between the columns is the effigy of his Grace, as large as the life, in his gown, kneeling before a desk, with a book open before him. A person employed to clean this fine monument, very stupidly painted the columns. The Bishop's heirs settled a certain sum annually upon the town for the preservation of it, which indeed was necessary, as the common people still retain their prejudices against him. In testimony of which, some wrong-heads broke off one of the hands of this statue, which was again fixed on by cement.

To one acquainted with the archbishop's history, the sight of this splendid pile affords much matter for reflection. He is allowed, on all hands, to have been a man of parts and learning, but had the misfortune to live in an age when superior talents exposed one to many dangers, from which the dull and ignorant were perfectly secure. Had Doctor Sharp's genius promised nothing higher than a qualification for leading a remote presbytery, perhaps, with Mr. Andrew Cant, of prying memory, he would have been stationed at the distance of a hundred miles from the capital, as a spy upon malignant families. In the early part of his life, the doctor had been professor of philosophy in Saint Leonard's College in Saint Andrew's, and was after appointed professor of divinity in that university. Either from his then conviction of its divine right and utility, or to fall in with the humour of the period, he was a great stickler for presbytery, and rose every day higher in the esteem of the party. When the clergy differed as to the propriety of declaring for King Charles the Second, till he had fully satisfied the kirk, and split into two parties, the Resolutioners and Remonstrants, Doctor Sharp stuck to the former, and was trusted with their secret and most important concerns, as well after the king was restored, as for some time before. While in London, at the expense of his party, watching over, and soliciting their concerns, which he must have seen to be desperate, in his correspondence he expressed the most zealous attachment to presbytery, and so managed matters, that, in 1662, he was made archbishop of St. Andrew's. Nothing could be more violent than the public clamour against him; he was everywhere represented as a betrayer of the church's interest, and as one who had raised himself upon her ruins. Appearances were greatly against him, and he was not of a temper to conciliate the affections of those he had broke with. Whether his motive may have been purely ambition; if he was partly influenced by the apparent impossibility of getting presbytery established; or if he began to think worse of that mode of church government,

from the disorders it had produced, we can but conjecture; and I think it is most rational to suppose, that all these considerations had their weight in determining him. If ever moderation was necessary, or to have been expected in a man, it was so in a high degree in Archbishop Sharp. Could he be either hurt or surprised with the religious prejudices of others, who, in the course of a few years, had seen or pretended to see, the same matters in such different lights? Had he sworn to extirpate episcopacy, as a weed the Lord had not planted, and, in concert with his brethren, inflamed the zeal of the common people against episcopal government, and could he be hurt by the overflowings of that zeal, however much he might be now convinced that it was ill directed and improper? Could he sit upon the bench, and without the most intense feeling, see those men tremble at the bar, with whom he was so lately intimate, whose pay he had received, whose cause he had pleaded, and whose counsels he had directed, whose crime was their adherence to those principles which he had abandoned? So great however is the weakness of human nature, and such confidence had this unfortunate man in the support of civil authority, that he went into most of the violent measures which disgraced that period. His unhappy exit conveys this important lesson to all those who shall in future change sides in religious quarrels, that their own personal safety depends upon the moderation of their conduct, and that the interests of the party they have come over to are best promoted by lenient measures.

I must not conclude this account of Archbishop Sharp, without observing, that Principal Ballie, who knew him well, gives him an excellent character. He speaks of him as in high esteem with Lord Broghill, and General Monk, and tells us, that by Sharp's influence the Earl of Glencairn's life was saved. He was the only person in Scotland able to oppose the enthusiastic fury of Warriston, Guthrie, and other leaders of the Remonstrants; the injustice and cruelty of whose conduct he so effectually exposed to the Protector, that he never would vest them with those dan-

gerous powers they so much desired. The Principal tells us, that Mr. Douglas and Mr. Sharp had been free with the general before he marched for England, and that on his letter, the last followed and overtook him before he reached London. He adds, "So soon as he reached London, he was to him (the general) the most wise, faithful, and happy counsellor he had; and that, if it had not been for God's assistance to Mr. Sharp, Monk was divers times on the point of being circumvened, or, of himself, to have yielded to destructive counsels." He further says, that after throwing down the gates of the city of London, Haselrig, Scott, and others, sent many messengers to the general, and near had gained him to come out of the city, and lie at Whitehall, but that "Sharp's night labours were very happy." That he betrayed his party, and at last dropped them altogether, the Principal imputes to the influence which the doctors, Sheldon and Morely, had over him. I am, &c.

LETTER IV.

COLLEGE—LIBRARY—BISHOPRIC—RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

St. Andrew's.

THE college of Saint Andrew's is a large square building, but has nothing in its exterior that merits a particular description. The university, till of late, consisted of three colleges, Saint Salvator's, Saint Leonard's, and the New College. The two first are now united. Saint Salvator's was founded by Bishop Henry Wardlaw, in the year 1412, and is endowed with ample privileges. Saint Leonard's was founded by John Hepburn, prior of Saint Andrew's, about the year 1520, and the New College by James Beaton, the archbishop, about ten or twelve years after. Many of its pupils have done great honour to this ancient seminary of learning, and their country; suffice it to name the celebrated Professor James Gregory, the mathematician; Napier Lord Merchis-

ton, and Sir Robert Murray, one of the great promoters, and first president of the Royal Society.

I am sorry to conclude the list with the learned and ingenious Dr. Robert Watson, principal of the United College, and author of the justly esteemed History of Philip the Second: a man of an amiable character, who died in April 1781, in the fiftieth year of his age. While the friends of science regret the devastations which death makes, they have this to console them, that it is but a point which divides Adam and his remotest descendant. As, here every thing draws to its like, so, in the future state, it is fairly to be presumed that congenial spirits will associate with one another, and, with united hearts and enlarged faculties, enjoy the clearer display of infinite wisdom.

The Public Library is a very elegant modern building, ninety-seven and a half feet over walls. There are some book presses off the lobby on the ground floor, but we enter to the principal room by a large scale stair on the north end. This noble room, exclusive of the lobby, is seventy-four feet long, twenty-six feet wide, and twenty-four feet high in the ceiling. The galleries, the bottom of which are twelve feet above the floor of the room, are supported by two fluted pilasters, and eleven Doric columns. There are five arched windows on the south side of the room, each of them five feet wide in the clear; over which the Doric entablature supports the ceiling. In this side of the room there is a very genteel pulpit for the chancellor, who at present is the Earl of Kinnoul. His Lordship lately made a valuable present of books to the university, which now has a very numerous collection, arranged in excellent order. Here they shew a concretion, taken from the bladder of a mare, five or six inches diameter, perfectly smooth, and much resembling what is called plum-pudding stone; the picture of a child, spotted all over like a leopard; and a very fine skeleton of one who was long the college carrier. It seems the poor man having been reprimanded for some neglect of duty, took it so much amiss as to

destroy himself. It was a pity, for if his interior parts were as sound as his bones are strong made, he might have lived to the age of Methuselah. It was formerly the custom here for young gentlemen to shoot at a mark, for a silver arrow, which was returned to the college, and, as a memorial of their victory, had a broad piece of plate appended to it, on which is engraved the name and designation of the victor.*

The diocese of St. Andrew's comprehends all the county of Fife, and part of the counties of Perth, Angus, and Mearns, now called the county of Kincardine. Its archbishop had a good right to be metropolitan, as the see is some hundreds of years older than any other bishopric in the kingdom. The ecclesiastical historians give a list of its bishops from the year 840, and in 1466, it was made an archbishopric. The old chapter was dissolved at the Reformation, and a new one appointed, by act of parliament in 1606, consisting of twenty-four members. After the murder of Cardinal David Beaton, John Hamilton, abbot of Paisley, and bishop elect of Dunkeld, base brother to the Earl of Arran, then governor of Scotland, was made archbishop, though for some years after he held his abbey *in commendam.* Perhaps trusting to the power and authority of his brother, over whom he had great influence, he gave up all regard for decorum of character, and openly and avowedly kept another man's wife.—During the regency of Mary of Lorraine, the queen mother, he was at the head of a strong faction of the clergy who opposed the new opinions in religion, while James, prior of St. Andrew's, after Earl of Murray, was the leader of another party, no less determined to support them. This bishop, though not

* From a just respect for this ancient seminary of learning, I wished to have given a more particular account of it; and with that view, when at St. Andrew's, in July 1780, I called upon Mr. I. H. the only one of the professors I had seen. As the gentleman happened to be in the country, I took the liberty of writing to him soon after, which appears not to have been well taken, as I was not favoured with an answer to my letter.

naturally cruel, at the instigation of the violent party gave the finishing stroke to popery, by condemning to the flames Mr. Walter Mill, who had been minister at Lunan, near Montrose, in the eighty-second year of his age. This act appeared so horrid to all men, but the unfeeling clergy, that neither the baillie of regality, nor any body else in St. Andrew's, would act the part of a civil judge, to pronounce sentence, till next day that one of the bishop's domestics agreed to take that office upon him. As nobody in town would give or sell a rope to tie Mr. Mill to the stake, they were obliged to take one from the bishop's pavilion. During the regency of Murray, Bishop Hamilton was attainted of treason, and for some time lived concealed amongst his relations in the west; fearing the danger of falling into the regent's hands, he took shelter in the castle of Dumbarton. The garrison was surprised by a party sent by the Regent Lenox, and the archbishop seized, and sent, under a strong guard, to Stirling, where he was hanged as a common felon, in the year 1570.

In 1571, the rents of the archbishopric were, for some years, conferred upon the Earl of Morton, as a small compensation for the expense of his journey to England to criminate the queen his mistress. That he might possess them under a shadow of law, he appointed John Douglas, formerly a Carmelite friar, and chaplain to the Earl of Argyle, to be nominal archbishop. He was then provost of the New College. Douglas met with much opposition from the presbytery, and considering the way he came in, no more than he deserved, but was admitted and installed in 1572. He died in 1575. Morton, who was then regent, appointed Mr. Patrick Adamson, his chaplain, to succeed Bishop Douglas. As the new bishop came from the same quarter with the former, his right to the office was thought no better. The clergy opposed him violently, and at last excommunicated him, for not submitting to their judicatory. The matter was after compromised, the sentence relaxed, and Adamson continued bishop till 1591. What part of the profits Morton allowed to his de-

puties, we know not; no doubt it would be a very moderate share. The large fortune he amassed, came chiefly by this and such other infamous ways. Perhaps no character more reproached the age in which he lived; ambition, avarice, lust, and cruelty, sat so easy upon him, that it was hard to say which of them was his ruling passion. When, in his old age, he came to the block, he is said to have seen the folly and impiety of his conduct in a strong light; and indeed nothing less than the iron hand of power can bring such stout offenders to a sight of their crimes. After the death of Bishop Adamson, the see continued vacant for fifteen years, and the king bestowed the profits of it on the Duke of Lenox, who enjoyed them till 1606, when the temporalities of the bishops that had been annexed to the crown were restored. In that year, George Gladstanes, bishop of Caithness, was translated to St. Andrew's, a man of an easy disposition, who let out much of his benefice for ages to come, to the great detriment of his successors. This scandalous abuse, which had been long common among the clergy, both popish and protestant, was at last checked by an act of King James VI. after he took the government into his own hands, by which bishops were interdicted from letting leases for more than nineteen years; and rectors, and other beneficed persons, from letting them longer than for their lifetime, and five years; and that to be with consent of their patrons. By posterior acts of the same reign, both the bishops and inferior clergy were strictly discharged from doing any thing to the prejudice of their successors, and interdicted from letting leases but for their own lifetime. Bishop Gladstanes died in 1615, when John Spotiswood, archbishop of Glasgow, was translated to St. Andrew's. When Spotiswood succeeded, he found the rents of the see almost wholly alienated, and set himself, with all diligence, to have the evil remedied. By his application and interest, he procured to the bishopric the revenues of the priory of St. Andrew's, then in lay hands, and the restoration of three hundred pounds Sterling, *per annum*, which had been

long swallowed up in the crown rents. In 1635, the archbishop was made Lord High Chancellor, in which office he continued till the troubles which broke out in 1637 put it out of his power to be any longer useful to church or state. He was excommunicated by the General Assembly of Glasgow, and retired into England, where, in a good old age, he died, much respected, in the year 1639, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The see was vacant for twenty-three years, and Doctor James Sharp was made archbishop in 1662.

Before the Reformation, there was in St. Andrew's, a priory of Augustinians, or Regular Canons, which was founded by King Alexander the First, in 1122. They had a cell in the island of May; one in Pittenweem; one in Portmoak in Loch-Leven; and one in Monymusk in Aberdeenshire. There was also a convent of Dominicans, or Black Friars, who had twenty-three convents in the kingdom. And a convent of Franciscans, Grey Friars, or Minorites, instituted by St. Francis, an Italian, in 1198, and confirmed by Pope Innocent the Third.* I set out for Dundee this afternoon, and, in the meantime, am, &c.

LETTER V.

COAST OF DUNDEE—SITUATION AND PRESENT STATE OF THAT TOWN.

Dundee.

ABOUT two miles north of St. Andrew's, I crossed the Eden, by a bridge of six arches; and a little

* Taking it for granted that all Town-clerks could write, and not doubting but every well-bred man would answer a civil letter, that came to his hand free, the author of these sheets wrote once to the town-clerk of Banff, and twice to the town-clerk of St. Andrew's, in summer 1780. He still thinks it probable that the scribes of both these boroughs can write, though neither of them chose to put it beyond a doubt with him. He mentions these circumstances, otherwise of no importance to the public or to him, lest the inhabitants of Banff and St. Andrew's should think that he had wilfully neglected to say any thing of their government, antiquity, &c.

further on, in the bay, is a lesser one, not less necessary for the safety of travellers. About a mile further on I rode through the estate of Leuchars, formerly the property of the Earl of Southesk, but forfeited in the year 1715; it has ever since been in the possession of the York Building Company. It was run-ridged with the estate of Earlshall, the property of Sir Robert Henderson of Fordel; but a division has been lately made, to the great benefit of the tenants on both estates. The soil falls much off on the north of this bay; the country is flat, and terminated by a range of high mountains, which, from the sea, run farther west than the eye can trace them. From the summit of these mountains, the prospect is extremely agreeable; in front, we have the Tay, and the town of Dundee stretching along the flat bank of the north shore, with a high hill seeming to hang over it. On the west, we have the rich and fertile country called the Carse of Gowrie, Castle Huntly, and many other gentlemen's seats; and on the east, two miles of a fine improved country; Broughty Castle, the mouth of the Forth, and the German Ocean. Being favoured with a gentle breeze, we crossed the river in little more than half an hour.

Dundee, the *Allectum* or *Taidonum* of the ancients, is a large town, the third in the roll of the royal boroughs, having the precedence next after Edinburgh and Perth. With regard to its trade, it does not seem to hold the same rank as in former ages; in the tax laid upon the royal boroughs in 1556, the town of Perth paid £985 15 0, the town of Aberdeen, £1261 10 0, Dundee, £1729 11 10. But by the Act of Parliament for a monthly cess, 20th January 1695, Aberdeen was to pay £726, Dundee only £560; and in a tax-roll in July 1771, Aberdeen is rated at £5 18, Dundee, £4 18. It is certainly a very ancient borough, but whether so old as our monkish historians would have us believe, may be doubted. We are told that Carinthius, king of the Picts, held a meeting with his nobles in a strong castle here, to deliberate on the measures to be taken to oppose Agricola, the Roman general, about the year of Christ 74,

when Corbredus II. was king of the Scots.—So it may have been, but we have no authentic accounts of the transactions of that æra, nor any to be depended on many hundred years after. There was indeed an old castle here, which stood on the south side of that spot where the trades-hall now stands; very conveniently situated in one respect, as there were two small brooks hard by it. When Edward the First garrisoned the town, he found this castle very useful as a curb upon the inhabitants; and when the Scots regained it, Wallace ordered it to be demolished, lest it should again fall into the enemy's hands. The ancient records of the town were either burned or carried off during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell; but the community obtained a very ample charter of confirmation from Charles the Second, with new privileges and immunities. By this charter, the provost is declared to be sheriff within the royalty, and the four baillies, conjunctly and severally, sheriffs-depute. The inhabitants are exempted from appearance before any courts to be held by the sheriff of Forfar, or his deputes. In other boroughs, the sheriff of the county has a cumulative jurisdiction with the magistrates, and I imagine the reason why the town of Dundee wished to be exempted from this was, that Forfar, an old but mean borough, where the sheriff-courts are held, stands at the distance of eight computed miles, through a wild mountainous country. This exemption gave rise to a law suit before the Court of Session, which has lain dormant for many years. The town's admiral jurisdiction is not so clearly established, though they occasionally exercise it; and indeed it seems necessary that a sea-port where such a considerable trade is carried on, should have the power of settling disputes, and protecting property, both on the land and water in their bounds. Dundee is under the government of a provost, four baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, a shore-master, a counsellor to the guildry, five merchant, and three trades' counsellors. The four baillies of the former year, are, by the set of the town, counsellors without election, one of

whom is always elected dean of guild; so that the council consists of twenty members, fifteen of whom are changed every year, only the provost may be re-elected for a second year. The nine incorporated trades are governed by a convener, a treasurer, and their respective deacons, in all matters relating to their crafts and funds The town had many superiorities in the neighbourhood, but disposed of the greatest part of them some time ago, when political disputes ran high between the families of Strathmore and Panmure. They are still superiors of the Hilton, a large suburb on the north, and some other places of less account. The Hospital is a large commodious well-aired building, in the west end of the town, and its revenue is said to be from three to four hundred pounds sterling, *per annum*. It is under the sole direction of the town-council. Decayed burgesses were formerly admitted to it, as well as the common poor, but it was found from experience, to be more beneficial to allow the burgesses a settled pension, according to their rank and circumstances; and to permit the common poor to remain in their own houses. Their pensions and various allotments are regularly paid to them by the Hospital-master, the first day of every month.

The market place is an oblong square, from east to west, three hundred and sixty feet in length, and one hundred feet broad. Two other streets, on each end, branch out from the sides of it; and, till the year 1777, a neat cross, erected in 1583, stood in the centre. In 1734, an elegant town-house was built on the south side, which has a very handsome front, piazzas below, and a spire over it, an hundred and thirty-nine feet high. This large building contains the guild-hall, a court-room, a finely finished mason-lodge, the post office, the bank, some vaulted repositories for the town's records, and the common prison, which is in the two upper storeys, and does much honour to the taste and humanity of the magistrates, under whose auspices it was constructed. It consists of four rooms, each of them twenty feet long, twelve feet wide, and seven and one half feet

high in the roof. They are arched above and below, and have each of them a window four and a half feet by four, and a fire place, three feet square; two of them front the street. There is another smaller room called the iron-house, and a dungeon below for notorious criminals. From its height, and the strong iron bars and doors, this is esteemed one of the securest prisons in the island. The jailor attends the prison from six in the morning till eight at night, and the prisoners may purchase their provisions where they choose. On the east end of the square, the incorporated trades have erected a grand building, the ground flat of which is let for shops and dwelling-houses; the upper storey is appropriated for public rooms. The trades' hall, which is occasionally used as a play-house, is fifty feet long, thirty feet broad, and twenty-five feet high in the roof. It fronts the square, and the outside is decorated with Ionic columns, which are rather too tall for their diameters. There are nine lesser halls or apartments backward, where the different crafts meet to do business. The access to the whole is easy, by a good stone-stair, and large passages. The opulence of the incorporations may be inferred from this, that they had but lately finished a very elegant church when they set about this building. Their convener wears a gold chain as the insignia of his office. The church just mentioned is dedicated to St. Andrew, the tutelar saint of Scotland, and the foundation-stone of it was laid on the fourth of June 1772, by Dr. James Blenshall, one of the town's ministers, in presence of a vast crowd of spectators. Under the stone was deposited a plate with the following inscription, which is also cut on the front of the building:—

D. O. M. A.
Pastores, Prysbyteri,
Artifices:
Populusque Taodunenses,
A. Æ. C. 1772.

St. Andrew's Church stands a little off the street called the Cowgate, and we ascend to it by a broad

gravel walk, with a grass plot on each side, inclosed with a stone fence, and a handsome gate. The pulpit, pews, galleries, vestry, and every inch within the walls, are finished in a genteel style, and not a cobweb, not a pile of dust to be seen, on the walls, seats, or passages. The pulpit, the carved work of which is gilded, stands in the centre of the south side-wall, and fronting it, there is an area leading to a genteel door in the back-wall, which when you pass, you enter to a very neat apartment, off which are two smaller ones, to which you may also enter without the church. These, I imagine, are intended for an unmarried clergyman. The church has a handsome belfry, furnished with a ring of fine musical bells, of different tones and sizes. They have four large silver dishes for the communion bread, and eight large cups, of the same metal, for the wine; all the gifts of private gentlemen. I have been the more minute in the description of this church, as I think the incorporations of Dundee have great merit in setting an example which every sensible man would wish to be imitated. How reproachful is it to society, that in many places set apart for the worship of God, no regard is shown to decency and cleanliness. The air is contaminated with the stench of mouldy walls, the eye is hurt by them; fetid dust brought in by people's feet from new opened graves is suffered to remain in the passages till it dries, and is blown about by the wind whistling through the broken glass, while those in church must inhale it with every breath they draw. Cleanliness was a part of the Jewish religion, and is certainly not less becoming the purity of the Christian.

Besides St. Andrew's, they have other three places of worship, of the established religion, and they talk of building another. The old church, when entire, has been a very magnificent building, perhaps the largest parish church in the world. It was built by David Earl of Huntington, brother to William the Lion, on his return from the third Crusade, in which, with about five hundred of his countrymen, he accompanied Richard the First of England, in the year

1189. David, in his return to Scotland, was in great danger of being shipwrecked, but at last got safe into the Tay. In memory of his deliverance, and in gratitude to the Virgin Mary, he built this church. It was originally connected with a great square tower, still standing, but a good way distant from the part of the church now remaining. The tower is an hundred and eighty-six feet high, and on the top of it a small house is built within the balustrades, which, from the street, has a most diminutive appearance. The remaining part of the building makes three large places of worship. When Edward the First besieged Dundee, a great number of the inhabitants moved their most valuable effects into the church, and were burned along with them. Further to perpetuate the memory of his safe return, David is said to have changed the name of the town from *Allectum* to *Dei-donum;* from which some derive its modern name, though others take the etymology of it to be *Dun-Tay,* or the Hill of the Tay. Dundee suffered exceedingly during the troubles in Charles the First's time, and the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell; being sometimes under the command of one party, and at others at the mercy of another. In 1645, the Marquis of Montrose took it by storm; and in 1651, under the command of its provost, Major-general Lumsden, it vigorously opposed General Monk, who carried it by storm, on the first of September, and put all in arms to the sword. This is reckoned one of the greatest misfortunes that ever happened to any town in Scotland: there were at that time above sixty vessels in the harbour, and so great was the spoil, that, it is said, every private soldier had sixty pounds sterling for his share. As a compensation for this damage, and to enable them to repair their harbour and public buildings, the community obtained of Charles II. a small impost upon ale brewed, or brought into town for sale, for the term of twenty-five years. The grant has been frequently renewed by subsequent parliaments. Till the year 1745, the town had only draw-wells, but since that period, it has been plentifully supplied by

fine springs, brought in from the suburb of the Hiltown, and discharged by seven pipes, at proper distances, in the streets. Till about eight or ten years ago, the butcher-market was held in the principal street, where the trades-hall now stands, and the meat exposed to sale upon moveable wooden frames; but that nuisance is now removed, and a commodious flesh-market made out, in a by-place, near the river side. The buildings are generally from three to four storeys high, the streets well paved and clean kept. In one of them, called the Murray-gate, in compliment to the *guid* regent, several bombs, unburst, were lately found, deep sunk in the earth.

I am, &c.

LETTER VI.

DIDDUP CASTLE—THE HARBOUR—TRADE AND MANUFACTURES OF DUNDEE—LIST OF THE INHABITANTS —BURYING-GROUND.

A LITTLE north of Dundee, on the brow of a hill, stands Diddup Castle, long the property of the Scrimgeors, constables of Dundee, thereafter of Grahame, viscount Dundee, killed at the battle of Gillicrankie, and now of Mr. Douglas of Douglas. James Marquis of Douglas got a gift of the forfeitry from King William. The house has been long ruinous, but its remains, the noble walks around it, and some old timber, yet standing, show what it once has been. The lands in the neighbourhood of the town are generally a good soil, much improved, and let at a high rent; and as they live in the vicinity of a rich and fertile country, the inhabitants have all kinds of provisions at more reasonable rates than in most towns in Scotland. Being so near the sea, except it be in stormy weather, they have fish brought to their doors every lawful day. Two miles north of the town, a small rivulet, called Dighty water, is of great benefit to the inhabitants for driving their mills, and every descent has been employed

to that purpose. A large bleachfield has been lately made out on it, which does a good deal of business. On the north side of the river, at a little distance from the sea, and opposite to Parton-Craigs on the south shore, stand the ruins of Broughty Castle, a place of some strength in former ages, which, from its situation, were it properly fortified, might exceedingly annoy vessels entering the Tay, but could never be a benefit equal to the expense of keeping a sufficient garrison in it. Of what benefit is the castle of Dumbarton to the river Clyde, if it be not to announce to the neighbourhood the 29th of May, the 4th of June, &c.? Before the Reformation, Dundee had a convent of Dominicans, or Black Friars, and one of Franciscans, or Grey Friars; the Grey Sisters, an order of nuns, had also a house here.

The Tay, opposite Dundee, is about three English miles broad, and, being sheltered by high lands on both sides, is a safe road for ships of the greatest burthen; two hundred sail may lie in it at one time. The pier is extensive, and well adapted to the purposes of loading and discharging vessels. It has a dock and shipbuilder's yard, where a great deal of business is done. In the year 1756, three large warehouses were built upon it, for the accommodation of the merchants, where goods may be lodged at a moderate expense. The inhabitants carry on an extensive trade, both foreign and domestic; they import large quantities of flax from Holland and the Baltic, and constantly employ six or seven vessels in the London trade. There is more coarse linen manufactured in the county of Forfar, than in any other county in Scotland; and of this, as much is made in and about Dundee, as in the whole county besides. It is chiefly of that kind called Osnaburgs, which is twenty-six inches broad, and the pieces generally measure about an hundred and forty yards; on an average; they are worth about sixpence the yard. They also manufacture a great deal of coarse linen for sheeting, soldiers' shirts, &c. which is sold, some of it bleached and some brown. It is chiefly

sent to the London market, and there sold to the exporters, by Scots factors, for account of the manufacturers and dealers. On those coarse linens, the Government, with great propriety, allow a debenture of a penny halfpenny a-yard, from its great weight, and the lowness of the price; the branch could not else be carried on without loss. In some years, when there was a brisk demand, above four millions of yards have been stamped at the two public offices. A few years ago, the Dundee merchants resolved to make a trial of sending their linens to the West Indies, and a small cargo was accordingly sent out; but, very unluckily, the vessel was wrecked, when she had nearly reached her port. This misfortune, and the unsettled state of public affairs, which soon after took place, has prevented any further attempts of that kind. Had the goods reached their port, there is no room to doubt of their having answered. Thus the expense of shipping, re-shipping, London commission, &c. would have been saved. The outlie of money would have been little felt; for, as the goods frequently lie at London, six, nine, and even twelve months, before they are sold, and are commonly sold at twelve and fourteen months credit, the dealers in Dundee are generally two years out of their money. The manufacture of sail-cloth has been long established in Dundee, and is carried on to a great extent; it has of late been considerably enlarged, but is at present rather duller than it has been. They have two rope-works, (one of them of long standing,) which do a great deal of business, and plentifully supply the shipping and country with all kinds of cordage. A manufacture of buckram was lately established, which has succeeded very well, and the article gives satisfaction to the buyers. Mr. Mungo Dick, of this place, was the first in Scotland who made good sewing coloured threads; he so effectually established the character of his manufacture, that, in all places of Great Britain, Dundee threads, and good threads, are phrases of the same import. Hence the retailers generally put over their

doors, "Dundee thread sold here." Of this article, a very large quantity is annually manufactured.

A large sugar-house was established here about twelve years ago, which does a great deal of business, and makes goods of an excellent quality. A great deal of their sugars are shipped off for Leith, and other ports on the east coast. They have six tan-works in Dundee, three or four of them considerable; one, especially, is equal, if not superior, to any in Scotland. The proprietors of most of them carry on the shoemaking business, to a great extent, and send their shoes to London, where they are sold to the exporters, who are allowed by Government one penny per pound weight drawback on the shoes, when the tanner pays one penny halfpenny duty on the rough materials. Threepence on the shoes, would be no more than equal to this. In one word, trade and manufactures have so flourished in Dundee for some time past, that it is thought the buildings have increased a third since the year 1760. A list of the inhabitants, including the country part of Doctor Small's charge, was taken about three months ago, which makes the whole 15,752. They are thus distinguished:—In Doctor Small's division—"Of *no religion*, 29—Church of Scotland, 7799—Episcopals, 529—Dissenters, 1119—total, 9476. In Mr. Snodgrass's division—of *no religion*, 23—Church of Scotland, 2485—Episcopals, 203—Dissenters, 278—total, 2989. In Dr. Blenshall's division—of *no religion*, 52—Church of Scotland, 2619—Episcopals, 261—Dissenters, 355—total, 3287." Total of *no religion*, 104—total of the Church of Scotland, 12,903—total of Episcopals, 993—total of Dissenters, 1752. I would fain hope, for the honour of Forfarshire, that by those of *no religion* we are not to understand Atheists, but rather such as attach themselves to no particular sect or party of nominal Christians. By Dissenters, I apprehend are meant Burgher Seceders, Antiburghers, Glassites, Methodists, Bereans, &c. &c. Happy days! when it was a reproach to say, "I am of Paul, I of Apollos," when there was "one Lord,

one faith, one baptism." It seems somewhat odd, that, in the first division, those of *no religion* are but as one to three hundred and sixty-one; in the second, as one to an hundred and thirty; and, in the third, as one to sixty-three, or nearly so. If we suppose the Dissenters to be all Presbyterians, in the main, it appears, that, during the last fifty years, above one in seven of the established church has left her communion. I say, the last fifty years, for, before that period, so far as I know, there were of them no Dissenters, but a few old Cameronians. There are in Dundee, three Episcopal meetings, three Seceder meetings, one Methodist, one Glassite, and one Anabaptist meeting; so that, one with another, they have only 350 hearers.

The Bank of Dundee is on a very respectable footing, many of the principal gentlemen in the town and county being partners in it; they are bound *in solidem*, and as no man doubts their honour, their notes have a ready and general currency. When, as in this case, the landed and commercial interests unite to promote a public measure, there can be no doubt of success; provided only, that they attend to the old adage, "Slow and sure." In former ages, the burying-ground lay near the river side, where the buildings are now most crowded; but being found too confined, and in an improper place, the community inclosed a large detached spot with a high stone wall, in which they have buried their dead for about two hundred years past. No vestige of the old cemetery remains, but part of the side-walls of a chapel, and on them some mean houses have been built; a small Gothic arch is now the entry to a cow-house. Among a great variety of monuments, very few merit a particular description. A very elegant one has been lately erected to the memory of Lady Wedderburn, a daughter of the Earl of Airlie's.—From a square base and pedestal, about seven feet high, springs an Ionic column, crowned with a flaming urn. On the plinth, or faces of the pedestal, within a moulding, are four polished slabs, three of grey, and the fourth, on the west, of the purest white

marble. On the last, are the following figures in *alto relievo*, cut by Sheemaker. A lady, as if just dying, wrapt in a light flowing robe, from the breast downward, and partly extended on a rough projecting prominence, near the bottom of the marble. In her countenance, innocence and resignation are happily expressed. An angel, sitting at her head, supports her shoulders; her neck and head rest upon his right arm; below which is seen the lady's right arm hanging over the outside of the angel's knee. His face is averted from the body, and his head supported by his left hand, in which he holds a handkerchief to his eyes. In the back-ground, another angel, fronting the lady's face, holds up her left hand, tenderly pressing it to his lips, who seems as if he would say, "Sister, come away!" The tender feelings are strongly marked in the profile of the angel at the head; all that his amiable charge had suffered seems present to his mind. The turning his eyes from her, has an effect upon the spectator's mind which no words can express. We think not of the sculptor's art, but feel the full force of his ideas. In the countenance of the other angel there is a mixture of grief and tenderness. The storm now over, he welcomes the late-tossed passenger to the calm regions of bliss, the ever-blooming groves of immortality. In a corner of the slab there is a sky, from which diverging rays of light point to the lady's face; emblematically to teach us this interesting truth, that living, or dying, we are always under the eye of HIM who made us. If I had remained in Dundee a month, I think I should have gone every day to see this beautiful monument of conjugal affection. Below the sculpture is the following inscription:—

MEMORIÆ sacrum Dominæ Margaretæ Ogilvy, spousæ Domini Joannis Wedderburn de Ballendean, Militis Baroneti, Obiit die XXIII. Martii, Anno MDCCLXXV. Ætatis suæ XXVII.

On a grave-stone, near to this monument, is the following rude inscription:—

"Heir lyis ane honest man Walter Govrlay maltman and burgess of Dundee qvha decessit in 28 day of Apryil 1628 of the aige of 46 zeires with his twentie bairnis."

Below there is a coat of arms (which almost every stone in the burying-ground has) and under that, two large death heads, for the man and wife, and four rows of smaller ones, five in each row, for the twenty children. If this stone speaks the truth, the most remarkable circumstance is, that a family of two-and-twenty persons died so near one another as to be all buried in one grave. I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

ARBROATH, AND ITS ABBEY.

Arbroath.

THE country from Dundee to this place is very pleasant, and generally in good culture, especially till we have got a few miles north, when, on our left, we pass Kelly, the seat of the Earl of Panmure. It is a large house, surrounded by a very extensive park, inclosed with a stone and lime wall. On our right, we see a great many small hills so completely covered with blowing sand, that not a pile of grass grows on them. The sea-shore is all the way flat and sandy. Arbroath, or Aberbrothwick, lies in a fine bottom, at the mouth of the small river Brothwick. On the north side, the harbour has a fine natural rising of the land for its protection. It has several piers and basons for vessels to lie at, for the loading or delivery of goods. The town is not large, but carries on a pretty brisk trade in threads and Osnaburgs. Its chief glory was its ancient Abbey; the ruins of which, in grandeur and magnificence, are equal to any thing of the kind in the island.

The Abbey of Arbroath was a convent of Benedictines, or Black Monks, so called from St. Benedict, or Bennet, an Italian, their founder, who lived about the year 500. It was founded by King William the Lion, in the year 1178, and held to be the richest of the Scotch Abbeys. At the Reformation, it was given to James Duke of Chatelherault, and Earl of Arran, who made it over to his second

son, Lord John Hamilton. The poor remains of it were purchased from the Hamilton family by Charles the First, and restored to the church, and, since the abolition of Episcopacy, have been under the management of the Barons of Exchequer. The abbey, the houses of the clergy, the gardens, the walks, and burial-ground, were inclosed by a stone-wall about twenty feet high, part of which is standing. The church and remaining ruins are on an eminence on the west of the town, and in spite of the depredations of time and enthusiasts, have still so majestically grand an appearance, that one cannot approach them without reverence. Entering from the west we have the grandest view: The west gable is about seventy-two feet in breadth, outside measure, and has four piers or projections in it, three on the north of the entry, the last of which is its north boundary, and the fourth in a line with the south wall of the church. The most northerly pier is the highest, being about an hundred feet above the surface of the ground. About ten feet of it was blown down by the great wind, 20th Jan. 1739. Over the entry, or great west door, are three small Gothic windows, above which nothing remains but about two-thirds of a circular one, which seems to have been about fifteen feet diameter. Over the entry, has been a large tower or belfry, the under part of which formed a porch of twenty-seven feet in length, the arch of which is still entire. The length of the church, exclusive of the porch, is about an hundred and five feet, and its inside breadth about sixty-three. The great cross-aisle projects thirty-three feet, inside measure, on each side the body of the church. The whole of the north-side wall, and north end of the aisle, are levelled with the ground, and overgrown with grass, but great part of the south is still standing. The south end of the cross aisle is almost entire, and seems to be about eighty feet high. It has two arched windows about thirty feet high, over which there is a circular one, about nine feet diameter, of which the inside moulding, at top, hangs loose from the work above, as if just tottering to its fall. Nearly

in a line with this gable, on the east, is another almost entire, which has a large arched window, and a small square one on each side; it has had two round towers on the east and west corners. A little south of these, stands detached, a large fragment, the west side of which is the one-half of a gate-way, of an octagonal figure. The whole piece is about thirty feet high, and projects a good way on both sides. The pier which supports it has been stripped of the cut stones all around, for about ten feet, yet not an inch of the inside has parted from the cement. It measures about eight yards round, and supports an immense load, which, though it chiefly hangs over the one side, the weight has not in the least degree drawn it from the perpendicular. A little west of the gate-way, stands a fragment of a side-wall, about thirty feet long, and twenty-two feet high, which has shared the same fate. About the height of eight feet from the ground, the squared stones have been picked out, on both sides, the whole length, and as the wall was not thick originally, where the stones have been taken out, the remainder of it does not seem to be above five or six inches; in many places you see through it; but so excellent is the cement, and so carefully has the wall been built, that the incumbent weight has had no bad effect upon it; though I own I chose to pass it very speedily. West of this wall, which is now the east boundary of a private gentleman's garden, stood two large courts, which are totally demolished, excepting one house, which the gentleman purchased, with some adjacent ground. The house has been lately repaired, and has some good apartments in it. The timbering is of strong oak, which, if taken care of, may last for ages to come.

To the south-side wall of the church, a long shed, or to-fall, is adjected, for a lint manufactory, which includes the principal entry from that quarter. Nothing can be imagined richer than the ornaments of the door, which have suffered less from time and barbarians than one would have expected. As the

ground is now private property, the proprietor has a right to use it in what manner he thinks most for his interest; but while the church was used as a place of religious worship, I imagine those who frequented it would have claimed a possessory right in all the entries to it. Here, though without my line, I cannot help observing, that the entry to the great west door of the Abbey-church of Paisley, is shut up, though the divine offices are still performed within its walls. About nine years ago, the area, from the street backward, was sold for the trifling sum of six pounds sterling, and a shilling yearly of perpetual quit-rent. The person who bought it built a barn in front, and soon after sold it to another. It is now used as a slaughter-house, and the ground backward as a dunghill. I have heard it pleaded, that as the door had not, for a long time, been used as an entry to the church, the area became a nuisance, and therefore was with propriety shut up. I admit that it was exposed to the same inconvenience with other open places in towns, but this might have been prevented, at the expense of a few shillings, by erecting a wooden rail before it. No doubt the ground has been thoughtlessly sold, and certainly without foreseeing the mean purpose to which it is now applied; but when we consider that the noble patron has been long and justly distinguished for his taste in building, we have every reason in the world to believe, that this vile hut will not long continue to disgrace a noble building, venerable for its age, exceedingly valued for the excellence of its architecture, and revered from the sacred purpose to which it is appropriated. As I have mentioned this door, I shall give a slight description of it, which I the rather do, as no man can now see it, unless he chooses to sink to the knees in blood and garbage. It is a sharp Gothic arch, about eighteen inches within the outside line of the wall, and its mouldings and enrichments have a broad projecting slope on each side, and above the arch; so that the whole has something the appearance of a fan bending inward, at both sides, and at

perpendicular altitude of the door-cheeks, where they are tied together by a neat cornice about nine inches high; below which, each of them has a kind of astragal or ring. The columns are of different diameters, the largest not six inches in circumference. Some of them are thoroughly rounded, and stand in grooves; others are only half rounded. From the outside of the columns on one side of the door, to the outside of them on the other, there are about thirty members or mouldings, which go round the arch and form the projection. These members, both grooves and prominences, are of different sizes, and in the centre, there is a broad line of small-ribbed squares, something resembling net-work. On each side the door, and without the enrichments, is a long and narrow Gothic niche, very sharp at top. Above the entry are two sharp Gothic windows, separated by a stone pier, about thirty feet high, and each of them about nine feet broad, but again divided by two small piers into three lights. Over these is a large semicircular window, much lower than the two below. The arched part of each of the two lower windows is divided into six circles by stone mouldings.

But to return to Arbroath. On the west of this garden, is the principal entry or gateway from the south. We enter by an arch, which was originally eighteen and a half feet wide, and sixteen feet high; but Cardinal David Beaton, who was abbot from 1524 till about 1540, contracted it, without hurting the fine mouldings, to nine and a half feet wide, and eleven in height. When we have advanced thirty feet, we come at another arched gate, with a postern; and thirty feet farther, we come at a third; all arched at top, the whole way, with a high tower above them, which is still standing. On the inside of the north gate, there is a deep groove cut in the stone on both sides, for letting up and down an iron gate. This gate is just without the great west door of the church, and its front is in a line with the south wall. From this gate, in a right line, a prodigious high wall extends to the west for about an hundred feet, when it terminates in a tower about

thirty feet square, and sixty feet high. The outer walls of this tower are entire to the caping; and from the south-west corner of it, the wall (there, but about twenty feet high) extends round a garden, the soil of which is within a few feet of its top. Till some time after the beginning of this century, there was, a little south of the church, a grand reservoir for water, constructed of stones accurately cut, and supported by nine columns, so strongly put together that it might have stood for many ages, as a specimen of the fine taste and excellent workmanship of our ancestors. But, as the demon of barbarism would have it, a house adjoining, and the spot of ground on which the reservoir stood, became the property of a Goth; who, as is not uncommon yet, wished posterity to know where his carcase should rot. The person I have in my eye was John Ferguson, a clergyman from the west country, who was settled minister of Arbroath in the year 1700, and as an indemnification for his losses in the Darien project, got a gift of a house and a piece of ground from the Exchequer. He pulled down this fine piece of work, and with the stones of it, caused build a tomb for himself in the inside of the church. I saw the place where it stood, but not a vestige of it remains. "How!" you will say, "how can this be! did the stones resent the indignity, and sink into the earth?" No: the antiquaries owe their revenge to the justice and good sense of the magistrates of Arbroath; who, having built a new town-house in the year 1779, wished to have a secure vaulted cell in it for mad people or dangerous criminals. To save the public money, they made free with the stones of the parson's tomb, to which they thought they had just as good a right as he had.* Though I knew that the

* I copied the following inscription from a grave-stone in the burying place. As it only celebrates the gentleman's public virtues, it has probably been written by the scribe of the community:—

"Hier lyis Alexander Peter, *present* town-treasurer of Arbroath, who died day of January 1630.

Such a treasurer was not since nor yet before,
For commone works, calsais, brigs, and schoir.

ingenious Mr. Pennant had more scientifically described these august ruins, I could not resist the impulse of attempting to say something of objects which I contemplated with a grave and sedate pleasure.

They have but one church at Arbroath, which is a collegiate charge. The south-east corner of it was part of a tower on the Abbey garden-wall. This church has been lately repaired, and beautified in a most elegant manner. The windows have been enlarged in the Abbey style, the carved work of the pulpit, and the square mouldings on the breasts of the galleries are gilt. All the galleries have been painted of a mahogany colour; the magistrates' and the trades' galleries have carpets or breast-cloths over them; the whole church is kept perfectly sweet and clean. It is said to have been remarked by a plain Highlander, on going into a church in France, "That he never before had seen God Almighty served as a shentleman." He needed not now go so far to see a due regard paid to the place where God is statedly worshipped. They have two Episcopal meetings here, and a Methodist meeting, but no Seceders. The people of Arbroath enjoy one great privilege, of which their fellow-subjects to the northward are deprived by act of parliament; it is, that they, and all to the southward of the Red-head (a promontory about five miles farther north) may burn Scotch coals, water-borne, without paying duty. Whatever reasons the legislature may have had for making this invidious distinction at the time the act passed, the thing has so strange an appearance, that I cannot doubt of redress being obtained, were the matter properly brought before the British Parliament. I think it would be perfectly inconsistent with their wisdom and equity to permit the poor to be oppressed, and the progress of agriculture retarded, by a local tax, which can by no means return a

Of all others he did excel;
He deviced our skoel, and he hung our bell."

sum to government equal to the damage and distress it brings upon the country where it is levied. If it be said that coals, when shipped, are considered as an article of trade, and therefore may be taxed, the answer is not satisfactory. All taxes must be ultimately paid by the consumers of the goods, and are generally more than doubly paid, by the advance in the price which the imposition of every new tax produces. It would have been equal to the people in the north of Scotland, had their parliament enacted that all coals sold to those beyond such a point on the sea-shore should be so much dearer at the pit mouth. In the second place, if being water-borne was to subject them to a tax, why exempt from it all the ports on the coast of Fife, and Dundee, and Arbroath in Angus? The people of the north pay the same land-tax with them, and are liable to the same excise and customs. I grant that the Newcastle coals pay a duty at London, but I do not consider this as a similar case; there is so great a demand for coal in the metropolis, such vast quantities are carried to it, and they are shipped so reasonably in the north of England, that they may be really considered as an article of trade, which will bear a small tax to government. But neither do I consider the coal-tax paid at London as a public one; were the Londoners to complain of it, it might be said that "It was granted for the building and support of their own cathedral, and to the last purpose much of it is still applied."

The soil in the neighbourhood of Arbroath is, generally, a stiff red clay, which, when properly cultivated, produces a fine well bodied corn. I was told of a gentleman who, from about two and a half Scotch acres, had forty-six bolls of wheat. The Scotch acre is a fifth more than the English; a Scotch boll is four bushels; and a bushel of wheat is a trifle more than a Winchester bushel. It is a common observation, that, in ancient times, the clergy had the good sense to settle in fertile soils. I imagine they considered the prospects and situation,

more than the soil. The fertility which we now find in it, may be, in a high degree, owing to long and careful culture. They were easy masters, and therefore their lands were better cultivated than the lands of those who took their tenants bound, at the shortest warning, to arm in their quarrels.

I am, &c.

LETTER VIII.

THE COAST TO MONTROSE—PRESENT STATE OF THAT BURGH.

Montrose.

FROM Arbroath to Montrose the coast is high and rocky, and has many curious openings and subterraneous caves in it. The country falls off in fertility about a mile north of Arbroath, and continues but very middling till we reach the Red-head, a high cliff, on which are the ruins of a very old castle, said to have belonged to William the Lion. It overlooks the sea, and stands on the south side of Lunan bay; a pretty semicircular basin, into which many a distressed vessel has been happy to get. In the bottom of the bay is a church and village. Ascending a steep hill, we pass through a highly improved country, to which only one objection can be made, that it is chiefly inclosed by whin hedges. The fields are however well cared for, and the roads between them broad and well made. The farm-houses are built of stone and lime, all covered with slate, and would be thought good in any part of the island. A stranger very naturally wishes to know, to whose industry and attention he owes the agreeable prospect. Upon inquiry, he will be told, that he owes it to two brothers, Messrs. Scott of Dunninald and Rossie, who, something more than forty years ago, began to improve their estates in this district. They were the first who introduced lime as a manure, and, from their success, it is become general all over the north. They

have lime-stone in their own lands, but severely feel that they are a mile or two on the wrong side of the Red-head. They cannot have even the culm or refuse of a coal-pit, without paying a tax for it. The consequence of which is, that they can purchase lime from Lord Elgin's kilns, in Fife, where coals pay no duty, as cheap as they can burn it of their own stones. First improvers have, in all countries, many difficulties to struggle with;—the large sums expended, the slow returns made, the obstinacy and ignorance of servants, the woful chapter of accidents, and the illiberal sneers of their timid and indolent neighbours. The man certainly has great merit, who, in spite of all these, goes on deliberately in the prosecution of his plan; whatever his cotemporaries may think or say, impartial posterity will do him justice. It will see what he has done. If he committed any blunders in the execution, they will be absorbed in the gulph of time; personal weaknesses, the food of envy and malevolence, will plunge to the bottom, while public virtue, with head erect, swims upon the surface.

Montrose stands within half a mile of the sea, on a flat sandy bottom, at the influx of the river Southesk; and, though not a large, is a very pleasant place. The principal street is broad, and has a paved foot-way on each side. The houses have a neat elegant appearance, were it not that the gables of many of them are to the street. People differ as to the etymology of the name of this town; it is written Minross, Montross, and Montrose; the last term is now generally adopted, for no other reason but that Buchanan calls it *Mons Rosarum*. This is a pretty poetical name, but has no foundation in nature, for roses grow elsewhere as well as here. The burgh's oldest charter is from King David the First, in which it is called Sallork, which, from the sound, I take to be Norse or Danish; the last syllable is certainly so, for in Denmark they have a mixed copper coin, called an Ork, silverment. In a charter of confirmation by David the Second, dated 6th March, in the 23d year of his reign, (1352) the town is called

Monrois. It got another charter from David the Second, dated the first of May, in the fortieth year of his reign, by which he makes over to the community several fishings on the waters of Southesk and Northesk, and other property therein mentioned; the *reddendo* of this charter is an annual payment of sixteen pounds sterling. They have several other charters from Robert the Second, and his successors, kings of Scotland, all which are still extant. The town is under the government of a provost, three baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, an hospital-master, ten merchant and two trades-counsellors. None of the crafts are incorporated, either by the crown, or by seals of cause from the town-council. The weekly market is on Friday, and there is an annual fair in May, called the Rood-fair.

At the south end of the principal street, stands the town-house, a large modern building, with a handsome front of cut stone; a pediment above, and an exchange, with piazzas under it. The town-hall, a very genteel room, is in the first storey. Backward from the town-house, stands the church, a collegiate charge; which, both on the outside and the in, is, I think, the heaviest and most irregular building I ever saw. No doubt the people of Montrose are sufficiently attentive to their own safety, but for my share, from its outside appearance, I was afraid of going into it, nor could I think myself safe, from the view of its inside, which is gloomy and disagreeable beyond description. In the burial-ground are a prodigious number of tombs and grave-stones, with long inscriptions; some of them sensible and modest, others poor and trifling. One, the grave-stone of a shipmaster, is in the log-book style; the years, and months, and days, when his children were born, are not only marked down for the information of posterity, but so also are the years and months they lived, and when they died. It is to be hoped that some future genius will improve upon this plan, and add the hours, minutes, and seconds! I do not recollect where I met with the following inscription, which is a perfect model of the infantine style.

O reader! pass not by this stone,
Set up to meet thine eye,
Till thou hast learn'd that underneath
Does Tommy Thomson lye.

A lively little boy was he,
And early sprung to light,
Nine months he should have kept his cell,
But left it in the eight.

How long he lived here below,
And what to him befel,
No wiser would'st thou be to know;
So, reader, fare thee well!

But, while I wish to expose the absurdity of these monumental nothings, I mean not to insinuate that a tender parent may not erect a monument to the memory of a favourite child; though in that, and in every other case, the inscription should convey some useful reflection to the reader's mind. A friend of mine lost a favourite boy while on the breast, about thirty years ago, in whose countenance there was something so inexpressibly engaging, that no body could pass the nurse in the street without stopping her to look at him. The following stanzas were written by his father:—

Here, from the cares of life remov'd,
Before its cares he knew,
A lovely infant peaceful rests,
Whom death untimely slew.

A fairer face than e'er was feign'd,
A mild expressive eye,
In every feature virtue smil'd,
Fresh blooming from the sky.

Nor to a father's partial eye
Alone, did this appear,
For to the stranger's glowing heart
This little one was dear.

While, thoughtful, on the torpid clay
Was fix'd the parent's eye,
Thus mildly spake, or seem'd to speak,
An herald of the sky.

"Enough. Repress the rising sigh,
"Should mortal man repine?
"Still must the will of Heaven be done;
"And let that will be thine."

On an upright stone, at the head of a grave opposite to the church, is the following inscription:—

"Here lies the bodies of George Young and Isobel Guthrie and their *posterity, for more than fifty years backward.* Dec. 23, 1757."

While I speak of sepulchral monuments, I recollect a story I have heard of the late worthy Lord President Forbes. A superb monument had been erected to the memory of one of his ancestors, which had been suffered to decay so much, that it was the common opinion it would soon fall to pieces. Several gentlemen of the neighbourhood spake to his Lordship to have it repaired, but he always waved the subject. One, upon an easy footing with him, pressed it much, and concluded with observing, that in a very short time it would become a ruin. "Let it;" said the President, "it never should have been there: none of my family have done any thing that merited such a mark of distinction." When we meet with a moral or religious sentiment, well expressed, in a burying-ground, the solemnity of the place gives weight and emphasis to it; and, for the same reason, the mind is hurt by any thing mean or ludicrous exhibited in this theatre of mortality.

On an extensive plain, a little east of the town, stands one of the most elegant Episcopal chapels in the island, to which the inhabitants of the better rank chiefly resort. The chapel and burying-ground are inclosed by a stone and lime wall, about eight feet high, sixty-eight yards long, and sixty-five in breadth. On the west end, there is a very light iron gate, hung upon rustic piers, about eight feet high, and on the top of each is a stone pyramid, supported by nine small balls, and finished off with a scroll and globe at top. The main entry to the chapel fronts the gate-way. There is a scale-stair on each side the passage, leading to the galleries, between which, on the west end, stands the organ, from the breast of which springs a small gallery, in the form of a horse-shoe, with the points outward, which has a fine effect upon the prospect from the east end. The seats in the galleries, to which we enter at both ends of

the chapel, are raised theatre ways, and so well constructed that every person in them may see and hear the minister. The pulpit and reader's desk are on the middle of the south-side wall. The altar is twelve feet six inches, by six feet four inches; the painting, backward, is in a good taste and well executed. The chapel is sixty-five feet long, and forty-two feet six inches broad, inside measure. The bottom of the galleries is nine feet high, and on the west end of the chapel there is a belfry and small bell; the only one I have seen on an Episcopal meeting house in Scotland, except the Trinity chapel at Aberdeen. The roof is covered with sheet-lead.

Montrose is a tide-haven, dry at low water; but the tide flows so plentifully that it fills a bay or bason on the west of the town, about two miles diameter. This bason is semicircular on the north shore, and, at high water, has a very noble appearance. The tide flows to the backs of the houses, so that the town is twice a-day, on all hands, surrounded by the sea, except on the north, where there is a neck of land about a mile broad. By the traditionary accounts, the sea has gained immensely upon this bason, which is said to have been a wood almost to the river side. In distant ages, the river Southesk ran into the sea on the north of the town, and has probably changed its course, when, by some great storm, its mouth has been filled up with shifting sand. The old bed of the river is still distinguishable in the sands. It now makes a considerable curve, and being confined by the mountains, on the south, must run much deeper than it did formerly. The harbour has a good stone pier for the loading and delivery of merchandise, and several vessels of considerable burthen belong to the town. Near the quay there are three pretty little mounts, one of them called the Horologe-hill, partly natural, partly artificial. When the pier was built, the clay dug up was thrown upon these mounts, which are the only rising grounds within some miles of the town, if it be not the ridge of mountains on the south side of the river, called High-holm.

The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade, and many of them are in opulent circumstances. They have a sail-cloth or duck manufactory; a rope-work, a tan-work, and a distillery; they manufacture large quantities of threads, both white and dyed; and export a great deal of grain, flour, oatmeal, malt, and large quantities of salmon, pickled and salted. The salmon are taken in quantities, so far up the North-esk as the bridge of Ganachy, which, considering the curves of the river, cannot be much less than twenty miles from the sea. As Montrose lies in the neighbourhood of a plentiful country, provisions are generally very reasonable. They have a fine assembly-room, and, during the winter season, when many of the country gentlemen come to town with their families, they have frequent assemblies. This town had the honour of giving birth to the gallant Marquis of Montrose, the terror and reproach of the Covenanters. The house in which he was born is still a good one.

A subscription was lately set on foot for erecting a small madhouse, which was the more relished, that a fair lady was the first mover of it. The building is already begun, and though we hope it will have few lodgers, yet, should it be useful to but one in an age, the well disposed subscribers have not the less merit. As the town lies so near the sea, it is exposed to great danger from privateers; as a guard against which, a battery of cannon is just now to be erected on the beach, so strong, and the guns so well pointed, that no boat can land but with great peril.

I am, &c.

LETTER IX.

THE COAST TO STONEHAVEN—FOWLS-HEUGH—DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

Stonehaven.

THE coast from Montrose to the river Northesk is a flat sand, some of which has been lately inclosed, and, in dropping summers, produces tolerable

crops. About twenty years ago, the river changed its course in the sands; by which accident, the rent of a salmon-fishing, the property of Mr. Straton of Kirkside, has risen from fifty pounds to about six hundred pounds sterling a-year. As this must have been occasioned by a storm, it verifies the old adage, "It is an ill wind that blows good to nobody." A fine bridge, built by subscription, has been lately thrown over this river; and in no place of the kingdom was one more needed. The water is deep and rapid on the south side, and, in heavy rains, comes down so suddenly from the adjacent mountains, that even those who had taken the ford were in great danger. After we have crossed the river, the coast rises gradually, and a few miles to the north, becomes very high and rocky. The church of Saint Cyrus, three miles north of Montrose, stands on a high hill, from which there is an extensive prospect of the sea and adjacent country. Near to it is the castle of Laurieston, the ancient seat of Stratons, now the property of the heirs of the late Mr. Falconer of Mountain. Below this, lies Denfinel, so called from its being the place where Finella, Lady of Fettercairn, was taken, as she fled after she had murdered King Kenneth. Brotherton, the seat of Mr. Scott, is hard by the sea, in a favourable exposure for fruit trees. The garden is enclosed with a high stone wall, and, in good seasons, nectarines and peaches come to perfection in it. From Northesk river to the water of Bervie, the lands are generally a strong clay, capable of producing wheat, barley, and beans. The parishes of Saint Cyrus and Benholm have been considerably improved within the last twenty years, by the application of the lime from the adjacent quarries of Mathers, and the increase of inhabitants on the coast, especially in the town of Johnshaven, the property of Alexander Silver, Esq. which contains about 1200 inhabitants, chiefly employed in fishing. Mr. Scott of Nether Benholm, and several other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, have, by their example, considerably improved the agriculture of the country; but it is still capable of much higher im-

provement. In so charming a bank of land, and so fine an exposure, one would wish to see every farm laid off in regular fields, enclosed with ditches and thorn-hedges, and drains cut in proper places, for carrying off the water during the wet season. The surrounding ditches and interior drains, if well kept, would correct the moisture of the cold clay; and, were the drains covered, they would be a reservoir for the large quantities of stones taken from the surface. The old whin-hedges should be extirpated; they are a bad fence, and destroy the fields by blowing their seeds; they offend the eye, and are in every view a nuisance. In some places, thorn-hedges have been planted; but they have neither been kept clean nor under the shears; without which precaution, they never come to be a good fence. The heart of the land is in some places eaten out by weeds; to correct this evil, the tenants should give them more frequent fallows, in which management they would certainly find their account.

A mile south of Bervie, stands the village of Gourdon, which has a harbour and stone pier, where small vessels unload coals and lime. At the influx of Bervie-water is a small creek, on the south bank of which, just below Bervie, stands the castle of Hallgreen, the ancient seat of the Raits. Bervie, or Inverbervie, was made a royal borough by King David the Second, who, with his queen, landed here in May, 1341, in their voyage from France, and narrowly escaped an English fleet that lay in wait for them. The rock near to which they landed is still called Craig-David. The town has no trade, if it be not a sail-cloth manufacture carried on for account of some people in Montrose. Mr. Barclay of Ury is their present provost. On the north of the town, a stone bridge is thrown over a deep den; in the bottom runs Bervie-water, at the mouth of which there is a salmon fishing. The river is very shallow, if it be not during heavy and long-continued rains. The den runs a good way up into the country, in a curvilinear direction. When we cross the bridge, we ride along the edge of a high mountain, called Bervie-

Brow, between us and the sea. The north side is incorrigibly barren, though on the south there are some spots arable. One is surprised at the sudden change of soil in some places; not above three hundred yards north of this mountain, the land mends exceedingly, and continues good for many miles up the country. At the distance of an English mile, we see Allardyce, late the property of James Allardyce of that ilk, esq. but now of Robert Barclay, Esq. of Ury, to whom it came by marrying Miss Allardyce, his cousin, the late proprietor's only child. A little farther north, we see Arbuthnot, the seat of the Viscount of that name; and have a fine distant view of the Grampian mountains, where Bervie-water has its source.

Two miles north of Bervie, on a rock, hard by the sea, stands the old castle of Kinneff, the property of Lord Arbuthnot; and midway between Bervie and Stonehaven, is the vast perpendicular cliff called Fowls-heugh, famous for a kind of gull called kitty-wakes. The rock stretches a mile along the shore; the foot of it all the way washed by the sea. It is rented by a person very expert in catching these birds, and vast numbers of them are annually taken away in the hatching season. The bold adventurer descends from the summit of the cliff, by a rope fixed round his waste and well secured above. He keeps his face to the rock, and in his right hand holds a long rod, with a noose on the point of it, which he artfully puts over the heads of the young birds, and then by a sudden jerk draws them to him, suspended by the necks. When he has caught the quantity he would have, he is drawn up. What dangers will not men dare from the lust of gain!* These birds are said to be good eating for a day or two after they are killed, but if longer kept, acquire a most disagreeable rancid taste. They were formerly much used on side-

* In the summer season, people come in boats to the foot of the cliff to shoot these gulls; when the explosion of the shot, the wild screaming of the birds, and the rebounding thunders of the rock, united, produce a most horribly disagreeable noise; which, however, is harmony to the sportsman's ear!

boards, as a whet before dinner. A gentleman at the Earl of Erroll's house, after he had sat down to dinner, expressed a doubt whether kitty-wakes were really appetizers; "For my own share," said he, "I doubt the fact, for I have eat half a dozen, and am not a bit more appetized than I was." The bird is about the size of a pigeon. This rock was the property of the Earl Marischal, but now belongs to the York Building Company. Half-way between Fowlsheugh and Stonehaven, upon an immense rock, on the very brink of the sea, lie the ruins of Dunnottar Castle, the principal seat of the Marischal family. It has been a very large building, and is totally inaccessible, but by a narrow ascending passage, towards the land, on the west side. There is a very large draw-well in the middle of the court, which is filled up with stones and rubbish almost to the top. To see carved work, cornices, and coats of arms scattered about and mouldering in the grass, and not an inch of wood left in so large a building, is an affecting emblem of all human things.

Though Lord Marischal had been a violent covenanter, after Charles the Second had been proclaimed in Scotland, his castle of Dunnottar was garrisoned for the king, and the care of it committed to Sir William Keith, the Earl's brother. But the more immediate defence of it was the charge of Mr. George Ogilvie, a gentleman in the neighbourhood; to whose care, the regalia of Scotland, the crown, sword, and sceptre, then in the castle, were specially recommended. The place was so closely beset by a party of Cromwell's troops, that Mr. Ogilvie found he must soon surrender. What chiefly distressed him was, the dread of losing the regalia, which he knew would be a very desirable prize to the enemy. A happy thought at last occurred to him; the minister of Kinneff's wife, a prudent woman, in whom he had great confidence, happened to be then in the castle. He communicated his fears to her, and it was agreed betwixt them, that the gentlewoman should leave the garrison with a bundle on her back, as if fearing no danger, and that in this bundle these

valuables should be put up. The plan succeeded, and the articles were hid under the pulpit till the restoration. Sir William Keith claimed the merit of saving the regalia, though he was not in the castle during the siege. Mr. Ogilvie was knighted for his bravery and conduct, and is now represented by Sir William Ogilvie of Barras. For some miles south of Stonehaven, the upper lands are poor, and much of them barren; though there are some fine farms towards the sea, and in a bottom on the left hand, two miles from the shore. I am, &c.

LETTER X.

PRESENT STATE OF STONEHAVEN—COAST TO ABERDEEN.

Aberdeen.

STONEHAVEN, or, as it is commonly pronounced, Stonehive, stands on the south side of Cowie-bay, on the brink of the sea, about a mile and a half north of Dunnottar Castle. It has a small harbour and pier, into which vessels of an hundred tons burthen may safely enter at high water. The town stretches along the shore, under the shelter of high rocks, covered with a fine green turf, and contains about a thousand inhabitants. The sheriff courts and county meetings are kept here, having, by the interest of the Earl Marischal, been removed from Kincardine, in the reign of James VI. Of the last mentioned town, only a single farm-house now remains. Stonehaven lies in the parish of Dunnottar, and is a part of the forfeited Marischal estate. A large sail-cloth manufactory is carried on here, and great quantities of woollen stockings are spun and knitted for the Aberdeen manufacturers. They have an episcopal meeting, and the clergyman acts in the double capacity of physician to soul and body. Where the proper qualifications are found, which, if fame does him justice, they are, in a reasonable degree, in Doctor Memis, to act in both capacities may be very bene-

ficial in country places. A mile north of Stonehaven lies Ury, the seat of Robert Barclay, Esq. great-grandson of the famous Apologist, and the first and most distinguished improver in the country. David Barclay of Mathers, the Apologist's father, served as a colonel under the great Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden, and when the troubles broke out in Charles the First's time, did not remain neutral. In that fluctuating period, he became a quaker, and, when he retired to live upon his estate, wished to improve his personal farm. But as he knew nothing of agriculture, he was obliged to trust all to his servants. Having discovered that he had an unskilful ploughman, he was at much pains to recommend better methods of ploughing, from what he had observed among his neighbours; but the fellow was obstinate, and would go on in his own way. "Thou knowest, friend," said Mr. Barclay, "that I feed and pay thee to do my work in a proper manner, but thou art wise in thine own eyes, and regardest not the admonitions of thy employer. I have hitherto spoken to thee in a style thou understandest not, for verily thou art of a perverse spirit; I wish to correct thy errors, for my own sake and for thine, and therefore thus tell thee (coming over his head with a blow which brought him to the ground) that I am thy master, and will be obeyed!"—Though the weapon was carnal, this was the demonstration of power, and had the desired effect; the ploughman became tractable, and quiet as a lamb.

Of however little value we may think the property of a few hundred yards of a barren mountain, in former ages great disputes have arisen, and much blood has been shed, in regard to the march-line of the different heritors, which is commonly marked out by cairns, or large stones, the bearings of which are marked down in writing, and, in case of encroachments, the ground is perambulated by the oldest people in the neighbourhood. A difference of this kind arose between Colonel Barclay and a neighbour of his, who had built a sheeling beyond his march. A sheeling is a temporary hut for those who attend

cattle in the summer time. Mr. Barclay sent the gentleman notice to remove the hut, signifying, that if he did not, he would come and throw it down. No regard was paid to the message, on which the Colonel called together a few of his tenants, and went to the spot. The other gentleman had heard of his intention, and came also, ready prepared to oppose force to force. When the belligerent powers, at the head of their respective corps, armed with spades, pitch-forks, swords, and rusty muskets, had got within the precincts of death, a halt was commanded on both sides, when the chiefs, advancing between the front lines, with a sullen silence, saluted each other. "Friend," said Mr. Barclay, "I have long ago renounced the wrathful principle, and wish not to quarrel with any body; but if thou hast a right to build within the march-line between us here, it is but extending that right to build within my arable fields, which are also uninclosed. Let our people stand by, while thou and I throw down this hut, injurious to my property, and of no consequence to thee." The other affirmed that he had a right to build the hut where it stood, that his neighbour's claim to the ground was unjust and ill-founded, and that he would be the death of the first man who should dare to touch it. "Friend," said the Colonel, "the time was, when thou wouldst not have dared to speak to me in this style; but though I am only the withered remains of what I once was, thou hadst better not stir up the old man within me: if thou dost, he will soon be too much for thee. Be thy threats unto thyself, I shall throw down the first stone, and do you, my people, level this unjust encroachment of my neighbour." The hut was thrown down, without the least opposition; and both parties returned in peace to their respective places of abode.

With whatever wild freaks the sect may have been charged, when it first sprang up, and whatever grounds their conduct may have given for the charge, it appears that when Colonel Barclay embraced quakerism, he did it in the simplicity of his heart, and from a real regard to religion. The great figure which his son made, as a polemical writer, and

the irreproachable character which he uniformly supported through a long life, reflect honour upon the memory of his father, and demonstrably prove that he must have had an excellent education. That the quakers have so long stuck together, and given to the world an edifying example of brotherly affection, must, in a high degree, be the result of his excellent apology for their principles. If he had never written a line but the dedication of that work to King Charles the Second, the memory of the author would have been dear to every good man. He does not weakly and ridiculously endeavour to proselyte the king to quakerism, but reasoning upon the great and universally acknowledged principles of morality, in the most dutiful and affectionate manner, lays his duty before him as a man and a king. There is a simplicity, yet a force and emphasis in the style of this dedication, which has rarely been equalled, and never will be exceeded in the English language. A quarto edition of this work, on a fine paper, did honour to the press of the late Mr. Baskerville of Birmingham.

For some miles north-east of Stonehaven, the lands on the sea-coast lie high, and are of an excellent quality. The farm of Cowie, the property of Alex. Innes, Esq. commissary of Aberdeen, is well laid out, and in fine culture; it is inclosed and subdivided with good stone and lime fences, and the farm-house and offices are excellent. Just above it lies the farm of Meagrie, the property of Ury, in the same good order. About a mile farther on, we pass a wretchedly barren moor, almost one continued stone, which, with little interruption, is the case of all the country, till we reach the bridge of Dee, within two computed miles of Aberdeen. The lands of Muchals, four miles from Stonehaven, and the lands of Elsick, two miles farther north, were purchased by the town of Aberdeen about twenty-five years ago, and feued out in lots; upon all of which some improvements have been made, chiefly by rearing up fences of small stones, which are perpetually tumbling down. The inclosures are generally small, and a great part of

their contents covered with heath and bogs; yet I would blush to mention the rent paid for them. To explain this, I must observe, that the country, for some distance from the sea, is populous. You see everywhere numbers of poor huts and starved cattle. Besides the *amor patriæ* which, in all places, attaches men to their native spot, and softens the horrors of the desert, poor people have special inducements to settle in this district. They have peat and turf in great abundance, they are on the sea-coast, and can, at most seasons, have fish reasonably; they have a superabundance of stone for building their houses, and there are some pine woods in the neighbourhood, where they can purchase timber for them; and what is of still greater consequence, being within a few miles of Aberdeen, the females have constant employment in knitting stockings to the manufacturers. By their unremitting labour in this branch, they earn money to pay their rents, and by keeping one or two cows, and raising a little grain, they are enabled to live in a humble but contented way. As they have no idea of the property possessed by the lower ranks in other places of the country, they are strangers to the vices and bad tempers which it produces. Here I recollected a story told of Aaron Hill, who, travelling in a desert part of the country, happened to see a crow perching on the stump of an old tree, and consoling itself with its natural notes, "Caw, caw," said the chagrined traveller, "caw, and be damned! if you will stay in such a country when you have wings to fly away."

It is extremely refreshing, after passing through this dreary waste, to come in sight of the towns of New and Old Aberdeen, and the highly improved fields in their neighbourhood. To the west and north-west, the scene is wild beyond description; hills and mountains rising above one another, among which, Morven, about thirty miles to the westward, looks down upon all the rest. But here the eye of the traveller is refreshed by the run of the Dee, its curves, and finely wooded banks, with many gentlemen's seats on each side. On the east and north-

east, we have an uninterrupted prospect of the German Ocean, for thirty computed miles, terminated by the high land called Buchanness, which runs out a great way into the sea. The fine bridge on the Dee, three English miles south of Aberdeen, was built by Gavin Dunbar, bishop of that city, and delivered to the town, in trust, in the year 1529, with a small land estate for supporting it, and has ever since been kept in good repair. It consists of seven large arches; but having been built so long before wheel-carriages were in use, it is unfortunately too narrow, being only fourteen feet and six inches wide, nor is this its only fault, for the parapet wall is too low. Both these inconveniences are the greater, that the river is broad, and consequently the bridge of a considerable length. In the year 1770, Mr. Smeaton, who had the direction of the new pier built at Aberdeen, gave in a design to the magistrates, in which it was proposed, at a moderate expense, to heighten the parapet, and by somehow extending the upper works, on the top of the piers, which are very strongly built, to make the bridge eighteen feet wide, so that two carriages might safely pass. As the bridge funds are rich, and the community of Aberdeen rarely wanting in taste and public spirit, we have reason to hope that this capital improvement is at no great distance. All of the present bridge, above the water, was substantially rebuilt in the year 1719. When it comes to be altered, were it gravelled above, travellers would pass it more at their ease, and the walls and arches would be less shaken by heavy carriages, than if they rolled on a causeway. I am, &c.

LETTER XI.

SITUATION AND ANTIQUITY OF ABERDEEN—ITS PRESENT STATE.

Aberdeen.

THE town of Aberdeen lies in fifty-seven degrees twelve minutes north latitude, and one degree forty-

five minutes west of the meridian of London. Sixty-eight computed miles north-east of Edinburgh, and about the same distance south-east of Inverness. The county is large, in some districts populous, but in others thinly inhabited. It extends from the German Ocean on the east, to Badenoch, on the borders of Perthshire, on the west; being a distance of about sixty computed miles. On the south, it is bounded by the river Dee, which, in most places, divides it from the county of Kincardine, and on the north, by the shire of Banff. Its greatest breadth may be about thirty miles. Besides Aberdeen, the capital, it has two other royal boroughs, Kintore and Inverury; neither of them of any account, if it be not once in seven years, when a member, for the district of boroughs to which they belong, is chosen.

The county is divided into districts; the general divisions are Buchan, Formarten, Garioch, Alford, and Mar. These are subdivided into eight presbyteries, or ninety-eight parishes, all of which make one provincial synod, which meets at Aberdeen twice in the year, in April and October. A kind of gross estimate of the land-rent may be made from its valuation in the tax-roll, settled in the year 1674, where it amounts to two hundred and thirty-six thousand two hundred and forty pounds thirteen shillings and nine-pennies Scots money; or nineteen thousand six hundred and eighty-six pounds fourteen shillings and two-pence three farthings sterling. The county sends one member to parliament, and the town, with the boroughs of Bervie, Montrose, Brechin, and Arbroath, another. Alexander Garden, Esq. of Troup, now is, and for the last two parliaments has been member for the county.

We enter Aberdeen on the south, by a handsome stone bridge of one arch, thrown over a rivulet called the Denburn. The town stands upon four small hills, about a mile west of the sea; and from the influx of the river Dee, the tide flows about a mile above the harbour mouth. By the traditional accounts, Aberdeen was made a royal borough by Gregory the Great, king of Scotland, about the year of Christ 893, but no records of so old a date remain.

The oldest charter now extant is from King Alexander the Second, in the year 1217. By this charter, he grants to the community the same privileges he had granted to his town of Perth. During the disturbed state of public affairs, from the death of Alexander the Third to the accession of King Robert Bruce, the town suffered exceedingly; all its records were burned or carried off. As a compensation for its losses, King Robert gave the community a new charter, and made over to them, and their successors for ever, the lands called his forest of the Stocket; with some mills, waters, fishings, customs, tolls, &c. This charter is dated at Berwick-upon-Tweed, 10th December, (1320), being the fourteenth year of his reign. David Bruce, his son, gave a charter of confirmation, dated at Aberdeen, 21st February, (1343), in the fifteenth year of his reign.

All former charters were confirmed, and new ones granted, with additional privileges, by James the Second and James the Fourth, kings of Scotland; and Queen Mary, by her charter, dated at Edinburgh, 8th February, (1551), gave to the community the salmon fishings on the rivers Dee and Don. James VI. before his accession to the throne of England, gave a charter of confirmation, dated at Falkland; and Charles the First, a very ample one, dated at Oatlands, 9th September, (1638).* Besides the admiral jurisdiction within the flood-mark, which the

* "And sicklike we with advice and consent foresaid, for the onerous causes abovewritten, and for diverse other great respects, good causes, and considerations moving us, from our certain knowledge and proper motive will, have given and granted, and by the tenor of our present charter, we give and grant full power, warrand and liberty, to the said provost, bailies, and counsellors of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to their successors by themselves, or by their dean of guild, or any other person whom they shall yearly nominate and appoint, of visiting, enquiring, searching, and trying the weights, metes, and measures after-specified, within the bounds of our said burgh, and of our whole sheriffdom of Aberdeen, and within all the common fairs and mercats as well to burgh as landwart, within the bounds of the said burgh, and our sheriffdom of Aberdeen. And we have made and constituted, and by the tenor of our present charter, with

last charter gives to the town, for about an hundred and fifty years past the magistrates have enjoyed deputations of admiralty from the several lord vice-

advice and consent foresaid, make and constitute the said provost, bailies, and council of our said burgh, and their successors, visitors, inspectors, searchers, and tryers of all the measures and others aforesaid within the bounds of the said burgh, and our sheriffdom of Aberdeen: Giving, granting, and committing to them and their successors foresaid, full power and privilege of marking and sealing, all vessels, measures, and weights, great and small underwritten: That is to say, To mark and stamp all firlots, pecks, pound weights, stone weights, elvands, quart, pint, chopin, and mutchkin stoups, and all others of that sort, with an iron or brass stamp, or seal, having the impression of the lion and crown, according to the sundry measures and standards prescribed and appointed by act of our parliament, and of uplifting all fees and duties of and for the same."

"Moreover, we, with advice and consent foresaid, have given and granted, and by the tenor of this our present charter, for us and our successors, give and grant our full power, commission, and authority to the said provost, bailies, and counsellors of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors, of making and publishing acts, statutes, and ordinances, for the common good and profit of the said burgh, and the defence of the privileges and liberties of the same; to be observed by all the burgesses and inhabitants of our said burgh, and by all other persons repairing and frequenting to the same, under such penalties as they shall think fit. As also, of causing the saids acts, and statutes, and ordinances to be duly observed, with all the acts of parliament, acts of general convention, and privy council, with the constitutions of the burghs, and all their own proper acts made, or to be made, in favours of the liberties thereof, and to prosecute and put the same to final execution, within the liberty and territory of our said burgh of Aberdeen and sheriffdom thereof above-set-down. And likewise, with special power to the said provost, bailies, and counsellors, of calling, prosecuting, arresting, and incarcerating the persons delinquents and contravening the said privileges, acts, statutes, decreets, and sentences, and of intromitting with their goods, and escheating the same. Which goods and issues, so to be escheated, we, for us and our successors, with advice and consent foresaid, give and grant to the common use of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and for the support of the common affairs and works thereof, with all issues and fines of the courts, wherein the said transgressors shall happen to fall and incur the same."

"As also, with free power of holding courts within our said

admirals of Scotland, for the time; for different tracks of the coast, south and north of their harbour. Their present deputation, from the Earl of Braidalbane, extends from the water of Ythan, on the north, to Whisleberry, or Kinneff, on the south.

When vessels have the misfortune to be wrecked upon the coast, the conduct of the magistrates is humane and exemplary. Upon the earliest notice, some of their number, with a proper guard, are sent to the spot, for the preservation of lives, and securing the property of the sufferers. Labourers and carts are employed to carry off and house the goods, and every precaution is taken to prevent embezzlement. There are base people in all countries, who wish to avail themselves of the misfortunes of others; but I do the north of Scotland no more than justice when I say, that there is as little of this vile disposition to be found in the common people there, as in any place of the island.* The salvage claimed by the town, as admirals, is generally modified by some of the neighbouring justices, according to circumstances, and never exceeds a few per cents. of the nett proceeds saved. In several instances, the claim of salvage has been entirely passed from, where the loss

burgh and territory, and liberty thereof, for administration of justice, and punishing delinquents and transgressors according to the quality of their crimes, conform to the laws and practice of our kingdom of Scotland; and the issues, fines, and escheats of the said courts, with blood wits, as oft as they shall fall out, as well within our said burgh, liberty, and territory thereof, as within the port and harbour and *flood-mark* of the said burgh, and within the saids waters of Dee and Don, and parts of the same, where the foresaid fishings are disposed by virtue of our present charter, and of applying the said fines, &c. to the use of the said burgh."

* Though the assizes are held at Aberdeen, for that and the two neighbouring counties, the magistrates are sometimes put to the agreeable expense of white gloves for the judges. This happened to be twice the case in the year 1761, in which the prison doors were shut from the 29th of April to the 13th of May, as there was not a single prisoner within their walls upon any account whatever. It is, however, proper to observe, that this was at the conclusion of a war which had cleared the country of many disorderly persons.

of the sufferers was considerable, and their property not covered by insurance.

The town of Aberdeen is very close built, and, from the most accurate computations that have been made, contains, including its environs, about twenty-five thousand inhabitants. The streets are well paved, and generally of a reasonable breadth. The one called the Broadgate, would have been a fine street had it been quite straight, and in all parts equally broad. The Castlegate, or market-place, is a large oblong square, but hurt by the encroachment of the town-house, the prison, and mason-lodge, on the west end.* These buildings are connected. The town-house is on the west, the mason-lodge on the east, and an old square tower in the centre. The fronts of the wings are uniform, and built of a fine whitish granite, squared and well smoothed. The battlement of the tower is fifty feet above the street, over which rises a very elegant spire, covered with lead, and prettily ornamented. In a small square tower, within the battlement which supports the spire, is an excellent public clock, and a large bell of a fine tone. The weathercock on the top of the spire is a hundred and twenty feet above the street.

In the centre of the tower is a double-flighted stone stair, with an iron rail, leading from the street to a large court-house, and the prison backward. The entry to the town-house is in the west gable. The ground flat of it in front is let for shops. In the first storey is a large room, where the magistrates and council meet to do business;† off which is the

* It is 158 feet broad (where these buildings do not encroach upon it), which is 26 feet wider than the Grassmarket at Edinburgh; and 73 feet wider than the Lawnmarket, where broadest.

† In this room hangs a copper plate engraving, to commemorate the following remarkable accident. On the 19th of August, 1710, David Bruce and six other young men, all of them about fifteen years of age, put out to sea, for their amusement, from the harbour of Saint Andrew's, in a small boat. In their return, they lost one of their oars, and were driven off the coast. Early next morning several boats were sent out in quest of them, but returned without any intelligence. They were tossed upon the

clerk's chamber, where one of the baillies attends every lawful day, from twelve till two, to settle petty differences, and hear complaints. Matters of greater moment are heard and determined in the baillie-courts, or are carried into the sheriff's-court, as the parties choose.

In the second storey is the town-hall, a very elegant room, forty-six feet eight inches long, twenty-nine feet broad, and eighteen feet high in the roof, including the cove. It has five large windows in front; and over the fire-place, backward, is a fine perspective view of the town, taken on the south side of the river, by the late ingenious Mr. William Mosman, painter. We enter the hall on the west end, and on the east, just opposite, is a similar mock door, architrave, and pediment. The carved work of both doors is gilded. Around the room are a great number of very elegant sconces, double-branched, and from the roof are suspended three large diamond-cut crystal lustres; the largest double-branched. On the back-wall is an original full-length picture of Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and a half-length of George the First. At the upper end, are full-length pictures of the present Earl of Findlater's grandfather, and his last countess, a daughter of the Earl of Hopeton's, in their parliament robes, by

waves for six days, without a morsel of any thing to eat, and though they were every day in sight of land, they could never make the shore, till the wind setting in easterly, they were blown in at the foot of a steep rock, called Hern-heugh, four miles south of Aberdeen, and fifty north of Saint Andrew's. Two of the lads climbed up the rock, by the direction of an old fisherman who happened to be near it, and on representing their distressed situation to John Shepherd, a humane countryman, he took them all into his house, and sent immediate notice to the magistrates of Aberdeen, who dispatched their dean of guild, with a physician and a surgeon, to take care of the young men. Two of them died soon after they had come on shore, but the other five recovered. Robert Bruce, goldsmith in Edinburgh, the father of David, was at the expense of the engraving, and also presented a piece of plate to John Shepherd. The engraving represents David Bruce sitting on the top, and the other young men climbing the rock, with the eye of Providence looking down upon them. It is piously inscribed, *Soli Deo gloria.*

Alexander. This noble pair were always friendly to the town, and great patrons of the infirmary.

On the west end of the hall is a large room where the taxers meet to do business; over which is the town's armoury, where four hundred muskets are kept in excellent order, with belts, bayonets, cartouch-boxes, &c. Here they show the staff on which the town's colours were displayed at the battle of Harlaw, in 1411, where their provost, Sir Robert Davidson, was killed. We see also the bridle and crupper which his horse wore in the engagement: the crupper is small, the bridle large and double-reined, the reins are covered with black velvet. They show also a complete coat of mail for a horseman, a very curious Turkish scimitar, some old brass kettle-drums; and a rusty iron plate fixed in a heavy block of lead, by which we are told the unfortunate Sir John Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly, was beheaded in 1562.

The entry to the mason-lodge, or new inn, is under the gateway leading to the stables. The public rooms and bed-chambers, are neatly furnished and well kept. Mr. Smith, the landlord, an active and obliging man, keeps the best things, and they are moderately charged. The mason-hall is in the upper storey, forty-three feet long by thirty, which is the diagonal of its square, and twenty-two and a half feet high in the roof. It has four windows in front, and a large Venetian one in the east end. On the west end, where we enter, there is a projecting gallery for music, supported by four cartouches; and a drawing-room, twenty-one and one-half feet by fifteen. The fraternity of free-masons contracted a large debt in finishing this inn and the necessary offices; but their matters have been so prudently conducted, that the Society are now in easy circumstances, with a well paid rent.

In imitation of the worthy and humane Mr. Howard's example, I shall give you a short description of the Aberdeen prison. When the mason-lodge was built, as the ground belonged to the town, the magistrates articled to have two additional rooms to

their prison, in the second floor, on the west end, which is connected with the tower. These rooms are appropriated for burgesses, or any of the better rank, who may have the misfortune to be committed for debt. One of them, fronting the street, is thirteen feet six inches by eleven; and in height, to the top of the arch, eleven feet. It has a large sash window, two fixed beds, a corner cupboard, and a fire-place. The other room, backward, is eleven feet three inches, by eleven feet eight inches, and the same height in the roof. It has a fire-place, a window to the Lodge-walk, and two fixed beds. In the tower, or old work, are the following apartments: 1. The low room (formerly the burgess-room) fifteen feet by eight; the arch eleven feet high. It has two windows and a fire-place. 2. A room fifteen feet, by fourteen feet eight inches. Two windows and a fire-place. 3. The stock-room, fifteen feet by fifteen; no fire-place. 4. The long room, twenty-three feet eight inches, by eleven feet, a window to the street, eleven feet high, as all the arches are. In this room all the prisoners are permitted to walk in the day-time, but where their misbehaviour, or some particular circumstance, would make that indulgence imprudent; no fire-place. 5. High fore-room, thirteen feet six inches by eleven feet; no fire-place. 6. Dark room, eleven feet by eight; no fire-place. The prisoners are at liberty to purchase their provisions where they best can, and they are brought to them by the jailor's servant. The prison is open three times a-day in summer, and twice a-day in winter, for an hour at each time; and the magistrates are so careful to whom they commit the charge of it, that complaints are very rarely made. I am, &c.

LETTER XII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

OPPOSITE to the town-house, are the cross and exchange. The first is a sexagon stone building,

twenty-one yards in circumference at top, and seventeen feet high in the walls; which project a little for about four feet downward. Under this circular projection, the wall has mock arches and pilasters, from which rise a row of handsome Ionic columns, on an Attic base.

From a door in one of these arches, we ascend to the top of the cross. Above the capital of the columns is a frieze, enriched with festoons, over which there is another moulding. An elegant festoon is also cut round the bottom of the projection, which one is very apt to overlook, from the great variety of ornaments which everywhere meet the eye. The heads of dogs and other animals project over the frieze, to carry off the rain water which falls at top. The projection above the columns is divided into twelve squares, each having a handsome moulding. In the central square, on the west, the town of Aberdeen's arms are finely cut, and in the five next, are quarter-length pictures of James I. II. III. IV. and V. kings of Scotland. In the seventh square, the royal arms are cut, and in the remaining five, proceeding westward, are quarter-lengths of Queen Mary, James VI. Charles I. Charles II. and James VII. The pictures have a fine relief, and each has an oval wreath as a frame. They are admirably well cut, considering who did them, and in the dress of the times. The countenances of the latter princes have a strong resemblance of the best pictures we have of them, and one may trace a family-likeness through the whole.

The cross is arched at top, three feet nine inches lower than the side-walls. From the centre of the arch springs a noble Corinthian column, twelve feet and six inches high, which has its capital gilt, and an unicorn rampant at top, with the horn gilt. On the breast of the unicorn is a shield, with a lion on it. The column is finely spangled with a foliage of thistles, and from the street, has a wonderfully light appearance.* The cross of Aberdeen was cut and

* Some call this kind, Carilitic columns; which have always a foliage around them of something peculiar to the arms of the country, or their accompaniments.

built by John Montgomery, a country mason, in the year 1686, for eighteen hundred merks, or a hundred pounds sterling; the town paying besides, for leading the stones and other materials. It has been sometimes proposed to remove it farther up the street, where it would be less an incumbrance, and at other times to take it away altogether. Every body agrees that it could not be removed without greatly injuring the carved work, and to take it away would betray great want of taste. Were it a rude ill executed piece of work, little could be said for it; but as it is universally allowed to be excellent workmanship, and a very uncommon proof of genius in a plain country mason, the memory of those who should vote it down would be execrated to the latest posterity. Such wonders however have happened; and lest this should ever be the case, I have been the more minute in the description of it.

The exchange is a pavement of granite, squared and well smoothed, raised two steps above the street, and terminated, on the east, by the cross. It is eighty-four feet in length, and fifty-seven in breadth. From twelve till two, a great many genteel people are seen on it. Walking so much no doubt contributes to the health of the inhabitants. Though in the by-streets their are some brick buildings, the houses in general are built of granite, cut in squares, and smoothed, some of them better than others. They are generally covered with slate, and from three to four storeys high. No persons in the town or suburbs are permitted to cover their houses with thatch; by which wise regulation, many lives and much property has been saved.

On the south side of the market-place, almost opposite to the town-house, a fine new street has been lately made out, on the spot where Lord Marischal's house and garden formerly stood; in compliment to his Lordship, called Marischal-street. The community paid my lord eight hundred pounds for the property; laid off a very handsome street, and feued out the side grounds for houses. As there was a long and rapid declivity from the market-place to-

wards the quay, where Marischal-street terminates, the town was at a very considerable expense in raising it to a gentle slope. Towards the lower end of this street, another, called Virginia-street, runs parallel with the market-place, over which an arch is thrown, thirty feet wide, and twenty-three feet high, to connect Marischal-street with the quay. From the parapet wall of this arch there is a grand stone stair which leads to and from the street under it.

In the upper, or east end of the market-place, a large and not inelegant building has been lately built, by subscription, for a record-office. On the ground floor are several arched rooms, without a bit of wood in them; and, on the floor above, is a large room or hall for public meetings, a court-room, or any other purpose to which the proprietors may choose to apply it. Besides the obvious utility of such a building, the people of the town and county of Aberdeen had a strong inducement to promote this design, from the memory of the damage they sustained by the burning of the sheriff-clerk's office, in the year 1724 or 1725, where many valuable papers were lost. The county obtained an act of parliament, ordaining, that the extracts which had been taken from this register, should, in all time coming, be of equal faith with their originals, and lodged in the new office, as originals; from which, when necessary, extracts might be given out.

At the back of the town-house is a large building, appropriated for the reception of the aged poor, in which also many destitute children are maintained and educated. The poor-house is supported by funds allocated by the town-council and church-session, by voluntary donations, and quarterly collections at the church-doors and meeting-houses in town; all parties cheerfully contribute to so good a work. The town had, till of late, what they called a Guild-brethren's hospital, for decayed burgesses; but found that an annual pension would be more agreeable to the lodgers, and much less expensive to the town. It was therefore sold, and the charity put upon that footing. They have also a maiden hospi-

tal, for a few old unmarried women, founded in 1633, by Lady Mary Douglas, a daughter of the Earl of Buchan, and widow of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. The lady bequeathed three thousand merks to it, and it is still called Lady Drum's hospital. She also gave three hundred merks for building a house.

In the year 1640, Robert Johnston, Esq. of London, bequeathed to the town six hundred pounds sterling, for this sensible purpose, "that the poor people of Aberdeen may thereby be set to work at lawful trades and manufactures." And a few years ago, one Mr. Ogilvie, a gentleman of Jamaica, paid in to the town the sum of fifty pounds sterling, for the benefit of a foundling hospital; to accress till it amounts to a sum sufficient to build one. There is a charitable fund, established by Archibald Bean, a dyer, which, though originally but small, has, by good management, increased to a considerable sum, and is of great use to many poor people. Besides the few I have mentioned, the magistrates and town-council have a great many charitable funds under their management, all of which are under the special care of office-bearers annually chosen.

The seven incorporated trades have also separate and united funds for the support of their widows and decayed members; partly under the care of the deacons, boxmasters, and masters of the respective crafts, and partly under the management of the master of hospital, an officer that ranks above the deacons, and next to the convener. Till the beginning of this century, their funds were low, and little attended to, but as luxury and the expense of living increased, men saw that if they did not make some further provision for accidents, their families might be reduced to great straits. In the year 1714, on a representation from William Lindsay, goldsmith, then their deacon, setting forth, that their funds had been neglected and mismanaged, the hammermen trade came to a resolution of being more careful for the future; and as there was then in the hands of their boxmaster, the small sum of three hundred pounds

Scots, it was appropriated for an increasing fund, and several wise and prudent regulations were then made. By good management this fund was so much increased in 1764, that the trade then began to divide among their poor two-thirds of fifty pounds sterling annually, and are now possessed of a well paid land-rent of eighty-two pounds sterling a-year.

In the year 1771, the whole trades resolved to settle a general fund, as a provision for their widows; and with that view appointed eighty-pounds sterling to be paid annually to a treasurer, for the space of seven years, and one hundred pounds yearly, in all time thereafter. They also appropriated to the fund several other small sums and casual payments. It was to increase for seven years, without any encroachments, but the necessary expense of management. At the end of that period, seventy widows were put upon the fund, at five pounds sterling each, annually; and it has at present two hundred pounds a-year to accumulate.—These facts do great honour to the incorporations, and show the great importance of prudent economy. The trades have an hospital under their hall for a few old men.

In the year 1707, a charitable institution took place, called the Narrow-wynd Society, the members of which pay a small matter at their entry, sixteenpence annually after, and a shilling when they are married, and as often as they have a child born. They meet on the evening of the day on which the magistrates are elected, to choose a preses, a treasurer, and assistants; and drink a cheerful glass at their own private expense. As this society has always been esteemed one of the genteelest and most benevolent in town, many gentlemen both in the town and county are members of it. Its funds are become more considerable than any body could have imagined from such low beginnings, and are applied, in the first place, to the relief of indigent persons, the relations of those who are or have been members.

A little east of the poor-house, is the butcher-market, sufficiently large, but unworthy so fine a town.

The magistrates talk of building a new one soon. Beef and pork are sold by the Dutch pound, about seventeen ounces and six drams; veal, mutton, and lamb, are commonly bought by the eye. The prices are very different at various seasons of the year; but upon the whole, meat sells reasonably. The beef killed here is, in general, inferior to that killed in the south and west of Scotland; though, at all seasons, some very good may be had in the market. Some of their veal is very good, but smaller than in the south and west. Their mutton and lamb are excellent, especially the first; though in autumn, great quantities of poor sheep are killed, which bring the farmer but a low price; often not above three shillings and sixpence, or four shillings a-piece. They have excellent well-fed poultry, of all kinds, which commonly sell at a moderate price.

On the north of the market place, in a back street, there is a large square building appropriated for a meal-market, where the farmers are furnished with balks, scales, and weights, for which and for custom, they pay threepence one-third per boll. Burgesses may have meal for their own families brought in custom-free, if they purchase it a week before it is delivered. Their boll of meal here, as in all other parts of Scotland is eight stones Dutch, and though some is sold at nine stones, the odds in the weight is always considered in the price.

Flax, wool, cheese, butter, and tallow, the product of the country, are sold by the stone of twenty-six pounds Dutch. Feathers and hay by the stone of twenty-one Dutch. On the Castle-hill, a little east of the market-place, are the remains of a small fort, built by Oliver Cromwell, where it is thought the ancient castle stood. The walls on the south and east, which are almost entire, seem to be about twelve feet high on the outside, but on the inside are covered to the top, by a sloping bank of earth. In the bottom is a large place of arms, now called the chapel, from the lantern of which the town's flag is displayed on public days. I am, &c.

LETTER XIII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

TILL within the last thirty years, most of the inhabitants of Aberdeen brewed their own malt liquor, and those who did not, had their small beer from private brewers, and their strong from Edinburgh. A public brewery was set on foot in Queen Anne's time, but did not succeed. There are now four public breweries; one of them, at the mill of Gilcomston, esteemed among the largest in Scotland. Where this brewery is carried on, a large distillery had been undertaken, but was given up in a few years. The common people of the north do not use the tenth part of the spirits consumed in the south and west; but drink, generally, more, and better ale.

The town is plentifully supplied with excellent water, brought in lead pipes from springs about a mile to the westward, so long ago as the year 1708. In that year, the magistrates, as depute-admirals, received a considerable sum as the salvage on some Dutch East Indiamen wrecked a few miles north of their harbour, and applied it to this very important purpose. In all the principal streets there are wells, or fountains, some of them with double pipes, which, by a late calculation, were found to discharge an hundred and twenty tons of water daily. In the street called the Broadgate, there is a large reservoir of water, in case of accidental burnings, under which the fire, or rather the water engines, are lodged. The person who has the charge of them is obliged to keep them in the best repair, and is also charged with the care of the pipes and wells.

Here I must not omit a fact which does honour to the community. On the day of election, the fountains and pipes are visited by the whole council in a body; and to show the good order of the engines, they are brought forth to the public street and played upon the adjacent buildings. Thus, when one set of ma-

gistrates and counsellors go out, they emblematically say to their successors, "The health and safety of the inhabitants are your principal concern: if you neglect the means, you must fall short of the end." For supporting the pipes, and paving and lighting the streets, a small tax is annually imposed upon the inhabitants, in virtue of an act of head-court; and in proportioning this tax, regard is always had to the real or supposed circumstances of those liable in payment of it.

The town of Aberdeen has two large collegiate churches, besides the Greyfriars, or College Church, and Saint Clement's Chapel, at Footdee, a catechetical charge. It has four episcopal meetings, and two seceding ones, a methodist, a Glassite, and a quaker meeting, and two churches of relief. There are a few Roman catholics in town, who meet for religious worship; they disturb nobody, and nobody disturbs them.

About the year 1731, a fine Gothic building, called the Old or St. Nicholas Church, was condemned, as in danger of falling, and stood abandoned till the year 1743, when it was pulled down. A fine new one, called the West Church, now stands on the same spot. The old one began to be built in 1482; and was esteemed a very grand building. It had no carvings, no decorations of any kind, but a grandeur and simplicity ran through the whole, which at once awed and charmed the spectator. The middle aisle was wide and lofty, the arches very high, and the piers light and well turned.

The West Church is a hundred feet six inches long, and sixty-six feet broad. The middle aisle is twenty-five feet broad, and each of the side aisles, including the thickness of the piers, twenty feet and a half. The piers between the arches are four feet six inches, by three feet. Though this church is fifteen feet six inches shorter than the old one, it contains nearly double the number of people, from the better construction of the galleries. The side-walls are, parallel with the walls of the East, formerly called the New Church, and of the same height. The windows

are in the modern style. In the west gable is a large arched window, from the bottom of which is projected, with a gentle slope, a gallery for the masters and scholars of the grammar-school. From the front of this gallery spring two side ones, on a line with the inside of the piers, till they close the square, by intersecting the corners of a superb gallery in the east end, appropriated for the magistrates.

In the centre of this gallery there is a canopy, supported by four fluted mahogany columns, of the Corinthian order, with their capitals gilt. There is a pediment in front, on which the town's arms are cut in *alto relievo*, and properly coloured. Over the breast of the gallery hangs a deep covering of crimson-velvet, with a gold fringe. The lord provost sits under the canopy, with the baillies, and other magistrates, on his right and left, according to their rank and seniority. On a dead wall, at the back of the gallery, are two pieces of tapestry; the one, representing Ahasuerus holding forth the golden sceptre to Queen Esther; the other, Jephtha meeting his daughter. A very elegant pulpit and reader's desk stand on the centrical pier on the south side-wall of the middle aisle.

This church was built from a plan presented to the town by the celebrated Mr. James Gibb, architect, a citizen of Aberdeen. In the year 1751, the magistrates contracted with Mr. Wyllie, a wright, from Edinburgh, who agreed to complete the design for four thousand pounds sterling; only the magistrates were to cover the roof with lead, at their own expense. It was opened for religious worship on Sunday the 9th of November 1755, when Mr. James Ogilvie, then one of the town's ministers, preached from these words—"In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee." Exod. xx. 24.

The East Church is a fine Gothic building, eighty-six feet in length, to the breast of the altar. The arches which divide the middle and side aisles are lofty, and supported by strong pillars. The church has a double row of galleries in the west end, and

a single row on each side; the breasts of them in a line with the pillars. On the east end, during the establishment of popery and episcopacy, the altar stood in a large bow-window, divided into three lights by small stone piers. This projection is twenty-two feet broad in front, eighteen feet deep, and about thirty-six feet high. It was called the *Sanctum sanctorum*, from the purpose to which it was appropriated. It is now fitted up with pews for the old people and children in the poor-house.

In the body of the church hang several large brass chandeliers; and before the upper gallery in the west end, hangs a small ship in full trim, to indicate that the gallery is appropriated for seafaring people. The pulpit, a very handsome one, is on the north side; backward from which, we enter to a large room where the church-session meet to do business. In the wall, near the session-house door, a small flat stone marks the place where Mr. Adam Harriot, their first protestant minister was buried. As there is a declivity in the ground, under the east end of the church, there are several large vaults, now chiefly used by a plumber for casting sheet-lead. Between the two churches there is a lofty cross building, called Drum's Aisle, in one end of which the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen meet. It is about one hundred feet long, twenty feet broad, and seems about fifty feet high in the roof, which is a platform, covered with lead, as both churches and the session-house are.

From the centre of this aisle rises a square tower about twelve feet high, in which three large bells are hung, one above another; on each corner of the tower, on the outside, is a small square wooden spire, covered with lead, and within them rises a very lofty octagonal spire, formed of strong cross logs of oak, mortised and pined into one another. The spire ends in a point, and has a gilt ball and weathercock at top; it is curiously covered with sheet-lead. We ascend to it from the floor of the aisle, by almost perpendicular stairs and ladders of sixty-four steps. In place of a very old and useless one, the town has lately furnished the steeple with an exceedingly good public

clock, which chimes the quarters; and on each of the squares there is a large dial-plate.

The largest bell, called Laurence, is four feet diameter at the mouth, very thick, and three and a half feet high; of old, there was an act of council made, that this bell should not be tolled, but for the great and honourable.*

Though the whole of the cross building is commonly called Drum's Aisle, yet, properly speaking, the end of it where the synod meets should only be so called, for there the Drum family have always been buried. That they had originally a property in it, is evident from the family arms being cut in the stone pier, between the windows, and stamped upon the lead of the roof. The town of Aberdeen never would have permitted this, had not the laird of Drum merited, by his benefactions to the building, the exclusive privilege of burying in that part of it. The family also founded an altarage in the church of St. Nicholas, to the honour of God and St. Ninian, who had three altars in that church. Those of the Drum family who are buried in this aisle, pay no burial dues to the town, unless they had been *foris familiated.*

The burying-ground is extensive, and very carefully kept. It is inclosed with a high stone and lime wall, in which there are four large gates, and a side entry by a door. There are a great many tombs on the west wall, but few of them in a good taste. I must, however, do the people of Aberdeen the justice to observe, that in their burying-ground we meet with less nonsense and bad grammar than in most of those I have had occasion to see. The relief churches,

* It has the following inscription around it. "Soli Deo gloria. Michael Burgerhuys me fecit, anno domine, 1684. En ego campana sonitu, non lavdo prophana lavdo Creatorem tonitrvs depello timorem defunctos plango sonitu solenria pango. Laurence ecce vocor jubilanti cum moveo cor A. D. 1351, Wilhelmas Leyth præf: Abredonensis hanc campanam sancti Nicholai ecclesiæ Abred: Donavit ejus deinque campanæ rima fissa communitatis svmtibus reparata fuit anno 1684 do. Pavlo Menezio. A. Kinmvndi milite præposito."

and seceding meeting houses, though large buildings, do not merit a particular description. The College Church is remarkable only for the great disproportion between its breadth and length. The methodist meeting-house is an octagon, with galleries all round, and contains a great number of people. I am, &c.

LETTER XIV.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

ON the south-west side of the street called the Gallowgate, a little backward, stands St. Paul's Chapel, built in the year 1721, where divine service is performed according to the rites of the church of England. It is pleasantly situated, having a fine area towards the street, and gravel and grass walks, with rows of limes on the west end. The house is eighty feet long, and thirty feet broad, and has an aisle on the north side thirty-six feet in front, and twenty-one feet backward. The galleries are much too high, their bottoms being eleven feet eight inches above the floor of the chapel. The breast of the south gallery is on a line from end to end, but when the north aisle was added, that part of the gallery opposite to it was moved a little backward, and is now connected with the front gallery by a sweep, to correspond with the arch above, which supports the roof.

The galleries are double till they reach the sides of the aisle on this side, and come opposite to them on the other. They are supported by wooden Tuscan columns, over which are placed Ionic columns that support the roof; which is lined with boards, and arches thrown over the tops of the columns. In the centre of the roof is a handsome cupola, glazed all round, about nine feet diameter. In the west end is a fine organ, with a gallery before it, for shipmasters, which, as in the East Church, has a pretty little ship hanging before it. On the east end is the altar, raised two steps, and handsomely railed in. It is a projec-

tion, and makes four sides of an octagon, eleven feet five inches in front, and eight feet deep. The painting is well executed by Mr. Norrie of Edinburgh.

The pulpit and reading-desk are of wainscot, and excellent workmanship; the sound-board is remarkably elegant, and is finished off with a mitre at top. The pulpit is a great deal too high, that the people in the back parts of the galleries may see and hear the minister; thus one blunder makes another necessary. By the bad construction of the house, the altar and part of the congregation are thrown behind the minister, as from the great length of it, the pulpit is placed twenty feet from the breast of the altar. Divine service is performed by two clergymen, who have eighty pounds sterling a-year, each. The chapel is supported by the seat-rents, collections at the doors, and some funds which the congregation owe to generous benefactors. The ordinary administration is in eleven managers, who are chosen for life by the congregation; but in extraordinary cases they are to call general meetings of the whole congregation, where they only vote as private hearers. They are obliged to call such meetings at the request of fifteen members.

The Trinity Chapel stands near the quay, and is rented from the incorporated trades by an episcopal clergyman, who has no appointment, but depends for his living upon the seat-rents and collections at the doors. It is a long narrow house, with nothing curious in it. Hard by, is the Trinity-hall, or hall of the incorporations. It is sixty-four feet long, and but seventeen broad; the roof is nearly of the same height. It has seven windows in front, and a fireplace in each end, with three brass chandeliers suspended from the ceiling. In the hall are some tolerable pictures, and many very bad ones; one of King William the Lion, their founder, is execrable. The convener's chair is a curious piece of carved, or rather perforated work, two others are very clumsy but old; the one marked 1564, the other 1574.

The Trinity Friars were settled here by William the Lion, in the 12th century, and here he is said to

have lived himself. Doctor William Guild, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, and afterwards Principal of the King's College, got a gift of this spot, with the premises, from Charles the First, and made them over to the trades, for which his name stands in golden letters above the gate. Under the hall is the trades-hospital, already mentioned, and off the entry to it, is a room in which the master-hospital courts meet to do business.

On the north side of the Broadgate, a little backward from the street, stands the Marischal College, founded by George Earl Marischal, in the year 1593. His lordship made over to the College his right to some orchards, yards, and houses, which had formerly belonged to the Black and White Friars, with some other lands. And the town of Aberdeen having acquired a right to some lands, yards, and houses, which belonged to the Grey Friars, made them over to it, and also contributed to the building of the fabric. The persons originally founded were, a principal, and three professors of philosophy; but by the munificence of generous benefactors, there have been since added, a fourth professor of philosophy, a professor of divinity, a professor of mathematics, a professor of medicine, and a professor of Oriental languages; and many bursaries have been settled for the education of youth.

This college came rather too late for having the benefit of the pope's bull, but the general assembly of the established church were kind enough to honour it with their approbation, which at the time of its foundation was in much higher esteem in Scotland. The college charter was signed by the earl, at Aberdeen, the second day of April, 1593, and seems to have been sent to the general assembly soon after; for on the twenty-first of the same month, the following is dated at Dundee:—

"The general assemblie having employed sundrie of the godliest and best learned men of their number to the sighting and considering of this foundation, and errectione following, and their judgement and approbatione. After reasoning had in the matter, hass given, and gives their *consent* and approbatione

thereto, and approves and *confirms* the samen, in all the heads thereof, after the form and tenor of the same." Sic subscr.

T. RITCHIE."

What right either the pope or the general assembly had to be consulted in erections of this kind, or what benefit the new formed society could hope to derive from their *consent* and *approbation*, is more than I can discover. But one thing I know, that both, in their turns, made a very bad use of their real or pretended jurisdiction.

One of the first benefactors of the college after the founder, and the town of Aberdeen, was Mr. Duncan Lydel, who bequeathed four thousand merks, as a beginning fund for a professor of mathematics, which, by the care and good management of the magistrates had, in the year 1613, accressed to near ten thousand. With this money, lands were purchased, and in the year 1626, a professor was settled, who was to have an yearly stipend of eight hundred merks. The magistrates of Aberdeen are patrons. In 1630, Sir Thomas Crombie, of Kemnay, bequeathed ten thousand merks for a minister to the Greyfriars, or College-kirk, ten thousand for the maintenance of the principal and regents of the Marischal College, and ten thousand for the maintenance of eight bursars; besides a thousand merks to the guild-brethren's hospital, and five hundred to the trades-hospital.

About the same time, Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum proposed to put ten thousand merks into the hands of the magistrates of Aberdeen, for the maintenance of eight bursars, four in the Marischal College, and four at the grammar-school; but as the patronage was to remain in the family of Drum, the council declined accepting of the trust. The gentleman, however, charged his estate with the sum, and his heirs and successors have ever since allocated a pendicle of it, for the payment of an annual stipend to four bursars at the college, and four at the grammar-school. In the year 1639, Doctor Patrick Dun, its then Principal, gave two thousand merks for repairing the

college, after a great part of it had been burned down by an accidental fire.

The noblest endowment this college ever received it owes to the munificence of Doctor Gilbert Ramsay, a gentleman of the island of Barbadoes. This gentleman was born in Aberdeenshire, and educated at the Marischal College. Having been bred to the church, he went to Barbadoes, where he continued many years, and enjoyed the best livings in that island. In the year 1726, he came over to England for the recovery of his health, and died at Bath in 1727. He left a large share of his fortune to public and pious uses: a salary of fifty pounds sterling a-year for a professor of oriental languages; four bursaries in divinity, at twenty-five pounds, for three years; and four in philosophy at fifteen pounds, for four years, in the Marischal College. Twenty-five pounds a-year for a free school in the parish of Birse, the place of his birth; and twenty-five pounds a-year for the poor of that parish. All under the patronage of the Ramsays of the family of Balmain, of whom he was descended.

The town of Aberdeen settled a salary of twenty pounds sterling a-year on a professor of divinity in this college, who is always to be one of the town's ministers; and that he may be the more at leisure to prosecute the study of divinity, he is obliged to do no ministerial duty, but preaching in his turn on the Sundays. His quarter of the town is divided among the other three ministers. The town, in its own right, or in trust for other benefactors, presents to many bursaries; which with others, in the gift of the college, are bestowed upon the most deserving, at the beginning of each session of the college, after a public comparative trial. Several bursaries are also in the gift of the incorporated trades, which are generally bestowed upon the sons of artificers, when found qualified.

The session of the college is from the first of November to about the middle of April, when the students of the fourth, or magistrand class, may have the degree of Master of Arts conferred on them, if

they desire it, and, after a private and public examination, are found to merit that distinction.* The professors wear black gowns, with the Geneva sleeve; the students, scarlet gowns, with long open sleeves. They were formerly distinguished by the terms Libertines and Bursars, and none but the first were permitted to wear red gowns; the bursars wore black ones. But this absurd distinction has, for many years, been laid aside, and all the gentlemen wear gowns of the same colour.

The college is a large stone building, partly built in the last century, and partly within the last fifty years. The new building makes the east wing; and on the ground-floor has the private schools for the several classes. In the two upper storeys, two of the professors live. The ground-floor of the old work is all taken up with the public school, where the whole students are occasionally examined, and where they meet on the Sundays to go to church; to prayers on the Sunday evening, and at other times; and where degrees are publicly conferred. On the first floor is the common hall, seventy-nine feet long, twenty-two feet broad, and fourteen feet high in the roof. It has four windows in front, and four in the back-wall.

In this room are many good original pictures by Jamieson, and others; and some very good copies;

* After the graduation, there is a ball and entertainment given by the young gentlemen in the college-hall; the expense of which is defrayed by a small sum paid by each of the graduates. Perhaps it may now cost each of them about a couple of guineas; but in the last century it only cost twenty merks. A young man who had attended the college four sessions, but had no ambition to be a Mess John, said to himself, "Twenty merks will buy twenty hogs (sheep a year old), and twenty hogs will grow twenty wedders; let the college keep their name, and I'll keep my money." When on the Stocket-head, he was to lose sight of the town, he turned about, and thus took leave of it and his *alma mater*. "Farewell Aberdeen and the college; deil hae them that has maist o' ane anither." This must have been about the time of the restoration, for I remember to have seen the gentleman a very old man, above fifty years ago. Though he had no turn for letters, he made an excellent farmer, was a useful member of society, and greatly improved his paternal fortune.

especially one of Bishop Burnet, in his robes, as chancellor of the garter, from an original in the possession of Sir Thomas Burnet of Leys, bart. There is a picture of Gordon of Straloch, the first graduate, and another of the famous Andrew Cant, both by Jamieson. Over this hall is the public library, which is of the same dimensions, only two feet lower in the ceiling. There is a large collection of books, in all languages, arranged according to the subjects they treat of. There are also many natural and artificial curiosities; among others, a very fine Turkish scimitar, and a small targe embossed with gold. An Egyptian mummy, in the original wrappings; but not well preserved. The head and some of the bones are loose, and quite bare; from the smallness of them, it seems to have been a young person.

A canoe taken at sea, with an Indian man in it, about the beginning of this century. He was brought alive to Aberdeen, but died soon after his arrival, and could give no account of himself. He is supposed to have come from the Labradore coast, and to have lost his way at sea. The canoe is covered with fish-skins, curiously stretched upon slight timbers, very securely joined together. The upper part of it is about twenty inches broad at the centre, and runs off gradually to a point at both ends. Where broadest, there is a circular hole, just large enough for the man to sit in, round which there is a kind of girth, about a foot high, to which he fixed himself, probably, when he did not use his oar, or paddle; which, when he chose it, he stuck into some lists of skin, tied round the canoe, but slack enough to let in the paddle and some other awkward utensils which were found stuck there.

The canoe is about eighteen feet long, and slopes on both sides, but the bottom is flat for three or four inches in the middle, and gradually sharpens as it approaches the extremities, till it ends in a point. Here also there is a first-rate man-of-war, full trimmed, with her guns out, and just ready to engage. The pretty model was made by a French prisoner, during the late war. Pity such an ingenious fellow should have employed his time to so little purpose!

In the west end of the old work is the common staircase, which is a projection, off which are the lobby to the hall, a room where the professor of divinity meets with his class, and lodgings for one of the professors. On the top of the staircase, in a round turret, hangs a small bell, which formerly belonged to the College-kirk, twenty-six inches diameter at the mouth. Round the upper end of it is the following inscription:—

"Campanem hanc pro Franciscanorum olim fano denuo fundendam Abredonei curavit senatvs Abredonensis Anno Domini MCCI. Albertus Gely fudt.

This Gely, a German, lived in Old Aberdeen, in the reign of Charles II. He re-founded most of the bells in town. If the date of the old bell was originally 1201, and I think Gely would not have presumed to alter it, there must have been an anachronism somewhere; for, the order of *Fratres Minores*, or Grey Friars, was established by St. Francis in 1206, and their convent at Aberdeen is said to have been erected about the year 1450. Perhaps Gely omitted a fifth figure after the two *c*'s, or by the cross stroke in the *I* may have intended twice three.

Many gentlemen educated in this college have done honour to their *alma mater*. Gordon of Straloch, its first graduate, was a man of great probity and learning, and esteemed one of the best geographers of his age. Burnet, bishop of Sarum, was equally distinguished as an excellent historian, a diligent and conscientious clergyman, and a warm friend to the civil and religious liberties of mankind. What university in Europe would not be proud of having educated the late very learned and worthy Dr. Gregory Sharp?—an ornament to his profession, and the able defender of that religion which he loved!—When we speak of those who have done honour to this college, it would be unpardonable to omit the late amiable Mr. David Fordyce, whose excellent moral writings have fixed his character as a philosopher; and whose unaffected piety, friendly disposition, and courteous demeanour, made him justly dear to all his acquaintances.

Dr. Thomas Blackwell, its late Principal, acquired great reputation by his learned inquiry into the life and writings of Homer; and though he did not live to finish his Court of Augustus, in what he published there are strong marks of genius, and unquestionable proofs of the author's warm attachment to the cause of liberty. He is universally allowed to have been one of the best Greek professors in Europe, and exemplary in his attention to his class. The doctor had his peculiarities; and who has not? but he had many great qualities to counterbalance a few foibles which could hurt nobody but himself. I am, &c.

LETTER XV.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

THE Grammar-school, a neat modern building of one storey, makes three sides of a square, and has, in front, a fine open area railed in. It stands in the street called the Schoolhill, at the west extremity of the town, in a dry well-aired spot. The school is under the direction of a rector, and three assistant teachers, who, considering the place of the country, have good appointments. In the year 1627, Dr. Patrick Dun, physician, after principal of the Marischal College, paid in to the town of Aberdeen five hundred merks, as a fund for a doctor in the grammar-school; and in 1639, he bequeathed his lands of Ferryhill, and a thousand merks in money, for the maintenance of four masters in it. The magistrates are patrons; only, in the nomination of masters, those of the name of the Dun are to be preferred, where found properly qualified.

The stated fee paid to the masters is no more than half-a-crown in the quarter, but few, in tolerable circumstances, choose to pay less than double that sum for their children. There is a custom in most grammar-schools in Scotland, of giving free-will offerings to the masters at Candlemas, which should be abolished, as it sometimes procures a temporary

distinction to boys who have but a very low degree of literary merit, and discourages others who have more merit but less money. The magistrates visit all the public schools in town once a-year, when the scholars give specimens of their proficiency; on which occasion it is usual to make little presents to the most deserving.

In the grammar-school, it was the custom to give a few books to the best scholars, but in this there was great partiality, which had a very bad effect. Upon an occasion of this kind, one of the best scholars in the school, after the highest commendations of his ingenuity, was presented with a book, value about eighteenpence; and the next moment, he saw put into the hands of another boy, more connected with the visitors, one worth five shillings. Knowing how much the favourite was inferior to himself in point of genius, he first took out his penknife, cut his book in two, and threw it at the gentleman from whose hand he had received it. This was much talked of in town, and I believe was one reason why the custom was given up.

It has been often said, that the people of Scotland give too many of their children a grammar-school education; and some of our manufacturers have been loud in this complaint. They wish boys rather to be employed in carding, spinning, or picking ropes, till they are fit for harder labour. Since the English language began to be taught grammatically, the learning Latin has become less necessary; but still, so many English words are derived from that language, that without some knowledge of it, we are very apt to blunder both in speaking and writing. It can scarce be known what a boy from five to ten years of age may be fit for, or what line of life he may choose. Does not the parent therefore act wisely, if his circumstances permit, when he gives his son such an education as can hurt him in no sphere of life, and may be useful, and even necessary to him, in many occupations?

People in easy circumstances would not choose to have their children kept down by constant labour,

nor that their manners should be rusticated by herding with poor boys, who must labour that they may eat. All that the manufacturers consider in the argument is, that the more boys there are to be hired, the cheaper they may be hired. But what demonstrably proves this pretended public spirit to be mere selfishness, is, that they do not employ their own children as they wish other people to employ theirs.

A little west of the grammar-school is the entry to Robert Gordon's Hospital, which stands at the upper end of a large garden, and is seen to great advantage from the gate.* It is an elegant granite building of three storeys and an attic one, with pediments projecting a little in front, and on each end. Over the entry to the house, is a Venetian window, the central part is only a dead niche, in which stands a white marble statue of the founder. Attending to the just proportion of his window, the architect seems not to have considered, that the niche would be high enough for a colossus. Perhaps the eye would be less hurt were the statue placed upon a higher base.

Just before the front of the house, a square plot is railed in for a flower garden, which has a fine effect on the prospect. From the centre of the roof springs a tall and very elegant spire, covered with lead, and glazed round, for five or six feet above the base. The whole building is seventy-nine feet long, and thirty-three feet nine inches broad, inside measure. The committee-room is thirty-three feet nine inches, by nineteen and a half, and twelve feet high in the roof. It has two fire-places on the south side, with marble chimnies. In this room is a full-length picture of the founder standing before a library, with a scroll

* The ground on which the hospital stands, with the gardens around it, of old belonged to the White Friars, and thereafter became the property of the Marischal College, who sold, or feued it to the town of Aberdeen, for behoof of the hospital; when the lands about town were of much less value than at present. Another croft of land, on the opposite side of the street, still the property of the college, has been feued out, to much better account, for houses and gardens.

in his hand, on which is seen a drawing of the hospital, inverted. This is only a copy from a small original quarter-length, which hangs in the school-room.

The hospital was built in the years 1732 and 1733, but not opened for the reception of boys till 1750. In 1746, it was employed as an hospital and garrison for sick soldiers, whom the Duke of Camberland left in it, when he marched north to Culloden moor. The deed of settlement and conveyance of the founder's estate is dated at Aberdeen, 13th December, 1729, by which he dispones and transfers "in favours of the provost, bailies, and the remanent members of the town council of the burgh of Aberdeen, and the four ministers of the gospel in the said burgh of Aberdeen, commonly called the town's four ministers, of the old and new churches, who exercise the pastoral charge there, and their successors in their respective offices, in trust, for the uses, ends, and purposes, mentioned in the deed, ten thousand pounds sterling money, or such sum, or sums of money, as the patrons and governors should recover of his effects." He appointed the above-designed persons his sole and only executors, secluding from the office of executry his nearest of kin. He appoints the money to be employed for erecting and maintaining an hospital, to be called, in all succeeding generations, ROBERT GORDON'S HOSPITAL, founded by his appointment, for educating indigent male children, and male grandchildren of decayed merchants and brethren of guild of the burgh of Aberdeen, of the name of Gordon in the first place, and of the name of Menzies in the second place (the nearest relations of the mortifier, of the said names of Gordon and Menzies being always preferred to any others), and the male children of any of the relations of the mortifier, that are of any other name, in the third place, to be preferred to others; and then the male children, or male grandchildren, of any other merchants and brethren of guild of the said burgh.

In case there should not be a sufficient number of the above-mentioned classes claiming the benefit of

these restrictions, the governors are empowered to admit the sons or grandsons of tradesmen of the burgh of Aberdeen, or others mentioned in the deed. He restricted the sum to be laid out in building the house to thirty thousand merks; and no children were to be taken in till the original stock had been made good by the interest of the balance. The forenamed persons, and their successors in office, are declared to be perpetual patrons and governors; the provost of Aberdeen to be the ordinary preses. A multiplicity of very sensible rules are laid down for the government of the hospital, and the management of its funds, which I shall not transcribe.

By an appendix to this deed, dated at Aberdeen, 19th September, 1730, a few alterations were made, but none of them are very material. There are at present sixty boys in the house, who are under the care of a chief master, and three schoolmasters, who teach them English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the common parts of vocal music. Such boys as show a genius for it, are taught drawing. They are uniformly clothed in blue, and their clothes carefully kept clean. They are not admitted under nine years of age, nor above twelve, and may remain in the house till they are fifteen, when they are put apprentices. Merchants or tradesmen in town, receive with each one hundred pounds Scots of fee; and, at the expiration of a lad's time, if he has behaved well, he gets five pounds sterling. One most equitable rule is established, that such of them as are successful in business, is to indemnify the house for the expense of his board and education.

By the will of the founder, none but men-servants were to be employed in the hospital; but the governors were obliged to depart from this rule, as they found the boys could not be properly cared for without women-servants, nor at so easy an expense. In the year 1772, the governors obtained a charter from the crown, erecting them into one body politic, by the name and title of "The President and Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital in Aberdeen." The provost for the time being is declared to be the

president, and in his absence, the next senior magistrate is to preside. By this royal charter, all the powers and privileges are vested in them, which other such corporations usually have; but with a constant reference to the provisions and restrictions in the original deed of settlement.

The founder of this hospital was a man of parts, family, and education, and is said to have had a patrimony of twenty thousand merks (eleven hundred and eleven pounds two shillings and twopence two-thirds sterling). In his younger days, he visited several parts of Europe, in company with a friend, when, it is supposed, he spent most of his fortune. This is the more probable that he then seems to have had a genteel taste, which appeared from a good collection of coins and medals found by him at his death. After his return to Scotland, he never was concerned in trade, and therefore must have amassed the large sum he left, by hard living and the accumulation of interest.

One would blush to repeat some stories told of his sordid economy, after he had entirely set his heart upon dying rich. He lived and died a bachelor, never kept house, and but a very ordinary apartment. Fire is not a cheap article at Aberdeen, but had it been ten times dearer, it would have made no material odds to Mr. Gordon, who possessed the happy secret of extracting the virtue of coal without consuming it: he had a basket, with a breast-rope fixed to it, into which he put a large piece, and carried it up and down the room till he grew sufficiently warm. He used very sparingly the most ordinary necessaries of life; loaves made of oatmeal, with a little skimmed milk, were his common fare; or when he would regale himself, a little poor cheese and butter. The offals of the butcher-market were a luxury in which he did not choose to indulge himself.

It may be doubted, however, whether this philosophic way of living was entirely agreeable to him, further than as a necessary mean to the great end he had in view; for no man enjoyed the good things of life with a higher relish, when furnished at the

expense of others. This was often the case, as he was a sensible conversable man, and had a numerous acquaintance, perhaps not the seldomer, that he was known to be rich. It was thought, that for many years before his death, his personal expense, room-rent included, did not exceed five pounds sterling annually.

He had a sister married to a very respectable gentleman in a neighbouring county, who had a numerous family, and whose fortune was not equal to his merit. It was the wish of every body, that this worthy family might not be overlooked in their relation's settlement; but private connections were no objects to him. While he one day conversed with the provost of Aberdeen on the subject of his intended settlement, the provost modestly insinuated, that however commendable such institutions were, yet near and respectable connections merited some notice. The gentleman's humanity was speedily checked by a short but severe rebuke to the following effect:—"What have I to expect, Sir, when you, who are at the head of the town of Aberdeen's affairs, plead against a settlement, from which your citizens are to derive so great benefits?"

Cautious as Mr. Gordon was, he met with several losses in his money transactions, and though one would have little expected it, was always among the first to accept the offered composition of a bad debt. No doubt he had observed, that, in such cases, the first offers are generally the best that can be made of a bad subject. Soon after he had signed the appendix to his settlement, he dined with a friend, and next day was seized with a fever, of which he died. His nephew, a son of the gentleman above referred to, then apprentice to a physician in town, was called by the magistrates to let blood of his uncle, and attend him. This furnished them with an opportunity of making him a handsome present; and I have been told it was no less than five hundred pounds sterling.

The magistrates gave their benefactor a princely burial; he may be said to have been buried with

military honours, for a great many cannon were stationed upon the eminences about town, and while all the bells tolled, minute guns were fired during the solemnity. The expense certainly was great, but it was out of time for Mr. Gordon to object to it.

No doubt he would often reflect with pleasure on the good effects which his projected institution was likely to produce; but how the hope of benefiting posterity could so effectually steel his breast against the common feelings of humanity, I leave among the *arcana* of nature. It seems to me as if one, solicited to rescue a brother or sister from a great and imminent danger, should coolly say, "Take care of yourself: I reserve my aid for those who may hereafter stand in need of it. Your children shall be my first care." This certainly would not be acting the part of the good Samaritan, who parted with his best things, his wine and oil, to alleviate the pain of a stranger—who walked that the wounded man might ride—who gave money, and even pawned his credit, for his future accommodation. I am, &c.

LETTER XVI.

ABERDEEN INFIRMARY.

Aberdeen.

A LITTLE to the north-west of Gordon's Hospital stands the Infirmary, on the summit of a little hill, and in a fine open air, detached from other buildings. It is a large house, and very commodiously fitted up for the accommodation of distressed objects from all corners of the country. The great benefit which the public had derived from the infirmaries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, furnished the first idea of erecting one at Aberdeen, for the benefit of that and the neighbouring counties.

With this laudable view, a subscription was opened in the year 1739, which was so well received, that those intrusted with the execution of the design, were enabled to build a small house, from a plan

which could be enlarged, as circumstances might permit. The building was completed in 1742; and in the month of August that year, the first patients were taken in. To promote this benevolent institution, the town of Aberdeen gave the ground for the house and garden, and undertook to pay, annually, in all time coming, the sum of thirty-six pounds eight shillings and fourpence sterling, for the maintenance of patients. An additional sum of twenty-five pounds sterling was given some years after, for the same purpose, by the managers of another charitable fund.

These small sums were, upon trial, found to be scarce equal to the constant expense of five or six patients. In the hope, however, that, by the bounty of well disposed people, the funds would increase, the managers pledged their own credit for money to furnish the house, and fit up the apartments for the reception of more patients. The success, which, by the blessing of God, attended the medical and chirurgical operations for the first seven years, accounts for the enlargement of the building, and the great increase of patients since that time.

It appears by the abstracts, that, from August 1742, to November 1750, 228 patients were received into the house; of whom 160 were cured, 52 were dismissed as incurable, and only 16 died. From the year 1750, the number of patients so increased, that the managers saw it was absolutely necessary to enlarge both the house and its revenues. With this view, they resolved to apply for voluntary contributions from the different parishes in the shire of Aberdeen, and some of the neighbouring counties. This measure had the desired effect. From a full conviction of the great utility of the Infirmary, people of all ranks and professions contributed according to their ability; and the clergy from their pulpits warmly recommended, and still continue to recommend, that friendly and humane disposition of mind, so forcibly enjoined by the precepts, and so amiably exemplified in the conduct of the great Founder of their religion.

By seasonable aids thus obtained, and the annual rents of some charitable donations formerly made to the house, the managers were enabled to build an additional wing to it, which was finished at Whitsunday 1755, at the expense of five hundred pounds sterling. The number of beds was now increased to sixty, all of them commonly taken up. In this wing there is a room for public operations; one for the managers to meet in; and several other necessary apartments. As they were still straitened in room, in the year 1758, the managers contracted for a west wing to the building, which cost five hundred pounds, and completed the original plan.

From November 1750, to November 1757, 1611 patients were received into the house; of whom 911 were cured, 255 so far recovered as to be able to follow their former employments, 101 were dismissed as incurable, 70 were dismissed as improper, 81 died, and 171 remained in the house; the other 22 must have been in it, when the account commenced. From November 1757, to November 1764, 3434 patients were taken in; of whom 1781 were cured, 714 so much recovered as to be able to follow their former employments, 65 were found incurable, 374 were dismissed as improper, 156 died, and 344 remained in the house under cure. From November 1764, to November 1767, 2299 patients were received; of whom 1356 were cured, 431 became so much better that they could follow their usual employments, 65 were found incurable, 174 were dismissed as improper, 95 died, and 200 then remained under cure. It appears, that, besides those in the house, there were upon the charity, from November 1764, to November 1765, 1332 out-patients; the next year, 1403; and the year after, 1640.

Though this is more than sufficient to show the great importance of the Aberdeen Infirmary to the north of Scotland, I shall give you an abstract of the patients for the last two years. Patients remaining in the house, January 1st, 1779, 74; admitted to January 1st, 1780, 1079,—in all, 1153. Of whom 763 were perfectly cured, 171 recovered so as to

follow their usual business, 20 were found incurable after long trial, 76 were found improper, dismissed at their own desire, or deserted, 33 died, and 90 remained in the house, January 1st, 1780; 955 outpatients had this year the benefit of advice and medicines.—90 patients remained in the house, January 1st, 1780; admitted to 1st January, 1781, 1095,—in all, 1185. Of whom were cured, 773; recovered so as to follow their usual employments, 175; incurable after long trial, 17; improper, dismissed at their own desire, or deserted, 96; died, 41; patients remaining in the house, January 1st, 1781, 83; 1066 outpatients this year.

The present state of this excellent institution, from such low beginnings, demonstrably shows the zeal and attention of the managers; and the happy success which has attended their advice and labours, is a satisfactory proof of the professional merit of the physicians and surgeons. The house was long under the sole care of the ingenious Dr. Thomas Livingston, who took the charge of it upon him when a very young man. By his exemplary attention to the duties of his profession, and humane treatment of the patients, he has thoroughly established his character as a physician and surgeon. When the number of patients had so greatly increased, it became necessary to establish a second physician; and in extraordinary cases, all the physicians in town give their advice and assistance.

Apprentices to physicians, on being properly recommended, and paying two guineas to the house, receive a ticket from the treasurer, entitling them to attend the infirmary. But no apprentice, under pain of expulsion, must attempt any other operation than bleeding, seton, or cutting an issue, and even these must be done by order of the house-physicians. Nor may they dress, or take off any dressing, but in presence of one of the physicians, or by his direction. I quote these particulars from the printed regulations, as a proof of the attention paid to the distressed objects in the house.

In the year 1773, the managers obtained a charter

from his Majesty, erecting them into one body politic, under the name of "The President and Managers of the Infirmary of Aberdeen." By this charter, the management is declared to be "in the provost, the four baillies, the dean of guild and treasurer, the provost of the preceding year, the town-clerk, and the convener of the trades of the said city of Aberdeen, all for the time; the professor of medicine in the Marischal College of Aberdeen for the time; the moderator of the synod of Aberdeen for the time; and also the persons following, all contributors to the said charity, are appointed managers during their respective lives, viz.:—Alexander Thomson of Banchory, Esq.;* John Irvine, Esq.; George Still,* John Ross,* and Alexander Westland,* merchants in Aberdeen; George Strachan Keith of Aquhorsk; John Memis, doctor of medicine; and David Bartlet,* advocate in Aberdeen." Besides the persons abovementioned, fourteen others are to be elected annually into the management, in terms of the charter. By which also it is declared, that "all and every other person or persons, for and during his, her, or their lives respectively, who shall severally contribute and pay in the sum of fifty pounds sterling, or more; or who shall have subscribed, or shall continue to pay, five pounds sterling, or upwards, yearly, for the use of the said hospital; or who shall be nominated and appointed by presbyteries, or by other bodies politic, or corporate, contributing for the use of the said infirmary, in one payment, not less than the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, shall be directors and managers."

Last March, a proposal was laid before the managers, setting forth the propriety of appointing a physician to attend the out-patients, or rather the poor of the town of Aberdeen at large. The opinion of the inhabitants being asked, they approved of the plan, and wished a trial of it to be made for a year. Dr. Livingston's son is appointed physician, and his sa-

* The gentlemen at whose names is this mark (*), are since dead.

lary is to be paid by a voluntary contribution at the doors of all the churches and meeting-houses in town. To be the poor man's physician is a very honourable distinction, and it is hoped the young gentleman will do credit to his office.

I cannot conclude this account, without doing justice to the memory of a worthy man, the warm-hearted friend of the Aberdeen Infirmary. Mr. George Still, a merchant in town, faithfully and assiduously discharged the office of treasurer, for many years, without any other reward than the pleasing consciousness of doing good. Never was a miser happier in adding to his heap, than Mr. Still in promoting this charity. The managers were so sensible of what the house owed to his unwearied attention and humanity, that they made a present of a silver tea-pot to his widow, with a genteel inscription, expressive of their esteem and gratitude. It is the wish of every good man that this benevolent institution may long flourish, under the auspices of men of character and genius, as a blessing to the north of Scotland, with its doors ever open to the distressed of all parties and persuasions: "Charity is kind, and thinketh no evil."

A little south of the infirmary, there is a medicinal spring, called the Well of Spa, said to be useful in stomachic complaints. By an inscription on the front, it appears to have been repaired in the year 1674.

I am, &c.

LETTER XVII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

THE town of Aberdeen is under the government of a provost, four baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, ten merchant, and two trades-counsellors; who are elected annually, on the Wednesday preceding Michaelmas. In the forenoon of that day, the old council choose the new one, and, in the afternoon, both united, choose the magistrates and office-bearers.

Though there are only two deacons of trades of the ordinary council, yet, in the election of magistrates and office-bearers, their convener has ten votes, in name of the seven incorporations. None of the council, but four, can be of it above one year at a time, and these are called the old four; nor can they be on it for more than two years at a time.

When the magistrates go to church, and in all other public processions, they are preceded by six town-serjeants, completely dressed in the best scarlet cloth, with red lining, and red stockings, and without any mark of livery, but a shoulder-knot, which was ordered some years ago. They carry long pikes on their shoulders, and wear plain hats. The address of the first magistrate is, "My Lord," or "My Lord Provost." The freemen are distinguished by the appellation of burghers of guild, and burgher tradesmen; the last are generally understood to be only free of their own art or craft. This distinction gave rise to much quarrelling and dissention in former ages. In the year 1587, the pretensions of the two parties were submitted to the arbitration of a few on each side, who having prepared matters, chose for oversman, Mr. Alexander Cheyne, parson of Snawie, and commissary of Aberdeen; who, by his decreet arbitral, solemnly determined all differences. This is called the common indenture, and, till the beginning of this century, was the rule in all such disputes. But though in the admission-tickets of tradesmen, the phrase, his own art, is still retained, the happy prevalence of the spirit of liberty has put an end to all disputes. The convener and the deacons of crafts have the privilege of making, and can enforce the observance of by-laws, made for the government of their own members; provided they are in nothing contrary to the general established laws of the kingdom. The provost, as the king's lieutenant, has supreme jurisdiction over all persons, civil or military, who reside in, or occasionally resort to the burgh.

The people of Aberdeen are merchants in the most unlimited sense of the term, as they traffic with most places with which British subjects at large are per-

mitted to have intercourse. They send vessels to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Dantzic, France, Spain, Portugal, and England; and had formerly a good share of the North American trade, but were obliged to cede it to Glasgow, which is more conveniently situated for carrying it on. They have some intercourse with Jamaica, Antigua, and the other West India islands; and, on a failure of the crops in that kingdom, send large quantities of oatmeal to Ireland. Their exports are woollen and thread stockings, linen, linen yarn, salmon, salted pork, barley, and oatmeal. Even stones, of which they have an inexhaustible store, are of late years become an article of commerce: many ship loads are annually sent to London for paving the streets.

The stocking manufacture is their capital branch, and returns a vast sum yearly to the country. The wool is imported from England, but combed and fined by themselves, and then given out to be spun and knitted by the country people. A capital dealer was obliging enough to inform me, that the kinds and denominations of woollen stockings manufactr ed are,—men's, ribbed and plain, from twenty shillings ℔ dozen of pairs, sorted; that is, some better, some worse, of the same size. Men's, greys and mixed drabs, ribbed and plain, from twenty-two shillings to sixty shillings ℔ dozen. White worsted men's, for the Dutch market, from twenty-four to thirty-six shillings ℔ dozen. Women's, white worsted, short and long heels, for the same market, from fifteen to thirty-six shillings ℔ dozen. Children's, white worsted, from six to fourteen shillings ℔ dozen. Mottled ribs, for youth, from fourteen to twenty-four shillings ℔ dozen. This manufacture is supposed to amount from a hundred and ten to a hundred and twenty thousand pounds sterling annually; two-thirds of which are reckoned to be paid for spinning and knitting; the other third goes to pay the materials, and afford a profit to the manufacturers.

As few women can earn above eighteen-pence a-week by spinning and knitting stockings a vast number of hands must be employed in this branch.

One is sorry to think that a poor woman should labour for threepence a-day; but it is a just observation, that more of our artificers and common people are hurt by high wages, than suffer by low. If labouring people live at an expense disproportioned to the sum which, at an average, they can earn, they must always be in strait. A little, prudently laid out, will procure the common necessaries of life, in their style, and all they can earn must be unequal to the lowest degree of luxury.

It is a circumstance extremely favourable to the stocking manufacturers, that most of their work is done in the country, and in private families; for, did all, or even the twentieth part, of those they employ, live in one place, they would raise the price of provisions, and mutually corrupt the morals of one another. The price of labour would be increased, goods would come higher to market, and in the end, the manufacture might be lost. Formerly, worsted stockings were made in this county to so high a price as three or four pounds sterling a-pair; this kind was wrought upon very fine brass wire, but few of them were made, or indeed could be made, as a pair of them were almost constant work for a woman for six months. They were therefore only valuable, as a mark of great patience and ingenuity in the worker.

Thread and coarse silk stockings are also manufactured in town, to great perfection, and to a very considerable amount. The manufacture of linen, and of ounce and pound threads, return considerable sums annually, and a large printfield has been lately established in the neighbourhood, which it is thought will, in time, do a great deal of business, as the gentlemen concerned in it are men of spirit and property. It is a prodigious drawback upon the country that most of the flax used in the linen manufacture is imported from Riga, Holland, and other places abroad; while the farmers, by sowing too much grain, frequently reduce the price so low, that they can scarce live and pay their rents.

It is said, that neither the soil nor the climate of Scotland are proper for the flax husbandry; but to

this it may be answered, that its soil and climate are not in all places the same. In some neighbourhoods, flax of a very good quality is raised, and in a sufficient quantity to afford the raiser a reasonable profit for his labour. About five and forty years ago, the soil and climate of Ireland were thought equally improper for producing good flax; but the ingenious essays of the Dublin Society dispelled the mist of ignorance, and taught the farmers what soil to choose, how to manage their crops, and conducted them from the seed to the heckle. To this very sensible patriotic society, the great increase of the linen manufacture in that kingdom is entirely owing.

Every body agrees, that where flax succeeds, it is a profitable crop; but as it requires great attention in the various operations, and as neglects and accidents are peculiarly fatal to it, one may pronounce, without the spirit of prophecy, that it never will turn to account in the management of a grain farmer, who, as he has a multiplicity of other things to attend to, only treats his flax as a by-job. I should think, therefore, that where the soil is proper for the husbandry, the farmer should turn his chief attention to it, and so forecast his matters, that he might be able to do it justice in the various seasons. He should carefully prepare his grounds; provide the best seed; know where to find weeders; have hands ready to pull the flax in season; he should have a proper watering-place, and people skilled in the watering and spreading of the flax; proper sheds or houses to lodge it in; and, if he is to dress it himself, he should have proper machinery for that purpose. And above all, he should know how to sort his flax, that he may dress it to different qualities; for flax that grows in the same field, often requires a very different management in the future operations.

When one is to go upon this husbandry, he should resolve, beforehand, not to be discouraged by disappointments and losses at his first outset. The perfect knowledge of a matter so complex, is not to be attained but by experience and long perseverance. In every new attempt there is difficulty and danger.

But a man of sense and observation will correct the errors of one season, by more strict attention to the most approved methods the next. Flax is said to exhaust the strength of the land; perhaps it does; and the grosser and coarser the plants are, it will try the soil the more; especially if it is suffered to ripen its seeds. The only remedy for this is, to interject meliorating crops, such as turnip, pease, or barley and clover, with a fresh dunging. Or clover may be laid down with the flax.

But this, you will say, is departing from my own rule, and introducing a mixture of crops to perplex the farmer. There is an easy remedy for this; let him treat his little corn and grass as a by-job, and still turn his chief attention to the flax. Many raise a crop of flax, from a view to the annual premium given by the trustees for manufactures; if they raise it but for one season, they ill deserve the premium, which is, or should be given, but as an incitement to make trial of an article which, if, by proper attention, it is not found able to support itself, can never be supported by premiums. Where a man raises flax but for one season, his neighbours are discouraged from making the like attempt; if they see his crop turn out to no account, their prejudices against raising flax are strengthened. They rarely take the trouble to inquire whether the failure was owing to the soil or climate, or to the mismanagement of the farmer. Perhaps the trustees would find it no bad plan, to give premiums to none for raising flax who did not come bound to raise a certain fixed quantity every year, for three years successively. And in this case the premiums should be higher.

The capital objection to raising flax in this country is the prudential necessity of sowing foreign seed, and changing it every year. From the high price it yields, dealers abroad or at home, who have old or damaged seed upon hand, are under a strong temptation to sell it; and when they do, the purchaser is disappointed of his crop. The American seed rarely fails, the Dutch often does. I think a method might be fallen upon to check the fraud. Suppose, for in-

stance, that all dealers in flax-seed were obliged to prove their seed, by sowing a little of it before they sold any. In every town, the trustees' officer, or stamp-master, might have a large board, with small squares planted on it, about three inches deep, and filled with fine garden mould, on which a little seed from every hogshead might be sown, with the initial letters of the dealer's name on the margin. If it came well up, he might warrantably sell the stock; if it did not, he should be interdicted from selling it, under a certain fixed penalty, besides returning the price received for any sold. Were such a regulation communicated to the dealers abroad, they would never send bad seed, and if they did, the home dealer should not be liable for the price. Such trials might be made in eight or ten days.

About fifty or sixty years ago, they had a manufacture in this county, called *fingerings*, or *serge*, a slight woollen stuff, for which there was a great demand. As it was sold undyed, it came soon to market; it was spun in the farmers' families, and wove at their expense. Though it is the general opinion that the country people never had a better article, the increasing demand had a pernicious effect; it prompted many to become purchasers who had but little knowledge of the goods, and as the makers found that they could sell their fingering, good or bad, the more covetous and unprincipled made it every year slighter and slighter in the fabric.

Complaints were made by the dealers abroad—they were often repeated—but the evil was become too general,—too inveterate to be cured. The article was at last made so insufferably bad, that the purchasers were obliged to look out for another market. They found one; and would no longer purchase the Aberdeenshire fingerings at any price. Thus a valuable manufacture was lost; which should be a caveat to all manufacturers, who may hold it as a certain maxim, that no manufacture can be permanently established, without a high degree of integrity in the manufacturers. A manufacture once lost, is rarely to be recovered; trade, like a river that has changed its

course, is rarely to be returned to its old channel, and never but with great difficulty and expense.

I am, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

ABOUT thirty years ago, a few merchants in town established a bank, but not finding their account in it, they gave it up in a few years. Banking, however, went so rapidly on in the south and west of Scotland, that many, in all corners, showed a great willingness to oblige the public in that way: tailors, and retailers of porter commenced bankers. The new established banks wished to send their notes as far from home as possible, and their friends and emissaries were so diligent, that, in a short time, one, in the county of Aberdeen, who received a hundred pounds in payment, rarely found in it five pounds in notes of the Old, or Royal Bank of Scotland.

The Thistle Bank of Glasgow established an agent at Aberdeen, who gave out cash accounts, and bought and sold bills. As nobody doubted the honour of that company, which consisted of men of character and property, very few other but their notes were to be seen; and, after the establishment of their branch at Aberdeen, an uncommon scarcity of specie was universally felt and complained of: one might have travelled half a day before he could have silver for a twenty shillings note.

Matters came to that pass, that poor people were obliged to pay a premium, or spend money, to procure change to purchase necessaries for their families. Some landholders intimated to their tenants, that no notes would be received in payment of their rents but those of the two banks of Scotland; but the tenants could not sell their cattle and other articles, unless they took for them such notes as were current in the country. The friends of those concerned in

the other banks, patronized their notes; and the collector of excise for the county of Aberdeen, probably by order of his superiors, advertised, at the parish churches, that he would take the notes of the British Linen Company in payment of his majesty's revenue.

Some who liked the precious metals better than the notes of any bank whatever, were thought to have locked up their cash, till the political horizon should clear up; and others did not think it prudent that the town and county of Aberdeen, or rather of the north of Scotland, should be exposed to all the accidents to which a few private banking companies are liable. To replace the specie, and put an end to these fears and jealousies, the gentlemen of the town and county found themselves under the necessity of establishing a bank among themselves, on so firm a basis, that no reasonable objection could be made to their notes. Accordingly, about the year 1766, one was established, under the firm of "The Aberdeen Bank," and a contract entered into by a great number of the most respectable gentlemen, who became bound, *in solidem*, for one another.

This company has ever since carried on the business to the satisfaction of the public and the emolument of the parties concerned. They had the prudence and good sense not to grasp at too much, which proved fatal to others in the same line. They set out with the wise resolution, of having well recommended and properly qualified servants, to whom they gave appointments proportioned to their trouble and the trust reposed in them. In this capital respect they have been very lucky. In one word, the Aberdeen Bank is so firmly established in the confidence of the public, that while the directors are obliging, united among themselves, and keep at a distance from little private factions and cabals, they have nothing to fear.

After this bank began to do business, a kind of money, or paper war, call it which you will, commenced between the partners and the Thistle Bank of Glagsow, who refused to withdraw their branch from Aberdeen. The belligerent powers vigorously carried

on hostilities for some time; but the same principle which set them at odds, at last brought them together. At first, there was a cessation of arms; this brought on a friendly communing, which at last ended in a profound peace and amity; to the great comfort of many a poor chaise-horse, who had long sweated under the dead weight of clerks, and trunks, and guineas.

The two colleges and the town-council have a very interesting object now in view; it is, to lay out and furnish a botanical garden, to be under their joint patronage, and supported at their mutual expense. It is very much to be wished that the scheme may be put in execution, as this branch of natural history is intimately connected with medicine, for which profession, a great many young men are educated at Aberdeen; and not less with the improvement of agriculture, which is the concern of all men. Nothing can be more plain, than that, both for the sake of advantage and of amusement, some knowledge of botany ought to be made part of the education of every one who is to spend his life in the country, whether as a farmer, a clergyman, or proprietor of a landed estate. Of this, every man acquainted with this branch of science, must have a strong conviction. It is much to be regretted that this acquaintance is at present confined to so small a number, even of the learned themselves.

Did we often meet a group of genteel, well-dressed strangers, we would naturally wish to know something of their characters and circumstances; and our curiosity would be heightened, were we told by those acquainted with them, that they had it much in their power to serve or to hurt us. This is precisely the case of mankind in regard to the vegetable tribes: in every walk, at the turning of every corner, we find herbs innumerable, in their various seasons, dressed in the gaiety of nature; and we are assured by those who have made the experiment, that they are of very different qualities; some of them noxious, and others of a most salutary nature. It is a liberal opinion that the Creator has made nothing in vain; the more his

works are known, the more his multiform wisdom will be admired. The virtues of many herbs, used simply, or compounded, have been already discovered, and we have reason to believe that the good qualities of many others will be the reward of future attention and experiment. Every discovery of this kind is a fresh proof of that goodness which gave the virtue to the plant, and the sagacity to man necessary for the discovery of it. Were we to say that life is too short to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the hundredth part of the herbs and plants around us; it might be answered, that though this be true, we should endeavour to acquire all the knowledge of them we can. Experience points to Linnæus; "Go on," says she, "the task is shortened." She points to an angel, holding up the book of nature to that great man, which he faithfully copied, till time, envious of his fame, drew the impervious curtain between him and the objects.

They have several tanneries in this place, which do a deal of business; a rope work; a shipbuilder's yard; a hat manufactory; and formerly they had a foundery, which was given up, soon after the Carron works commenced. They have also several soap and candle works; and a sugar-house has been lately erected, which it is thought will carry on that branch to a considerable extent. In one word, the people of Aberdeen have both spirit and substance to carry on a very extensive trade; and, if the times were more settled, they have no reason to doubt of success.

In the last century, when a man had got a few thousand merks by trade, he made no manner of odds in his way of living. Accustomed to the plainest things, he had not a wish beyond them. From the dread of losing what he had already saved, he never once thought of enlarging his trade, or trying a new branch. Thus the few manufactures of the time languished; there was little cash to circulate; the prices of labour and provisions were low, and property in lands and houses of small account. Till the beginning of this century, the gentry in the north of Scotland, and all remotely connected with them, though in the most depressed circumstances, had a ridiculous prejudice

against trade, and all those concerned in it. Every man, within the twentieth degree to an old family, was born a gentleman, and to mingle with the plebeian race of tradesmen, was esteemed a forfeiture of that highly valued privilege. These funguses, from the trunks of ancient families, seem not to have thought poverty and ignorance a reproach, though they held it certain that application to business contaminated the blood. The world is now wiser; these Gothic nostrums are everywhere laughed at, and the good consequences of more liberal sentiments universally felt and acknowledged.

The pork of this county, long esteemed the finest in Great Britain, has a great character everywhere; not only on account of its intrinsic quality, but from the remarkable skill and attention of the Aberdeen coopers, in salting it for exportation. The farmers and millers in this, and the more northerly counties, commonly rear, each of them, one or more hogs, and always finish off their fattening with corn. They are bought up by the Aberdeen butchers, from the middle of December to the first of April, but chiefly in the fore-end of the season, and in so large quantities, that pork is sometimes sold, in bulk, at a penny halfpenny farthing the pound, Dutch weight; though of late years, from the great demand, it has been generally dearer.

Several reasons may be assigned for the superior quality of the Aberdeen pork; the hogs are, in the summer time, fed with grass, in winter, with the refuse of ground corn; and, as has already been observed, finished off with hard grain. The meat of them therefore must be firmer, and have a finer relish than the meat of those hastily fed about distilleries and common breweries, and blown up with grains and wash. They are killed at a proper age, from fifteen to eighteen months old, and are of a strong hardy breed, and a middling size. They weigh from sixty pounds Dutch, to a hundred and fifty, or two hundred. None under sixty pounds weight are permitted to be salted for exportation; and few are slaughtered earlier than the first week of January, by which time

they have had sufficient leisure to gather up the lost corn in the fields. Were pork as generally eaten in the north, as it is in some other parts of the island, the people of Aberdeen would not export one barrel where they now export twenty.

But here the common people, and even some of the better sort, have an aversion to that food, from a long indulged prejudice against it, for which I have heard two reasons assigned: the meat cannot be good which was not permitted to God's own people under the law; that creature cannot be clean, into which the devil entered under the gospel. If these reasons had a weak side, he must be less fond of Aberdeen pickled pork than I am who attempts to point it out. Let the good people enjoy their prejudices, while we find our account in them.

Vast quantities of salmon are caught in the rivers Dee and Don; the first loses itself in the sea, at the harbour mouth; the last about two miles further north. They are said to have yielded a hundred and twenty lasts annually, a century ago. A last is twelve barrels, and each barrel contains about two hundred and fifty pounds of fish. They certainly yield a greater quantity now, as the art of fishing is much better understood. The season of fishing is from St. Andrew's-day (30th of November) to Latter Mary-day, or the 8th of September next year; but few fish come into the rivers before the 1st of January; from which time, to the middle of May, the salmon are boiled and kitted, for the London market; and sent off almost every week, by swift sailing sloops, retained for the purpose.

Those caught through the summer are salted for exportation to Holland, France, Spain, or wherever else there is a demand for them. No salmon is suffered to be barrelled and cured but by the town's coopers, who are obliged to put the initial letters of their name on all the barrels they make, nor can they be shipped for exportation till the letters ABD. have been burned on the upper end of each barrel by an officer appointed for that purpose. No fish bit by seals, none under a certain fixed weight, nor any that

have been damaged in the carriage from the river, are to be put in a barrel, but where the word *rebate* is burned on the end of the cask. The barrels are of a certain fixed size, and so carefully packed, that they do not differ a pound of fish from one another. After they are packed from the vats in which they had been salted, great care is taken to keep them brimful of pickle, till the bungs are fixed down, a day or two before they are shipped.

By all this care and attention, the Aberdeen salmon has acquired such a character abroad, that it generally fetches the highest price, and no questions are asked as to the quality. If in the fore-end of the fishing season, any of the inhabitants have occasion for salmon for their own table, the boiling-houses are obliged to furnish them with it, at threepence the pound. When the crown made over the fishings in these rivers to the community, a right was reserved to catch fish for the king's table, when he should happen to be at Aberdeen; a privilege which Charles the Second might have claimed when he was there, in the year 1650, for he had then taken the covenant; but it lay dormant till the Earl of Aberdeen was chancellor, when his lordship took possession of what they call a *ha'net's (half-net's)* fishing on the river Dee, for his Majesty's behoof. A *ha'net* is the privilege of half the fish caught by one net in the season.

Though his lordship may have afterwards acquired a personal property in this fishing, it is still called the king's ha'net. The town sold the property of these fishings soon after they had obtained the grant of them, but retained a feu, or small quit-rent, for each ha'net, and also took the purchasers bound to pay the teinds of their fish annually. They are not drawn in kind, but a certain stipulated sum is paid by the proprietors. By the original feu charters, these fishings can only be held by actual burgesses; but as this clause puts the proprietors, who have no male issue, to trouble and expense in making out trust-rights in favour of their daughters, without any benefit to the public, I am told the magistrates intend to give new charters, dispensing with this clause.

The fishings on both rivers have exceedingly increased in value within the last sixty years; partly owing to better methods of fishing, but certainly not altogether. For, towards the latter end of Queen Anne's reign, they could scarce be let at any price; which plainly shows that very few salmon then came into the rivers. At that period, Mr. Alexander, minister of Glass, had the property of two ha'net's fishing, on the Mid-chingle, a part of the river Dee, so called, opposite to the town; and as he could not let his water, he purchased nets, hired servants, and had it fished for his own account. A relation in town managed the concern, and at the end of two years, the minister came thirty miles to receive the profits of his estate. When the account was fitted, there was a balance of two shillings in his favour, which he resolved not to carry over the threshold of the inn. He dismissed his servants, and for a year or two let his water run to the sea undisturbed. His heirs still have the fishing. About thirty years ago, it was let for twenty pounds sterling, they paying the public burdens. It has for many years past been let for sixty pounds; the tenant paying the public burdens, without allowance in his rent.

The white fish taken here are generally of a smaller size than those caught upon the west coast of Scotland; nor are the inhabitants, at all times, plentifully supplied with them, though they have many good fishing-boats, sufficiently manned. The town's people complain that their fishers do not go far enough out to sea, where they would find larger fish; but the truth is, the poor men go so far, that they too frequently never return. If it blows fresh, and the wind has any point of the east, a high sea presently rises upon the coast; if it blows hard, it is perilous for ship or boat to come near the shore; and if the storm continues long and increases, the waves roll mountain high. Were it not that, from long observation, the fishermen are generally well skilled in those signs which foreshow a change of the weather, I think few of them would have the hardiness to go to sea in the winter season.

But the town's people do not depend entirely upon their own fishers; great quantities of fish are brought to town, especially on Friday, the market day, from villages to the south and north of the town. They are even brought from the Newburgh, ten Scotch miles distant, upon women's backs, in baskets, with a breast-rope fixed to them. One cannot, without pain, think of a poor woman's travelling fifteen English miles, before breakfast, with a heavy load upon her back; and yet, were you to express your feelings to her, she would smile, and tell you, that "she wished she had only fish enow to carry." Perhaps for the whole basket she may draw about four shillings. Such is the force of habit, that they would think it a punishment to be obliged to return home with an empty basket; if they have neither goods nor provisions to take home, they generally put stones into their baskets, about a third of the weight they bring in.

While I speak of habit, I cannot help mentioning a fact which I thought extraordinary. That ugly crooked street in Edinburgh, called the Bow, is almost wholly possessed, on the ground flat, by coppersmiths, tinmen, and hammermen, of one kind or other. While you hastily pass through it, the horrid noise is totally unbearable; and yet, I am assured, that the people who live in the upper storeys are so accustomed to it that they cannot sleep on the Sunday mornings, when, to the joy of thoughtful passengers, these sons of Vulcan are commanded to cease from troubling. I am, &c.

LETTER XIX.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

THE harbour of Aberdeen was long a great detriment to its trade, and occasioned the loss of many lives, and much property. A stranger could never depend upon finding it as he left it. While vessels

lay at anchor in the road, till the tide should make, they have been often wrecked by storms that suddenly arose. It was very narrow at the mouth, having the easterly rocky point of the Grampian mountains on the south, and a flat blowing sand on the north, extending along the coast for many miles. By the easterly and north-east storms, the sand was driven in a long ridge across the harbour mouth, and formed what was, very properly, called the bar. Upon this bar, the depth of water, at low tide, was sometimes not above three feet. Clearing away the sand, though but a partial and temporary remedy, was a matter of great expense to the community. If it was cleared one week, so as to have five or six feet of water at ebb; a fresh storm the next undid all that had been done.

The town, at last, came to the spirited resolution of erecting a stone pier on the north side of the harbour, so strong, that, in all human probability, it should be found effectual to prevent future damage. This pier is twelve hundred feet in length, and gradually increases in thickness and height as it approaches to the sea. Where it begins, it is twenty feet broad at the base, twelve feet broad at the top, and sixteen feet high, besides the parapet wall on the north, which is here four feet and six inches thick, and four feet high. The pier continues to increase in thickness, till it comes to where the rounding of the head begins to be formed, where it is thirty-six feet broad at bottom, and twenty-four feet broad at top, including the parapet, which is here eight feet high, and ten feet broad.

The head, or rounding of the pier, at the east extremity is sixty feet diameter at the base, and the height to the platform is thirty feet; to which add eight, the height of the parapet, and the perpendicular of the head is thirty-eight feet. As the pier thickens, from the inside of the parapet wall springs, first one, then a second, and at last a third foot-way, broad enough for a single person to walk upon, each raised about two feet above the one below. From one of these walks you can at any place overlook the wall.

The whole is built of granite; many of the outside stones are above three tons weight, with hewn beds, and are laid length-ways into the work, so that their ends only are outward. No stone in it is less than four feet in length.

I think I do not flatter the town of Aberdeen when I call this a great work; certainly it does the community much honour that, to accomplish it, though, by the most moderate computation, it will cost seventeen thousand pounds sterling, they solicited no other aid, than the authority of parliament to double those harbour dues which are chiefly paid by themselves. A little to the south of the bar, they have now a depth of seventeen fathoms, at low water; and at the harbour mouth, from eight to nine fathoms, where they had formerly but a few feet. It is hoped this noble pier will stand firm in the greatest storms, and it is the wish of every good man that it may.

In a bay within the harbour, a little north from where the new pier begins, are two other stone piers, for unloading, or partly unloading ships that have not depth of water to carry them to the upper pier, on the south side of the town; the last is about a quarter of a mile long, and in most places, the face of it is lined with squared stones. Between the two, stands the fishing town of Footdee, in which is the ship-builder's yard, and some very decent houses. The village has a small church, a catechetical charge, dependant upon Aberdeen. Near to this, is the rope-work, and a little south of it stands the block-house.*

* The town appointed a block-house, or fort, to be built at the harbour mouth, in June 1497, and the appointment was renewed in February 1533. In the last, it is ordered to be made thirty-six feet in length, eighteen feet broad, six feet thick in the walls, and as high as two masons, named in the act of council, should think fit. The present block-house was built about the beginning of this century on the foundation of the old one, and is furnished with ten cannons, twelve-pounders. As, by the erection of the new pier on the north side of the harbour, the block-house has now no command of the harbour mouth, the guns are to be immediately taken from it, and placed upon a battery erecting for that purpose, upon a plan furnished by Captain Fraser, engineer for Scotland; which will command not only the mouth of the harbour, but the whole adjacent coast, so far as the guns reach.

Opposite to the block-house, is another harbour and pier, in a village called Torry, from which vessels can get to sea earlier in the flood, than from the shore of Aberdeen. It is said, that the town intends to join the west end of the new pier, to the south end of the middle one, in which case, the water in the harbour will be considerably deepened.

At Torry, the village just mentioned, is the passage-boat, or common ferry; the estate on which this village stands is the joint property of the town of Aberdeen and Mr. Menzies of Pitfodels. The lands are what they call run-ridged; that is, the tenants of the different proprietors in each farm have a right to plough and sow each a ridge, in his turn. A privilege, if so I must call it, so grossly opposite to common sense, and all rules of good husbandry, that one is amazed how it could ever have come into the mind of man to claim it. In all such cases, inclosing is totally precluded; nor can any other rational improvement of the lands be made. Attempts have been repeatedly made to have these lands divided, but they have hitherto proved abortive, evidently to the detriment of the proprietors; who, if they find it difficult to adjust matters between themselves, might submit the affair to men of honour, unconnected with either of the parties.

There is upon this estate, a great extent of hill and moor, which, at present, is of little or no consideration in the rents; but, in case of a division, these waste grounds might be planted for the behoof of the proprietors, or feued out to Aberdeen improvers, who dread no obstructions. On the south of Torry, lies the bay of Nigg, from which immense quantities of stones are shipped off for London. I am, &c.

LETTER XX.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

I HAD an agreeable ride yesterday forenoon, with a gentleman of this place, to see the late improvements

in the neighbourhood, which are so extraordinary, that I shall be able to give you but a very imperfect idea of them. We set out from the south-west side of the town, and turning up by the hollow called the Denburn, passed through the village of Gilcomston. "Here," said my friend, "till the year 1756, there was only a single farm house. This, and the two adjacent farms,* were let to three tenants, two of whom became insolvent; and though the third saved some money, it was rather by hard living than his farm.

"This fine village, yonder handsome chapel,† and all the improvements you see around, we owe to the prudence and good sense of those then in the management of the town's affairs.

* These farms were purchased by the town of Aberdeen from Sir Andrew Fletcher, tutor to the laird of Pitfodels, in the year 1673, at the price of £17,666 13s. 4d. Scots money, or £1,472 4s. 5½d. sterling. As the mill of Gilcomston is hard by the town, the building of it gave great offence to the magistrates, and occasioned the following act of council; "March 6, 1513, Ordainit, that nae person within the burgh nor freedom, have any corn to grind in the new biggit mill of Gilcomstown, under pain of double moulter, and aught shillen of unlaw, unforgiven. And that the tenant of Gilcomstowns guides common (not) upon the commontie, nor have ony sulzie, (manure) out of the town for guiding his lands." The severity of this act was a little softened, 11th October 1527, when it was ordained, "That Gilbert Menzies, provost, should have liberty to transport sulzie to Gilcomstown, as lang as the samen bees in his hand, and nae langer."

† The parish of Saint Nicholas, or New Aberdeen, extends no farther than the royalty of the town. Saint Machar's, or the old town parish, comes to the very gates. The village of Gilcomstown, the suburb called the Hardgate, and all the lands to the bridge of Dee, are in the old town parish; to which this is a chapel of ease. It is a handsome, well constructed building, and was built by subscription. It is sixty feet square, inside measure, and has galleries on the east end, and both sides; in the centre of the west end stands the pulpit. The galleries, and roof of the side aisles, are supported by wooden columns, arched at top. The central aisle is thirty feet wide. There are four large arched windows on each side, and on each end is a large, and two lesser circular ones. It has a large door in the centre of the east gable, and two lesser side doors in the opposite one. The middle aisle has a platform roof covered with lead. The minister's stipend is paid from the seat-rents, and he is elected by the subscribers, and their successors, of the congregation. It stands upon high ground, and adds very much to the beauty of the prospect.

"Determined no longer to be plagued with bankrupt tenants, they came to the wise resolution of feuing out these lands in small lots. The idea of this improvement of the public funds was the more cherished from a little experiment in agriculture which Alexander Robertson of Glasgowego, then their provost, had made a few years before. He rented an acre and a sixth of ground in the Lochlands, on the west side of the town, at three pounds ten shillings ℔ whole. He trenched it, gave it a good dunging, and laid it down with rye-grass and clover seeds, (the first sown in the open fields in this neighbourhood.) The first crop of grass was of little value, being foul with every kind of weed; but, for the three succeeding years, the crops were so luxuriant, that, being let in small lots, this little spot brought a rent of ten pounds sterling, annually."

As we rode along, I observed, that if I might judge of the lands from the fine crops of grain and grass they then bore, and their vicinity to the town, they must have yielded a high rent before they were feued out; which may have partly contributed to reduce the tenants. "In regard to the appearance of the fields," said the gentleman, "and the crops they bear, you are not to suppose any ground for a comparison between their former and present state. While in the hands of the former tenants, they were totally neglected; much of them quite soured by stagnant water; in some places, so full of large stones that it was perilous to put a plough into them; in others, over-run with furze, and all of them almost constantly cropt without any, or with a very small quantity of manure. With regard to the former rent, considering how near they are to the town, it was very moderate; not above seven shillings the acre, at an average; though now they generally let from fifty shillings to four pounds.

"When the town feued them out, the purchasers were to pay down an eighth-part of the rouped price, at the rate of twenty-five years' purchase of the lot, and, for the balance of the price, they were to pay a perpetual quit-rent. On the morning of the day of

roup, the three farms were about eighty pounds sterling rent; in the afternoon, the rent was two hundred and twenty pounds sterling, besides all the money paid down by the feuars. I was present when these farms were rouped, and, with many others, thought the men could never pay the rent offered; it was the opinion of nine-tenths of the town's people that it never could be paid; and especially of those who pretended to most knowledge of farming. The event however has shown, that they only did amiss who, influenced by clamour and vulgar prejudices, soon after made over their purchase to others. Those who went vigorously to work, and trenched, inclosed, and manured their grounds, had returns which encouraged them to proceed, and found plenty of tenants willing to pay a rent proportioned to their expense. Though the expense of clearing the ground was considerable, the stones were of great value, either for building houses and inclosing their own grounds, or when sold to the town of Aberdeen. Stones had been formerly fetched from the quarries, at a much greater distance, and therefore the expense came higher."

A small brook runs through the village, on the banks of which are many bleachfields and villas belonging to the town of Aberdeen, and at the lower end of it is a corn-mill, and a large brewery. On the west of these farms are many villas, with small spots of ground inclosed contiguous to them, most of which have been cleared of the stones, at the expense of thirty pounds sterling the acre, and some have cost much dearer. One is surprised how such an expense can ever be reimbursed; but, in the neighbourhood of a town where there is so much building going forward, the cut stones, and even the rubbish of them, are of great value: a gentleman told me that he sold the stones taken from one acre, for twenty-five pounds sterling, and the purchaser was to carry them off the premises. When they clear a piece of ground of the stones, they give it a good dunging, with a mixture of lime, and lay it down with turnip, which they can sell to the Aberdeen cow-feeders for about eight pounds the acre. The next crop is barley, with rye-

grass and clover, and they commonly let their grass from seven to nine pounds the acre. As they keep neither servants nor cattle, after their grounds are once laid down to grass, the returns come in apace. Much of this ground was feued out by Mr. Skene of Rubislaw, and though never before worth sixpence the acre, now yields his heirs from fifteen to twenty shillings; some of it more. Within the last forty years, the value of this estate has increased from about fifty pounds a-year, to nearly six hundred.

Turning to the north-east, we rode up to a village called Loanhead, from which there is a fine prospect of the town, the harbour, the sea, Old Aberdeen, and the adjacent country. From the bridge of Dee to the river mouth, the country seems one contiguous village. This place was formerly wholly possessed by labourers who wrought in the adjacent quarries, or was the occasional residence of beggars, who were not permitted to settle in town. There are now many decent houses in it, and the fields around are in high culture. My friend pointed to one, which the person who improved it, called Bergen-op-zoom, in respect of the difficulty he found in subduing it.

To the north and north-west is a large tract of improved ground, formerly the town's common pasture, which, since the beginning of this century, has been feued out by the community, at a small quit-rent ℔ acre. In the bottom are many bleachfields, made out from swamps and morasses. From Loanhead, we turned due west, and ascended an eminence called the Stocket-brae; the under part of which was feued out by the town about thirty years ago. Eighty-two acres, thought unimproveable, were reserved to be planted with Scots firs, and accordingly were inclosed and planted; but have been since feued out and made arable. They yield, at an average, an annual feu-rent of one pound one shilling and fourpence halfpenny ℔ acre. One of the lots yields one pound fifteen shillings sterling ℔ acre. When we reached the summit of this little hill, an extensive but wild prospect opened to the west and south-west, in which little was to be seen but heath and moor, except on the north side of

the road, where some feuars have made out a great many fine inclosures. It is perfectly astonishing to see the crops of grain and grass produced by ground which, for so many ages, had been neglected as unworthy of culture.

We rode two miles farther west, to see a farm called Dykeside, on which, and some fields on the Stocket, a gentleman in town laid out about two thousand pounds sterling. It lies in a narrow bottom, environed with high hills. Much of the ground was full of great stones, which obstructed the plough; to consume them, after they were blown and cut, some of the fences were built five feet thick at the bottom. It was greatly against this improver, that he was at too great a distance for sending his cut stones to town; nor was any crop he could raise so valuable, as the same quantity, within a mile or two of a market. Several other farms in the neighbourhood were feued at the same time, and though improvements have been made upon each of them, it is not thought they have turned to account.

Till about twenty-four years ago, that the town feued out most of its lands, it was the custom to ride, what was called the Landymyrs, or Land-marches, yearly, on the last Saturday of August; when the magistrates, town-council, and principal inhabitants, dined at the farm-house of Dykeside, and spent the day very socially. By ancient custom, a particular mark of respect was put upon novices, or those who ride the marches for the first time. It was called *douping*; a term which cannot be rendered into English, but I shall endeavour to give you some idea of it. After dinner, the ceremony was very solemnly gone about, in presence of all the company. At the back of the farm-house, there was a large flat rock, a little rounded at the top, and about two feet high above the surface of the ground; which the novices saw with terror, and wished it sunk to the centre. They were hauled to it, with much unfeeling mirth, by those who were doup-free burgesses of Dykeside, when they severally underwent the following discipline. Two of the company took the novice by the shoulders, and two

others laid hold of his legs, lifting him breast-high, above the point of the rock, to which they returned his posteriors, with a velocity proportioned to their respect for his character. The elevation and depression being thrice repeated, the person was inrolled a free brother-burgess.

Turning to the north-east from Dykeside, we crossed a high mountain, on the top of which stands the kirk of Newhills, where the minister has lands assigned to him for his stipend; which, in respect of the fluctuating nature of money, should be the case everywhere. On the left hand, we passed Sclattie, the property of Doctor John Chalmers, Principal of the King's College; one of the first and most persevering improvers in this country. He first rented, for his health and amusement, the farm of Cairntralion, the property of the college, of which he considerably increased the value; and after, purchased the property of this farm, on which he now lives during the summer months. The country around is extremely wild, but the soil not unfruitful when brought into proper culture.

About a mile farther east, great improvements have been made on both sides of the road; on the right hand, by Mr. Mossman; on the left, by Mr. Barron of Oldcruives; whose house is pleasantly situated on an eminence, near the north bank of the Don. On the opposite side of the river is a paper-mill, and a large thread bleachfield; near to this, the newly established printfield is situated.

A little farther on, we came up with Gordon's mills, where there is a large bleachfield for linen and threads; the company has, for many years past, done a great deal of business. I stopped to see the cruives where the salmon are caught, and shall give you the best description of them I can.

There is an immense ridge of loose stones laid across the Don, a little slanting, built perpendicular on the upper side, and about seven or eight feet high; but on the under side, gradually sloping away to a point, under the surface of the water. In this ridge are several openings, about eight or nine feet square,

in which are strongly fixed the cruives, or wooden frames, in which the salmon are caught. These frames have a board bottom and sides, wooden rails at both ends, and are covered with board at top, and locked down with padlocks. In the ends next the sea, the rails bend inward in an angular form, and there is an opening of three inches. The rails being somewhat elastic, yield to the lateral pressure of the salmon's body till it forces its way through at the angle point, and once it is in, there is no getting out again, as the sharp inward points of the rails meet its head. From Gordon's mills, we proceeded to Old Aberdeen, but here I put an end to a letter, already too long. I am, &c.

LETTER XXI.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

For some distance above Old Aberdeen, the river Don runs in a deep hollow; in the bottom of which, opposite to the cathedral, stands Seaton House, the property of the heirs of the late Lady Diana Middleton.* It is a large, and not inelegant modern building, fronting south and east; with a canal, and fine lawns to the south, and the Don on the west; which, a little above, takes a northerly course, till it gets between two hills, when it turns to the south-east; and about half a mile lower, loses itself in the German Ocean.

Seaton is well sheltered from the north by a hill, on which a village of the same name stands, hard by the bridge of Don. The shrubberies, walks, and lawns, have been made out with taste and judgment, but are circumscribed on the west, by a bit of ground belonging to Bishop Gavin Dunbar's hospital, which remains in the state of nature. The whole policy is inclosed with a high stone and lime wall,

* Now of James Forbes, Esq.

joining the north wall of the cathedral. The hedge-rows and clumps of planting in the pasture grounds have a good effect upon the prospect, which we enjoy to great advantage from a pretty little conical mount, called the Hill of Tillydrone, a little west of the hospital, said to have been raised as a watch-tower by Robert the Bruce's soldiers, while they guarded the channery. As a drawback on the pleasure and advantage which Seaton derives from the neighbourhood of the Don, it is sometimes flooded on the ground floor, during the winter season. Some fly always perches upon the lip of human felicity.

The bridge of Don, which is very ancient, is said to have been built by Henry Cheyne, bishop of Aberdeen, about the year 1290, or by King Robert Bruce, who perhaps completed what the bishop had begun. In the year 1606, Sir Alexander Hay, clerk-register, bequeathed to the town of Aberdeen certain lands and rents, amounting to twenty-seven pounds Scots yearly, for the support of it. It has but one arch, and nature pointed out the place. The approaches to it from the south and north have a rapid declivity, and on each side of the river there is a huge rock. Upon these rocks, the foundations of the arch are built.

It is sixty-six feet ten inches wide at the bottom, and thirty-four feet six inches high above the surface of the river; which, at ebb-tide, is here nineteen feet and a half deep. It is a Gothic arch, and has a wonderfully light appearance, but the parapet wall is too low towards the middle. There is an old rhyme, the terror of those wise ones whose mothers have had but one son, and who happen to ride upon the only product of a mare.

> Brig of Balgonie, wight is thy wa',
> Wi' a wife's ae son, and a mare's ae foal,
> Down shalt thou fa.'

Such people have been known to dismount, and send their horses over before them. The poet, whoever he was, certainly meant a compliment to the bridge; and it requires no great sagacity to compre-

hend his meaning. Every body knows, that in the Scotch dialect, wight and strong, are synonymous terms, and, for the comfort of future travellers, I shall paraphrase the verses; "Bridge of Balgonie, (the old name of the village) thy foundation and superstructure are so strong, that it would be as great a wonder to see thee fall, till time that brings down all things, brings thee down, as it is rare to see the only son of a woman mounted upon the only issue of a mare."

The lands on the east and west of Old Aberdeen are of an excellent quality, and in good culture; though generally uninclosed; being the property of many different people. Those on the west, are the site of two annual fairs, where horses and horned cattle are sold. The advance of rent in the neighbourhood of New and Old Aberdeen within the last forty years is almost incredible; before that period, a boll of barley yearly was the rent commonly paid for as much ground as a boll would sow; and this we cannot reckon to have been much less than an acre and a half. As the price of bear did not, at an average, then exceed twelve shillings the boll, the best infield land about town was rented for about eight shillings the acre. The same lands, without a shilling having been laid out by the proprietors, now fetch from fifty shillings to four pounds.

A field of twelve Scotch acres, contiguous to Old Aberdeen, was purchased by the Merchant Society in 1720, for two thousand merks (one hundred and eleven pounds two shillings and twopence two-thirds sterling), and was not thought cheap at the time, which now lets at three pounds sterling ℔ acre. As to the improvements made upon barren grounds, they cannot be properly said to have advanced the rent, for none was paid for them before. Such improvers, however, justly claim the highest rank, and may be considered as public benefactors, as they have given funds to the society for the comfortable subsistence of future human beings. The north of Scotland suffered exceedingly from the unfruitful seasons, towards the end of King William's reign, which are

still called *the ill years*. Most of the tenants were reduced to the lowest straits, and many of the poor perished for want of bread. The culture of potatoes, turnip, and other such wholesome roots, was then confined to a very small quantity raised in gentlemen's gardens; so that when the crop of grain failed, from inclement springs, or bad harvests, there was nothing else to depend upon.

It would seem, too, that at the period just mentioned, the people of Scotland were little in the practice of importing grain from other kingdoms, by which the distress consequent upon a failure of the crop is now so speedily remedied. No axiom is more certain, than that the value of lands will always be in proportion to the industry and success of the tenants who occupy them. The gentlemen of the north found the truth of it to their bitter experience. Long after these ill years, many farms lay untilled; the rents universally fell low, and instead of fines and grassums, and every measure now adopted to support luxury, and oppress poor men, exposed to so many accidents, the proprietors were often obliged to stock their farms and support the tenants, in hopes of receiving a very moderate compensation. From the 1700, till after the 1730, the medium price of lands sold, in the county of Aberdeen, did not exceed sixteen years' purchase of the then low rents.

The lands on each side of the village called the Spittal, between New and Old Aberdeen, have been considerably improved of late, by George Moir, Esq. of Scotstown, the proprietor, who has gained a great deal of ground from the links, or benty sands, towards the sea. The upper parts of them, and of most of the lands on the north-east of Aberdeen, consist of little hills or rising grounds of a light sandy soil, which, when cleared of weeds, and sufficiently manured, are found to produce good crops of grain and sown grass. Large tracts of them are annually let to the gardeners, for raising every kind of common root and vegetable raised in kitchen gardens; and as, to secure a reasonable crop of these, they are obliged

to keep the soil clear of weeds, it comes to be in fine case for corn and grass crops to succeed.

A stranger is surprised to see the immense quantities of roots raised about town, till he observes great parcels of them brought up on the market-day by the country people, who, in most places know nothing of their culture. And, if he is inquisitive, he will be informed, that in the north they use cabbage and coleworts much more than in the southern and westerly parts of the kingdom, where they eat more flesh meat. At ten or twelve miles distance from a town, flesh is never seen in the houses of the common farmers, if it be not at a baptism or wedding, when they have it in great profusion, especially poultry; or at Christmas, and Fasten-even, (Shrove Tuesday) two festivals, the observance of which presbytery has not been able to suppress. Their common food is oatmeal, milk, and vegetables, chiefly red-cabbage in the winter season, and coleworts for the summer and spring. I shall give you a farmer's bill of fare for a day, which is just equal to giving one for a twelvemonth, merry-making times, and the two festivals, only excepted.

BREAKFAST.

Pottage, made of boiling-water, thickened with oatmeal, and eat with milk or ale; or brose made of shorn cabbage, or coleworts, left over night. After either of which dishes, they eat oat-cakes and milk; and where they have not milk, kale and small beer.

DINNER.

Sowens, eat with milk. Second course, oat-cakes eat with milk or kale. Sowens are prepared in this manner:—The meally sid, or hull of the ground oat, is steeped in blood-warm water for about two days, when it is wrung out, and the liquor put through a searce; if it is too thick, they add a little fresh cold water to it, and then put it on the fire to boil, constantly stirring it till it thickens, and continuing the boiling till it becomes tough like a paste; in the stirring, they mix a little salt, and dish it up for table.

SUPPER.

First course, during the winter season, kale-brose, eat about seven at night, while, at the fire-side, the tale goes round, among the men and maid servants. Second course, kale, eat with oat-cakes, about nine. During the summer season, there is generally but one course, pottage and milk, or oat-cakes and kale, or milk. Kale is thus prepared :—Red cabbage, or coleworts, are cut down and shorn small, then boiled with salt and water, thickened with a little oatmeal, and so served up to table. Brose is oatmeal put into a bowl, or wooden dish, where the boiling liquor of the cabbage or coleworts is stirred with it till the meal is all wet. This is the principal dish upon the festival of Fasten-even, which is emphatically called beef-brose-day.

In harvest, they sometimes have a thick broth made of barley and turnip in place of sowens, and if near a sea-port, frequently some kind of fish, which they eat with butter and mustard. I should have added to the number of their festivals, what they call the Clyak-feast, or, as it is called in the south and west, the Kirn. This is celebrated a few days after the last of their corns are cut down, when it is an established rule that there must be meat, both roasted and boiled.

Should this letter fall into the hands of an epicure, while he nauseates the poor viands of these people, and blesses himself in his abundance; as a friend, I would whisper in his ear, that they are strong and active, sleep sound, and live to a good old age. Perhaps, once or twice in their lives, they may hear of a person afflicted with the gout, an asthma, or low spirits. I would tell him what would surprise him more, that these boors have a delicacy of sentiment in regard to eating, to which he only pretends. That their stomachs would rise were they to see his soups and olios compounded, and that they would turn their dog out of doors had he dined upon a haunch of venison dressed in the gout a-la-mode.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

THE lands on the north-west of the town, great part of which were formerly barren moor, covered with heath and furze, are inclosed with good stone fences, and produce excellent crops. A piece of low swampy ground, called the Provost's Mire, because formerly the property of Provost George Fordyce,* has been accurately drained, and intersected with sunk stones fences; it is a perfect model of draining, and has liberally repaid the expense laid out upon it. At Clerkseat, there is a pleasant villa, the property of Mr. Innes, commissary-clerk, where, during the summer months, his family enjoys fresh air, and every convenience one could wish in the country, within little more than half a mile of the cross of Aberdeen. The gentleman is the richest man that ever held the office, being the happy father of six sons and eleven most amiable daughters.

A little south of Clerkseat, a villa, the property of Mr. Leslie, druggist, merits a very particular description. The whole extent of his domain is about five and a half acres, of which every foot is laid out with much taste and judgment. We enter to it on the west, and, at the distance of about a hundred yards, come in front of a neat house with two small wings, and offices backward. The apartments are just large

* This gentleman was in so high esteem with his fellow citizens, that they elected him six times their chief magistrate. He left a numerous issue, and few families have done more honour to the place of their nativity: George, his eldest son, is represented by the ingenious Doctor George Fordyce, physician in London. David, his second, was professor of moral philosophy in the Marischal College. Doctor James Fordyce, the celebrated preacher, is his third son. Doctor John Fordyce, physician in London, and formerly surgeon in the guards, is his fourth son. Mr. William Fordyce, surgeon in London, his fifth. Baillie Robert Fordyce, late a capital manufacturer in Aberdeen, was his sixth son. And Alexander Fordyce, Esq. banker in London, is his seventh.

enough for the accommodation of the family, and furnished in a genteel taste: not an inch of room but is turned to the best account. On the walls of some of the rooms is a collection of good Italian, and other prints. On the south, opposite to the front windows, without the gravel-walk, is a pretty lawn, below which is a square flower-plot and fruit garden, skirted by grass and gravel walks, and an earth bank, sloping inward, on three sides.

From the south-east corner of the house, we descend by a small serpentine gravel-walk to a hollow in the bottom, where a murmuring rill runs along, the banks of which are planted with a great variety of trees, flowers, and flowering-shrubs. Crossing it, we ascend a steep eminence, about the middle of which we come up with a pretty little green-house, well furnished with plants which bear not the open air in this climate. On one of the end-walls hang the royal arms of Scotland, cut upon oak. The board is about four feet high, and three feet six inches broad; till lately that Mr. Leslie purchased it for half-a-crown, it stood in an old house, in a narrow street near the cross, still called the Chakra, or Exchequer-row, where it is supposed the exchequer courts of William the Lyon, were occasionally held.* This antique, though still fresh and fair, must have been cut 566 years ago, and may have been cut earlier, for William came to the crown in 1165, and died in 1214.

* The arms are a lion rampant, armed and languid, with a double tressure, flowered and counter-flowered with flower-de-luce; above the shield, a helmet, adorned with an imperial crown, and surmounted for the cust by a lion couchant, guardant, and crowned with an imperial crown, holding in his dexter paw a naked sword, erected pale ways, and in his sinister a banner charged with a St. Andrew's cross erected bend ways, supported by two unicorns languid and regardant, gorged with open imperial crowns. To the last chains affixed, reflected over their backs, and locked to the compartment with old fashioned locks. Below the shield and above the compartment is a small shield, or surtout, with the letters V. R. curiously linked or tied together with a friar's rope of discipline, having a cross in one of the doubles of the rope. And above all, for motto, "In my Defens." The letters are such as we find upon the oldest Scots or English coins, and scarce legible but to those accustomed to such letters.

On the summit of the eminence, a little to the north-west of the green-house, stands a rude obelisk, over which are the ribs of a large crown, in imitation of that over the belfry of the King's College; constructed of vitrified matter, the refuse of a brick-kiln. At a little distance, it has much the appearance of an old ruinous abbey. On the west side of the eminence, is a winding gravel-walk, the borders of which are planted with flowers and shrubs, along the bank of the rivulet; about the middle of this walk you come up with an elegant bathing-room, where, by turning a cock, you may raise the water to what depth you please, or let it run off at the other end.

After ascending a steep acclivity, a little north of the bathing place, we come up with a grotto, or hermitage, adjected to the brow of a rock, which, at a distance, has a fine effect upon the prospect. The hermitage consists of a small room and a closet, beside which there is a cell devoted to serious contemplation; here, besides some natural curiosities, there is a small urn, with a label upon it, in memory of a lady who has been some years dead. The largest apartment has a concave cieling, on which the Copernican system is delineated with talk and other shining substances. The circular side-walls are curiously finished off with shells of various colours and sizes: when candles are lighted up, the room must have a very brilliant appearance. I was much pleased with a belt round the walls, divided into little squares, on each of which is pasted up, in a fair hand, an excerpt of some striking sentimental passage from an author of repute. Such of them as I read, showed a good taste in the person who selected them. The closet is shell-work, prettily ornamented. The outside is of vitrified brick. From this description, you can have but a very faint and imperfect idea of the pleasure I enjoyed in this pretty little romantic place.

If Mr. Leslie has no extensive parks in his domain, he has the pleasure to reflect that his peace is not disturbed by the noisy clamour of fox-hunters and dogs. He enjoys, on a small scale, all that a man of sense would value in a retreat from the noise and bustle of

a town; fine air, pure water, rising shelter; his fields produce bread-corn, his garden, roots, and his milking-pails overflow. In his morning walks, while the ascending vapour is just seen on the mountain top, he inhales fragrance; herbs innumerable emit the treasures of the atmosphere, and flowers of a thousand dyes reflect the golden ray. The happy songsters salute the master of the grove, and fearless of danger, vibrate on the twig, or trip upon the lawn before him. If his presses groan not with the sun-enlivened grapes of France and Italy, he dreads not the all-grasping hand of despotic power; but can say, with just confidence, "This villa is mine." I am, &c.

LETTER XXIII.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

On the north-west of the town, contiguous to Gordon's Hospital, there is a bottom of rich land, where, in former ages, a loch, or large pond of stagnant water stood. This loch was drained by the inhabitants, and the remains of it, on the east, are confined as a reservoir for driving some mills within the town. The lands on the south and south-west are generally of a superior quality to those already described, especially some fields contiguous to the suburb called the Hardgate. In passing to take a view of these lands, I turned up from the Bow-bridge, and had a very pleasant walk on the Denburn. This Den is a deep and broad hollow between two hills, which has a small rivulet in the middle of it.

Though its situation and fine shelter, pointed it out as a place very capable of improvement, it lay neglected as a piece of common pasture, till the year 1757, when the magistrates, at a very considerable expense, made it what it now is. Just above the bridge there is a large semicircular bason, secured by squared stones on the sides, and paved with a gentle slope inwards, for the convenience of watering horses

or other cattle. From the centre of this pond, upward, the stream is confined to a canal, about ten feet wide, the sides of which are lined with cut stones. At short distances the bottom is raised about eighteen inches, and, from one division to another the water falls from a projecting pavement the whole breadth of the canal.

These little cascades must have a very pretty appearance when the rivulet is swelled with heavy rains. At different places wooden bridges, in the Chinese taste, are thrown over from bank to bank. On the east bank, is a broad gravel-walk, for foot passengers, with a lawn on each hand, without which are many neat buildings. About the middle of the walk, we come up with a large house, in which there is a commodious bathing-room, common to the inhabitants, on paying a small gratuity to the person who takes care of it. On the west side, is a narrower gravel-walk, beyond which is an extensive lawn, the common bleachfield of the town's people. The side of a steep precipice on the west is planted with trees and shrubs.

The lands of Ferryhill lie on the banks of the Dee, a little south and south-west of the Hardgate, and, till about twenty years ago, that the community feued them out, were possessed by two tenants who exceedingly neglected them. They chiefly consist of little conical hills, which were generally over-run with heath and furze, while the flat bottoms between them were drenched with stagnant water. The tenants, who rented them low, kept their best grounds in constant tillage, and never once thought of improving the more ordinary.

When these farms were feued out, they fetched a great advance of rent, and fell into the hands of several proprietors. A good share of them were purchased by Mr. Auldjo, of Portlethen, who before had the property of some lands contiguous to them; and upon those he purchased, the greatest improvements have been made. The gentleman had, many years before, erected a large brick and tile-work, and found the rubbish of his kilns a very useful ingredient in the

composition of earth and lime dunghills. By this and other advantages, and his persevering attention, he has made an incredible odds in the appearance and value of his ground. Mr. Simpson, another purchaser, much esteemed for his probity and knowledge, made considerable improvements, but unfortunately died ere he had completed them. Doctor Blackwell, Principal of the Marischal College, purchased a lot, on which he built a small house, but except planting a few pines, made no improvement.

The lands are now the property of his widow, who has re-feued part of them to two gentlemen who are improving them with spirit and judgment. One of them, Mr. Fordyce, has already made out a summer villa; the other, Mr. Ewen, has begun one, which, when the plan is finished, will be very pleasant. On the west and north-west of Ferryhill, lie the farms of Pitmuckston and Ruthrieston, on both which great improvements have been made, though the soil, especially of the last, is very unpromising. Contiguous to these farms, lies a great deal of ground, feued out from Mr. Skene of Rubislaw, which certainly requires all the courage, patience, and perseverance of an Aberdeenshire improver.*

* Abstract of barren ground feued out by the town of Aberdeen, since the year 1747:—

	Acres.
The lower part of the Stocket, in thirteen lots, 5s. per acre, supposed to contain	100
Moor, on the south of Gordon's mills, at 5s. per acre,	100
Upper part of the Stocket, at an average, at 2s. 6d. ditto,	192
Springfield,	30
Cairnery, at 2s.	14
Another lot of ditto, at 5s.	16
Barren ground, supposed to have been on the farms of Whitemires, and Gilahill,	50
To Sir Archibald Grant, and Sir William Johnston, part of which is planted, the rest unimproved,	100
The large planted park on the Stocket,	82
Barren ground improved on the farms of Ferryhill and Cooperston,	30
On the lands of Pitmuckston,	20
On the lands of Ruthrieston,	50
Carried forward	784

Thus I have given you a general view of the improvements in this neighbourhood, which, the soil, and other circumstances considered, are really astonishing. There is neither marle nor lime-stone, in any reasonable quantity, within many miles of the town; nor any manure to depend upon, but street dung, and that made by the cattle on the farm. They import vast quantities of lime from the Earl of Elgin's estate in Fifeshire, which commonly costs them one shilling and fourpence ℔ boll, powdered; and from

	Acres.
Brought forward	784
On the lands of Foresterhill, ...	78
On Barkmill and Clerkseat, ...	10
On Woodside, ...	40
On Auchmull, ...	45
On Froghall, ...	30
On Cotton, ...	46
On Rubislaw, some so high as 26s. per acre, ...	180
On Oldmill, ...	20
On Hazlehead, ...	60
The Provost's-myre, drained, ...	10
Total	1313

Of all this, perhaps, not above forty or fifty acres have been taken in by the plough. Besides the above, there was a great deal of outfield and barren ground on the three farms of Gilcomston, and on the other farms in the freedom, feued out by the town These grounds now let from thirty to fifty shillings the acre, and some at a higher rent.

As I knew that much of this barren ground had been improved by men of business who kept an accurate account of their disbursements, and the returns made by their fields, I wished to give the public a general view of their management at least; but am sorry to observe, that I did not find that liberal spirit of communication that I expected. The man who employs his money, and applies part of his time and attention to the improvement of waste ground, has great merit; but would have still greater, if, with the generous view of promoting such useful undertakings, he pointed out the obstructions he met with from soil, climate, and accidents; and the prudential methods by which, in the end, he surmounted all difficulties. Wherever it is doubted whether an improved spot has made adequate returns, the improver's example acts but weakly as a stimulus to improvement. Though a man's private concerns should be his first care, every good farmer and well-wisher to his country must be happy, by his example and communications, to promote the public good.

two shillings and threepence to three shilling ℔ boll, in shells. The boll contains a hundred and twenty-eight Scots pints, or about sixty-four English gallons, wine measure. If the lime-stone is good, a boll of shells will yield from two and a half to three bolls of powdered lime; and they frequently give eighty bolls of the last to the acre.

There is certainly a pleasure in improving ground, of which none but the *illuminati* are conscious; for after a man has fairly got into the spirit of it, his hopes get entirely the better of his fears; while losses, disappointments, and all the long list of evils to be found in the chapter of accidents, pull back his hand, and Prudence holds fast the strings of his purse, Hope springs aloft, and points to future golden harvests. One rarely goes upon improvements without incurring the censure of the indolent, the timid, and the close-fisted. Perhaps the pride of disappointing their unkind predictions, may excite some men to go greater lengths than they otherwise would have gone. As money is the sinews of war, so it is also of agriculture; the man in straitened circumstances, who commences improver, puts himself in a fair way of being undone, and will find to his cost, "that a bird in hand is worth two flying." Had not some gentlemen in the town of Aberdeen, who were in easy circumstances, turned their thoughts to improvements, the fields in the neighbourhood would have still been what they were fifty years ago.

These improvers have unquestionably great merit, and though some individuals may have suffered, the gain to the public is too evident to be disputed. The improvement of the lands in the neighbourhood of great towns has produced one evil, and it is the only public one with which it is chargeable:—it has induced some landholders, of little consideration, injudiciously to raise their rents in the more remote parts of the country. About towns there are, generally, but a few acres in the occupation of one man, and they are in the highest order; therefore of more account to him than four times the number in the usual state of lands in the country, and at a distance from manure.

He needs neither to keep horses nor servants, but hires people from day to day to do his work; while the country farmer must keep both throughout the year. He has a market at hand, for whatever he can spare, and when he has not work of his own to do, may, every lawful day in the year, be employed by others. Such lands about towns as have been trenched, manured, and brought into high order, are cheaper of fifty shillings the acre, than the general run of land in the country would be at five; so very unequal are the returns.

I am however clearly of opinion, that the lands about towns are too high rented, and that their present rents must fall considerably. They are kept up by the great number of labouring people and working cattle employed in building and manufactures, and when any occasional stagnation of trade happens, or when the spirit of building is spent, they must fall. General good crops have also a tendency to bring down the rents about towns, for when grain and provisions are plentifully poured in from the country, the town farmers reap less advantage from the superior quality and better condition of their lands, than they do when grain and provisions bear a high price. I am, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD ABERDEEN.

OLD ABERDEEN is a burgh of regality, under the government of two baillies and a treasurer, annually chosen. It is pleasantly situated a mile north of the new town, and within half a mile of the sea. In the episcopal times it was the seat of the bishopric, but is now of little account but as the seat of the King's College. The cathedral and houses of the clergy have suffered much by time, but more from the rude attacks of wrong-headed enthusiasts, who thought they did God good service by destroying whatever had a relation to his worship and service.

King Malcolm the Second founded a bishopric at Mortlach, a country parish about thirty miles north-west of this place, in the year 1004, in memory of a signal victory which he there obtained over the Danes. This bishopric was translated to Old Aberdeen, by David the First. In 1163, Matthew Kininmont, bishop of Aberdeen, obtained a new charter from Malcolm the Fourth, with many large donations. This bishop began to build a cathedral, which, being thought too small, was pulled down by another bishop of the same name, in the year 1357, and in its place the one now partly remaining, was built, or rather began to be built, for it was not finished till about eighty years after. This magnificent pile was almost totally destroyed at the reformation by a rascally multitude from New Aberdeen, led on by some zealous reformers from the neighbouring county of Kincardine. That part of it now standing is a hundred and thirty-five feet in length, and sixty-four feet eight inches in breadth, inside measure. It has a noble window in the west end, over which rise two conical stone spires, a hundred and twelve feet high. On the board ceiling of the middle aisle, which is very lofty, are painted, in three columns, forty-eight armorial bearings.*

* The following words are under them: in the first column—"Imperatorie majestatis—Francorum Regis—Hispanarum Regis——Regis Anglorum—Regis Ungarie—Regis Portugalie—Regis Aragonie——Regis Cipre——Regis Navarre——Regis Sicilie—Regis Polonie—Regis Bohemii—Ducis Burbonie—Ducis Gilrie—Urbis Abredonie." In the mid column are the following:—"Pontificis Romani—Sancti And archiepi—Glasguen Archiepi——Dunkelden Episcopi—Gavini Aberdonen——Moravien Episcopi—Rossen Episcopi—Brechinen Episcopi—Cathanin Episcopi—Candide Case Episcopi—Dumblanen Episcopi—Lismoren Episcopi—Orchaden Episcopi——Sodorensis Episcopi—Prioris Sancti Andr—Alme hujus universitatis." In the third column are these:—"Regie Celsitudenis——Sanctissie Margarete—Albanie Ducis—Marchiarum Comitis—Moravi Comitis Radulphi—Douglasie Comitis——Angusii Comitis—Marri Comitis—Sutherlandie Comitis—Crafurdie Comitis—Huntlie Comitis—Archadie Comitis—Erolie Comitis—Mariscallie Comitis—Bochtuile Comitis—Urbis Abredee." On the borders, south and north of these columns, are painted longitu-

There was a grand cross aisle from south to north, with a high tower upon it, furnished with fourteen bells. It was undermined by Oliver Cromwell's soldiers, in taking away stones to build a fort at Aberdeen, and fell down in the month of May 1688; by its fall, the rest of the church was much damaged. This venerable pile, which had suffered so much at the reformation, did not escape the fury of the covenanters in the unfortunate reign of Charles the First. So violent was the zeal of that reforming period against all monuments of idolatry, that, perhaps, the sun and moon, very ancient objects of false worship, owed their safety to their distance. As there was then nothing to be found worth carrying off, the illiberal zealots wreaked their vengeance upon the stones and timber.

The high altar, a piece of the finest workmanship of any thing of the kind in Europe, had till that time remained inviolate, but in the year 1649 was hewed

dinally, the following register: On the south side—"Murchtlatkeēn et Aberdonēn eccliās cathedralis respective condidere pro quibus in hac sacra ede fundate obligantur orare primus Malcomus kenēdi qui Murchtlatkeēn eccleiam pro constituit anno milº quarto cui successit Duncanus cui Malcomus Camoir anno mº lvitº * cui Edgarus cui Alexander cui David scŭs anno mºcºxxiiii qui Murchtlatkeēn eccleiam ad Aberdoniam transtulit cui Malcomus Virgo cui Willms cui Alexander iiº cui Alexander 3º cui Robertus Bruce anno mºccº quadgeº viº † cui David Bruce cui Robertus iiº cui Robertus 3º cui Jacobºi cui Jacobºii cui Jacobºiii cui Jacobºiv cui Jacobºv cui Maria Regina." On the north side:—"Nectanus primus hujus ecclīe pontifex Edwardus ii Matheus Kyninmond iii Johannis prior de Caleo iiii Adam clericus regis Wiili vtº Matheus Cancellarius vitº Gilbertus Strivelin viiº Radulphus Lambley viiiº Petrus Ramsay ixº Richardus xº Hugo Benhame xiº Henricus Chenie xiiº Alexander de Kyninmond xiiiº Willms de la Dyne xiiiiº Johannes de Rait xvº Alexander Kyninmond xviº Adam de Tyninghame xviiº Gilbertus Greenlaw xviiiº Henricus Lychtown xixº Ingeramus Lyndesay xx Thomas Spens xxi Robertus Blaccater xxii Willms Elphynstown universitatis et collegii conditor xxiii Alexander Gordon xxiiii Gavinus Dunbar xxv Willms Stuart xxvi Willms Gordon."

* Malcolm III. was crowned 1057.

† Alexander III. died in 1286, and was succeeded by his grand-daughter, Margaret, called the Maid of Norway, then an infant, who sickened on her passage to Scotland, and died in Orkney in 1290. Bruce was not crowned till 1306.

to pieces, by order and with the aid of the parish minister. The carpenter employed for this infamous purpose, awed by the sanctity of the place, and struck with the noble workmanship, refused to lay a tool on it, till the more than Gothic priest took the hatchet from his hand and struck the first blow. The wainscoting was richly carved and ornamented with different kinds of crowns at top, admirably cut. One of these, large, and of superior workmanship, even staggered the zeal of the furious priest; he wished to save it, perhaps as a trophy over a fallen enemy. Whatever his motive may have been, his hopes were disappointed. While the carpenter rudely hewed down the supporting timbers, the crown fell from a great height, ploughed up the pavement of the church, and flew in a thousand pieces. The man's wishing to save this relic of popery, puts one in mind of Achan and his golden wedge. I could wish the crown to have been saved entire, had there been then a Joshua to punish the offender.

The canons regular had houses and glebes near the cathedral, and livings in the country which they served by curates.* In 1329, when the English set

* The chapter consisted of the following clergymen:—The parson of *St. Machar's* was dean; *Auchterless*, chanter; *Birse*, chancellor of the chapter; in the bishop's absence, he had the chief direction in all church affairs. The parson of *Daviot* was treasurer; *Rain*, archdeacon; *Belhelvie* was next in the order of precedence. The parson of *Oyne*, *pronotarius*, or chief notary, was commonly called *Rome-raker*, because, in cases of necessity, he was obliged to go to Rome for instructions. The parsons of *Mortlach*, *Banchory-Devenick*, *Cruden*, *Clatt*, and *Deer*, (now *Old Deer.*) The twelve above-mentioned were appointed members of the chapter by Richard Pottocht, in 1256, and in 1262, he added the parson of *Crimond*. In 1314, Bishop Cheyne added the parsons of *Lonmay*, *Forbes*, and *Ellon*. Bishop Alexander Kininmont added the parson of *Kincardine*. This parsonage was esteemed the best living in the diocese, having a stipend of two thousand merks. It had the teinds and superiorities of twenty-four ploughs of land, and the customs of several annual fairs. The parson was commonly called Baron of O'Neil. Alexander Kininmont, the second bishop of that name, added to the chapter, the parsons of *Strathdon*, *Philorth*, *Methlic*, *Tullynessle*, and *Drumoak*. Bishop Greenlaw added to it the parson of *Turriff*. Bishop Lychton added the parson of *Kinkell*. To this parsonage,

fire to Aberdeen, which continued to burn for six days, they also burned the bishop's palace, and the houses of the canons, all which were rebuilt by Bishop Spence. The Bishop of Aberdeen's living must have been very considerable, for it stands in the tax-roll, settled in 1674, at one thousand six hundred and sixty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four pennies Scots, valued rent.

Four bishops of this see have been lords high chancellors of Scotland; Matthew Kininmont, in 1226, Gilbert Greenlaw, in 1390, William Elphinston, in 1484, and William Stuart, in 1534. Cardinal Beaton succeeded Bishop Stuart in 1539, and was the last popish clergyman who enjoyed that high office. The only protestant one who ever had it, was John Spottiswood, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, who was chancellor from 1635 to 1638, when he resigned the office. It is remarkable, that from 1198 to 1380, all our chancellors were clergymen; and from the last mentioned period to 1562, the office was held by laymen but forty-four years. A striking proof of the ignorance and barbarity of the times! For had the nobility and gentry got a liberal education, and been taught to set a just value on their rank in life, they could not have borne to see the highest civil office in the state, so long possessed by ecclesiastics.

Probably the riches and great influence of the clergy in those times, gradually brought on that indolence of mind, and depravity of manners, which so generally disgraced the order at the reformation. I could forgive them any thing sooner than their cruel policy in making a monoply of the little learning they had among them. The rank and circumstances of the superior clergy enabled them to keep the best company; but what enjoyment could men of letters have in the conversation of those who could not write their names? When even to read was sufficient merit to save a thief from the gibbet. Could the son of a

belonged the patronage of seven churches; it was annexed to the principality of St. Leonard's College, in St. Andrew's, in 1662, by the interest of Archbishop Sharp. To all these were after added, the parsons of *Coldstone*, *Ruthven*, and *Monymusk*.

noble family, who, with a view to an abbey, a bishopric, or the long robe, had a little education bestowed upon him, see, without pity, his father and elder brother, remain as ignorant as the groom who dressed their horses? We owe it in a high degree to the reformation, that learning is not now confined to cells and cloisters, and that the useful part of the clergy, those who serve the cure, and promote the benign purposes of rational piety, do not, as formerly, depend for a sorry subsistence upon reverend drones who slumber in their stalls. I am, &c.

LETTER XXV.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

THE King's College is a large group of buildings in a quadrangular form, a little backward from the street, and fronts west. On the south side of the square is an old tower, and an uniform range of modern buildings, a hundred and twelve feet long; erected from the fund bequeathed by Doctor Fraser, of whom hereafter. On the east, is Bishop Elphinston's, or the common-hall, on the first floor, above ground; below which are the schools for the different classes; and on the north end of the hall, is a large building, six storeys high, built in the year 1658. On the north, is the college chapel and library, and in front rises a large square tower, over which is the belfry, furnished with five bells; the largest, three feet ten inches over the mouth, and three feet two inches deep.

Over the belfry, is a very curious stone crown, supported by the wide-branching fillets of another. On the south-west corner there is nothing that corresponds with this tower, but the gentlemen have it in view to remedy this defect. On the north of the chapel, is the Principal's manse and garden; on the south, is the college-garden, and backward from the common-hall, stand the Œconomist's lodgings, and the other offices. The common-hall and chapel are covered with

lead, and from the centre of the last springs one of the most elegant small spires that I have ever seen. I here very properly use the term springs, as the spire has no base above the roof; and what still farther excites the idea of vegetation, the sheet-lead is very prettily gathered up about the root of it. Perhaps you may think me too minute in this; I can only say that I went to some distance and enjoyed the prospect of it for a good while. Come and see it, and then blame me.

The common-hall is sixty feet long, and twenty-two feet and a half broad. At the upper end is a picture, not an original, of Bishop Elphinston, the founder. There is also a picture of Bishop Forbes, and many other good originals by Jamieson. Here, while a public table was kept in the college, the students eat at two tables; the one of them at a higher price than the other, at which one of the professors always presided. The library is a noble room, fifty-eight feet long, and twenty-nine feet four inches broad. It is nearly the one-half of the church, of which the chapel may be called the choir, and very high in the roof. In the west end is a large Gothic window, and from the centre of the wall below begins a screw-stair, spreading to both sides of the room, and leading to the galleries, which occupy the whole length, and go across the east end. The bottom of them is fourteen feet four inches above the floor of the room, they are four feet ten inches deep, and the shelves of the book-presses are one foot and three inches. The ballusters, or side-rails, are very handsome, and from the great length of the room, and their high position, have a wonderfully light appearance. Above the books, on the east end, is some very curious carved work on the boards which divide the library from the chapel, to humour which, the cross gallery has ancient rails; but, in my opinion, they neither look well, nor at all correspond with the modern ones. The books, which are very numerous, and many of them curious, are arranged in excellent order, both in and below the galleries. A catalogue of them lies upon a table. The university of Aber-

deen has a legal right to one copy of every book entered in Stationers' Hall; all which books are the common property of both colleges.

The chapel, which is sixty-four feet long, and twenty-nine feet four inches broad, is in every particular, as entire as the day it was finished; which I believe can be justly said of few old churches or chapels in Great Britain. On the west end, the stalls and back linings on the side-walls are wainscot, and richly ornamented with most accurate carved work. On the east of these are a parcel of modern pews, for the occasional accommodation of the clergy, as clumsy as the most orthodox presbyterian could desire. At the upper end, just before where the altar stood, is a black marble gravestone, raised about three feet above the floor, to the memory of Bishop Elphinston. And on the north wall is a tablet of black marble, with a Latin inscription, to the memory of Mr. Henry Scougal, son of Patrick Scougal, Bishop of Aberdeen, in King Charles the Second's time. This gentleman was four years professor of philosophy in the King's College, one year pastor of Auchterless, and four years minister of Old Aberdeen, and professor of divinity. Blush indolence, to hear that he died in the twenty-eighth year of his age! How much usefulness was here crowded into little room!

Mr. Scougal was the author of an excellent little tract, called The Life of God in the Soul of Man, which, in his own lifetime, was published by Doctor Gilbert Burnet, after Bishop of Salisbury. This, in England, is commonly called Burnet's Life of God, because the bishop published it, with a recommendatory preface. He was also the author of nine occasional discourses, which, with a sermon preached at his funeral, by Doctor George Garden, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, were published about the year 1730. Mr. Scougal died in 1678, and seems to have been sent into the world to teach, rather than to learn. His writings are exceedingly valued for the easy flow and correctness of the style, and the piety and liberality of the sentiment. Though there is a beautiful simplicity in his manner, there is at the

same time a force and emphasis in his expression, a purity in his language, and a propriety in his metaphors, which we shall rarely find in any writer of that age, Scotch or English.

There is a tradition that Mr. Scougal was fond of a young lady, and met with a disappointment in love; which may have partly contributed to give his mind that ascetic turn, and cool indifference to the pleasures and pursuits of others at his time of life. Mr. Pope has very justly observed, that "in the human breast, some master passion, like Aaron's serpent, swallows up the rest." And surely that love of benevolence which embraces the whole rational creation, and stretches forth to the uncreated beauty, is more than a full compensation for the neglect of the fairest daughter of Eve. There is a fine picture of this amiable young man in the college hall, in which one traces with pleasure that composure, sweet sensibility, and great goodness of heart, for all which he was so remarkably distinguished.

Philosophy and the liberal sciences had been long taught in Old Aberdeen, before Bishop Elphinston was happy in the grand idea of founding a college there. There was a *Studium generale in collegio canonicorum*, with doctors and professors of divinity, and of the civil and canon laws, so early as 1121, in the reign of King Alexander II. Bishop Elphinston's foundation was at first called the College of the Blessed Mary, but since James IV. took it into his own protection, it has been distinguished by the appellation it now has, the King's College. Its arms, or insignia, are a flower-pot, with an open book upon it, and lilies springing up. A pretty enough device, to insinuate that the way to learning is open, and that, without culture, the mind cannot produce the useful fruits of science; at least, that by careful culture, the finest natural parts may be improved. Pope Alexander the VI. by his bull, dated at Rome, 4th February, 1494, confirmed by a charter from King James the IV. conferred upon this college all the privileges that any other university of that time enjoyed, and particularly all those enjoyed by the universities of Paris and Bononia.

At the king's desire, he also bestowed upon the college, for the maintenance of the doctors and professors, the rents and revenues of the Hospital of St. Germain's, in Lothian, which consisted chiefly in the tithes of the parishes of Aberluthnot, Glenmuick, and Glengairn; with many small annuities payable out of lands and houses in different parts of Lothian, Fife, Angus, Mearns, and Aberdeenshires; of all which Bishop Elphinston obtained possession, in name of the college, by the resignation of Thomas Pyot, master of the said hospital, and of the curates of the above-mentioned churches. In 1498, the king bestowed upon the college many other tithes of lands in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, and confirmed all its privileges granted by the pope. His majesty appointed the sheriff of Aberdeen, or his depute, the provost of Aberdeen, the bishop of Aberdeen, and his bailiff in the city of Old Aberdeen, conservators of its privileges, with as full powers and jurisdiction as had been granted to the conservators of the university of Paris, or any other university. About the year 1500, Bishop Elphinston built the fabric, and assigned to the professors and students their lodgings and accommodations. He first founded thirty-six persons, and after increased the number to forty-two.

At the Reformation, most of the professors were deprived of their office for their adherence to popery, and some of their places suppressed. There only remained the principal, the sub-principal, three regents, a grammarian, or humanist, and a few philosophy bursars. A new foundation was drawn up in 1592, after the model of those made for St. Andrew's and Glasgow, which continued in force till about the year 1620, that Bishop Forbes obtained a renovation of the original foundation, which he got ratified in parliament. Several of the original members were then restored, such as the canonist, civilist, and mediciner. This restored foundation has been ratified by several acts of parliament, and still continues in force. The bishops of Aberdeen were chancellors, *ex officio;* the principal is always to be a doctor of

divinity; the regents, or professors, are to remain unmarried, and to hold their office but four years.

The two last rules have been long dispensed with; however convenient a resting place a professor's chair might be for an expectant of the ministry, more than four years practice seems necessary to qualify a professor for discharging successfully the important trust of instructing youth in the principles of philosophy and science. At least, by longer practice, and continued attention, the peculiar duties of this branch will become more easy and familiar to himself, and consequently he may with greater perspicuity point them out to his pupils. The learned Mr. Hector Boyes, or Bœthius, a native of the county of Angus, was the first principal. He had, for some time, been a professor in the university of Paris, before Bishop Elphinston invited him home to take this charge upon him. His stipend was no more than forty merks, (two pounds four shillings and fivepence one-third sterling.) He wrote a history of Scotland to the reign of James the First, which was continued down to the reign of James the Sixth, by Ferarius, a monk of Pluscardy.

The principal, and original professors, have the privilege of electing their own members, but in this right the additional professors have no share.* On the abolition of episcopacy in 1690, and the forfeiture of the Earl Marischal in 1715, the crown became superior of both the Aberdeen colleges, but has not hitherto interfered in the election of a chancellor to either of them. His majesty however nominates the principal and professors of the Marischal College, except the professors of divinity and mathematics, who are presented by the town of Aberdeen, and the professor of Oriental languages, who is presented by

* From a list of the funds taken in 1705, it appears that the King's College had then paid to it annually, two hundred and sixty-nine bolls one firlot three pecks and a half of bear; two hundred and sixteen bolls two firlots and one quarter of a peck oatmeal; and four thousand two hundred and fifty-five pounds seven shillings and seven pennies Scots, in money.

Sir Alexander Ramsay, of Balmain, baronet; the professor of divinity in the King's College, is elected by the synod of Aberdeen. This college has, at present, no rector; the Earl of Bute is rector of the Marischal College. One of the professors is annually chosen procurator, for the inspection of the public funds, which, of late, have, by good management, been considerably augmented. Both this and the Marischal College have the property of some ground in the neighbourhood, called the glebes of the original professors, the rents of which are now thrown into the common fund.*

The King's College had, till lately that they sold them, and threw the price into the common fund, the patronage or right of presentation to several churches in this and the neighbouring county. I have heard the gentlemen of the university blamed for this, especially for renouncing the right of choosing the ministers they themselves were to hear; and I have heard them very sufficiently vindicated. In my opinion, they merited the thanks of the General Assembly. It was paying a high, and I hope a just compliment to the church of Scotland, to suppose that her presbyteries would license no man to preach the gospel who was not sufficiently qualified for discharging that important trust; in which case, present him who will, every body might hear him. Patronages are of the nature of those heritable rights which were annihilated by the jurisdiction act; little was to be got by retaining them, but a round sum by parting with them.

It indeed seems very proper, that learned bodies should have it in their power to do justice to neglected merit; I am persuaded some of them set a high value on the privilege. But may we not, without offence, suppose that even academicians may be sometimes influenced by private views? that where a relation, a friend, or acquaintance, is to be served, the real merit

* This wise regulation saves a great deal of trouble to individuals; and an equal distribution of the accressed fund is a prudent and most equitable way to bring the different livings more upon a parity.

of the candidates is but a secondary consideration? If the exertion of this right had produced feuds and animosities in the society, and was likely to produce them in future, most certainly the gentlemen did well in parting with it. Setting aside the consideration of the price received, (the aid of which their funds really needed), it was putting it in the power of individuals to oblige their friends, or do justice to merit, without control; it was in fact saying to the purchasers, "Do that, as private men, which we, as a society, cannot do without disobliging our friends, and hurting our own peace."

The session of the college is during the same period with that of the Marischal College, and the masters and students wear gowns of the same colour and make; only the students' gowns here have a close sleeve, below the entry for the arm. I am, &c.

LETTER XXVI.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

ABOUT eight years ago, Mr. William Ogilvie, professor of humanity, began of his own accord to put together a collection of specimens for a museum of natural history, in the King's College, and has now fitted up, and furnished three apartments for their arrangement. The professor reckons he has already nearly obtained the first object he had in view, which was, to procure such an assortment of specimens of fossils, and in the various branches of zoology, as might serve to excite the liberal curiosity of youth, and make them, in some measure, acquainted with the immense variety of the works of nature.

He proposes still to go on, enlarging the museum, as new acquisitions come to hand; but without pretending to adorn it with splendid and costly specimens. In the progress already made, he acknowledges himself to be much indebted to the assistance of many respectable people in the country around; and

modestly says, that his own trouble has not been so great as it may appear. One is astonished to find so large a collection of birds, fishes, marbles, spars, &c. accumulated in so short a space. Among other things there is a very pretty humming-bird in its nest. It is not to be doubted but every young gentleman educated in the college will cheerfully contribute his aid to an institution by which the knowledge of natural history may be so much promoted, and the multiform wisdom of the Creator so forcibly illustrated. Many students emigrate into foreign climes, in prosecution of their various professions, so that we have reason to hope for a great enlargement of this design. On the south side of the square are a range of piazzas, and backward a long suite of apartments, for such of the masters and students as choose to live in the college. Several of the professors have manses without the gates, and two very handsome ones have been lately built adjoining to the west wall of the garden. I refer you to Mr. Pennant's Tour, for a more particular account of the books and manuscripts in the library, and of the pictures in the common hall.

In the year 1755, an union of this and the Marischal College was projected, but did not take effect. The professors of the college to be sunk, were to enjoy their salaries for life, and to have the eventual succession, each in his branch; but the insurmountable difficulty was, which of these seats of learning should be annihilated? Every thing else might have been amicably adjusted, but this never could. The gentlemen of the King's College contended that, as theirs was the first erection, and by much the largest and most commodious edifice—the most retired, and consequentlyt he most proper place for study—it ought to be the seat of the university.

On the other hand, the gentlemen of the Marischal College, and the town of Aberdeen which has an interest in it, could not think of having their college sunk, and the seat of learning fixed in Old Aberdeen. It was admitted that, of the two, theirs was the meanest edifice, but, it was said, it might be improved and enlarged. There was at that time a public table

kept in the King's College, and it was argued, that the people of Aberdeen would never send their children to board and lodge out of their own families. It was farther pleaded, that in the town of Aberdeen, the students had better opportunities of seeing company at their spare hours, and could more conveniently attend those branches of education not taught in the college.

To all which it was replied by the King's College, that the reparation and enlargement of the other edifice would amount to a very considerable sum, for which there was no fund; that were the King's College to be sold, it would fetch but a very low price, as in Old Aberdeen no trade nor manufactures were carried on; and that were the college removed from it, a place, the ancient seat of the bishopric, and so long the nursery of philosophy and the liberal sciences, would become a perfect desart. But, in New Aberdeen, where many manufactures were already established, and more projecting every year, the property of houses and ground was very valuable; it was therefore said, that the Marischal College would fetch a high price. It was observed, that if the inhabitants of New Aberdeen wished to give their children an university education, they could not think much of sending them an English mile to receive it.

With regard to the public table which had been lately introduced into the college, it was said, that it was but a trial, to see what effect a return to the ancient manner of living would produce in the students, and should it not be found to produce the good effects hoped for, it might be discontinued. That in the mean time, the students from New Aberdeen might have a dispensation to return to their parents' houses every night, or to board in the town at large. It was remarked that, during the session of college, young gentlemen generally thought they had enough to learn within its walls; that the other branches of education were commonly the employment of the vacation, and that the students of the King's College were not restrained from visiting their friends in New Aberdeen, nor from being occasionally present at public assemblies.

As both parties might have naturally foreseen these difficulties in the way, and as each of them was resolved not to yield the seat of the college, it is astonishing how they came to submit the matter. But so it was, that a formal submission was entered into, by which the present Earl of Findlater's grandfather, then chancellor of the King's College, was empowered finally to determine. His lordship took a great deal of pains to bring the parties to an agreement, or some kind of compromise, but finding this impossible, and not choosing to serve either of them against their inclination, he suffered the time limited in the submission to elapse.

Had the union taken place, the next step would have been to have applied for an act of parliament to confirm it, with consent of the patrons of the several bursaries. A second attempt was made in 1770, to bring about a junction of these colleges, upon a more liberal plan, but neither did it take effect. In this plan, the great remora to the former one was effectually removed. The leading objects of it were, in the first place, to excite in the students a greater spirit of study and application, by bringing together greater numbers in the same classes. This is well known, by the experience of other universities, to increase the ardour and diligence of the students, not less than it may be supposed to animate the exertions of their teachers. In the second place, by assigning new departments to one of each of the double offices, to provide a complete establishment of professors in philosophy, divinity, medicine, and law, all obliged to teach, and also encouraged, by the probability of numerous classes, to exert their best abilities and assiduity in teaching.

The establishment of Glasgow was considered as a model to be adopted, with the addition, however, of distinct professorships of chemistry, botany, and natural history. In the present disjoined state of the colleges, it would be to no purpose to open classes of medicine or law in either of them; yet the great numbers of young men that are bred to both professions, and the great distance from Edinburgh, the

principal school of each, together with the advantage of an excellent infirmary for the students of medicine, seem to encourage, and even to require it. If in the college of Glasgow, medical and law classes are well attended, and prove of no small utility to the youth of the western counties, there seems reason to hope that they might flourish here also, and be found of like utility to a more extensive country, more remote from Edinburgh, and which is supposed to breed, at least, an equal number of young men to the profession of medicine, and far greater numbers to that of law.

It was supposed also, that, by opening a greater number of classes, and exciting the professors, by a greater concourse of students, to the utmost exertion of their abilities, the more ingenious part of the students might be induced to continue their residence in the university after taking a degree in arts, to attend repeated courses of lectures, and to prosecute their studies in various branches, beyond that superficial and merely elementary education, with which they are at present contented.

With respect to the seat, it was proposed to compromise the opposite pretensions, by retaining both buildings, and appointing one half of the professors to reside and teach in the King's College, the other half in the Marischal College; all public ceremonies were to have been performed in the chapel and hall of the King's College. The theological classes, together with those which are attended by the younger students only, might have been properly stationed in the retirement of the old town; law, medicine, and those higher branches of philosophy, which gentlemen engaged in business, and not desirous of a complete academical education, might frequently choose to attend, would have been taught with most advantage in New Aberdeen. In the plan of 1755, an augmentation of salaries, by suppressing eight of the present professors, and by the sale of buildings, was said to be the principal object in view; but in this plan it was proposed, that the emoluments of the professors should arise chiefly from the fees or honoraries of their classes; and should bear proportion to the

assiduity they bestowed, and the reputation they might acquire; and though a small augmentation might, in process of time, have arisen from the suppression of two or three unnecessary offices, it was to have been a fixed rule, that no salary should, at any time, be raised above one hundred pounds sterling. The principals, who teach no class, and the professors of the divinity classes, who can have no emoluments from theirs, were to have been excepted from this rule. These outlines of the plan were canvassed and digested by the two colleges, and communicated to their respective chancellors, to persons of principal influence in the town council of Aberdeen, and to several gentlemen of the most reputable characters in the county. They met with approbation from all; nor was it apprehended that many difficulties would arise in adjusting the detail of particular claims and interests. It happened, however, that in the instant when this scheme was about to be brought into public discussion, some obstacles presented themselves, of such a nature as rendered it necessary to postpone the whole for that time. It may be hoped, notwithstanding, that a plan which seems so much to favour the improvement of education, and the increase of learning in this part of the nation, will never be finally relinquished by any who are capable of understanding, and setting a just value upon such objects.

As the first plan was so public as to be printed, I have given the real, or supposed objections made to it; but as the last came only under the discussion of the two learned bodies, and a few private gentlemen to whom they chose to communicate their intentions, it would be indecent in me to enter upon the difficulties which prevented the completion of it. I shall only observe, that sensible men may see the same matters in very different lights. I hope however to be pardoned when I say, that I could have heartily wished this junction to have taken effect, and will venture to foretell that, sooner or later, such a plan will succeed.

There may be many reasons for an union of the colleges which do not occur to me, but these, I think, are obvious; the instructors of youth have a most

important character to support, it therefore seems necessary that their appointments should set them above dependance, and bear a due proportion to the increased expense of living. There are a great many bursaries in the colleges, some of them under three pounds a-year, and by much the greater number not exceeding six. At the periods they were founded, these small sums were a moderate aid to young men, because the expense of books, instruments, and all the necessaries of life, was much less than now. The gentlemen of the King's College have already, much to their credit, abridged the number of the bursaries in their gift, by doubling some of the lesser ones; and on a junction of the colleges, many more might be united; thus would lads of genius have a more suitable encouragement to proceed in their studies. And the abolishing of sinecures, and establishment of new professorships, would do honour to the country, and be beneficial to society.

In the present age, find a reasonable appointment for them, and you can be at no loss to find sufficiently qualified professors in all the branches of polite education; and wherever an able professor is established, there will always be scholars found. In a county so large and opulent as that of Aberdeen, a man of genius, regularly bred to the law, might reckon upon a numerous class; and would find many ready to consult him as a chamber-counsellor. Were such a one settled in a professor's chair, and to give a few annual lectures on the constitution of Great Britain, in a place where so many of the inhabitants have had the advantage of a liberal education, he would find many auditors without the precincts of the college. I am, &c.

LETTER XXVII.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

IT has been questioned whether the cheapness of a college education has been an advantage to the

people of Scotland, as it has induced some to put children to the university, who might have been more usefully employed in acquiring the knowledge of trade and manufactures. "Many," it is said, "who had no taste for letters, have mis-spent their time, acquired a habit of idleness, and, in the end, turned out dunces or pedants. Thus, though the expense was low, it was all thrown away, and a great deal of valuable time lost."

I should not be surprised to hear a selfish manufacturer talking in this stile, who would be happy to see all the children in the county, but his own, locked up in a court, picking old ropes, if he could get a farthing a week by each of them; but men of liberal sentiments think more respectfully of whatever has a tendency to enlarge and illuminate the human mind. When lads are naturally disqualified for learning, or do not attend to their education, it is no doubt the wisest thing their parents can do to put them to some manual occupation; but when one can afford the expense, and sees his son profiting, the agreeable hopes of his turning well out, and raising himself in the world, will totally eclipse the dirty view of a little present advantage which might arise from his labour.

When one considers the numbers that in this country are employed in the professions of divinity, law, and physic, in each of which a liberal education is necessary, he can scarce think the low price of education a disadvantage. In all these branches, great numbers are the sons of gentlemen of small fortunes; of clergymen who have poor livings, and numerous families; of shopkeepers, artificers, farmers, and others in the lowest ranks of life. If education had been expensive, where must these have been educated? or how could the different learned departments have been supplied? That so many of the middling and lower ranks are bred to the liberal professions may, in some cases, occasion a certain bluntness and rusticity of manner, where one would not wish to find it, but this inconvenience, which is by no means general, is more than compensated by the greater care gene-

rally taken of their moral principles, in the early period of life.

When youth have been indulged in great liberties at home, and taught to set an overvalue on the advantages of birth and fortune, they have been rarely found to bestow much labour on the cultivation of their minds and manners, when put to the university. They are too apt to depend less upon their personal merit than their interest. A sober education is the most solid foundation for rising in the world; and it may be laid down as a maxim, that he who knows not what it is to feel a strait, will never set a just value upon abundance.

In the list of the benefactors of the King's College, Doctor James Fraser, of London, holds a respectable rank, for his gratitude to his *Alma mater*. Besides many presents of valuable books, he gave it, at different times, after the year 1720, above twelve hundred pounds sterling; for rebuilding the library, erecting the new buildings on the south side of the square, and as a fund for two bursaries; one of philosophy, another of divinity. As a mark of their gratitude and esteem, the faculty conferred upon him the degree of *Juris Utriusque Doctor*, in the year 1725.

This gentleman was the son of Mr. Alexander Fraser, minister of Petty, near Inverness; and in the year of King Charles the Second's restoration, entered student in the King's College; being then in his fifteenth year. Four years after, he took the degree of Master of Arts, and went into England to push his fortune. Being an excellent scholar and well recommended, he was intrusted with the care of several young men of quality, with whom he travelled into different parts of Europe. One of his pupils was the eldest son of the Earl of Berkeley.

In this line he had acquired so great a character, that Charles the Second appointed him preceptor to the Duke of St. Alban's, and named him first secretary of Chelsea Hospital; *Collegij celeberrimi Regij Rigij Hospitalis Chelsœensis a secretis primus*. He held this office during the reigns of King James the Second, William and Mary, Queen Anne, and King George

the First, and though the last mentioned prince excused him from discharging the duties of his office, yet, in respect of his great merit and advanced age, he enjoyed the salary till the 26th of May, 1731, when he died, in the eighty-sixth year of his age; having seen ten different persons at the head of the British government.

By the death of a younger brother, he succeeded to a considerable legacy, and besides the emoluments of his office, enjoyed several annuities from the young gentlemen who had been under his care in the earlier part of his life. These funds, managed with prudence and economy, enabled him not only to provide liberally for his family, which consisted of two sons, and two daughters, but also to gratify his ardent desire of doing good to mankind at large. The advancement of religion and literature seem to have been the favourite objects of his mind. He gave, at different times, six hundred guineas to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and bequeathed several sums to the town of Inverness. Upon what stock did this gentleman begin the world? Education and good principles. Hence appears the great importance of both in the conduct of life.

From the laudable zeal which Doctor Fraser expressed for the Christian religion, and the grateful returns he made to this country, and the place of his education, may we not infer the great propriety of conscientious diligence in the instructors of youth? When the salutary truths of religion, the principles of good government, and the dictates of sound philosophy, are carefully impressed upon the minds of youth, they have generally a strong influence on their future lives. An intelligent professor will easily discover the early shoots of virtue, and if he has the least spark of goodness or moral worth in him, it will be his sincere wish and constant endeavour to cherish and cultivate them.

Many of its pupils have done honour to this seminary of learning; few of them more than Mr. George Gordon, second son of Sir John Gordon, of Haddo, beheaded by the covenanters, at Edinburgh, in the

year 1644, for his steady adherence to the interests of King Charles I. Certainly, without intending it, the party did honour to Sir John's memory, by calling one of their churches, not then used as a place of worship, Haddo's Hole, or Hold; by which name it is still distinguished. Here the gentleman was confined, till the covenanters thought proper to dispose of him in their own way.

His son, George, was the pupil of Mr. John Strachan, professor in the King's College, esteemed one of the politest gentlemen and best scholars of the age; but, on account of his political principles, obnoxious to the ruling party. By the constitution of the college, the students are chiefly employed the first session in the study of the Greek and Latin languages; and when, in the second, they enter into the lowest philosophy class, the same professor carries them through that and the two succeeding sessions, which complete their academical course; at the end of which he confers the degree of Master of Arts upon such of his class as desire it, if after a private and public examination in the principles of science and philosophy, they are found to merit that distinction.

Mr. Strachan being to confer this degree upon his class, published, as the custom was, a thesis, to which the famous Andrew Cant, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, and another Cant, a professor in the Marischal College, objected, as containing positions favouring popery. Strachan, not in the least intimidated by the challenge, publicly declared his intention of supporting his thesis against all opposition; and with this view a public disputation was appointed to be held in the cathedral; where, in a numerous audience, the professor acquitted himself with so much reputation, that he covered his opponents with shame and reproach. He was, however, so much shocked with the attack, and the illiberal manner in which the Cants had managed the dispute, that next day, with the consent of the college, he resigned his gown in favour of his late pupil, Mr. George Gordon, who thus became a professor, the day after he ceased to be a student.

Mr. Strachan went abroad, studied physic, took the degree of Doctor, and died rector of the Scotch College at Paris. Whether he really favoured popery, while in the King's College, or if his contempt of the Cants and their adherents, made him only the more easily seduced after he went into France, it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty. One thing, however, is past a doubt, that most men are too apt to make an estimate of religious parties from the vices and bad tempers of individuals, than which nothing can be more unjust. Men of honour, in all parties, put the best construction they will bear upon the conduct and principles of others, and, till a man, by overt acts, declares himself to be their enemy, will charitably hope that he is their friend; at least so far their friend, that he would not injure them in their civil rights.

Professor Strachan must have resigned his gown in or before the year 1658, for in that year Mr. Gordon's name, with those of Principal Row and two other professors, was put over the entry to the high building on the east side of the square, where it still stands. He took up a class, carried it through the academical course, conferred the degree of Master of Arts, and, as his predecessor had done, gave up his place. He then applied himself assiduously to the study of the civil law, both at home and abroad, and a few years after he had left the college, entered advocate, or counsellor, in the Court of Session. In the second parliament of King Charles II. he was elected representative for the county of Aberdeen, having, in 1665, succeeded his eldest brother, Sir John, in the estate and baronage. The then unsettled state of public affairs, under the unpopular administration of the Duke of Lauderdale, furnished a noble opportunity for the display of genius; and, in all matters that came before parliament, Sir George acquitted himself with so much spirit, prudence, and good sense, that he was soon taken notice of by the ministry; the loyalty and recent sufferings of his family gave additional weight to his pretensions, and set his personal merit in the most favourable point of view.

The first step of his preferment was being admitted a member of the privy council. He was soon after made one of the Lords of Session, and had been but one year on the bench when he was made president of that supreme court. Being at London in 1682, he was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, but, for political reasons, his preferment was kept secret. He came down to Scotland in the same ship with the Duke of York, and as the vessel was about to sink, when every body on board strove to get into the long-boat, the duke is said to have called aloud, "Take care of the chancellor;" by which friendly exclamation, the secret of the ministry was blown. In the same year, he was created Earl of Aberdeen. It reflects much credit upon the memory of this great man, that, while other young gentlemen were wasting their time, and running out their constitutions in riot and dissipation, he was industriously cultivating his mind, and improving the great talents with which nature had so liberally endowed him.* I remark it with pleasure, that his lordship long enjoyed the reputation so justly due to his great qualities. He died at Aberdeen in 1720, in the eighty-third year of his age, and was succeeded by his son William, father to the present earl.

The late universally esteemed Doctor John Gregory was some years professor of medicine in this college, and a public blessing to the poor people of Old Aberdeen, who derived from his humanity and professional

* The great Lord Stair was some years a professor in the university of Glasgow, where he probably acquired, and certainly improved, that talent for strict investigation so remarkably displayed in his Institutions of the Scotch Law. In his early years, his lordship served in the army; and one forenoon, as he marched into Glasgow, having observed a program on the college-gate, intimating that there was to be a competition for a professorship that day, as soon as the men were dismissed, he walked up to the college in his boots, declared himself a candidate, and carried the place. That our peerage writers take no notice of these facts, I must impute to their not having heard of them; for I will not suppose the descendants of these noble lords such enemies to their fame, as to wish facts to be concealed which do so much honour to their memory.

knowledge, every advantage they could have hoped. Perhaps the skilful physician, the man of genius, and the humble sincere Christian, were never more happily blended in one character. Though he had every rational gratification within his reach, he could have had no enjoyment, had he believed that the meanest human being suffered an inconvenience in his power to remove. He was called to the university of Edinburgh, where he had an opportunity of being more generally useful to society; and with persevering diligence applied himself to the improvement of medical knowledge. While the friends of society regretted his early death, they had this to console them, that he had left to his family and country the credit of a character which will flourish, fresh and fair, to a very remote posterity. I am, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD ABERDEEN CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

THE King's College lies under the highest obligations to three bishops of Aberdeen; William Elphinston, its generous founder;* Gavin Dunbar, its great

* Bishop Elphinston was born in Glasgow, in the year 1437. His father was a younger son of the family of Elphinston, and the root of the Elphinstons of Blythswood, in Renfrewshire. He was bred to merchandise, and only entered into holy orders after he had become a widower. He was first made rector of Kirkmichael, and after archdeacon of Tiviotdale, in which station he died, in 1486, two years after his son had been Bishop of Aberdeen. The bishop's first preferment was the rectory of Kirkmichael, in the city of Glasgow, which he gave up four years after, and went to France to study the civil and canon law. He commenced doctor of both, and came to be of so great repute that he was chosen professor of laws, first in the university of Paris, and after at Orleans. After he had been nine years abroad, he returned to his native country, in 1471, at the request of his friends, especially of Bishop Muirhead, who made him parson of Glasgow, and officiar of his diocese. The university, in testimony of its respect, made him its rector. He was made Bishop of Aberdeen in 1484, and enjoyed that benefice till the 25th of

patron and benefactor;* and Patrick Forbes, the restorer of its constitution.† As there is something singular in the history of the last gentleman, I shall furnish you with the outlines of it.

Having discovered an early turn for letters, his father sent him to the grammar-school of Stirling, of which Mr. Thomas Buchanan, nephew to the celebrated George Buchanan, was then rector. From Stirling he went to the university of Glasgow, where he studied philosophy under the care of the famous Mr. Andrew Melville, his relation, who being called to the new college of St. Andrew's, Mr. Forbes accompanied him, and assiduously applied to the study of divinity and the Hebrew language, in both which he made a rapid progess, and conducted himself with so much prudence and reputation, that he was warmly urged to take the charge of a professorship in that college. But his father, then far advaneed in years, called him home, and wished him to settle.

October, 1514, when he died in the seventy-seventh year of bis age. He was honoured with several public embassies by his sovereign, and enjoyed the highest civil offices in the state, with great reputation. He was appointed chancellor in 1484, and enjoyed the office about ten years. He wrote the lives of some saints, and a history of Scotland, which are still extant, in manuscript, in the Bodleian library.

* Bishop Dunbar was the son of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock, by Jane, eldest daughter of the Earl of Sutherland. He was Dean of Moray in 1488, and after having filled several honourable stations with applause, was made Bishop of Aberdeen in 1518. He expended a large sum in building the bridge of Dee, which had been projected by Bishop Elphinston; and, in 1531, left a small estate for its support. He founded and endowed an hospital for twelve poor men near the cathedral. Over the gate is the following inscription:—*Per executores;* and on the south side of the oratory,—*Duodecim pauperibus domum hanc Reverendus Pater Gavinus Dunbar, hujus almæ sedis quondum pontifex, ædificare jussit anno a Christo nato* 1532, Θεῳ δοξα. He died on the 9th day of March, in the same year.

† In the year 1476, the bishop's grandfather (great-grandson of James, the second Lord Forbes, by his wife Lady Egidia Keith, daughter of William, first Earl Marischal), obtained from King James III. a charter on the barony of O'Niel, in Aberdeenshire, comprehending the lands of Coull, Kingcraigie, and Corse.

He married Lucrece Spence, daughter of Spence of Ormiston, and lived at his house near Montrose, till his father died, when he moved his family to Corse. His great learning, piety, and prudence, soon recommended him to the esteem and affection of the gentlemen and clergy in the neighbourhood. As he had an opulent fortune, and was of a social disposition, he had many visitors; but his house was never the scene of riot or debauchery. On the Sunday, he explained the holy scriptures to his own family and others who chose to attend; and as at that time some churches in the neighbourhood were without ministers, owing to the angry disputes then carried on in regard to church government, for their part in which some ministers had been imprisoned, and others banished, the country people had to go a great way to hear sermon, which was extremely inconvenient in bad weather and short days. Mr. Forbes's exemplary piety, his great knowledge of divinity, and the moderation of his temper, pointed him out to the clergy of that presbytery as one extremely fit for the ministerial office. They therefore pressed him to enter into holy orders, and take the charge of the parish. Though he did not comply with this request, he was willing to do all the good he could in a private station, and with that view frequently explained the scriptures in the church nearest to his own house, much to the comfort and edification of his audience. Doctor Blackburn, then Bishop of Aberdeen, and the whole clergy of the diocese, still pressed him to take holy orders, but without effect; the weight of the ministerial office and the complexion of the times deterred him. He however continued, occasionally, to instruct the country people, till, upon some invidious complaints, he was interdicted by Gladstanes, Archbishop of St. Andrew's. He gave prompt obedience to the metropolitan's order, and, for seven years after, only explained the scriptures to his own family.

In the year 1612, a melancholy accident happened at Keith, a village thirty miles north of Aberdeen. The minister of the parish, formerly esteemed a man of

piety and worth, became low-spirited, and cut his own throat; but not so as to occasion immediate death. The unfortunate man, quickly sensible of the crime he had committed, earnestly begged that the laird of Corse might be sent for, of whose humanity, piety, and knowledge, he had the highest opinion. His request was complied with, and though Mr. Forbes lived at a considerable distance, he very readily undertook the unpleasant journey.

His pious and sensible conversation was of infinite service to the poor minister, who lived for some time, and by his exemplary penitence partly wiped off the stain he had rashly brought upon his order. Justly apprehensive that what he had done would hurt the interests of religion, he felt exceedingly for his parishioners, and, by the mercies of God, and in the bowels of Jesus Christ, earnestly beseeched the laird of Corse to enter into holy orders, and take the charge of their souls. In this request, the whole parish, and all the clergy in the neighbourhood concurred. Unable to resist such an extraordinary call, Mr. Forbes took orders, and was summarily ordained minister of Keith, where he continued a most diligent and exemplary pastor till the year 1618, when, without the remotest application on his part, he was made Bishop of Aberdeen.

As a fervent desire to promote the present and future happiness of mankind was his ruling passion, the rank and emoluments of a bishop were of no esteem with him, farther than they might enable him to be more generally useful. The same sanctity of manners; the same fervent zeal for the interests of piety; and the same abstraction from the world, which had distinguished his private life, were conspicuous in his episcopal character. He was a constant preacher, and most exemplary in the visitation of his diocese; the friend and patron of every regular well behaved clergyman, but the terror of the loose and disorderly. Wherever he found any such, and if they were in his diocese, they could not escape his eye; if they did not amend by private admonition, he

suspended them from their charge, and when it became necessary, deposed them, and obliged the patrons to present others to their livings.

Where he found a parish incommodiously large, he had it divided, and another church built; but always opposed the uniting of two or more parishes into one, as being extremely inconvenient for the more distant parishioners, and as giving one clergyman too much to do. He thought it of great importance to have the town of Aberdeen, the metropolis of the county, and the seat of the bishopric and university, well supplied with able ministers, men of learning, moderation, and knowledge, with whom he might occasionally consult, in regard to the affairs of the church; and the distinguished figure which the clergy of this place made in the troubles which soon after broke out, is a demonstrative proof of his care and ability in that matter. Before his time, there was no regular divinity school in either of the colleges, nor any appointment for a professor; nor, excepting a few bursaries settled by Bishop Elphinston, was there any provision for the maintenance of expectants of the ministry.

This he looked upon as a material deficiency in the foundation, and earnestly set himself to have it somehow remedied. Under the auspices of their worthy bishop, the synod of Aberdeen came to the generous resolution of taxing themselves to raise money as an increasing fund for this purpose. The money raised was laid out upon land, and as the value of it is now greatly increased, the professor has a decent living. The very learned Doctor John Forbes, the bishop's son, was settled the first divinity professor in the King's College, in the 1619; and soon after, another professor of divinity was settled, by the magistrates of Aberdeen, in the Marischal College. The divinity students of both colleges attend both professors.

Being chancellor of the King's College, *ex officio*, the bishop very carefully inquired into the state of it, and found many reforms necessary, all which he insisted upon, and thereby restored the university to its

primitive lustre and dignity. His intention in all things was believed to be so upright, his address was so winning, and his moderation so great, that he met with little opposition; nor was he of a temper which would have easily yielded, where the cause was just, and the matter of consequence to the public. There is a story told of him which sets his probity and resolution in a very favourable light.

In Scotland, the area of the parish church is understood to be the property of the different heritors in the parish, and the valuation of their respective rents in the tax-roll is the rule by which it is divided for seat-room to their tenants. A dispute in regard to this matter had arisen between two gentlemen, in which the bishop had a right to determine, as the evidence should turn out. One of the gentlemen not choosing to trust to the justice of his claim, procured from King James VI. or his privy council, a sist, or letters to stop proceedings, which was formally intimated to the bishop, who, notwithstanding, determined against the person who had procured it; and wrote to the privy council a short vindication of his conduct, in which he told them, that "though he held his gown of the king, his conscience was God's." When James heard of this, he is said to have "thanked God that he had a bishop who dared to do his duty." Though this be equally honourable for his Majesty and Bishop Forbes, it is no great compliment to the order in general.

In 1632, the bishop was seized with a paralytic disorder in his right side, and was ever after obliged to subscribe with his left hand. He was sometimes carried to church, and to the public meetings of the clergy. He was in the forty-seventh year of his age when he entered into holy orders, and died at the age of seventy-one, the day before Easter, 1635. He was a lover of peace, and God called him hence from the evil days which were speedily to follow. He was buried in the great cross aisle of the cathedral. His son, Doctor John Forbes succeeded to his estate.

This great man, who did so much honour to his family and country, had his education in the King's

College, to which he entered in 1607. When he had finished his philosophy course, he went abroad and studied divinity and the Hebrew langugage, in the university of Hieldeburgh, under the famous Pareus. He remained in foreign parts till 1619, when he returned to Aberdeen, and was made professor of divinity in the King's College. He worthily filled the chair till 1641, when the covenanters turned him out for refusing to swear and subscribe their covenants. As the salary of the divinity professor was at first but very moderate, Doctor Forbes generously made over to his successors in office, the house he had lived in, and not suspecting what was to happen, had not reserved his own lifetime of it; he was therefore turned out of his house, as well as his office, by these modest reformers. The noble stand which the clergy of Aberdeen made against the madness of that period is sufficiently known. Doctor Forbes was so far above resenting the injuries he met with, that he continued to hear the presbyterian ministers, and communicated in their churches, as if no such things had ever happened. Charity suffereth long and is kind—it beareth all things—it hopeth all things—and, in a general as well as personal sense, covereth a multitude of sins.

But, as if all that he had suffered had not been enough, after the Scotch had declared for the parliament of England, he was vehemently urged to swear and subscribe the Solemn League and Covenant. He pleaded conscience, he pleaded his peaceable and inoffensive behaviour, he declared his intention of living in retirement as he had done since he was turned out of his office, and that he wished not to give offence to any person or party whatever. But he pleaded with those who had no bowels. He had no choice but to renounce the rights of conscience, to be excommunicated, or to quit his native country. He chose the last, and with his son, and his preceptor, embarked for Holland, in April 1644, and remained in that country till June 1646, when he returned to Scotland. By this time, the covenanting clergy were either ashamed of the indignities they had put upon him, or their zeal was somewhat abated, for they suf-

fered him to live upon his estate, without farther urging him to swear and subscribe their covenants. Nor, when his son entered to the King's College, was the subscription of these oaths and leagues insisted upon.

When he found his health declining, he expressed a strong desire of being buried in the same grave with his venerable father; a desire which one would think no human being would have thought unreasonable. But no intercessions could prevail with the clergy to suffer it. He died at his house of Corse, in April 1648, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, and was buried in the churchyard of Lochel. He married a Dutch lady, who died in 1640, by whom he had several children, none of whom survived him but his son George, who, though he had the advantage of an excellent education, had no turn for letters, and therefore made no figure in life. Doctor Forbes's Instructiones Historico-Theologicæ, and his other learned works, were published in Holland, by Wetstein, in 1703, in two volumes folio.

The bishop had several younger brothers, of whom I shall give you a brief account. William, the next eldest to him, was bred to business, and, from a traditional story still told, seems to have been unsuccessful on his first outset. His elder brother had frequently assisted him with money, but at last began to grow weary in supplying his needs. Upon an emergency, he applied for the loan of a thousand merks (fifty-five pounds eleven shillings and one penny one-third), and, suspecting a denial, he told his brother that he would find a sufficient surety to sign the bond along with him. "Well," said the elder brother, "in that case I shall endeavour to find the sum wanted."

The younger brother called at the time appointed. "Who," said the elder, "is to sign with you as surety?" "God Almighty" said the other, "is the only security I have to offer." "Well, brother, he is not to be rejected; you shall have the money, and I hope it will do you good." The gentleman soon after went abroad to Dantzic, entered into trade, applied

assiduously to business, and in a few years made a large fortune. He returned to Scotland long before the bishop's death, and first purchased the lands of Menie, then those of Craigievar and Fintray. His son William* was created a baronet by King Charles I. and is now represented by Sir William Forbes, who also represents Forbes of Corse, as the bishop's male line has been long extinct.

John, his next brother, was bred a clergyman, and became minister of a parish in the diocese of Aberdeen. He was a man of probity and learning, but so zealously attached to presbytery, and so violent an abettor of it in the church courts, that, in the reign of James VI. he was first imprisoned, and after banished the kingdom. He died minister of Delft, in Holland, and was the author of several religious and controversial tracts. His son, Mr. Patrick Forbes, was made Bishop of Caithness in the year 1662, in which

* This gentleman, affected by the epidemical madness of the period, rashly engaged in the cause of the covenanters, and was for some time an active promoter of their measures; but, from the violence of their proceedings, and their disregard to every sober principle, he foresaw what must be the consequence. Having withdrawn from their councils, he collected all the money he could, and intended to have gone to the king; but the party, who kept a strict eye over all those who seemed to draw back, found means to strip him of his cash, for the public good, which was the pretext for all their oppressive measures. This so much affected Sir William that he died soon after of a broken heart. I was happy to have an anecdote, which does honour to the gentleman's memory, from so good an author as the late Sir Arthur Forbes, his great-grandson, whose veracity no man ever doubted.

Sir William's death, at this period, was a very unlucky circumstance to the family. His son, Sir John, being then a minor, fell under the tutorage of a relation, who, it appears, had been vested with a very dangerous power, as he sold a valuable part of the estate, and, becoming bankrupt, never accounted to his pupil for a shilling of the price. I mention this as a caveat to fathers. Sir William must have died in or before the year 1650, for, on the last day of that year, Captain Robert Forbes, tutor of Craigievar, who then lived at Disblair, gave in a petition to the presbytery of Aberdeen, asking leave for himself and his family to attend the divine offices at New Machar, which was nearer to them than Fintray, their parish church. The desire of the petition was granted, *upon terms*.

office he died, in a very advanced age.* Arthur, his next brother, devoted himself to a military life, and acquired a genteel fortune in Ireland. His son was created a baronet by Charles I. and Earl of Granard by Charles II. Of him, the present earl is lineally descended. This is a long letter, but I did not choose to divide the subject. Perhaps you will think it was unnecessary to say so much of people who have been so long in their graves. I have only to plead an excuse, that I have great pleasure in doing justice to worthy characters. Would to God they were less rare, though in that case they would be less esteemed!

I am, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

A JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY.

Aberdeen.

LAST week, I took a rambling jaunt the length of Huntly (twenty-four computed miles north-west of this place). As I wished to see some farms on the

* —Being ready to dissolve, there was ane burgess of Edinburgh, who desired that he might have access to subscribe the covenant, who had not done it as yet, seeing in the time which the whole kingdom was subscriving it, he was distracted abroad with his affairs, who lykwise was received with great joy. After him, there came in two young men, teachers of God his word, Mr. Patrick Phorbus and Mr. Matthew Mackail, who had been preachers to two armies in the low countries, and had only through the rumour of the General Assembly come unto Glasgow to countenance the matter with ane speedie and prosperous journey. Thir two men lykwise desired that they might be received in their number, seeing that was the end of their coming thither; who were received with no less rejoicing. And Mr. Patrick Phorbus was so much the more gladly received, because that his father before him had been ane sufferer for the truths of Christ Jesus. To whom the moderator said thir words, "Come forward, Mr. Patrick, before ye were the son of a most worthy father; but now ye appear to be the most worthy son of ane most worthy father." This, notwithstanding the different spelling of his name, seems to be the same person who most unworthily became Bishop of Caithness. *Minutes Glasgow Assembly, M.S.*

lower run of the Don, I crossed the bridge about half a mile beyond Old Aberdeen, and struck up by Fraserfield, the seat of William Fraser, Esq. upon whose estate great improvements have been made. This gentleman's father was among the first who began to plant so near Aberdeen. Such enemies were the common people then to every kind of improvement, that, in the night time, they threw down his inclosures, and pulled up thousands of his young trees by the roots. Contiguous to Fraserfield, on the north, lies Scotstown, an extensive and highly improved farm, which, till of late, in common with all the lands in the neighbourhood, was exceedingly neglected.

During the irruptions of the Danes, in former ages, this place is said to have been a station of the Scots, from which it has its name, and the Danes are thought to have taken theirs at a farm about a mile to the northward, which, to this day, is called Danestown. If this really was the case, the Scots had by much the most advantageous situation, as Scotstown stands high, and overlooks the sea and the whole country around; and Danestown in a hollow, in the midst of a barren moor. After we pass Scotstown, the country is wretchedly barren for two miles; moss, and moor, and rocks; excepting that part of it which lies upon the banks of the Don.

At Grandholm, the seat of Captain Paton, are very extensive plantations of pines, and the lands are much improved. This gentleman, while in a marching regiment, had many opportunities of seeing good husbandry, and what he has done since he retired, shows that he had not been a careless observer. Opposite to Grandholm, on the south bank of the river, lies Stonywood, the property of James Moir, Esq. pleasantly situated, and very capable of improvement, though little seems to have been done upon it. Several years ago, the gentleman began to lay out and build a village at Greenburn, erected a sugar-house, &c. but his plans did not succeed.

A mile beyond Grandholm lies Parkhill, the seat of Andrew Skene, Esq. of Dyce. Here the happy effects of attention and industry are remarkably seen;

in the midst of a country naturally wild and barren, we find a very extensive and well cultivated farm; immense plantations of pines and other kinds of timber; lawns, gardens, and offices, and, in short, whatever one could wish in retirement. The house was built by the present proprietor, and is large, commodious, and substantial. It is surrounded with wood on all hands, except an avenue to the south and a spacious opening to the west, by which there is an extensive and most agreeable prospect, terminated by the great mountain Bennachie, about ten miles distant.

A country in which there are so many obstructions to agriculture, from soil and climate, can never be improved but by the proprietors of the lands. In most situations, the common farmer neither has the money necessary, nor if he had it, could he prudently lay it out on the leases that are commonly given. But where a proprietor judiciously lays out his money in this way, besides the pleasure of improving the country, he generally finds his account in it. If he is willing to let his improved ground at a moderate rent, he can be at no loss to find tenants.

Besides the *amor patriæ*, common to all mankind, a gentleman has many inducements to improve his estate; he may be said to hold it in trust for posterity; if he squanders it away, he himself may, and and others must, feel, the bad effects of his dissipation; if he leaves it just as he found it, in that respect, he had as well never been born. Though, in his younger days, Mr. Skene visited the fertile fields of France and Italy, upon his return to Scotland, he did not despise his own: he immediately set about improving them, and for twenty years past has gone on with pleasure and persevering diligence.

Two miles west of Parkhill lies Fintray House, the seat of Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, baronet, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, about a furlong distant from the north bank of the Don. The house, which makes three sides of a square, stands in an extensive lawn, fronts south, and has a noble terrace before it, with some lofty trees in the border.

Backward are the offices and flower garden, gently sloping to the south, and well sheltered on the north by a high hill planted with pines. Just below the terrace is a wide bottom of fine ground, which extends to the river, a great way above and below the house. On the east, and north-east of the pleasure grounds, lie the stables, coach-house, &c. and many fine fields inclosed with stone fences and thorn hedges; and on the south side of the river is a hill planted with pines, just opposite the house.

Sir Arthur Forbes, the present proprietor's father, whom no man mentions without respect, gave much attention to the improvement of his estate, and both here, and at Craigievar, planted a great deal. By following a regular plan, he brought his personal farm to be one of the finest in the country.

The banks of the Don, for some miles above Fintray House, are exceedingly fertile and pleasant. I crossed the river at Kintore, eight miles north-west of Aberdeen. This is a royal burgh, but a poor place. It was made a burgh by King Robert Bruce, who fought a battle in the neighbourhood with Cumin Earl of Buchan; it gives the title of earl to a branch of the Marischal family. Upon the death of the last earl, the late Lord Marischal succeeded to the estate; and, on his lordship's death, the Lord Halkerton assumed the title of Earl of Kintore.

Two miles farther west, I passed through Inverury, another mean royal burgh. A few miles to the north-west of this place, in the year 1411, was fought the battle of Harlaw, between the Earl of Mar and Donald of the Isles, in which the last was vanquished, after a bloody conflict. Among many others, Sir Robert Davidson, provost of Aberdeen, was killed; upon which occasion, it is said, the town made an act, that, in future, their provost should upon no occasion, whether of war or ceremony, go beyond the gates. A very sensible rule, for within the gates only his business lies.

From Inverury, I turned to the southward, and at a little distance passed Thainston, formerly the property of Sir Andrew Mitchell, who, out of pure friend-

ship, conveyed the bulk of his fortune to the late Sir Arthur Forbes of Craigievar. Sir Arthur settled Thainston upon Duncan Forbes, Esq. his second son, who now takes the name of Mitchell. After reaching the summit of a hill, I came in sight of an extensive bottom, almost surrounded with mountains, at the upper end of which lies Monymusk, the seat of Sir Archibald Grant, baronet.

Just below the hill where this bottom opens, lies Kemnay, the seat of George Burnett, Esq. a gentleman who has long held a very respectable rank among improvers. From an old exhausted moss contiguous to his house, which had been a nuisance for ages, he has gained many fine inclosures, which, by draining, manure, and proper culture, now yield excellent crops of grain and grass; and what few would have expected, he has found that soil very proper for various kinds of trees. The whole farm is judiciously laid out, and has an agreeable healthful appearance.*

On the north side of the Don, I saw Fetternear, the seat of Leslie Duguid, Esq. of Balquhain. In the course of the last forty years, this estate has been twice the subject of keen litigation before the supreme courts of Scotland and England. About the year 1737, Ernest Leslie of Balquhain died without issue, and, on his death, the succession was claimed by Count Leslie, a German, representative of a distant collateral branch of the family. It was also claimed by Sir James Leslie of Pitcaple, an officer in the French service, whose mother was aunt to the last proprietor. Sir James's counsel were so sure of his succeeding, that they thought it unnecessary to plead in bar to the count's claim, that he was an alien, born out of his majesty's dominions. The Court of Session found for Sir James, but, in an appeal to the House of Peers, the count prevailed. He kept possession of the estate for ten or eleven years.

Some time before the lapse of that period, another heir put in his claim, who stood in the same degree of relation to Ernest Leslie, with Sir James, then dead.

* The gentleman died since this letter was written.

His counsel, wiser by the experience of the former claimant, chiefly pleaded the count's being an alien, and therefore incapable of succession. The House of Peers ousted the count, and put Mr. Leslie Grant in possession of the estate; upon whose death, without issue, Mr. Duguid of Auchinhove, who stood in the same relation to Ernest Leslie, succeeded. The estate yields about eight hundred pounds a-year, and is under a strict entail. I reached Monymusk to dinner, and am, &c.

LETTER XXX.

JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

MONYMUSK HOUSE stands near the north extremity of a wide bottom, and is sheltered on the north and west by high mountains at a convenient distance. The river Don runs close by the garden-walls, and divides the farm. The house makes two sides of a square, and though irregular, from its having been built at different times, has many good apartments. The library is a fine room, and, besides a good collection of books, is furnished with a great variety of natural and artificial curiosities.

On the west of the house is a large bowling-green, and several plots of pleasure ground, divided by tall beech hedges, interspersed with an immense variety of flowering shrubs. Backward from these is an extensive meadow, with rows of large trees, and a broad gravel-walk leading to the Kirktown, a pleasant village, about half a furlong west of the house. Before the Reformation there was, at Monymusk, a priory of Augustinians, or regular canons; a cell belonging to the priory of St. Andrew's. The buildings in the village are very decent, and the streets laid out with much taste and judgment. Just above it, are Sir Archibald's corn mills, which are large and commodious. Here also he has a mill for sawing out his pines into boards, for which there is a great demand.

From the rivulet which drives these mills there is a conveyance for the water into the pleasure-grounds, where it falls from artificial cascades into a canal, paved in the bottom, and lined on the sides with squared stones. Fronting the north-east wing of the house, is a court, railed in, which, on one corner has a small turret used for a belfry; before which there is a lawn, with broad gravel borders, terminating on the south in a green bank sloping inwards; below which is an extensive hollow lawn, through which the canal runs, in which are some fine old trees, and a small fish-pond covered with a wire net.

Due south of this, there is a spacious avenue, with an iron rail and gate fronting the house. The avenue is planted on both sides with various kinds of trees. On the east side of it is the common passage for travellers and carriages, circumscribed by the hedge of the main avenue on the west, and on the east by the hedge of a large plot of ground laid out in a wilderness, and the wall of the kitchen-garden. The wilderness seems to have been planted a great deal too thick, which has made the trees shoot up to so great a height that they spoil much of its beauty. It is now so completely a wilderness that one is afraid to go into it, least he should not find his way out.

I imagine too that it must be a receptacle for birds of prey; for were any of the gentler kinds to be pursued in it, they would have no chance of escaping. The tallness of the trees has another bad effect, they too much overshade the kitchen-garden. A prodigious range of office-houses forms the north inclosure of this garden, before which are sheds for cattle, barns, barn-yards, &c. The whole policy is so carefully kept that one may pick up a small pin on it at any season of the year, if the ground is not covered with snow.

Two miles north-west of Monymusk, on the north bank of the Don, lies Paradise, a most delightful spot so called, which the late Sir Archibald laid out into a garden and pleasure grounds about sixty years ago. It lies on a level, at the foot of a high hill, which protects it from the west and south-west winds, and on

the north, north-west, and north-east, it is sheltered by the great mountain Bennachie. It was originally a small possession, which brought a rent of five bolls of oatmeal yearly, value about fifty shillings sterling; its situation and fine shelter gave Sir Archibald the first idea of improving it.

With this view he dismissed the tenants, cleared the ground of stones, and then thoroughly cleaned it by green crops and careful hoeing. Having enriched it with manure, he laid it out and planted it in the manner it is now seen. It stretches along the bank of the river about a furlong in length, and I believe may be about one-third of the length in breadth, having a thorn-hedge for its outer fence. In the centre is a broad gravel-walk, the whole length, till it terminates in a circus at the north-west end. This walk, or mall, is at different places intersected on both sides, by cross hedges and tall rows of barren trees, which are a relief to the eye, and add greatly to the shelter.

On each side of the mall are noble rows of forest timber, and the borders are interspersed with a great variety of flowers and flowering shrubs. As we walk along, we see in different plots a great variety of fruit-trees, and fruit-bearing shrubs. In a year when fruit is plentiful, a large quantity is sold, besides all that is consumed in the family. On the south-west end of the mall is a fine hop-garden, which, in favourable seasons, produces more hops than are wanted in the house. It adds not a little to the pleasure we have enjoyed in this charming spot, that the moment we leave it we tread upon ground as rugged and wild as imagination can form. That you may have a just notion of the size of the pine-trees in Paradise, I subjoin the exact measurement of twelve of the largest, taken in the month of February, 1780.

No. 1. Seven feet four inches in girth, just above the surface of the ground, and five feet eight inches, at ten feet high.
— 2. Seven feet, at the ground, five feet four inches, at ten feet high.
— 3. Seven feet five inches, at the ground, five feet eight inches, at ten feet high.

No. 4. Eight feet three inches and a half, at the ground, five feet ten inches, at ten feet high.

— 5. Six feet five inches, at the ground, five feet one inch, at ten feet high.

— 6. Seven feet eight inches, at the ground, five feet one inch, at ten feet high.

— 7. Six feet eight inches, at the ground, four feet eleven inches, at ten feet high.

— 8. Seven feet at the ground, five feet, at ten feet high.

— 9. Seven feet ten inches, at the ground, five feet five inches, at ten feet high.

— 10. Six feet ten inches, at the ground, five feet one inch and a half, at ten feet high.

— 11. Six feet eight inches and a half, at the ground, five feet eight inches and a half, at ten feet high.

— 12. Is what they call a twin-tree; that is, one which, at a certain height from the ground, divides into two upright boles. This one divides at four feet above the ground; at the surface, it measures nine feet in girth, and, at four feet above the ground, seven feet ten inches. One of the boles, at ten feet from the ground, is four feet eight inches and a half in girth, and the other four feet seven inches and a half.

From these facts, which may be absolutely depended upon, those who are curious in the subject of planting may draw much matter for speculation; by calculating the quantity and value of the timber, and computing the small space of ground it has occupied for sixty years, they may form an idea of the probable improvement to be made by planting; and from the preparation of the ground and natural shelter, which I have minutely described, they may infer the immense benefit of both. It is curious enough to observe the proportion which nature keeps in the length and girth of the bole. It appears that the quantity of timber in No. 12. is greatly increased by the dividing of the bole; for No. 4. which is six inches less in girth at the surface, is three feet four inches and a half less at ten feet from the ground, after discounting an inch and a half for the bark of one of the twins. And, which seems still more extraordinary, the girth of the twins is two inches and a half more, at ten feet high, than the main bole is at the surface of the earth, after deducting an inch and a half for the bark of one of them. They are one

foot four inches and a half more than the main bole when they set out from it, after, as before, discounting an inch and a half for the bark of one of them.

The twins have been so equally fed by the parent root, that the one exceeds the other but an inch in girth in six feet that they have got above the bole; had they continued to ascend in one stem, the taper would have no doubt been in proportion to that of the other trees measured. I must conclude, therefore, that each of the twins, having all the principles and properties of an entire tree, has drawn more nourishment from the earth and atmosphere than a single stem of the same diameter, in contact with the surface of the ground, could have drawn. It is a poor apology when one commits a blunder, to say that he did not understand the subject, and yet it is the only one I have to offer, should it be found that I have said any thing amiss here; except I were to add, that I have as good a title to speak nonsense as any other man on the wrong side of sixty.

But to return from this digression. When the late Sir Archibald succeeded to the estate, there was not an inclosed field in the parish, not a tree to be seen, excepting a few in and around his own garden. But we now see the hills and moors covered with immense plantations of pines and birch, and in the lower grounds, ash, plane, elm, beech, and oak of a large size. Almost every farm is inclosed, and I have been told that Sir Archibald planted above thirty millions of trees. The stone fence of one inclosure, on the south side of a mountain called the Milstone Hill, is ten miles round; and in wood of different kinds, there are about six thousand acres.

Nor was the improvement of his own fortune Sir Archibald's only object; beside the influence of his example as a persevering improver, a steady friend, and a peaceable hospitable neighbour, he will be long remembered in the county of Aberdeen as the zealous and indefatigable promoter of ever measure which pointed to the public good. I know not whether you will be entertained with the descriptive part of this letter, for my own share I am less pleased with it

than any thing I have attempted. There is a simplicity and yet an air of grandeur runs through the whole of Sir Archibald's improvements, that, to be enjoyed, must be seen. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

WHEN I left Monymusk, I crossed the skirt of a mountain, where I had rode six or seven miles before I saw a house or a bit of arable ground. Nothing in nature can have a wilder or more dismally barren appearance. On all hands you see rocks piled upon rocks, and stones of a most enormous size just ready to tumble upon you. Not a pile of grass, not a shrub to be seen, but a little starved heath. The road however does the gentlemen of the county much honour; it has been made at a great expense of labour, and is, upon the whole, very tolerable, though in some parts of it there are still rocks to be blown.

It is a common remark, that our pleasures are heightened by contrast; I felt the propriety of it when I came in sight of a fine bottom called Alford, where, in 1645, the Marquis of Montrose fought a battle with the covenanters, and beat them. Though Alford is the name of a particular parish, the whole district, consisting of five parishes, is distinguished by the same appellation.

Whitehaugh, the seat of John Forbes Leith, Esq.* is pleasantly situated on the north bank of the Don, and has a commanding prospect of the adjacent country. The house is a genteel modern building of three storeys high, with a vaulted kitchen and cellars below ground, stone stairs to the top, and every way so substantially finished, that, with a little attention, it may last for ages. The whole of the offices are built in the same substantial manner, which every

* The gentleman died since this letter was written.

man who can lay out the money will find to be the cheapest at last. The house fronts south, and stands about the middle of a fine lawn, from which a sloping green bank leads to the garden, on the south-east, which is well sheltered by hedges and tall trees, and stocked with many kinds of fruit timber.

In one corner, there is a small hop-garden, which produces excellent crops. In a low level ground, a little west of the house, and in sight of the front windows, there was an ugly morass, which had long been a nuisance, and even dangerous for the cattle to go upon in the winter season. By the industry and good taste of the proprietor, it is now one of the greatest beauties about the place. As far as the morass went, a pond has been dug, and the earth carried off; it was filled with pure water from an adjacent spring, and trout put into it, which have increased immensely. By turning a cock, it can always have a fresh supply of water, and as none of the trout are ever drawn out, they come fearless to the surface, and with amazing velocity cut the liquid element, while you walk upon the brink.

Mr. Leith lived in England during the early part of his life; and when, about the year 1735, he settled upon his estate, he found it in a very ruinous condition; the mansion-house ready to tumble down, the roof and floors rotten, not a whole pane of glass to be seen. His tenants' houses were in the same wretched order; the rents low and ill paid, their lands totally neglected, themselves but just a degree above begging. A most uncomfortable scene for an Oxonian to enter upon!—What was he to do? Was he to return to England, and say that he found nothing upon his estate but a parcel of beggars? In that case what could he hope to draw from them? If he was to live by the rent of his lands, there was a necessity that he should first realize it; but this he could not do without living upon the spot, and taking every method that prudence might suggest to excite a spirit of industry, and introduce more rational methods of husbandry. If he was to live in the country, comfortable lodging was indispensably necessary.

He took his resolution, put his hand to the plough, and his labours have met with the success which persevering diligence rarely fails of. His rent-roll is improved, his tenants thrive and pay their rents regularly, his personal farm affords him most of the necessaries of life, and he has the pleasure of seeing many hundreds of acres of thriving wood, where not a shrub grew when he commenced farmer. I think I am above the meanness of flattery, but should you imagine that I have said too much, I would just observe, that I venerate all such characters as public benefactors.

Whitehaugh's eldest son is now improving an extensive farm upon the estate, on which he has built a large court of excellent offices. This farm, or part of it, seems to have belonged to the Knights Templar, as one of the fields is still called the Temple-close, and another of them St. John's-close. Though the Templars had but one settlement in Scotland (the Hospital of St. Germain's, in Lothian), they had lands, churches, and houses, in many different places of the conntry. The churches of Maryculter and Tullich, in Aberdeenshire, and the church of Inchinan, in Renfrewshire, belonged to them. They had houses in the town of Aberdeen, some of which still exist, known by the cross which was ordered to be put on all their buildings.

This order was instituted by Pope Gelasius, about the year of Christ 1120, and suppressed by Pope Clement V. about the year 1310. Their lands were conferred on the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, called the Joannites, after Knights of Rhodes, and lastly of Malta, which island they still possess. Whether the Templars were really guilty of the gross impieties charged upon them, or if their great riches was their only crime, is, and must always remain a doubtful point Their Hospital of St. Germain's was dissolved by King James IV. in 1494. and most of its revenues conferred upon the King's College of Aberdeen, then founded by Bishop Elphinston.

On the south bank of the Don, nearly opposite to Whitehaugh, lies Haughton, the property of Mr. Far-

quharson, on which very considerable improvements have lately been made, and indeed all the gentlemen in the country give an example of active diligence. In some parts of this district, there is a scarcity of fuel, which has been long complained of. The proprietors of the grounds wore out their peat-mosses without ever once thinking how the want of them was to be supplied.

About twenty years ago, one Mr. Cumin, of Breda, sold his estate, purely because his moss was exhausted, and no doubt it would fetch the lower price upon that account. Mr. Innes, commissary of Aberdeen, who bought it, besides other sensible and very substantial improvements, has planted such an extent of hill and moor with Scotch firs, that in a few years the weedings of his woods will make the want of moss a very trifling inconvenience. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

HAVING crossed the Hill of Cailivar, which divides Alford from the district of Mar, I came in sight of a fine corn country, in which there are many gentlemen's seats and ancient castles. Kildrummy Castle, on account of its great antiquity, justly claims the first notice. Nobody can tell how old it is, though we know that it was a royal palace in the beginning of the fourteenth century; for, after the battle of Methven, King Robert's queen and her family took shelter in it, till, apprehensive of a siege, she fled to a sanctuary at Tain, out of which the Earl of Ross basely delivered up her and her daughter to the English. It was for several ages after the principal residence of the Earls of Mar, but by the forfeiture of that family in 1715, is now become totally ruinous. When entire, it had been a very grand building, and had seven towers, from which circumstance some have supposed it to have been built by the Romans.

One of those, called the Snow-tower, was very lofty, and most of it is still standing.

Druminner, or Castle Forbes, long the residence of the noble family of Forbes, whose chief seat is now at Putachie, a modern house, built by the late Lord Forbes, while his elder brother enjoyed the castle and title. Putachie lies in Alford, two miles east of Whitehaugh. The Castle of Craig, the seat of John Gordon, Esq. which is pleasantly situated on the summit of a precipice, adjoining to an extensive den, celebrated many years ago, by the learned Dr. Arthur Johnston, in a very elegant poem, addressed in his *Parerga, ad Gordonium de Craig Auchindoir.* At the kirk of Auchindoir, a little below Craig, stood the *Castrum Auchindoriæ,* mentioned by Buchanan, under the reign of James II., the remains of which are still visible.

In a hill near Craig, called *Towan-reef,* and no where else in this or the neighbouring counties, is found the *asbestos,* or *amianthus.* A mile distant stands the great Hill of Noth, from its high conical summit, commonly called the Top of Noth; on which, overlooking an immense track of country, are the remains of an ancient fortress, formerly thought to have been the mouth of a volcano, but now known to be one of those forts constructed of stones vitrified by the force of fire,* of which kind many have been

* As we are totally in the dark in regard to the manner in which these vitrifications were carried on and completed, plausible objections may be raised to every hypothesis. That many kinds of stones may be brought into fusion by the force of fire, is agreed on all hands; and that a strong well compacted mound of earth, adjected to the materials, before the fire is kindled, would keep the liquid matter from running off, seems reasonable to believe, and not hard to conceive. Where the wood, or other fuel, was found; how it was transported to the top of a high mountain; and many other such questions, have no relation to the main point; which is, whether these are the works of art, or the occasional irruptions of nature? It was a very natural question a clown asked, the first time he saw St. Paul's at London; "Was it meade in Engleond, or brout over zees?" And I believe it would be no easy matter to persuade a countryman, who had never seen a house but of mud walls, a few feet high, that the Castle of Kildrummy was built by men. A well is as necessary in a fort, as

lately discovered in Scotland.* From the top of Noth, one has a most agreeable prospect of the pleasant and fertile Strath of Bogie, a rivulet which takes its rise at Craig, and runs into the Deveron at the burgh of Huntly, seven miles below.

In the glen of Noth (north side of the hill), is a prodigious cairn of small stones, called the Cairn of *Mildewen*, which, I am told, means the grave of a thousand, or a great number. Lord Hailes, in his Annals of Scotland, remarks, that Lulach, whom Macbeth's party set up after the usurper's death, was afterward discovered in his lurking-place in the parish of Essie in this neighbourhood, but as, after a careful search, no marks of a battle could be found in this parish, perhaps this monumental pile may have been raised upon that memorable occasion, to testify the joy of the country on the total suppression of such an infamous confederacy.

In the parish of Auchindoir, and the neighbourhood, there is an extensive track of hills, or rising grounds, covered with a fine green turf, which produces pasture for sheep equal to any in the kingdom, not excepting the Ochil mountains, between Perthshire and Fife. And though the sheep here be small, the mutton has a relish superior to that fed in the low country. Were Dr. Johnson now to see the Den of Craig, covered with all kinds of useful thriving timber, and so many other plantations coming forward to accommodate posterity, I am persuaded he would invoke his muse to do justice to the present proprietor, who, by his attention to the improvement of his estate, shows himself to be a good country man. As the natural woods have, in most places, been long

a crater in a volcano, and therefore such apertures are equally a proof of the one or the other. The lava will run from the mouth of a volcano, and stones of different sizes, more or less calcined, may be thrown from it; but till I can bring myself to believe that both may regularly fly off from a centre, wheel round an acre of ground, and then raise themselves up in a high wall, straight on both sides, I must hold these, and all such antiquities, to be the work of human art.

* Annual Register, 1778, chap. Antiquities.

ago destroyed, and but little care taken by our ancestors to supply the defect, and as timber is essentially necessary for fuel, for building, and the various purposes of agriculture, to rear a reasonable quantity upon his own lands, will be among the first cares of every sensible man.

Huntly, or, as it is frequently called, Strathbogie, is a very pleasant village, washed by the Deveron, over which there is a good stone bridge. It has a weekly market on the Thursday, and is plentifully supplied with grain and all sorts of provisions from the populous adjacent country. It has a clean, healthful, thriving look, and, without asking a single question, one can see that manufactures are carried on in it to a very considerable amount annually. Their capital article is linen; a branch of trade neither understood in the north of Scotland, nor carried on to any considerable amount, till about forty-five years ago, that Hugh Macveagh, an Irishman, settled in this place, whose chief stock was unremitting diligence, and a set of very honest principles.

Mr. Macveagh perfectly understood the manufacture from the flax to the lapping-press, and put the country people upon the proper methods of choosing the flax and spinning the yarn. As he took all they could bring, and allowed them a reasonable gratification for their labour, he soon got plenty of workers, who, finding the benefit of well directed industry, were ready to oblige their employer by spinning the yarn of such a grist as he wished to have it.

He built convenient houses, he laid out bleachfields, he hired journeymen, taught apprentices, and gradually enlarged his business; in one word, he raised such a spirit of industry in the country, that besides all the yarn he could manufacture, very large quantities have for many years past been exported to London, Nottingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Paisley, and other places where there is a demand for it. This industrious honest man, to whom the north of Scotland owes so much, has been dead but a few years, and the business is still carried on by his son.

I should do the late and present Duke of Gordon, and the other gentlemen of the county, great injustice, were I here to omit observing, that they gave Mr. Macveagh all the countenance and encouragement which he merited.

Besides the manufacture of the different kinds of linen, the people here carry on a manufacture of silk stockings, made from the waste purchased from the silk and silk-gauze weavers. They manufacture the finest silk into knee-garters, mitts, and breeches-pieces. They have also a small tannery, and a manufacture of white and brown threads. Near to the village, stands Huntly Castle, the ancient seat of the Gordon family, whose chief residence has long been at Gordon Castle, near Fochabers, twelve miles farther north. The first mentioned, is a large building, but has nothing that merits a particular description.

Of old, and even since the beginning of this century, when the great barons made a journey, they were accompanied by a select number of their vassals, in their turns. The present Duke of Gordon's grandfather being one night at this village on a journey southward, while he enjoyed himself with his friends in a room fronting the street, a company of a marching regiment was drawn up under the windows, to answer to the muster-roll, and to have their clothes examined by their officer. The gentleman, who had probably been raised from the ranks more for his courage than his breeding, had a strong inclination to find fault, and whenever any thing displeased him, imprecated damnation upon himself and the men.

The duke, who had an utter abhorrence of common swearing, was uneasy, and expressed his warm wishes that the review might be quickly over. "If your grace," said one of his retinue, "will excuse my farther attendance upon this journey, I shall clear the coast of this man of words without noise or bloodshed." "'Tis a bargain!" said his grace. The gentleman stept down into the street, took his station behind the officer, pulled off his hat, and as the first swore, the last, with the grave solemnity of a parish clerk, pronounced a loud Amen. The officer, turning

hastily about, asked the gentleman what he meant? "I am joining in prayer," said he. "I thank you, Sir, but I have no farther need of a clerk upon this occasion.—Soldiers! to the right about!—march." The duke and his company, who witnessed this droll scene from the windows, were much diverted, and Mr. Innes (for that was the gentleman's name), had leave to return to his own house next morning.

I wished to have seen the Spey, and Gordon Castle, which stands upon its banks, but an engagement to be at Aberdeen by a certain day, deprived me of that pleasure. By the alterations and large additions made to it by the present duke, I am told that Gordon Castle is now a very magnificent building, second to none in the kingdom, and inferior but to two in England. The front of it is equal to Blenheim House. Few men in Great Britain have a more extensive territory than the Duke of Gordon, and I think there is not a man in the kingdom who wishes it to be an acre less. Though his grace's estate has been considerably raised within the course of the last forty years, his tenants are said to be still on as good a footing, in respect to rent, as any others in the north of Scotland.

The Gordon family has been always popular, for this, among other reasons, that it has lived much in the country, to which every noble family has many inducements. In the country, a great man enjoys independence with a high relish; he can choose his company, and cultivate friendship with the most worthy characters in the neighbourhood. Exempted from the drudgery of public offices, and not exposed to the envy which their emoluments draw upon those who enjoy them, he is at leisure for more rational pursuits. He can attend to the improvement of his estate, to the cultivation of his moral faculties, to the education of his children; and he may partly resemble the great Parent of the universe in doing good, and making his numerous dependants happy. He is less at the mercy of stewards and factors, and may see with his own eyes how his matters are conducted. He can make a respectable

figure at a less expense than in town; and, by hospitality, promote good neighbourhood in the country. His eye checks the oppression of the lower ranks, and, like the sun, diffuses happiness around.

If health and peace of mind are of any esteem, where shall one more naturally look for them than in a peaceful retirement from the noise, the bustle, and parade of public life? A man needs not now flee to the capital for protection; the feuds and animosities which so long distracted the kingdom are happily subsided, and all ranks securely enjoy the blessing of a mild and equitable government.

I cannot omit a circumstance which does honour to the Duchess of Gordon: It is, that her grace has charged herself with the sole direction of a farm! Her jewels will not become her a bit the worse. What has not agriculture to hope from so fair a patroness! Could I hope that what I now write would ever have the honour of meeting her grace's eye, I would take the liberty of suggesting a hint; it is, that the example of a well conducted dairy on her personal farm, could scarce fail of having a happy effect in the north of Scotland, where that capital article to the farmer is less attended to than in the south and west parts of the kingdom.

I would not be understood to insinuate that one does not find good butter and cheese at gentlemen's houses, nor even that the butter and cheese are generally bad in the north; but it has been complained, that much of both are very indifferent, and that the milk of the farmer's cows is not managed to the best account. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIII.

JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

AFTER crossing a high mountain, called the Hill of Foudland, a little to the east of Huntly, one comes in sight of that district of Aberdeenshire called the

Garioch, a rich and fertile country, where the lands are capable of much higher improvement than has yet been bestowed upon them. Indeed they naturally produce such good crops of oats and barley, that the farmers have not the same inducements to improve as in some other neighbourhoods, where they must literally earn their bread by the sweat of their brows.

At the upper end of the district, detached from the other mountains, stands a high hill, of a conical form, called the Hill of Dunadeer, with a very ancient ruinous castle on the top of it, which is seen at a great distance, and, in the barbarous ages, must have been an excellent watch-tower. It is said to have been built by Gregory the Great, king of Scotland, about eight hundred years ago, and is now the property of Mr. Leith, of Overhall, whose house lies about two miles south of it. A little lower down lies Westhall, the property of General Horn, and from that to Inverury, are many other gentlemen's seats, which I had not leisure to see.

I passed Pitcaple, an old ruinous castle, and was told the following story of one of its lairds:—He slept one night in a room where jackdaws had built their nests in the chimney, from which, early in the morning, some of them found their way into the room. The good man, disturbed by their fluttering and prattle, thought he was favoured with a vision of angels, till he was sufficiently awake to discover that they were black. It has ever since been a proverb in the country, when one would expose a ridiculous story, to say, "That it is like Pitcaple's angels, of the wrong colour." The Garioch is separated from the bottom in which Monymusk stands, by the great mountain Bennachie, which is seven or eight miles long, and by much the highest in this county. On the east skirt of it, stands Pittodrie, the seat of the late Thomas Erskine, Esq. and now the property of his daughter.

From Inverury, I crossed the country to Deeside, and passed Castle Fraser, the seat of Charles Fraser of Inverallochy, Esq. formerly the property of Lord Fraser, who was engaged in the rebellion in 1715,

and during his hidings, had the misfortune to break his neck by a fall from the high promontory of Pennan, on the coast of Buchan. I saw, at a little distance on my right, Cluny, the seat of Cosmo Gordon, Esq. one of the barons of exchequer, upon whose estate some improvements have been made.

About two miles farther on, I passed the ruins of the old church of Kinernie; the parish was some years ago united to Midmar. In the reign of Charles II., Ross, afterwards Bishop of St. Andrew's, was minister here, but being somewhat of the nature of Pharaoh's butler, when exalted, he did not remember his brethren. It was, however, very natural to suppose that one who had felt the inconvenience of a small stipend himself, would be ready to lend every reasonable aid to have his successors bettered, and upon this rational presumption, the minister of Kinernie reckoned upon the interest of his metropolitan, in his intended application for an augmentation of his living.

He waited upon the primate, and laid the case before him. "You, country clergymen," said the bishop, "should learn to moderate your desires. I know what it is to live in the country. When I was minister of your parish I could afford a bottle of good malt liquor, and a roasted fowl for my Sunday's dinner, and I see not to what farther you are entitled." The rural priest made his bow, and retired with this parting compliment, "It would have been no great loss to the church of Scotland, though your grace had been yet eating roasted hens at Kinernie!"

A mile farther on, I crossed the skirt of a high round hill, called Barmkin of Echt, on the summit of which are the remains of a Pictish camp; over which, if tradition may be believed, many armies were seen, many drums heard, and many an aerial bloodless battle fought, before the troubles in Charles I.'s. time. On the south side of this hill, are the ruins of the house of Echt. The estate was formerly the property of the Forbeses, but now belongs to Mr. Duff, brother to Earl Fife. A mile to the westward, on an eminence, in a deep glen, surrounded by mountains and

woods, stands the house of Midmar, the property of Miss Davidson, a minor. Since the beginning of the present century, this estate has been the property of four heritors, and distinguished by three different names; it was originally Midmar, next Ballogie, then Grantfield; and now it is Midmar again. Such is the folly and weakness of mankind, who consider not the fluctuating nature of property, and all earthly things.

A little south of Midmar, in a glen, or deep opening, between two hills, was fought the battle of Corrichie, in the year 1562, in the reign of Queen Mary, between Murray's troops and the Earl of Huntly, where the last was killed. His son, Sir John Gordon, a gallant and very promising youth, was a day or two after beheaded at Aberdeen, where the Queen and Murray then were on their return from Inverness.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

DRUM, the seat of Alexander Irvine, Esq. lies on the south declivity of a hill, eight computed miles west of Aberdeen, and a mile north of the river Dee. The house makes two sides of a square, and is well sheltered from the north and north-east, by a large natural wood of pines, oak, and birch. The modern part of it was built in 1619, as appears from the date above the windows, but the tower is thought to have been built some hundred years earlier. The last is a huge building, sixty feet long, forty feet wide, and sixty-three feet high in the walls, which are about twelve feet thick in the first storey above ground, and much thicker in the vault below, in which there is a draw-well. There is neither crack nor crevice in the wall, nor is it an inch out of plum.

From the first floor, there is a stair in the south-west corner, within the wall, by which we ascend to

the two other storeys, the uppermost of which is about thirty feet high in the roof, and vaulted as the other storeys are. It has an alcove roof, with a broad terrace round it, covered with flag-stones, and a parapet wall, for the safety of those who walk upon it. If kept in repair, and great pity it were to neglect it, nobody can say how many ages this venerable building may last.

The public rooms, in the modern part of the house, are very handsome; the dining-room is twenty-seven feet by twenty-one, the drawing-room twenty-one feet square, and both about thirteen feet high in the ceiling. The garden, which contains above three acres of ground, is well stocked with standard and wall-fruit trees, and on the corner next the house, is a small chapel, now used as a burial-place.

Drum's ancestor, Alexander de Irvyne, was a son of Irvine of Bonshaw's, in the south of Scotland, who, being armour-bearer to King Robert Bruce, had the lands and forest of Drum conferred upon him by that prince. The charter, still extant, is dated the eighteenth year of his reign, which fell in the year 1324. The king, as a farther mark of his favour, gave Mr. Irvine for his armorial bearings three holly leaves, with a bundle of arrows for the crest, and the words *semper virens* for a motto; which are said to have been the arms he himself bore when Earl of Carrick.

There is a traditional story told, partly supported by known facts, by which it appears that the tower was built before the battle of Harlaw. Feuds and animosities had long subsisted between the Marischal and Drum families, in which many had lost their lives on both sides; and, to this day, there is a deep place in the river Dee, opposite to Drum, called the Keith's Pot, into which, it is said, the Irvines used to drive their enemies. It is farther said, that on occasion of some quarrel, Marischal sent a message to Drum, threatening, if he got not reparation of the injury, that he would come and take him out of his crow's nest. "He may try it," said Drum, "but tell him, that if I live but a little longer, I shall build a

nest which he and all his clan shall not be able to throw down."

By the mediation of the king, a reconciliation of the two families was effected, and that it might be lasting, his majesty proposed that Drum's eldest son should marry Marischal's daughter. They were accordingly married, and there has never since been any difference between the families. It appears, however, that the young gentleman still retained his resentment, for, though he behaved politely to the lady, he never consummated his marriage. He had succeeded to the estate before the year 1411, for in that year he and his brother set out for the battle of Harlaw, on the head of his tenants.

On the top of a high hill, at some miles distance, where they were to lose sight of their native place, they both sat down upon a stone, still known by the name of Drum's Stone, where the eldest brother is said to have spoken to this effect,—"From the character of our enemies, we have reason to expect an obstinate engagement, in which, my brother, you or I, perhaps both of us, may fall; be that as the providence of God shall see meet. In the mean time, I must condemn one thing in my own conduct, and give you a serious advice, while the voice of a friend may be heard. I regret sincerely that I have not lived with the lady I married in the manner I should have lived, and if I return to Drum, shall make her all the reparation in my power. But if I should drop, and you come off safe, I recommend it to you to marry your sister-in-law, with whom I have never consummated my marriage."

The eldest brother was killed, after he had slain M'Lean, one of the Highland chieftains; the youngest came off unhurt, and married his sister-in-law. This laird of Drum is very respectfully mentioned in the old popular ballad of the battle of Harlaw, stanza 28:—

"Gude Sir Alexander Irving,
The much renounit laird of Drum,
Nane in his days were better sene,
When they were semblit all and sum.

To praise him we should not be dumm.
For valor, wit and worthiness,
To end his days he there did cum,
Quhois ransom is remeidyless."

On the west side-wall of Drum's aisle, the family burial-place at Aberdeen, is a plate of brass, with the following inscription, in the Saxon character:—

Hic sub ista sepultura jacet honorabilis et famosus miles dns alexander de Irvyn secund qda de drumn· de achyndor et forglen· qui obijt die mesis anno dni M°.CCCC.

Hic eciam jacet nobilis dna dna elisabeth de keth filia Qdam roberti de keth militis mareshalli scocie uxor Qda dci dni alexandri de Irvyn que obijt die mesis———ano dni M°.CCCC.

I think the most natural way to account for the blanks, is to suppose that a pleasing anxiety to make sure of this memorial of their union and conjugal affection, may have induced the gentleman and lady to cause the plate be made in their own lifetime, when neither the month, day of the month, nor odd years over the century when they should die, could be known. They must have died after the year 1440, for about that time the lady's father died.

Two miles below Drum, lies Culter, the seat of Alexander Udny, Esq. commissioner of excise, a fine house, pleasantly situated on the brow of a hill, and surrounded with vast plantations of pines. A little lower down, I passed Newton, the seat of Captain Henderson; from which I turned up to Countesswells, the seat of James Burnett, Esq. which, though in the midst of a wild moorland country, is extremely pleasant. The house, a genteel modern building, stands in the middle of a fine lawn, within the same general inclosure with the garden and pleasure grounds, and is well sheltered by wood on all quarters. The offices stand on an eminence, at a convenient distance, and on each side of a very long and broad avenue are a range of inclosures in excellent culture. Some lands that Mr. Burnett has now in hand to clear of stones, require all the courage and activity of an Aberdeenshire farmer. I have known this place above forty years, and no rhetoric could

have persuaded me that it was capable of so great improvement.

A mile east of Countesswells lies Hazlehead, the property of Donaldson Simpson, Esq. where considerable improvements have been made, and are still carrying on. Imagination cannot form the idea of a wilder, and more desperately barren country than this, and yet you see villas and improvements on all hands. Success to the bold undertakers!—In my way to town, I passed by Rubislaw, the property of the late Mr. Skene's heirs, who, if the spirit of improvement continues, will soon have a fine estate; though when purchased, or feued, from the town of Aberdeen in the year 1522, it yielded the community a quit-rent of only twenty-six pounds Scots, or two pounds three shillings and fourpence, per annum. I have already observed, that the present improved rent is from five to six hundred pounds sterling.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

SECOND JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY.

Aberdeen.

I MADE a jaunt last week to see the vestiges of an old camp, on a hill called Rae Dykes, or the King's Dykes, four miles north-west of Stonehaven. It is an oblong square of twenty-one acres, has four outlets, with redoubts before them, and many of the trenches are still pretty deep. Some suppose it to have been a Roman encampment, and to be the very spot occupied by Agricola's troops before his engagement with Galgacus, the Scots king.

The camp overlooks the sea, at three miles distance, and, according to Tacitus, the Roman general caused his fleet attend him while he marched along the coast. This camp is in the county of Kincardine, about twelve miles north-east of the county of Angus, and, in the intermediate space, there is no other. Tacitus says, that Agricola, after the battle, retired into

Horestium, or Angus. The tradition of the country, however, is, that here a Scotch army lay, to oppose a Danish one encamped on the links of Arduthie, below, where there are still to be seen some vestiges of an entrenchment.

Some antiquaries endeavour to reconcile these accounts, as the Scots, in more recent times, may have availed themselves of a Roman camp which lay in the spot they wished to occupy. The great extent of it, and its being just at the foot of the Grampians, where Agricola is said to have fought the Scots, seem to mark it Roman, and the opinion is strongly corroborated by other circumstances. Some years ago, as Mr. Barclay of Ury, the proprietor of the ground, was carting off stones, for inclosing a field, several urns were turned up. In a moss, hard by, two Roman *hastæ* were found entire, and several others in a decayed state. A Roman spear was also dug up in it by Ury's grandfather, and presented to the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh.

On a moor, a mile east of the camp, are a great many tumuli, or small cairns, and some very large ones, which are understood to be sepulchral monuments, raised on the field of battle to the memory of the dead. On each side of this moor is a morass, which would cover the flanks of the army that first reached the ground, and as there are no tumuli to the east or west of these morasses, it seems the more probable that the battle was fought between them. During the engagement, the armies seem to have fronted south and north, as the tumuli which mark the slaughter are continued to the mosses and bogs on the north of the hills, which were then, probably, covered with wood.

When a traveller breaks out of his line, there is no saying when he may return to it. As I found myself so near the fine country called the *How*, or Hollow of the Mearns, I determined to gratify a strong inclination to see it; to proceed the length of Brechin, and from thence to re-cross the Grampians to Dee-side. A mile or two west of Ury, I passed a fine farm called Auchquiries, where the tenant has given an excellent

example to all around him. Two miles farther on, I came up with Drumlithie, where the hollow is much wider, and the soil more fertile.

A mile north of this village lies Glenbervie, the seat of Sir James Nicholson, baronet, long the property of a branch of the Douglas family.* Two miles farther west, lies Monboddo, the seat of James Burnett, Esq. one of the senators of the College of Justice. His lordship has been a keen improver for twelve or fifteen years past, and as he has a good subject to work upon, has made a great alteration in the appearance

* In the reign of King James IV. Sir John Auchinleck of Glenbervie was succeeded by a daughter, who being the king's ward, was given in marriage to Sir William Douglas of Braidwood, second son of Archibald, Earl of Angus, then Lord High Chancellor, and commonly called Bell the Cat. Sir William, with his eldest brother, George, Master of Angus, and many other gentlemen of their name and family, were, in their father's lifetime, killed at the battle of Flowden, in 1513, but as the gentlemen had been married, the line of their respective families was carried on till 1588, when the lineal heir of George, Master of Angus, died without issue.

Upon the death of this Earl of Angus, James VI. contended that he was heir to the estate, in right of his grandmother, Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, and mother of Lord Darnley, his father. Sir William Douglas, then of Glenbervie, gave in a counter claim, in which, though he admitted the king to be nearer in blood, he contended that as the estate was a male-fee, the succession, of right, belonged to him as the male representative of Bell the Cat. The matter came to a solemn trial, in which his majesty presided in person, and the estate and title were adjudged to Sir William. While one finds himself disposed to applaud the equity of this decision, he is a little hurt by a discovery made during a late process, that Glenbervie gave the king a bond for a hundred thousand merks, which was afterwards paid.

When Sir William Douglas fell thus in to be Earl of Angus, he settled the estate of Glenbervie on his second son, in whose posterity it continued, in the right line, till about the year 1696, when Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie, colonel of the Scots Greys, was killed at the battle of Steenkirk. On his death, William Douglas of Airdit, Esq. succeeded to the estate and baronage, as the representative of Mr. George Douglas, a clergyman, a son of the family, who settled in England, in James VI.'s time, and married the Lady Drew. The family is now represented by Sir Alexander Douglas, baronet, only son of the late Sir Robert Douglas.

and value of his personal farm. Lord Monboddo is peculiarly attentive to the breed of his horned cattle, to improve which, he purchased a fine bull and some cows of the Holderness kind.

A mile north-west of Monboddo lies the kirk of Fordoun, or as it is commonly called Paddy-kirk, being the burial place of the famous Palladio. 'Tis a very romantic place. The church, with the minister's house and garden, stand on the summit of a high rock, skirted by a deep den, in the bottom of which runs a small brook. A little above the church, in an opening between high mountains, lies Drumtochty, in the middle of a fine natural wood. The house, which fronts south, stands on the declivity of the highest mountain, and is, I think, one of the most delightful summer retreats I have seen.

A mile south-west of this lies Pitarrow, the property of George Carnegie, Esq. The house is large, and has a great deal of fine old timber around it. The lands in this bottom are a light red clay, which produces excellent grain, when in proper culture. Two miles south-west of Pitarrow lies Laurencekirk, the property of Francis Garden of Johnston, Esq. one of the senators of the College of Justice, and one of the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary.

The first thing that strikes a stranger, is an excellent inn, and fine offices, just as he enters the town from the north. The village has been lately made a burgh, and the landlord of the inn is its first magistrate. If he be as attentive to the peace and happiness of the inhabitants, as he is careful in the entertainment and accommodation of his guests, I think they will have no reason to complain of him. I was equally pleased and surprised to find in a small country place, just in its infancy, several good post-chaises to be let; and the more so, that I knew this road when you could not have had a saddle-horse all the way from Stonehaven to Brechin, which in case of accidents, was extremely inconvenient to travellers.

Till Lord Gardenstone purchased the estate of Johnston, Laurencekirk was a mean village, the houses scarce lodgeable, the inhabitants poor. They

had small spots of ground, which turned to no account, and every family raised a little flax, which was spun into coarse yarn, wove into cloth, half bleached, and sold in the summer fairs. Thus they made shift to live, but seemed not to have a wish beyond a bare subsistence. They had no idea of comfortable lodging, and their little furniture was destroyed by removing from place to place, as they happened to differ with their landlords. In case of sickness, or any other accident which disqualified them for labour, they became a charge upon the public, where the funds were very unequal to their wants.

To a man of common humanity, few things are more distressing than to see those who labour for him straitened in the necessaries of life, and he will feel the more if he observes, that they suffer rather from the misapplication of their labour than from indolence. This was precisely Lord Gardenstone's case. He saw his dependants busied, but their labour turned to no account. He saw a great deal of ground neglected, which, by proper culture, might produce corn and grass in great abundance. He knew that independence and comfortable lodging give people spirit to labour, and wished not to be the lord paramount of a few slavish dependants.

Having come to the resolution of improving the village by feuing out small spots of ground for houses and gardens, and encouraging manufacturers to settle in it, I will suppose his lordship to have spoken to this effect: "As I wish my rent to be regularly paid, I also wish those who live under me to be happy; but neither of these can be the case, if your industry is not properly directed. You must be sensible that better crops may be raised upon your grounds, and that your time and labour are your chief stock. You must be sensible that comfortable lodging, and an undisturbed possession of your little farms are desirable circumstances; and it is my wish to make you as independent as your sphere in life will permit.

"I have been told that some of you travel seven or eight miles to market to sell a few eggs and

chickens, by which you lose as much labour as they are worth. I would have you eat them at home; for he that worketh has a good right to eat. Your houses neither protect you from wind nor rain, they are low, damp, and unwholesome. Many of you have no gardens, and such of you as have, raise nothing in them but a few cabbage and coleworts, even these are often eat up by straggling cattle. By a little attention, you may have a variety of wholesome roots and herbs.

"Perhaps you will say, 'Our grounds will not produce them.' Clear them of weeds, give them a little manure, and make the trial. My gardener shall direct you in the operation, and furnish the seeds, till you shall have learned the method of culture. I do not charge you with indolence, but your industry is misapplied. In towns and countries thinly peopled, what the farmer can sell yields but a low price, so also do the manufactures in which his females are employed; and to have even that little, he must often carry his goods to a distant market. But wherever public manufactures are established, there a spirit of industry is introduced, victual and every thing else bears a higher price, money circulates freely, and all who will work, may sell the product of their labour at their own doors.

"The greatest cities of the world have risen from low beginnings. Rome was once of less account than Laurencekirk now is. I have formed a plan to make you all rich, have I not reason to hope your aid in the execution of it? Though I wish to improve my own estate, I do not intend to oppress any man; you shall have your feus on the most reasonable terms, and every industrious settler shall find me his friend."

I know it will give you pleasure to hear that this rational and humane plan is likely to succeed. A great many spots are already feued off and houses built, with small gardens adjoining to them. Several manufactures are established, and the undertakers have been liberally supported by his lordship. On a rising ground, a mile south of the village, lies the house of Johnston, now possessed by Dr. Leith, a very intelligent farmer.

About three miles south of Laurencekirk, I passed Balmaquein, the property of Mr. Græme of Morphie, where there are large plantations of pines, owing, I was told, to an uncommon, but very slight circumstance. About the beginning of this century, there was not a tree in the neighbourhood, and, therefore, a poor crow found herself under the necessity of building her nest on the ground. When the proprietor observed it, he understood it to be a rebuke for his indolence, and next season planted a large moor. Many gentlemen still need such a monitor.

A mile farther on, I passed Inglismaldy, the seat of the Earl of Kintore, pleasantly situated on the bank of the river Northesk, over which there is a good stone bridge. This river divides the counties of Angus and Kincardine. Inglismaldy is a large house, and has immense plantations of pines around it. A mile west of the bridge, in a fine fertile bottom, lies Strickathro, the property of Mr. Mackenzie; and about two miles to the north-west lies Newtonmill, the property of Gilbert Ochterlony, Esq. of Pitforthy, who has made very considerable improvements on that and an adjacent farm.

A little to the southward lies Keithock, the property of Mr. Edgar, whose personal farm is laid out, and in excellent culture. A mile farther on, I reached Brechin, a pretty large royal burgh, formerly a bishop's see. It stands on the river Southesk, five miles west of Montrose. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

SECOND JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

BRECHIN was made a bishopric in 1260. The cathedral is now used as a parish church. Just by it stands the famous Pictish steeple, for a description of which I refer you to Mr. Pennant's Tour. The church and burial ground* stand on the north side of

* On the north wall of a ruinous aisle, I met with the following droll instance of bad arrangement. "Here lies James Thom,

a deep hollow, and on the south of them stands Brechin Castle, the fine seat of Lord Panmure. It has the river Southesk on the south, high rocks on the east, and a spacious lawn, with a great deal of fine old timber, on the west. The house has an elegant front, and a charming vista, the gardens are spacious; and, upon the whole, Brechin Castle is one of the most beautiful seats in the kingdom.

The people of Brechin do a great deal of business in the Osnaburg and linen yarn branches, and have several other manufactures established among them. As the country around is rich and fertile, in good seasons a great deal of grain is bought up for exportation, and shipped off from the harbour of Montrose. There is a good bridge over the Esk, and the lands in the neighbourhood of the town are highly improved.

Returning from Brechin, I crossed the country to Fasque, the seat of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, baronet, a little south of which stands the village and house of Fettercairn, formerly the property of the Earl of Middleton, and now of the heirs of Lady Diana Middleton, whose husband purchased them from Lord Clermont. Fasque stands upon a gently rising ground, near the foot of the great hill called the Cairn o' Mount, from an immense cairn of stones on the top of it.

Sir Alexander's personal farm is substantially inclosed, with stone and lime dykes on the outside, and subdivided into a great many large inclosures, around which there is a deal of thriving timber. The house stands a long way distant from the main entry, and is partly eclipsed by a large group, nearly in front, of old Gothic buildings, churches, abbeys, &c. As the antiquary approaches, with reverence and high expectation, how cruelly is he disappointed to find them a mockery! mere patch-work, on the ends and side-walls of common offices!—"What an indig-

and —— —— his wife, *late dean of guild of Brechin.*" Perhaps the lady discharged the duties of the office in her husband's absence; or the writer may have slily alluded to the old adage, that "The grey mare is sometimes the better horse."

nity," he is apt to exclaim, "is here offered to the venerable remains of antiquity!—O ye sacred retreats of virtue and purity, in whose peaceful groves wisdom and science walked hand in hand, shall even your shadows be thus dishonoured by the breath of clowns and bellowing of oxen."

Chagrined by this disappointment, it is well if he does not mistake a fine octagonal tower which lifts its head above the trees, on an adjacent mount, for a pasteboard cage. The house fronts south, and makes three sides of a square; there are many good apartments in it, especially the dining-room and library. Just by the west end, there is a den or hollow, with a Chinese bridge thrown over it, and a small brook in the bottom. It is planted, and laid out in serpentine gravel-walks. The house is well sheltered on all quarters, especially on the north and north-west.

Sir Alexander keeps a large stock of cattle of the best quality, which, from the fine shelter, good water, and excellent pasture, rise to a great size. But the line in which he has merited most of his country, is that of a sheep farmer.* For the particular management of his farm, I refer you to Mr. Wight's Tour,

* The Grampians, on the north of Fasque, are seven or eight miles across, and in these mountains Sir Alexander has a very extensive property, though it had been of little value to his ancestors. In a deep glen, through which the river Feugh runs, there are a few spots arable, which, with the privilege of pasturing on the hills had been let for a small matter. About twenty years ago, Sir Alexander dismissed the tenant, and stocked his hills with sheep, having first raised some hay from the arable ground, to throw to them in the severe season.

As he raises large fields of turnip at Fasque, he brings down his ewes from the hills, sometime before they drop their lambs, and feeds them in hurdles upon the ground. Being fed to the full, they give plenty of milk to their young, which raises them to a great size, so that they fetch a good price. When Sir Alexander commenced sheep farmer, he lost a good many, whom his shepherd charged to the account of the fox; but upon careful inquiry it was found they had been killed by dogs. Though the fox picks a bone, he never gnaws it, but dogs generally do. By publishing a severe edict against these freebooters, the evil was removed.

where you will find it in his own words. The only drawback to the full improvement of this fine country is, that the tenants are, in most places, at a great distance from peat, and have little wood to supply the place of it.

Five hundred years ago, they had plenty of wood in this country; for, in a dispute about marches towards the middle of the twelfth century, between Sibbald of Cair, and Barclay, proprietor of Glenfarquhar and Monboddo, the tenants of the first mentioned gentleman were found entitled to pasture, with a specified number of neat and sheep, and *as many swine as they pleased*, close up to the foot of the hills in the forests of Glenfarquhar and Monboddo, where there has not been the vestige of a tree for several ages past. The matter was determined by a grand jury of the gentlemen of the county, whose names I give from an old paper in the possession of Mr. Barclay of Ury: "Mackdangle, Mackfadworth, Mackgilchrist, Mackgillymichel, Mackbride, Duffscolach of Fetteresso, and Cormack of Nigg,"—names which would do honour to a German muster-roll.

In former ages, the sheriffs of the counties seem to have carried matters with a high hand over the other gentlemen, though one would think that their knowledge of the temper of the times would have kept them within bounds. This was not always the case; for, during the administration of the Duke of Albany, in the minority of James I., the barons of the Mearns repeatedly complained of their oppression by Melville of Glenbervie, their sheriff. The governor, wearied with their applications, fell into a rage, and commanded them to trouble him no more on the subject: "You may boil him," said he, "and sup his brue!"

Emboldened by this rude and unguarded expression, the lairds of Arbuthnot, Mathers, and Lauriston, invited the sheriff to take the diversion of hunting on the Hill of Garvock, and there threw him into a kettle of boiling water, which they had provided for the purpose. The spot where this horrid act was committed is known to this day, and pointed out to strangers. The three gentlemen were outlawed for

their too prompt obedience to the regent's order, and one of them, David Barclay of Mathers, then built a fort called the Cam, for his own defence. Some time after, he claimed the privilege of those within the tenth degree of kindred to Macduff, Thane of Fife, and, on that footing, obtained the king's pardon.

Though there is a good road over the Cairn o' Mount, it is in some places very steep, and, I think, the hill must be above a mile perpendicular. The lower part of it, on the south side, consists of a great many lesser hills, with a horrible deep glen between them. When you reach the summit, if it is a clear day, you think your fatigue sufficiently rewarded by the immense prospect; the hills in the low country seem almost a dead level. The north side, compared to the south, is no more than a gentle slope.

After riding about an hour, I reached the bridge of Dye, and saw on the brow of a hill near it, the stone of Clochnabane, a perpendicular rock about fifty feet high, to the top of which you pass from a fine level green. Though I apprehended no danger from robbers, in crossing the mountain, I recollected a circumstance which happened to an Aberdeen gentleman about thirty years ago. About the middle of the mount, he overtook a single foot-passenger, and was very glad to keep company with him, as he dreaded falling in with a set of vagrants who had long infested the country, called Gun's crew, then said to be in that corner.

The gentleman asked his fellow-traveller what he heard of these people? "They have been seen in this country very lately, said he, but I hope we shall meet with no trouble." A little before they reached the foot of the hill, the stranger turned off at a cross road, and, to the gentleman's great surprise, took leave of him in words to this effect: "You are now, Sir, out of danger of John Gun's crew, but though you had met with them, you would have sustained no damage while under my protection, for I am the very man of whom you were afraid." The poor man was apprehended some years after, and tried for his life at Aberdeen, by the Lords of Justiciary, when this story, and many others of the like nature,

were deposed to in exculpation of his character. He was condemned to die, but on application to his Majesty, the sentence was commuted into banishment.

I crossed the Dee at Banchory-Ternan, twelve miles west of Aberdeen, where the country is wretchedly barren, if it be not a few narrow slips near the river. For some miles west of Banchory, much of it is covered with pines and birch, which seems to be the use for which nature intended it. Here the river has a range of high hills on each side, and the woods of Blackhall on the south, and those of Inchmarlo on the north, give one a pretty clear idea of a country in the state of nature. The woods on both estates, are, I imagine, not older than about the beginning of this century, and many of them have been planted within the last forty years, but they are so extensive, and such a relief to the eye, in a country where little else is to be seen but heath and rock, that every traveller wishes the example of the proprietors to be copied.

On the estate of Inchmarlo, (the property of John Douglass, Esq.) are the largest birch trees I ever saw, some of them, even in that country, worth eight or ten shillings a-piece. Near the house, there is an oddity on an ash tree, which I know not how to describe. The bole of it is very gross, and when about twelve or fourteen feet high, several large collateral branches shoot out from it. One of these is conected with the bole, by a piece of cross wood, which forms a triangle, above which the branch proceeds in its upright or slanting growth. The cross piece seems to be about eighteen inches long, and about eight in circumference, and, from the middle of it, I observed a small upright shoot, of this year's growth. I apprehend it would not be easy to give a satisfactory account how this piece of wood took a horizontal direction, and became connected with the bole and branch. If it sprung from both, how came their shoots, when in contact, to form one piece of solid wood? If it sprung from one of them, how came its leafy shoots to penetrate the bark of the other, and become solid wood? I am not so much

in Nature's secrets as to be able to answer these questions.

The little arable land they have in this country is much incumbered with large stones, but when in proper culture is not infertile. It is remarked that pines thrive best in a rocky soil, for which this reason may be assigned: When they are planted in a light gravelly soil, their horizontal fibres can have but little hold of the earth, and their perpendicular root is easily shaken by the wind, which must retard their growth. When they are planted in a deeper soil, if there be clay at bottom, the damp of it chills them. But, in a rocky soil, their small fibres find crevices in which they securely fix themselves, and often form a kind of net-work around stones. Here they suffer less from the summer drought, and are better secured from the violence of the wind. Mr. Douglass has planted from four to five hundred acres, upon ground which, in any other way, could never have been worth sixpence per acre; and the weedings and bark of his birch are, I imagine, worth from fifty to sixty pounds a-year.

If it be true, as many suppose, that, in far distant ages, the most part of Scotland was covered with wood, one would think that our ancestors had entered into a covenant to destroy it. Whatever be in this, most certain it is, that in former times there must have been much more wood in the country than at present, and in places where it is now difficult to raise it, either from seed or plant. Of this, that district in the shire of Aberdeen, called Buchan, is a remarkable instance, where, though they have a great many very extensive mosses, they have scarce any woods, nor do the trees they plant thrive. Much has been said of the origin and growth of mosses, to which I shall add but little. One thing is abundantly evident, that wherever trees or roots are found in them, there a wood must have been.

By what accident these woods were destroyed, or in what way they became mosses, we can only conjecture. That the woods were not cut down by men, seems evident from this, that there is no mark

of an axe found upon moss timber, and that almost all the fallen trees have a part of their root at them. They have therefore been burned, or thrown down by a storm of wind. The effects which either of these accidents would produce, depend very much upon the nature of the soil on which the wood grew, and on its situation in respect to steepness and flatness.

Were a wood, growing on a rocky or thin gravelly soil, to be burned down, it would either be totally consumed, or some of the largest trees would only be scorched, and remain standing, without their tops. The ashes would have little effect on the soil, and when the trees left standing decayed, and were blown over, they would not sink into the shallow earth, but lie above till they rotted. If the ground had a slope, little water could lie upon it, nor could burnt ashes and dry gravel ever become moss.

Were a wood, standing on a flat swampy soil, to be burned, the ashes would make it more retentive of moisture, but could never give it that black colour, and springy elasticity, by which most of our mosses are distinguished. From all which it appears, that mosses are not produced from burned woods. In the case of a wood thrown down by a storm of wind, many of the trees would be torn up by the roots, and some would be broken by the fall of others; the stumps left standing would soon decay at their roots, and then fall, though probably not till they felt another violent storm from the same quarter; which is the more likely, that they are generally found to lie all in the same direction.

If the ground on which the wood stood was a deep level soil, the pits made by tearing up the tree roots would soon be filled with water, the leaves and small branches of the trees, as they rotted, would give the water a blackish tinge, and thus, by sinking and spreading into the earth, would in time give that colour to the whole mass. The boles and branches of the trees would stagnate much water, which would gradually sink into, and swell the soil below; so that in time the remaining boles would sink horizontally,

and the roots of those trees which had been broken over near the surface of the ground, would, in after ages, be found in the moss below, which would grow deeper every year by the growth of aquatic plants, and the return of vegetables annually rotting on the surface. Whether peat derives its inflammability from that quality in the wood which decays on it, from the vegetables which grow in it, or in what other way, I shall not determine. This is my theory of moss; if it be not a good, it is a short one.

Unquestionably, woods grew where there are no mosses, and though some woods may have naturally decayed, we have reason to believe that many more have been destroyed in the barbarous ages. While the Scots and Picts hunted one another from hill to hill, many woods would be destroyed to lay open the country, and destroy the retreats of the contending parties. After the last were extirpated, or the remains of them incorporated with the victors, many woods would be destroyed by the Romans, the Danes, the English, and other occasional invaders; and even in more settled times, the firebrand would be employed to clear spots for first settlers.

Even in our own times, woods have been destroyed by the scandalous and illegal practice of moor-burning. A hill covered with wood, in the memory of the late Mr. Barclay of Ury, was, in this way, so totally destroyed, that not a vestige of a tree now remains. It is a general complaint that trees do not thrive on the east coast of Scotland; the truth is, they do not thrive anywhere, if they are not sheltered while young. But the Scotch pines are so hardy, that if planted thick, and at a proper age and season, a total failure of a crop is rarely seen; they soon shelter one another, and are excellent nurses to more valuable timber.

On all rocky coasts, there are dens, or deep openings from the sea, which often go a great way up into the land; and no spots are more proper for planting; were these all planted, and secured from the injuries of straggling cattle, they would be of great service to the country. Here also we might

have little orchards with a variety of wholesome fruit for the use of our families:—an article in which this country is shamefully deficient, while, in many places of England, the poorest cottager may have apple dumplings from every hedge. I know that people differ in regard to the propriety of thinning firs, and experience is pretended on both sides of the question; one thing is certain, that a free circulation of air is necessary to the health of all plants, and that if deprived of this they must sicken and die. It seems also reasonable to suppose, that after trees are advanced to the size of five or six inches diameter, they will bear a stronger current of air than when they are only two or three. If air be essential to their growth, and who doubts that it is, they would even require more. If suffered to shoot up to a great length without thinning or pruning, they become foggy, the bark declines, and the good of them is over.

I observed a remarkable instance of this, about a mile north of Arbroath, where we pass a large plantation of Scotch firs, on the south side of a hill, with very little shelter. I first saw this plantation in the year 1740, when the firs seemed to be in a thriving state. As they are thick planted, they have shot up to a considerable height, but are small in the stem, and having never been thinned, nor pruned, are now covered all over with fog; great numbers of them are dead, and their tops blown off. I think there are at least six times the quantity on the ground that it is able to support at their present size. I could wish them cut down, as one of the greatest discouragements to planting that I have anywhere seen.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

SECOND JAUNT TO THE COUNTRY CONTINUED.

Aberdeen.

I HAVE the pleasure to remark, that in most parts of Scotland a better taste in church building begins

to prevail. Gentlemen at last see, that buildings which they are obliged to support, ought to be carefully built, and of the best materials. The mason work is more elegant, the windows are larger, the galleries better constructed, and the roofs are covered with slate. I could mention a minister, still living, who never was removed from his charge, yet now preaches in his fourth church.

A very neat church has been lately built at Banchory, which is handsomely fitted up with pews and galleries. The central pews hold six persons each, but are divided by a board in the middle; so that three enter from one area, and three by another. They have no doors. The whole number is twenty-nine, and before each there is a flat board, about ten inches broad. The middle pew is double the size of the others, and upon it, at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the common elements are placed. The officiating clergyman stands at one end, to address the communicants. On that occasion, these pews are covered with clean table linen. The elders, in each of the areas, move forward the elements, from pew to pew, and in this way the whole parish communicate at three removes, instead of eight or nine in the common way, on long moveable forms.

Here, there is a free school, endowed by the family of Leys, where girls are taught sewing, &c. A mile north-east of this, on the brow of a rocky hill, stands the Castle of Crathes, the seat of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, baronet, on all hands surrounded with wood. The gardens, which are very extensive, produce large quantities of fruit; and in the walks and avenues, are the greatest quantities of the small cherry, called the geen, that I have anywhere met with. It has an agreeable aromatic warmth, and is safer for the stomach than almost any other kind of stone fruit.

Six miles below Crathes, I crossed the Dee, a little below Pitfodels, the seat of John Menzies, Esq.; the house is old, and on the brink of the river, but I am told the gentleman intends to remove it, and build one more suited to his fortune. A mile below Pitfodels, lies Kingcausie, the seat of James Irvine, Esq. on

the north declivity of a high hill covered with pines. The house is a plain modern building, consisting of a ground flat, a first floor, and an attic storey. On the first floor, are three handsome apartments in front, and two backward, with a large scale stair. It fronts north, and has a fine sloping lawn before it, sheltered by belts of planting and hedge-rows.

On the west, where the lawn begins to contract, is a most delightful spot called Capel Grove, in honour of Lady Mary Capel.* Here the children of nature dread no enemy; while you walk through their peaceful retreats, they continue their song, or hop before you from bush to bush, looking asquint at you now and then, as if they would say, "Don't you think this a pretty place?" Here the rude and distant noise of the screaming crow and chattering magpie are finely contrasted by the softer notes of the linnet and thrush; while the descending skylark concludes her song in softly dying falls, the woods resound with the loud whistle of the sprightly blackbird.

From a covered way on the south of the house, we enter to a lawn, beyond which are the gardens, charmingly laid out, and well supplied with fruit-trees and flowering-shrubs. Mr. Irvine's farm is extensive and in fine culture, as indeed it ought, for he has trenched every foot of it. To clear the surface of the stones, he has, in some places, been obliged to double his fences, some of which are now seven or eight feet thick at bottom.

While he and I walked over the farm, I observed a field in which the labourers had but lately begun to work; it was rugged and wild as imagination can form, low, marshy, and full of unshapely rocks. I asked the gentleman, whether he hoped to make it arable at the expense of a hundred pounds the acre? "O yes," said he, "and for a great deal less money. The blowing of the large rocks with gunpowder, the casting of drains, trenching the ground, and carrying off the stones, are indeed articles of great expense; but there are times when the farm horses and servants

* Daughter of the Earl of Essex, and wife of Admiral Forbes, to whose sister, Lady Mary, Mr. Irvine is married.

can be spared to assist the day-labourers, which makes it less felt, and it is a great inducement to works of this kind, that one gives bread to many poor people.

"I do not tell you that my money and labour are profitably laid out, that may be questioned; but this I think you will admit, that fifty pounds sunk in improving barren ground is, at least, as well laid out as the same sum lost in gaming. Men must be amused somehow, and he best hits the mark who, by habit, comes to think whatever is useful agreeable. I look upon these stones as the scalps of conquered enemies, and see, with a peculiar pleasure, corn growing where none ever grew before." Mr. Irvine's house and gardens are well sheltered by tall hedges and trees, and from the front windows we have a fine prospect of the river Dee, and many gentlemen's seats on its north bank.

A mile below Kingcausie, we pass Blairs, a fine farm, the property of John Menzies, Esq. laid out and improved by his uncle, Captain David Menzies; and Auchlunies, the property of Theophilus Ogilvie, Esq. collector of the customs at Aberdeen. A little farther on, lies Ardoch, the property of Mr. Fordyce; the gentleman was a warrant-officer on board Commodore Anson's fleet, and had the prudence and good sense to lay out his prize-money upon this estate, which he has since very much improved. A little below Ardoch, lies Banchory-Devenick, the property of Mr. Thomson, where great improvements have been recently made. Give me credit for a short letter, and believe me to be, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII.

THE COAST TO PETERHEAD.

Peterhead.

ABOUT a mile after we cross the bridge of Don, we pass Murcar, a large and well laid out farm, the property of William Fraser, Esq. of Fraserfield,

which has been lately improved by Mr. Fraser, his son. Some miles farther on, we pass through the lands of Belhelvie, part of the forfeited estate of Panmure, now in possession of the York Building-Company: and, at the distance of six miles farther, we cross the river Ythan, at Ellon, a thriving populous village, the property of Lord Aberdeen. At a little distance from the village, his lordship has a fine seat, formerly called Kermucks, now Ellon House. The building is large, and pleasantly situated at the foot of a steep ascent, sloping to the south and south-west. From the first floor we enter to a fine terrace, on the skirt of an extensive garden.

A little below Ellon, lies Fechil, late the property of John Douglas, Esq. but now of Lord Aberdeen. Mr. Douglas was a man of a liberal, social turn of mind, and one of the first and most sensible improvers in this corner of the country. A little farther down the river, stands a village called the Newburgh, the property of Commissioner Udny, which has a harbour and pier, where vessels of small burden can load and unload. In plentiful years, a good deal of oatmeal and grain are shipped off from it; and coals, lime, and other merchandise, for the use of the country, are here discharged. There is a salmon fishing at the mouth of the Ythan, and large quantities of mussels drawn from it, are sent in to the Aberdeen market. A little below Ellon, on the north side of the river, lies Auchmacoy, the property of Thomas Buchan, Esq. where very considerable improvements have been lately made.

Some miles farther on, we ride through the parish of Cruden, where, at a place called Ardendrate, a battle was fought with the Danes—often very dangerous neighbours to this coast, which lies opposite to them. Though there is scarce a tree now to be seen in this country, it must have been well stored with wood in former ages, for it has, in many places, immense mosses, which never are found but where woods have been.

At eighteen miles distance from Aberdeen, stands Slains Castle, the seat of the Earl of Erroll, chief of

the noble family of the Hays; it is situated on the summit of a high rock, washed by the sea. Though the house be old, it has many commodious apartments; and every Scotchman, acquainted with the history of his country and the character of the family, must see it with a kind of grateful regard, which he finds he cannot bestow upon the more splendid palaces of those, who, by falling in with the principles of all times, and suiting themselves to the views and humours of all princes, have been wiser in their generation. Superadded to a tall and graceful person, the late earl had a dignity of mind, and an easy obliging manner, which charmed all those who came near him; if ever one had the general good will of mankind, and the real esteem of his acquaintance, it was James, Earl of Erroll.

The coast here is prodigiously high and rocky. In many places, while you walk upon the surface, you know that there are frightful chasms below you, but a few yards under ground. But if you have seen them from below, you will apprehend no danger of falling through, for the roofs are firmly and compactly put together by the great Architect of nature. The most remarkable of these subterraneous openings is the Bullers of Buchan, which has, in front, a rude and very high arch, under which boats enter, in calm weather, with such as choose to visit these awful cavities.

Probably, wherever we meet with these cliffs on the shore, there have been formerly earth hills, in a sloping direction from them, which have been washed away by the long continued action of the sea. When its ravages were checked by the remaining rocks, they would, with redoubled rage, break in upon the more level grounds, and thus bays may have been formed or enlarged. Where the cliffs now have apertures to the sea, after the side earth had been carried off, that under the arches would be undermined, and soon fall from the top. Thus we find the bold rocky coast of Buchan succeeded by the immense bay from Slains Castle to the east point of the Grampians, south of Aberdeen; and all the bays and creeks from

thence to the Northesk, seem to be excavations of the same kind.

Peterhead stands a little to the south-west of the Buchanness, the most easterly point in Scotland, and nearly on a line with Berwick, on the border of England; being in 57 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, and one degree 39 minutes west longitude, from the meridian of London. It is a neat well aired town, built upon an eminence near the harbour, which is a very safe and good one, though in easterly and south-easterly storms difficult to make. Few harbours in Great Britain are of more importance to the public, as in the case of violent storms from the points just mentioned, or any point towards the east, vessels embayed betwixt this and the mouth of Dundee river, have not a port they can safely take. If therefore they cannot make their way to sea, in the teeth of a tempestuous storm, or clear the Buchanness, that they may take the Moray Frith, they must inevitably come on shore.

The great importance of this harbour has been long and universally acknowledged, though it is but of late that effectual attempts have been made to improve it. The town had no funds; and all that a few private men could do, was but trifling. The principal inhabitants have, however, represented the matter in so strong and just a light to some members of the House of Commons, that they applied to the Lords of the Treasury, and obtained an order for £500 a-year, for seven years, from the annexed estates. It is also thought that Government will erect a fort near the mouth of the harbour; which would be a great security to trading vessels in time of war. It is proposed to carry out a large stone pier, and take every precaution for rendering the harbour of Peterhead safe and commodious to the trade of Great Britain. It has about eighteen feet water, at spring tides.

The town of Peterhead has long enjoyed a good share of the trade usually carried on in the north; which it, in a high degree, owes to the probity and persevering diligence of the late Mr. R. Arbuthnot,

merchant. A considerable manufacture of thin woollen goods is carried on by two gentlemen of the same name. They also make a few stocking threads, and spin great quantities of linen yarn. They have a small salmon fishing, but more vigorously prosecute the catching of cod and ling, which are plentiful on the coast. As the town stands in the neighbourhood of a fine well peopled corn country, provisions are commonly very reasonable, and from its vicinity to the sea, it is well supplied with fish.

Its mineral waters have been long in great repute, and people who have stomachic complaints resort to them from all corners of the kingdom, during the summer season. The water-drinkers live in a convivial and very social manner, and, I dare say, find no less benefit from good air and cheerful company, that from the springs. Here, the northerly and easterly winds are very keen and penetrating, though the natives, from long habit, find no inconvenience from them.

Mr. Robert Farquhar, who had been several years minister of Peterhead, was obliged to give up his charge, on account of his bad state of health, and to accept of a worse living. He has since been minister of Chapel of Garioch, where he still lives, under the kindly shade of the great mountain Bennachie, though he left Peterhead almost forty years ago. I mention this fact, as a remarkable instance of the difference in constitution, in regard to air. The gentleman was born in an inland part of the country.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIX.

COAST FROM PETERHEAD TO BANFF.

A LITTLE north of Peterhead, on the rivulet Ugie, stands the Castle of Inverugie, an ancient seat of the Earls Marischal, near to which the family had a good estate. A few miles farther on, we pass Broadland, the property of Robert Stevens, Esq. who has made

very considerable improvements on his estate. Near to this lies the village of Rattray, remarkable for curing cod in the best manner. From the Buchanness to Kinnaird's-head, the sea-coast lies north-west, but, from the last point, runs due west to Cromarty, at the mouth of the Moray Frith.

A little to the east of Kinnaird's-head, stands Fraserburgh, a seaport, with a pretty good harbour and pier. The male part of the inhabitants are chiefly employed in fishing, the women in spinning flax. Near to this place, stands Philorth Castle, the seat of Lord Saltoun, whose ancestor married the daughter of Archbishop Sharp, who was in the coach with her father when he was murdered, on Magus Moor, near St. Andrew's.

A little to the west of Fraserburgh, lies Broadsea, a fishing town, the property of Lord Saltoun; and two miles west of it, we come up with Pittuly, another village, where the inhabitants are employed in the same branch of business. At the distance of another mile, lies Rosehearty, the property of Alex. Garden, Esq. of Troup. This is a large fishing town, and has a great many boats. The fish caught in winter they salt up; and in summer, or spring, carry them to the Frith of Forth, in their own boats, where they sell them to good account, and, in return, purchase wool, flax, or any other commodity by which they can make a little profit in their own country. Many other towns on this coast sell their winter and summer dried fish at the same market.

Five miles farther west, lies the fishing town of Auchmedden, the property of Lord Aberdeen. Two miles farther, lies Cruvie, another fishing town: and a mile west of it, lies Gardenstone, both the property of Troup. At the Nethermill of Auchmedden, about half a mile east from the house of Troup, we enter the shire of Banff, which stretches due west to the river Spey, in Moray, about twenty-four computed miles. From Kinnaird's-head, to Duncan's-bay-head, the most easterly point of Caithness, the distance is twenty leagues. From the Buchanness to the Ness

of Norway, ninety-six leagues. From Down to Norway, it is about a hundred and twelve leagues.

The house of Troup stands within half a mile of the sea, in a fine corn country; it is a modern building, three storeys high, and very substantially built. Mr. Garden keeps but a small farm in his own management, but it is in excellent culture. The tenants on his different estates are generally esteemed good farmers, as indeed they ought, for they are under no apprehensions of having their rents racked, or of being turned out of their possessions, while they are peaceable neighbours, and pay what they have promised.

Gardenstone, two miles west of Troup, lies at the foot of a high hill, which makes the communication with it, by land, very inconvenient. Were the roads made, it would very much promote the trade of the place. The inhabitants import wood, salt, coals, &c. for the use of the country, and the women are employed in spinning flax. They have a great many fishing-boats, and cure a great many cod, ling, &c. which are sold very reasonable. It has a tolerable harbour, and several small vessels belonging to it; the number of inhabitants is about four hundred. It is in the parish of Gamrie, and shire of Banff.

Four miles west of Gardenstone, there is a good slate quarry, the property of Colonel Ogilvie of Melrose. Down, a little east of Banff river, is the property of Lord Fife, and will have a pretty good harbour, when finished. There are a few small vessels belonging to it, which chiefly import wood, iron, salt, and coals. The inhabitants do but little in the manufacturing way. The lands about the village are generally of a good quality, and let from fifteen to thirty shillings per acre. The ground for building is feued from the Earl of Fife, who has built a neat chapel of ease for his feuars, who are five miles from Gamrie, their parish church. The village contains from seven to eight hundred inhabitants.

About half a mile to the east of Down, a fine mineral spring has been lately discovered, to which many people resort in summer. Lord Fife is build-

ing a genteel house, for the accommodation of those who may in future resort to it. A great deal of kelp is burned on this coast, which, as it has borne a high price for some time past, is found a good article to the concerned.

Though the cliffs and subterraneous caverns on this coast has been recently described, I cannot dispense with giving you a general account of them. The highest rocks are between Auchmedden and Aberdour. A stranger contemplates them with a tremor not to be expressed. A man on the sea-shore, seen from the top of them, seems but a child. As you approach their summit, if the sea be rough, the roaring of the waves below, and the wild screaming of the fowls above, form a hideous concert. On the side of one of these rocks is a fine millstone quarry, from which rough-dressed millstones are purchased from many distant corners of the country; great numbers of them are carried the length of Aberdeen. The stone is of a reddish colour, and very hard. The quarry lies at a great depth from the surface, about two-thirds down the rock, and the quarriers descend, almost perpendicularly, by steps cut out by steeled tools. I think Governor Pitt's diamond could not have bribed me to follow them.

When the millstones are cut out, they are turned down the hill, whence they descend with such a thundering velocity that many of them break to pieces, to the great damage of the poor men. Such of them as keep whole, are carried in boats to the shore of Auchmedden, for the use of the country millers, or to more distant places, by the purchasers. I think some of these cliffs must be above three hundred feet high, though they are, generally, perpendicular.

The promontory called Troup-head, I take to be one of the highest on this coast. I went to see it, in company with several others, to whom the object was familiar. While they took up pebbles, and ran towards the precipice, that they might throw them the farther into the sea, I stood in great terror, at a convenient distance; while some of them fearlessly clapped their breech upon the brink of the cliff, and

hung their legs over, I crawled upon all-fours till I got within three or four yards of the brink, and then wheeled about to *terra firma*. I would not have put myself in their position for the property of all the land my eye could take in, unless a fair lady had been appended to it.

You will say, "What have cowards to do with fair ladies?" I am very stout upon the plain, and, if locked into a good demi-pike saddle, could hunt down a hare (leaping of gates and hedges always excepted), but I have no idea of that courage which does not shudder at the thought of an abyss below. If ever such risks are to be run by wise people, it is in the case I have supposed: when a lady is the prize, every polite man would esteem it an honour to break his neck. If you doubt of this, you have never been in love.

Near to this, is a cavern divided into two, by a strong middle rock, in the side of which there is a rugged aperture, large enough to let a single person through; which is, not improperly, called the Needle's Eye. One of these apartments is small, but the other very large; I imagine about thirty feet in breadth, and about twenty feet high in the roof. The bottom is unequal ridges of black rock, and when the tide is out, has very little water in it. The opening to the sea, is under a rude irregular arch. There is another circular cave, open at top, called Hell's Lum, to which there is a sloping descent, all round, from the summit of the cliff. Wonderful as you may think it, I had the courage to scramble down near to the brink of this horrid chasm, and have thought myself the better man for it ever since. Indeed, I was the more hardy, that a gentleman present promised, in case I should be drowned, to make diligent search for my body, and bury it in christian ground. I was not sorry, however, that the compliment cost him nothing. I take the mouth of this cave to be from thirty to forty yards in circumference. It must be very dreadful to look down upon it when the sea runs high.

There is another remarkable cave at the Nethermill

of Auchmedden, narrow at the entry, but gradually widening as we go forward. After we had got a good way in, my conductor complimented me on my courage. "Your honour," said he "are not timris; I hopes we sall hae better luck than the piper!" Stout as I am, I stood stock-still, and would know the fate of the piper ere I proceeded a step farther. "Troth, Sir, as the story's tauld, the poor man had gotten a soup o' drink, and wist to ken fou his pipes wad soun in this uncouth place. Naebody doubts o' his gaen in, but as few ever saw him come out. He was heard playing *Lochaber no more*, about a mile farer ben than we are yet!" "Well, friend, as you say, I fear nothing; but we may meet the fellow, and as I heartily hate the noise of a bagpipe, let us turn back in time!" The man said not a word, but told me, by a significant look, that I was no wiser than I should be. Perhaps you will be of the same opinion, as I have not the wit to keep my own secret. In the summer season, a vast variety of sea-fowl resort to these cliffs for hatching their young, and indeed they could scarce pitch upon a place where they could have a greater probability of being secure from man, their enemy.

I am, &c.

LETTER XL.

BANFF AND ITS ENVIRONS.

BANFF stands on the south declivity of a hill, hard by the sea, at the influx of the river Deveron, thirty computed miles north of Aberdeen. Though not a large town, it has one good street, and several meaner streets and lanes. It has a pretty good harbour, and some vessels belonging to it. Its bridge over the Deveron, was broke down by an extraordinary flood in harvest 1770, which did much damage. Another has been since built, where it is thought to be in less danger from the rise of the water. Both bridges were built at the expense of government.

The Banff people do a deal of business in the linen manufacture; besides what yarn they make into thread and cloth themselves, they send great quantities to Nottingham, and other places where there is a demand for it. They have but one church, though the inhabitants are thought to be from three to four thousand. Lord Fife has a fine salmon fishing here, and on other places of the Deveron, from which great quantities are drawn annually. The environs and prospects of Banff are very pleasant; and the adjacent lands, naturally of a good soil, have been much improved, and now let at a high rent.

The town is bounded on the west by the Earl of Fife's fine policy, and Duff-House, which stands in the middle of an extensive plain. The pasture grounds, towards the river side, are inclosed on the east by a high stone-and-lime-wall, which comes close to the town, and has a noble iron gate, which opens on a broad gravel-walk, leading to the house. When you enter this gate, you have on the right a fine shrubbery, not very broad, but extending about a mile and a half in length. It is very carefully kept, and exceedingly pleasant. It terminates at a spot, high above the river, where an old chapel stood; the few human bones found in the burying-ground were, by my lord's order, gathered together, and over them he has raised a very neat sepulchral column.

In the middle of the river, there is a pretty little island, covered with trees, in which there is a small pleasure-house, and the banks of it are well secured by a stone fence. Duff-House is a large modern building, planned and executed by the late Mr. Adam, architect; it has a grand stair in front, with a portico, supported by Corinthian columns, crowned with their entablature, and a pediment above. As the colonades are not yet added, the building has a heavy appearance, partly owing to a number of huge stone vases on the top of the walls. There is a grand vestibule; but most of the apartments that I saw are rather small for the outside appearance of the house. The stables and other offices stand at a convenient distance, on the left hand, as you enter from Banff.

As an agreeable contrast to this superb building, and fine plain, on the east end of the town of Banff, stands Banff Castle, on the summit of a high hill. It is the property of the Earl of Findlater, and now the residence of my Lady Dowager, his mother. It is a plain modern building, excepting a small house backward, which was built by Archbishop Sharp's father. The apartments are not large, but elegantly furnished. The walls of one room are almost totally covered with fine prints, framed and glazed; and so judiciously arranged, that, in so great a variety, the eye finds nothing to hurt it. On the sides, and in front of the house, walks and terraces have been cut and levelled from the declivity of the hill, which are fenced by stone parapet walls. The gardens are backward.

Nothing can exceed the prospect from the windows in all directions. From the front windows, you see the river mouth, and salmon fishing, at an immense distance below; the village of Down, and Lord Fife's improvements on the high grounds, on the south side of the Deveron. From the west end, you have a commanding prospect of the town of Banff, Duff-House, and Lord Fife's policy on the winding banks of the river; terminated by high hills, and far distant mountains. On the north, you have a view of the grand opening to the Moray Frith, and, in a clear day, can see the lofty mountains of Caithness, on the other side, which seem to hide their blue tops in the clouds. And on the east, you have a long extended bold rocky shore, and a boundless prospect of the German Ocean.

I took a ride this morning to see the farm of Colleonard, two miles west of Banff, which is esteemed the late Earl of Findlater's *chef d' œuvre*. It is indeed a noble farm, and would be reckoned so in any part of Great Britain. The farm houses, and barnyards, which are large and well constructed, stand upon a gently sloping bank, nearly in the centre of the farm, which is very extensive, being the whole of a small estate, which my lord purchased with the generous view of improving it, as an example to that neighbourhood.

The inclosures are large, the fences strong and well kept; and the roads, on all hands, broad and well made. An extensive plain on the south, formerly a morass, almost impassable by man or beast, has, by broad and deep drains, and proper culture, been made the richest part of the whole farm. The upper grounds are a lighter soil, but have been enriched by lime, and other manure. In all places, the ridges have been straighted, and where there was no danger of stagnate water, brought nearly upon a level. His lordship improved this farm by English servants; and having had three successively of the name of Richard, he used to call the last, Richard the Third; though the man was neither born with teeth, nor so much given to biting as his name-father.

I met with a very civil man, who put up my horse, and walked over the farm with me, to whom I observed, that this improvement must have cost my lord a great deal of money. "No doubt it did," said he, "but the ground has made large returns, and will, in time, do much more than quit costs. No man knew better how to lay out his money than Lord Findlater; no man laid it out with more œconomy; but he knew that to starve improvements was the ready way to make them useless, and even hurtful to himself and the country; for a begun improvement is money sunk, which can never emerge but by laying out the whole sum necessary to complete the original plan. When improvements are given up as unprofitable and desperate, they have a strong tendency to retard future attempts of the same kind. Lord Findlater did every thing in the proper season, and never scrupled the necessary expense."

As the morning was fine, I spent almost two hours upon the ground, and to have seen the farm thoroughly would have required as many days. The barley was mostly cut down, the full-eared wheat, and yellowing oat, waved in the wind; the turnip were in the rough leaf, the fallow fields in fine tilth; the hay was partly stacked, and partly in tramp-ricks; the cattle were feeding in luxuriant pastures; the happy labourers sung at work, and the birds in every

hedge——But I check myself—the scene was worthy of Thomson's descriptive pen. I am, &c.

LETTER XLI.

THE COAST FROM BANFF TO CULLEN.

Soon after I left Banff, I had a most delightful view of the opening to the Moray Frith, and the highlands of Caithness, at the distance of sixty miles. Two very high mountains, with conical tops, called the Maiden Paps, seem to prop the skies. About two miles north-west of Banff, I entered upon Lord Findlater's estate, and found the enclosures and farm-houses such as I expected to find them.

I soon came up with an old man, who, after the usual salutations, which the common people in the north never omit when they meet a gentleman, seemed very desirous of entering into conversation with me. As the morning was warm, I chose to ride slowly, and therefore indulged the honest man's curiosity. "I suppose," said he, "your honour is for Cullen?" I told him, I rode that way. "You will find it a fine house;" said he, "the king has no better. Mayhaps you are the gentleman that counts the windows, or our new supervisor." I told him I was neither of them, but an idle man who rode about to see sights.

"If you had known this country fifty years ago, as I did, you would think those fields and houses, which you pass unnoticed, a fine sight. I remember the time, Sir, and so does my youngest bairn, when they were all uninclosed; large bauks (stripes of barren ground) between every two or three ridges; and when you might have travelled through them, from one stone head to another, without touching the yeird (earth); when the farm-houses were ready to tumble, and neither held out wind nor rain; and when we were well pleased if, over all the farm, we had four times the corn we sowed." "At that time your rents must have been very low?" "No, Sir, they were high; for we have now sense enough to know

that lands in bad order are not worth the culture." "So I have often heard; but who among you had the merit of introducing better methods of farming?"

"Troth, Sir, we did not think ourselves much obliged to him at first; it was our master; and we had some suspicion that lairds and lords chiefly minded their own interest. We had been long accustomed to our own methods, and thought our fathers had been as wise as we; it was not therefore an easy matter to persuade us that any others were better, or more proper for our soil. Fallowing ground we thought a ridiculous thing; it was hard to plough once for a bad crop, but still harder to plough three times without a crop at all. We believed that much ploughing would break the heart of our ground, and that by killing the natural grass and weeds, we would have the straw so coarse, that our cattle could not live upon it.

"We thought it would be the ready way to put the plough in the heuroost (to become bankrupt), to lay out our best lands with sown grass, after a dunging, when we had reason to expect other two corn crops without a fresh dunging. Lime would burn our grounds, as it burned our clothes; turnip, we knew not the use of, they would neither supply the place of corn nor straw. I weary you, Sir—All these prejudices Lord Findlater got the better of; not by the strong hand, and telling us, by his overseers and factors, that such and such things we must do, but by going himself from farm to farm, advising, rather than directing us how to proceed.

"Be diligent, he would say, your time is your stock; follow rational methods, and you will all get rich; it is what I wish, and will help you to, if you do not hinder me by your obstinacy. Why should you labour hard for a bare subsistence, while the tenants in other parts of the kingdom get money? Perhaps in some situations, their lands may be better, or they may be nearer a good market; only try what yours will do; I wish not a rent which a man cannot pay and live. I would have you live well, he that works has a right to eat." Here the old man stopt short,

and I could observe the tear of gratitude swelling in his eye. He wished me a good journey, and turned off at a cross road. So sensible are the country people of good usage, and so grateful when treated as rational beings.

A few miles farther on, I passed Boyne Castle, the property of Lord Findlater, and the ancient seat of his ancestors, the Ogilvies of Boyne. The district is still distinguished by the name of "The Boyne." The situation of the castle is romantic; it stands on the south edge of a deep gloomy den, covered with wood from top to bottom. It is now only used as a granary.

I breakfasted at Portsoy, a thriving little town, with a good harbour, and several vessels belonging to it. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the linen manufacture. Some long lawns and gauzes are wove here; and great quantities of stocking threads are sent to Nottingham. A vast deal of flax is imported for the use of the town and the adjacent country; and large quantities of salmon and grain are exported. A white or sea fishing is also carried on by a company in town, which deals largely in the wine trade. The country about is populous and fertile, and consequently provisions are bought at a moderate price.

A little farther on, I passed Durn, the seat of Sir William Dunbar, baronet; and saw at a distance, on my left, Birkenbog, the seat of Sir Robert Abercrombie, baronet. On the north of Birkenbog, in a flat bottom, the property of Lord Findlater, the late earl made great improvements. A little farther west, stands Glassaugh, the property of General Abercrombie,* who, besides other useful improvements, has erected a fine mill for grinding wheat, a thing much needed in the country. Cullen is nine computed miles north-west of Banff, and lies in a fine grain country. Here the linen manufacture is briskly carried on; and besides what they manufacture themselves, a great deal of yarn is sold to other places.

* Who died since this letter was written.

A manufacture of loom-stockings is also carried on. The town and parish is thought to contain from a thousand to twelve hundred persons.

Cullen-House, though not just what the honest countryman thought it, is a large building, consisting of a long front, and a south side-wing. It stands on a plain, on the north-west of the town, and has many good apartments. It was of old the property of Martha, Countess of Carrick, mother to the famous King Robert Bruce, and when the late jurisdiction act took place, the Earl of Findlater was allowed a certain sum by Government, in lieu of any right he might have claimed as keeper of this ancient demesne of the crown. Part of a wall, on the north of the entry to the modern house, is left standing, as a specimen of the old house; the stones are very small, few of them larger than one's fist, but so firmly compacted by the cement, that they can scarce be separated. This fragment seems to be, at least, coeval with the Countess Martha. There is a deed of hers still extant in Lord Findlater's family, by which she bequeaths a small sum annually to the church of our lady at Cullen, for masses to be said for the repose of her soul.

As part of the house is built upon the summit of a rock, a stranger is agreeably surprised when, from the windows of the ground-floor, he overlooks trees fifty or sixty feet high, in a semicircular hollow below. The face of the rock is quite perpendicular, and without a fissure. On the north, we pass to the fields by a broad gravelled road, where there is a parapet wall, connected with the buildings on both sides. If, after you turn the corner of the house, you look over this wall, you find that you stand upon an arch, thrown over a deep den, with a rivulet in the bottom of it. The arch is eighty-two feet wide at bottom, and sixty feet high.

During the heavy winter rains, a torrent of water comes down from the hills, especially after the break of a storm, when stones of an immense size are forced down; many of these lie in the bottom of the rivulet, which has but little water in it during summer. The

sides of the den are covered with all kinds of trees and flowering-shrubs, through which serpentine gravel-walks have been made. The semicircular hollow under the windows is laid out in a grass plot, in which there are many fine old trees; its open side is to the rivulet, and the curve, south-west from the house, is formed by a very steep slope of an adjoining hill, which is planted.

The soil about Cullen is fertile, and lets high; there is one of the finest banks of land I have seen, just above the town. My lord's personal farm is extensive, judiciously divided, and in excellent order; it lies on the west and south-west, from which we have the prospect of a pretty round hill, called the Bin of Cullen. His lordship has lately made out *a fine ride* round the whole policy. Though the phrase be common, I doubt its propriety. I am, &c.

LETTER XLII.

THE WEEKLY CONCERT AT ABERDEEN, &c.

Aberdeen.

AFTER having got to the end of my line, I arrived here last night, and shall, in a few days, set out for the west. I had almost forgot to mention, that, during the winter season, the good people of Aberdeen have a weekly concert on the Friday. It is nearly upon the same plan with the concert at Edinburgh, and they have sometimes an Italian for leading the band. Stranger gentlemen may have admission-tickets by applying to any of the directors, and every member has a right to call for two ladies' tickets. During the summer season, they have only occasional concerts, at one of which I was present last night. A genteel couple had been married, and then made their first appearance. I think there were about eighty ladies, generally well dressed, fine complexions, and most of them very handsome. The room is not large, but very neatly fitted up, with forms on both sides and the lower end, rising a little above each other,

At the upper end, there is an orchestra, raised two steps above the floor, furnished with a harpsichord and chamber-organ; and on the end wall, hangs a picture of St. Cecilia, the patroness of music; which has rather too much flesh and blood. The concert is divided into three acts, and at the end of each act, we had a Scotch tune, accompanied by the harpsichord or organ. Though I question not but many of the ladies enjoyed the Italian music, I could observe the glow of pleasure brighten up their countenances when the national music began. Nor can this be altogether owing to the prejudice of education, for the *dilettanti* of all nations do justice to the sweet pleasing strain of the Caledonian music. I was uncommonly lucky; "Roslin Castle," and the "Lass of Patie's Mill," my two most favourite airs, were played.

From music, it is a very natural transition to poets and orators. You ask whether I have been to hear Dr. Campbell preach?* Can you think I would have been so long in town without hearing him? If I have heard him, you wish to know, "whether the same close reasoning, the same perspicuity of style, the same liberality of sentiment, the same elegant simplicity of language, nervous expression, and warm zeal for the interests of piety, distinguish the preacher and the writer?" If you have any doubts, come and hear him. You ask whether I have seen Dr. Beattie? I have; he is one of the few authors who have nothing to fear from being seen. An innate modesty in his conversation and manner, totally prevents that disagreeable sensation of which we are conscious, when under the eye of science, inflamed by literary pride. In company with the doctor, we forget the philosopher and poet, and enjoy the agreeable friend. Though we must regret his delicate constitution, and precarious state of health, yet to this we may, in a high degree, owe that pleasing sensibility for which his poetical works are distinguished.

Having mentioned two living authors who do so much honour to the Marischal College, it would be

* Principal of the Marischal College, author of an Essay on Miracles, The Philosophy of Rhetoric, &c.

unpardonable not to mention Dr. Alexander Gerard, professor of divinity in the King's College; a gentleman who, by his learned works, has given unquestionable proofs of solid judgment, good taste, and indefatigable industry. Mr. Dunbar, of the same college, by the specimens he has given, bids fair to do much credit to the university. If, under the eye of two such professors as Campbell and Gerard, the young gentlemen who have holy orders in view, do not turn out good preachers, and pious, moderate, men, posterity will impute their defects to something else than a bad education. I am, &c.

LETTER XLIII.

DESCRIPTION OF AUCHRY'S FARM.

Aberdeen.

BEFORE I left this place, I had heard much of the improvements made by Mr. Cumine of Auchry, and, though it lay some miles out of my way, I resolved to see his farm. It lies in a wild moorland country, where you see little but heath on all hands; yet has every appearance of a finely laid out English farm. The whole, (and it is very extensive), is surrounded with a broad belt of planting, not of one, but almost every kind of timber that has been planted in Britain, and is subdivided into lesser inclosures by thorn hedges and rows of trees. It has a gentle slope to the south, and on that quarter is circumscribed by a rivulet, the banks of which have been straighted. The house and garden stand on an eminence, about the middle of the farm, and overlook the rivulet, which has a wooden bridge thrown over it, leading to Montquhitter, now Cuminestown, a fine village lately erected by Mr. Cumine. Settlers obtain small spots of ground upon very moderate terms, and several streets are already built. Some threads are manufactured here, and a great deal of linen yarn is sent to Huntly, Banff, &c. Though at a considerable distance from a quarry or a seaport, Mr. Cumine

uses a great deal of lime; and, by the judicious application of it, has brought his ground into high order. As a great part of it is always in grass, this enables him to keep a good stock of cattle, and as all the hay and straw raised is consumed upon the ground, the dung annually returned adds to the fertility of the soil. I have nowhere seen a finer breed of cows and young cattle than Mr. Cumine has. The greatest difficulty has been to reduce some marshy ground on the north; and indeed the man must have had great courage who could but think of attempting it.

After I had seen Auchry's farm, I purposed to have slept at Oldmeldrum, but this my hospitable landlord would not permit. "I never willingly part with a guest," said he, "till I am better acquainted with him, but in the case of indispensable business. If you must sleep at Oldmeldrum to-night, I will hasten your departure; but if it makes no material odds whether you get there to-night or to-morrow morning, I hope to be indulged with your company. You have not yet seen half the difficulties I had to surmount." This polite invitation was accompanied with such an air of unaffected good-will, that I could not resist it. After tea, Mr. Cumine and I had an agreeable walk through the farm, and I could everywhere observe strong marks of judgment and industry. In some places, the drains were open, in others covered, but in all so perfectly executed, that they must have been the result of great labour and expense. On the west of the house, is a deep den, which runs through the farm, with a rivulet in the bottom of it, the banks of which are planted. Nothing pleased me more than the great variety of trees which I everywhere saw, many of which I thought could not have lived in this climate. "I make it a rule," said the gentleman, "to plant every kind I can get, let what will come forward. The want of shelter, and stagnate water at the roots, are the capital obstructions to the growth of trees; remove these, and most kinds will come away. Where natural shelter is wanting, we can only contrive to remedy the defect so far, by making the plants shelter one another; for

what shelter they have from a dyke or hedge is of no great consequence, as it extends but a little way. In a cold climate, and where grounds are much exposed, it is absolutely necessary to plant thick, nor should we ever plant without intermixing the Scotch fir, whose thick lateral branches break the wind, and protect the more valuable plants that are slower growers. When they no longer need to be protected, the firs may be thinned or cut out. Single hedge-rows never thrive in this country; but belts, of four or five rows, if protected while young, succeed very well. Besides sheltering our fields, and beautifying the country, I apprehend the profits to be made of the timber to be a material object. There is a constant waste of timber on a farm; the gates, husbandry utensils, and farm-houses, require a great deal annually; if the farmer has all this to purchase with money, and must bring it from a distant place, he finds it very inconvenient." In such conversation we passed the evening, and early next morning I set out for this place. I am, &c.

FINIS.

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