

THE
STRANGER'S COMPANION

AMID
THE ANTIQUITIES
OF
DUNFERMLINE

Second Edition.

"The King sits in Dunfermline Toune."

ISBN - 978-1-909634-29-9

REPRINT ON DISC - 2014

EDITED BY SHEILA PITCAIRN. F.S.A.Scot., L.H.G.

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PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. MILLER AND SON.

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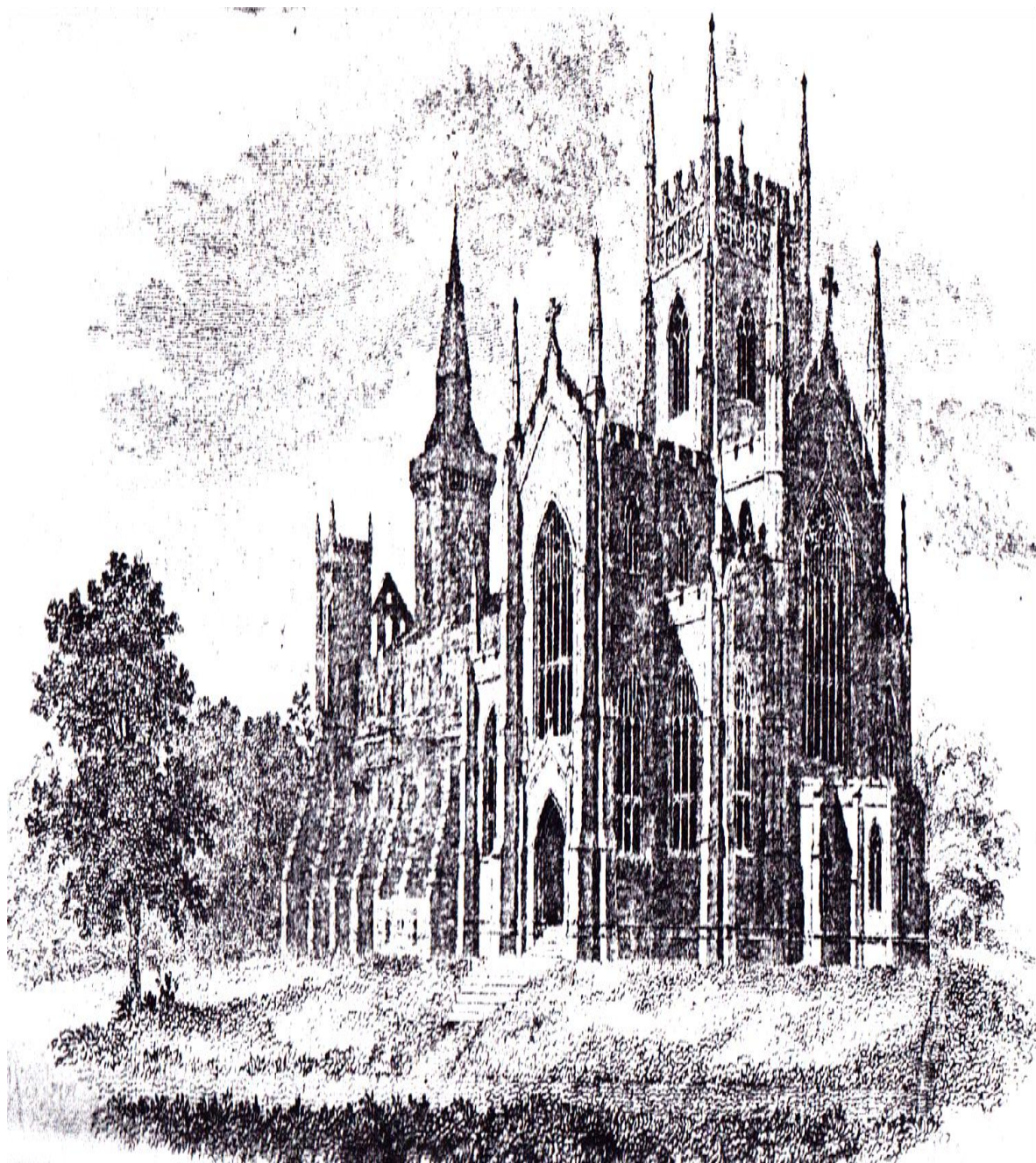
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We have much pleasure in stating, that by the kind permission of the Rev. P. CHALMERS, we have been enabled to enrich this second edition with much new and interesting information regarding the Antiquities of the town, extracted from that gentleman's "History of Dunfermline" lately published. Those desirous of obtaining the most ample information regarding all matters of interest both ancient and modern, regarding the town, are referred to that work which is to be found in the bookseller's. (See Cover)



CHAPTER 1.

STRANGER, it is a hallowed spot of earth over which we propose to guide your steps; it has been graced by the living presence of royalty, and is now honoured as the resting-place of Scotland's ancient illustrious dead. Yes, DUNFERMLINE and its Old Abbey are rich in historical associations of the days that are gone; and if, pilgrim-like, you have tuned hither to kneel at the tomb of the patriot BRUCE, or bless he

memory of good Queen MARGARET, then shall it be ours to guide thy “meditative foot,” and shed what light we may upon these relics of the olden time.

Looking back some seven hundred and ninety years ago, we approximate to the date of -

THE ORIGIN OF THE TOWN

In 1075 Malcolm Canmore, or Great-head, having conquered Macbeth, the murderer of King Duncan, his father, ascended the Scottish throne. Besides founding the Monastery of Dunfermline, he built a strong tower on a height in the adjacent glen, and from this tower the town derived its name and dates its existence. *Dun*, in the Gaelic, signifies either a hill or a fort; *fair*, means crooked or winding, and *lion* or *lyn*, a pool and a running water. Dunfermline therefore signifies – *The fort by the crooked rivulet*; which is exactly descriptive of Malcolm Canmore’s tower and its locality, more particularly described in Chap. VI. Hence the arms of the town are a Tower supported by Two Lions, (see cover) with motto – *esto rupes inaccessa* - “Be thou an inaccessible rock,” alluding to the rocky precipice on which the tower was erected. A correct representation of the tower is to be seen sculptured in front of the present Townhouse.

THE ABBEY

Or Priory rather, was founded by Malcolm Canmore, at the suggestion of Queen Margaret and Turgot her Confessor. He ordained that the Church of the Holy Trinity at Dunfermline should thereafter become the sepulchre of the Scottish Kings. In 1146, his son, David I, in magnificence of his reforming spirit, converted it into an Abbey, and brought to it from Canterbury, thirteen monks of the Benedictine order, in addition to the thirteen Culdees already in the Priory, besides heaping endowments on it in the most munificent manner. These were such that in after times it justly acquired the reputation of being the most eminent Abbey in Scotland for wealth, extent, and beauty.

In 1244, pope Innocent IV empowered the abbot to assume the mitre, ring, and other pontifical ornaments. The principal ecclesiastics were the abbot, prior, and sub-prior; and we learn from the Chartulary of the Abbey, written in Latin, that, among other privileges, the Abbot had a ship that was exempted for duties. The monks had a right to the Queensferry, and ship of Inverkeithing. They had houses, lands, annuities, salt pans, and they obtained a coal-pit in 1291. They had one-eighth part of all fines from offences levied in Fife. They had the skins and fat of all animals killed at festivals in Stirling, and in the reign of Alexander III they were entitled to certain duties from the king’s kitchen. The first ships arriving at Perth and Stirling, paid them five merks of silver yearly, for vestments.

The monastery had likewise a tenth of all the hunting between Lammermuir and Tay; a tenth of all the king’s wild mares of Fife and Fotherif; a tenth of all the salt and iron brought to Dunfermline for the king’s use; and a tenth of all the gold that might come to him from Fife and Fotherif.

They had a tenth of the can payable to the king from Fife, Fotherif, and Clackmannan, in grain, cheese, salt, swine, and eels a tenth of the can of eels, and of all his lordships, in corn, animals, fishes, and money. The men belonging to the Abbey were exempted from loading at castles, bridges, and all other works.

The abbot was superior of lands, he property of others, and received the resignation of his vassals sitting on their bended knees and testifying all due humility.

With these privileges, powers, and means, we may well believe what the historian Mathew of Westminster, testifies of this abbey, - that three potent sovereigns, with their retinues, could be accommodated with lodgings in it without incommoding one another. According to the same writer, this was one of the chief means which led to -



An artist's impression of the Great Abbey of Dunfermline in the time of Alexander III.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ABBEY

“On account of its magnitude, the nobles of the kingdom were accustomed to assemble here to devise plots against Edward; and during war, they issued thence, and proceeded to plunder and destroy the inhabitants of England. The royal army therefore, - perceiving that they had converted the temple of the Lord into a den of thieves, and that it gave great offence to the English nation, - utterly destroyed it, by levelling all its splendid edifices to the ground; sparing from the flames the church only, and a few lodgings for monks.”

The barbarous outrage took place in that most unjust and bloody war which Edward I carried on against the independence of Scotland, when he abbeys specially shared his unhallowed vengeance. In 1303, returning southward from Kinross abbey, he was at Dundee on the 29th of October; at Cambuskenneth on the 1st of November; and at Dunfermline on the 6th where he remained until the 10th of February, 1304; and before the army left it they set it on fire.

Although after this destruction the abbey was rebuilt, and still continued eminent, yet it never again rose to its former grandeur; and when the spirit of the Reformation

descended upon Europe – when Luther in Germany, and John Knox in Scotland, opposed their iron hearts and undaunted tongues to Popish domination, and rouse the people of Perth, and St Andrews, and Stirling, to wreck and ruin, the death-blow was given to Dunfermline Abbey, On the 28th of March, 1560, the abbey and church fell a sacrifice to religious fury; it was deemed an execrable lenity to spare any fabric or place where idolatry had been exercised; the very sepulchres of the dead were ransacked and violated, and the libraries of the monks, with the registers of their own transactions, and of civil affairs, were gathered into heaps and committed to the flames. This was the second time that the abbey had been demolished by violence; and since then the hand of time – the neglect of past ages- and the delapidations of modern improvements, have left only a few mouldering ruins, the strength and mass proportions of which convey a faint picture of its former magnificence.



W. Thomson. Dunfermline Abbey as in 1650. 1902.

CHAPTER. II.

Having thus taken a cursory glance at Dunfermline Abbey in the ancient time we may now begin our survey of it as it now is; not the less interesting because the hand of the spoiler has been within its hoary walls. And first we enter -

THE PORCH

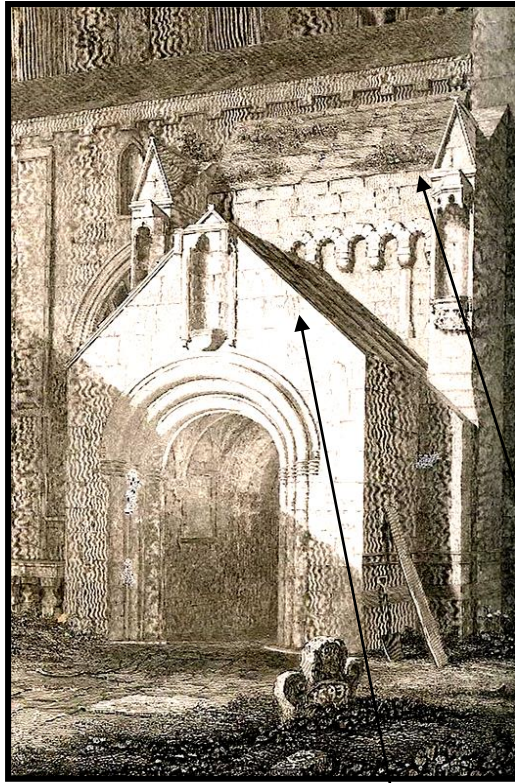
This Porch, as well as the present steeple, and the buttresses on the north and south of the church, were built by James VI. In 1598, - Mr David Ferguson being the minister, and the first Protestant minister of Dunfermline. On each side within the porch are two cavities in the wall, probably used for holding the kirk boxes in which the collection was made every Sabbath. The walls are adorned by several monumental marbles, the largest of which records, in elegant Latin, the member and virtues of Adam Rolland of Gask, a gentleman who bequeathed a thousand pounds for the education of fifty poor children of the town. Rolland School is conducted on the Lancasterian system, and has long proved a blessing to many poor parents. For the benefit of those who have allowed their Latin to get rusty, we subjoin the following fee translation of Mr Rolland's monumental inscription: -

"Sacred to the memory of ADAM ROLLAND of Gask, a man illustrious not in name only inasmuch as he was adored by many virtues; beloved for his piety towards God, love to his county, and benevolence to the human race; remarkable for the integrity of his life, the suavity of his manners, and his habits of self command; who regarded his own relations with fatherly affection, honest men as brethren, and all men with a benignant spirit; prudent, faithful, and diligent in the public and private relations of life; generous in heart and hand; careful for the future; always prepared for every turn of fortune. Thus, by the will of God, on the 21st of July, in the year of salvation, 1763, at the age of 57, he rendered up his spirit to his Creator, and his ashes to their kindred dust, leaving a mournful regret of him to his friends."

In this monument there are the letters D. O. M. the initials of *Deo Optimo Maximo* - "To God, the Best and Greatest" [of Beings]; "a mode of dedication on sepulchral monuments," says the Rev P Chalmers, "adopted by Christians, in contradistinction to the ancient Pagan dedications to the *Manes* of the dead, to Household, Local, or Tutelary deities, &c."

The other monuments in the porch require little notice. The one in Latin is in memory of ROBERT ADIE, formerly a magistrate of the burgh, and may be regarded as a fair sample of the style sepulchral, with its death-heads, hour glass and scroll of "Hora fugit," now almost entirely obliterated.

The roof of the porch deserves particular notice. It is of very elaborate workmanship. The ribs and mouldings of its arches are still sharp and well defined, and it is ornamented at various points with carving of angels with outspread wings, heads of monks, and others which, however, are too defaced to admit of a definite name. The whole is a very pleasing specimen of ancient architectural taste, and a fitting vestibule to -



Peter Chalmers. Town and Parish of Dunfermline. Volume 1.

NOTE - During his rule over the Benedictine Order at Dunfermline (1446-82) Abbot Richard de Bothwell made extensive renovations to the fabric of the nave and west end of the Abbey Church. The developments were sympathetically handled, for the style blends well with the previous mason work of the Norman period (1150).

This Porch, as well as the present steeple, and the buttresses on the north and south of the church, were built by James VI's, architect William Schaw in 1598.



Inside the Porch. (Built by William Schaw)

THE CHURCH WITHIN



J. G. Rennie.

On entering the old Abbey Church, our first impression is, that we stand on sacred ground. There is something in the towering roof, and sounding aisle, and massy pillar, ruined and grey though they be, that gives the impression of the majestic, the noble, and the hallowed. This the visitor will feel, nor will the effect be dissipated while he remains within the venerable pile.

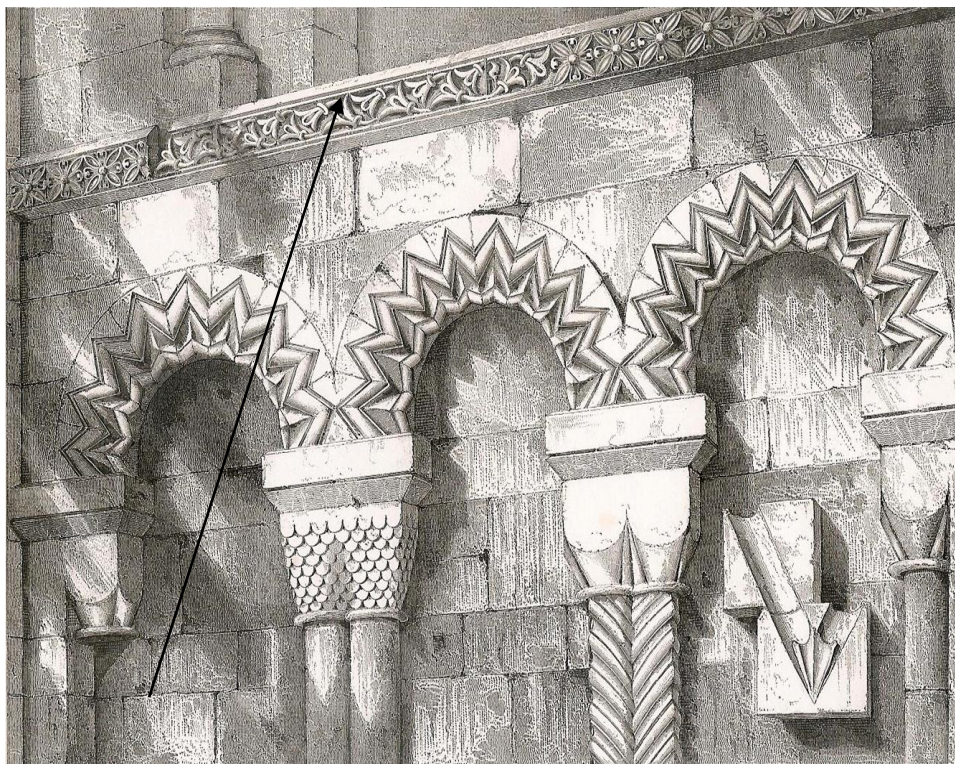
Till the year 1821, and previous to the building of the New Church, this old Abbey was used as the Parish Church. The pews were arranged in the most primitive manner, without much regard either to seeing or hearing, any of them being as much adapted for enjoying a comfortable snooze, as a sermon. The pulpit was of caved oak, and stood against the central pillar on the north side, having the usual appendage of a sand-glass standing on an ion pedestal, as used in ancient times. The appropriate text, "Who is sufficient for these things!" and the date, 1634, were carved on the top of the back of the pulpit, and as the whole isle behind was seated, the edification of the hearers in that quarter, could not be of the very highest order. Between the pillars on the south side were two rows of galleries, one above another, like the boxes in a theatre. The principal of these belonging to the Crown and the Earl of Dunfermline the front and ceilings of each of which, were richly carved and ornamented with

inscriptions, armorial bearings, foliage, and other devises. The king's gallery, erected for James VI was placed opposite the pulpit, its roof being adorned with the royal arms and those of Denmark. The town's gallery was on the right of the pulpit, surmounted by a canopy. When the galleries and seating were removed in 1822, these relics of the olden time were sold by public auction to various collectors of antiquities, some of them may yet be seen in the town. The pulpit was presented by the heritors to SIR WALTER SCOTT shortly after his visit to the town in 1822, and part of it now adorns the entrance-hall of Abbotsford. In the west end of the church, and high in the view of the whole congregation, stood what was called -

THE BLACK STOOL.

Or Stool of Repentance, a black form with the word Repent painted on it in legible letters, and on which those persons, male or female, whose conduct had brought them under the ban of the church, had to stand for one, two or more Sabbaths, according to the heinousness of the sin, after which they were again admitted to church privileges. At the close of the service the minister commonly addressed the parties thus, - "Thomas or Janet (naming the individuals) I rebuke you for the sin of slander or drunkenness, (as the case might be) go and sin no more. The kirk session records tell of one who had thus to "face the world's dread laugh" for six months. CUTTY STOOLS are now gone out of fashion, with any others of the primitive habits of our forefathers.

DUNFERMLINE ABBEY NAVE



Drawn by R. W. Billings. Engraved by I. H. Le Keux. Published by William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh, 1847.

A beautiful tracery in stone seems to run round the whole building, about eight feet from the floor; though now defaced in several parts, and in others covered in by

monumental erections, enough yet remains to shew, that in front of these pilasters stood the small altars common in Roman Catholic buildings. The roof is supported by ten massy pillars, five on each side, twenty feet one inch high, and four feet three inches in diameter. Four of these pillars at the eastern end are ornamented with spirals and zig-zags, as are some of the pillars in the Cathedral of Durham, also built by Malcolm Canmore in 1093, and which structure this church is said to resemble.

James VI who frequently resided at Dunfermline made in 1598, considerable alterations and repairs on this the western part of the old church, built by Malcolm, and rendered it fit for a place of worship, - it being the eastern division, containing the altar and the royal tombs, which was destroyed at the Reformation. The alteration made in the windows from the Saxon to the Gothic, or pointed style, seems to have taken place in a more ancient age. Galleries, with narrow passage in the thickness of the wall, seem to have run round it at the top, similar to those in Melrose Abbey. These galleries and passages have age arched openings looking down into the nave of the church, the height of which is 53 feet 8 inches, while the church itself is 90 feet long and 55 broad. The whole length of the church when entire, seems to have been about 300 feet.

When the church was in use as a place of worship, there was for many years a roof or covering of wood under the present roof, both for the sake of sound, and on account of the old. Many fancy articles, such as boxed, cups, crosses, and even violins, were manufactured out of the sound old oak of the roof-joisting taken down in 1847, - interesting relics of the roof-tree under which our fathers worshipped.

In May, 1847, this old abbey underwent a thorough repair – government having granted a sum of money for the renovation of the principal ancient structures in the kingdom. After having undergone a professional survey, it was found necessary to take down and rebuild several of the old pillars, which were of the perpendicular and very unsound. They were found to be of very inferior workmanship, such as no country mason now-a-days would put out of his hands and it is matter of wonder that they stood so long. They were most substantially rebuilt while the other pillars were faced up with Roman cement, their unsightly holes and gaps filled up, and the whole made to look as good as new. A new roof was also put on the building, ad its external aspect has also been considerably amended, so as to be more in unison with the New Abbey Church adjoining.

To relieve this dry detail of stone and lime we may mention that, in 1146, in the reign of David I, St Jerome's Latin Bible was used in this the church of the Holy Trinity. This bible is now in the Advocate's Library, Edinburgh, - a very elegant copy, and is in manuscript, beautifully illuminated. At the time of the Reformation this bible with many other things belonging to the church and abbey, was carried over to France. In 1202, William de Malvoisin bishop of St Andrews, deprived the abbey of the presentation of two churches because, forsooth, the monks had neglected to provide him with a sufficient quantity of wine after supper! In 1576 the General Assembly effused "to give libertie to the bailie of Dunfermline to play, upon the Sunday afternoon, in the church, a play not founded upon the canonical' parts of scripture;" and thus the worthy bailie and his fellow citizens were deprived of their wonted Sunday amusements of the olden time: and lastly, in 1651, Cromwell's army arrived in Dunfermline, and broke "the boord and seats of the Session-house and kirk-boxe, - the haill money in said boxe being plunderit all and taken way;" which scurvy trick is dolefully set forth in the Session Records of the period.

After this general survey we may now direct attention to -

THE MONUMENTS

These are interesting from their antiquity, rather than their appearance. The first we notice is that of WILLIAM SCHAW, situated in the belfry at the foot of the steeple. This monument originally stood on the north wall of the church, almost opposite the pulpit but was removed to its present situation about fifty years ago, in order to make room for a widow. It certainly has been none the better of its removal, for its parts have not been properly put together, and some of its ornaments are still lying ignobly in the dust. Mr Schaw was architect to James VI and seems to have been a person of great taste and genius, having travelled through France and many other kingdoms for the purpose of improving his mind; deeply skilled in his profession, and of excellent moral character. All this we learn from the Latin inscription on his monument, which sets forth his virtues and the estimation in which he was held. The gist of the whole will be seen from the last sentence, which we give almost literally:-

“That virtue, worthy of everlasting commendation, should not waste away in the decay of the elements, Queen Anne commanded his monument to be erected to the memory of one of the best and most upright of men.”

In the centre of this monument there is a curious stone worthy of notice. It is a block of white marble, on which the letters forming the name -

WILLIAM SCHAW

are cut in relief. The letters run into and cross each other, part of one forming part of another, yet all distinctly traced and traceable, the whole comprised within the compass of a square foot. The stone appears somewhat older than the monument and probably is a device executed by Mr Schaw himself when alive. At that period such designs were favourite once, and several of them may be seen in Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh, having the name of the founder so sculptured. Mr Schaw lived among mortals 52 years, and died 18th April 1602.”

Proceeding up the northern aisle we come to the monument of GEORGE DURIE, the last Abbot of Dunfermline, and Arch-dean of St Andrews. Dury was an eminent man in his generation. He held the office of abbot from 1539 to 1664; granted a charter to the town, which was confirmed by King James VI when he constituted Dunfermline a royal burgh; and he was one of the council of the Earl of Arran, guardian of the lovely but hapless Queen Mary during her nonage. In 1557 he issued a decree to prevent the good folks of Kirkcaldy from building mills. In 1558 he brought to trial his cousin John for the crime of heresy and for which he was condemned to be built in between two walls, until he died. John escaped this horrid sentence by the influence of the Earl of Arran, though Walter Mill was burnt for the like crime at St Andrews, the same year, - the abbot having given his voice against him. The upper portion of the monument was erected a few years ago, and details the abbot's lineal descendants, some of whom still hold the Craighluscar estate, on which the abbot had his country seat.

Beyond the abbot's monument is that of ROBERT PITCAIRN, in excellent preservation. He succeeded George Durie as Commendatory of Dunfermline. Being Secretary of State, he was actively engaged in the public transactions of the time, and was sent by the Regent Murray to the court of England regarding Queen Mary. A house that belonged to him in the Maygate, has the following couplet carved in stone over the door: -

SEN. VORD. IS. THRALL. AND. THOCHT. IS. FRE.
KEIP. VEILL. THY. TONGE. I. COINSEL. THE.

A prudent advice worthy of a discreet Secretary, who, according to tradition, had incurred the censure of scandalous tongues. The inscription on his monument is, in Latin, cut in bold relief, and is to the following effect:-

"To ROBERT PITCAIRN, Commendatory of Dunfermline, Archdean of St Andrews, His Majesty's royal Legate, and Secretary of State.

Here lies, in an humble tomb, ROBERT PITCAIRN, the hope and stay of his country; whom virtue, gravity worthy of a noble breast, and faith with true piety, adorn. After various changes in life, he passed in spirit into a better world, his mortal remains being left behind. He died 18th October, in the year 1584 aged 64."

On the south wall of the church is a handsome marble tablet, to the memory of Major DAVID WILSON, for many years provost of the burgh, who both as a man and a magistrate, was highly respected.

In the paved floor are several large stones, with inscriptions very ancient in style and very greatly worn. The most legible is one in the middle of the church with the name "*JOHANNES SCOTT.*" on it. The whole floor seems to have been covered with inscriptions, and even brass plates, sunk into the stones mementos of the illustrious persons buried in the abbey, - a place of sepulture greatly coveted in these popish times of prayers and masses for the dead.

We will conclude this chapter by noticing a monument which required to be removed when the New Church was built, and which, not having been again erected, lies in detached pieces in an obscure corner at the foot of the small tower covered up with boards. It was erected to the memory of the Earl of Elgin, a nobleman respected and beloved in life, and whose death was the cause of sincere and general regret in the parish; as this monument may perhaps not be again brought to light, we take this opportunity of rescuing the inscription at least from its present obscurity:-

"Sacred to the memory of CHARLES Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, who died the 15th May, 1771, aged 39 years.

By the goodness of his Heart, and the virtues of his Life, he adorned the high rank which he possessed: in his Manners amiable and gentle; in his Affections warm and glowing; in his Temper, modest, candid, and cheerful; in his Conduct, manly and truly honourable; in his character of Husband, Father, Friend, and Master, as far as human imperfection admits, unblemished. Pious without superstition; Charitable without ostentation; while he lived the Blessings of those who were ready to perish came upon him. Now their tears embalm his Memory! Reader! beholding here laid in Dust, the Remains which once so much Virtue animated, think of the vanity of life, look forward to its end, and prepare as he did for Eternity."

This inscription was written by the late Rev Dr BLAIR, of Edinburgh.

In the act of removing this monument, which interfered with the building of the New Church, the workmen came upon a stone vault, wherein lay the skeleton of a lady, known to be so by the long hair of her head. This was discovered by a portion

of the vault happening to fall down in the course of the operations. This vault was again seen when King Robert the Bruce's tomb was inspected, being very near to it, and from its situation, there is every reason to believe that the skeleton with the long hair was that of the **Lady Elizabeth, Queen of Robert the Bruce**, who was buried, according to Fordun, "in the choir of Dunfermline, near to the King, Robert her husband."

When the New Church was built, the remains in the tomb of the Earl of Elgin were removed to a vault below the southern transept of that church and which is now the burying-place of that family, - the lineal descendants of Robert the Bruce.

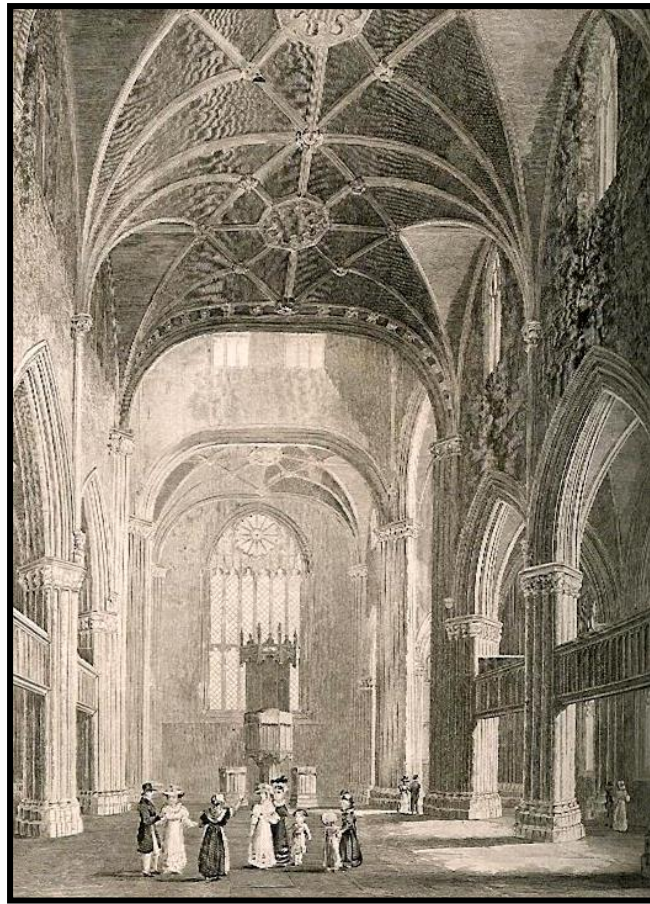
We have thus gone over the chief objects of interest in this ancient and venerable abbey. Canst thou, stranger, read the hand-writing on these old and time-stricken walls? They tell of pride and glory, and of dust, decay, and death. The great and the good of former ages have walked these aisles, and here have they laid them down to sleep.

May they rest in peace.

"Can storied urn or unimaged bust
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath;
Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death."

CHAPTER III.

THE NEW CHURCH



Engraved by John Johnstone.

The New Abbey Church is a splendid edifice, in the most elegant Gothic style. It is built in the form of a cross, and is very similar in its ground plan to the ancient abbey, part of the old walls of which are still to be seen on the north side. Over the centre of the cross is a square, 100 feet height, terminating in a flat roof. Round the four sides of the tower are the words -

KING ROBERT THE BRUCE

in open hewn work, and in capital letters of four feet in height. The good taste of this has been questioned, as rather unarchitectural. An elegant and appropriate finish is however given to the whole, by the royal crowns surmounting the scroll, and the lofty pinnacles at the corners. The interior of the church is in every respect worthy of its external aspect, and of the venerated remains enclosed within its area. On entering from the Old to the New Church, the transition is very striking. Magnificent stately pillars support the tower and galleries; their solid mason-work being moulded on the outside with Roman cement into small columns, and their capitals adorned with exquisite imitations of foliage. At the spring of the various arches appear alternately casts of the heads of the compatriots, BRUCE and WALLACE; the ribs of the arches, supporting the aisle and gallery roofs, and the central ornaments over the nave, are in the purest style, and the effect of the whole, viewed in any direction, is at once

magnificent and pleasing. The pulpit and two desks - the one for baptism, and the other for the master of the song - are formed of wainscot, having all their ornaments in the gothic style, and their furnishings of crimson velvet. Beneath the pulpit stair lie the remains of ROBERT THE BRUCE; and the church erected over him, and the other kings and queens of Scotland, may be considered as a splendid tomb, worthy of their memory, and with which no edifice on the north of the Forth, can be compared.



The Foundation Stone of this church was laid on the 10th of March 1818, by the right honourable the Earl of Elgin, accompanied by the heritors, magistrates, ministers, &c., in masonic procession. On this occasion the helmet and sword of the renowned King Robert the Bruce was displayed. These interesting relics belonged to the Elgin Family and are carefully preserved in Broomhall House, the family seat. They are of steel, have acquired a clear blackish colour from age, and are in excellent preservation. In the foundation-stone was deposited a bottle enclosed in lead, in which were four rolls of parchment, containing the names of the heritors, magistrates and members of presbytery, and the following inscription relative to the building: -

THIS FOUNDATION STONE
OF THE
Parish Church of Dunfermline,
Now to be Rebuilt
At the joint expence of the Heritors, Magistrates,
and Town Council of the Burgh,
On part of the Site of the OLD ABBEY CHURCH,
Founded, in the Eleventh Century, by
MALCOLM III. (Ceanmore) King of Scotland,
and afterwards destroyed,
Partly by the English, under the reign of
EDWARD I. in 1303, and
Partly at the Reformation, n 1560;

WAS LAID

This 10th day of March in the year of our Lord, 1818,
And in the 58th year of the reign of
GEORGE III. King of Great Britain and Ireland;
By the Right Honourable
THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE;
In presence of a numerous
Meeting of Heritors and Magistrates, and Town Council of the Burgh;
DAVID WILSON, Esq. being Provost,
Rev. ALLAN MACLEAN, & the Rev. PETER CHALMERS
Being Collegiate Ministers of the Parish:
Containing a Population of 13,000 souls;
WILLIAM BURN, Esq. Architect,
And Messrs JOHN BONNAR and ALEX. MORTON,
Contractors and Builders,
The Expence, by estimate, of the Building, £8,000.

A copy of this inscription, beautifully written by Mr JOHN ANDERSTON, a native of the town, is to be seen in the Session-house of the Church, where there is also an excellent portrait of the late Rev. ALLAN MACLEAN, minister of the parish, who died in 1836, and left the greater part of his property for benevolent and charitable purposes, at the discretion of his trustees. The Maclean Schools have since then been built, - one for general education and the other a Female Industrial and Infant School; they are large and commodious, and will give good reason for many to bless the memory of their benevolent founder. We may state, that Mr MACLEAN'S trustees have also devoted part of his property to the erection of a Fever Hospital at Towngreen, for the benefit of the poor of the parish and have educated and maintained all the deaf and dumb, and partly the blind, in the parish since his death.

The church was opened for divine service on the 30th September 1821. It cost upwards of £12,000, and has since required repairs from the effects of the dry rot, besides being furnished with hot air stoves, ventilators, and gas. It is seated for 2,100. but can accommodate, comfortably, only about 1400, many of the seats being behind the thick pillars and the pulpit. There is a disadvantage, also, from the immense empty space over the speaker, whose voice is sometimes lost in air, sometime drowned by echo. To obviate these defects, it has been proposed to divide the church by a stone wall; to advance the pulpit fifteen feet; and to stretch a glass roof of curtain of baize across the tower. The shifting of the pulpit has been tried temporarily, and the improvement was obvious.

The northern transept is pointed out as the site of -

THE ROYAL TOMBS

Where are they! asks the visitor; and echo answer, - Where! Will it be believed that, though several Scottish Kings and Queens are buried here, yet not a stone tells where they lie! The stranger must not therefore think we are drawing too largely on his faith, when, in absence of monumental evidence, we give him the following information on this subject: -

The sacred isle of Iona was originally and for many ages, the place of sepulture of the Scottish kings and chieftains; but Malcolm III appointed Dunfermline to become the future cemetery of himself and his successors. It is generally agreed amongst historians that the following royal remains were interred here: -

1. Malcolm Canmore, and his son Prince Edward, treacherously slain at the siege of Alnwick Castle in 1093.
2. Margaret his queen; died in the Castle of Edinburgh, four days after her husband Malcolm, 1093.
3. King Edgar, their son; died at Dundee, 1107.
4. Alexander I, died at Stirling, 1124.
5. David I, died at Carlisle, 1153. Of this lavish monarch James I, remarked, that "St David was a sair saunt to the crowns," from the large grant he made to different Abbeys, and the great number of these which he founded and endowed all over his kingdom.
6. Malcolm IV, (David's grandson) died at Jedburgh 1165.
7. Alexander III, killed by a fall from his horse over a precipice near Kinghorn, 1265.
8. Margaret, his queen, died at Cupar Castle, 1274.
9. David, their son died at Stirling, 1280.
10. Alexander, their 3rd son, died at Lindores, 1283.
11. Robert the Bruce I, died at Cardross, 1329.
12. Elizabeth, his queen, died 1327.
13. Annabella Drummond, queen of Robert II, died at Inverkeithing 1403.
14. Robert, Duke of Albany, died 1406.

Besides these, a number of abbots and nobles of the land were buried here; among these were the Earl and Countess of Athole in the reign of William, and Randolph, Earl of Murray, and nephew of Robert the Bruce.

Malcolm and queen Margaret, with their two sons, Edward and Edgar, were interred in the old or western church the only one then erected. The remains of the queen when she was canonised were removed to the new or eastern church built by Alexander I, which building fell, as we have said, a sacrifice to reforming zeal and fury, and on the site of which the present now and noble church now stands.

The particular spot where Malcolm as interred cannot now be pointed out; on which account it may not be out of place, in a work like this to give here a brief sketch of Malcolm the founder of the town.

Malcolm CANMORE, ascended the throne in 1057, at the age of thirty-three, and reigned twenty-seven years. He was of a warlike disposition, and made frequent invasions into the north of England, laying waste the country, and aiding the discontented Saxon nobles who considered the Normans under William the Conqueror as intruders. On one of these occasions he brought away an immense number of captives, who not only introduced the arts which they knew, but also the Anglo-Saxon language, which soon began to supersede the Gælic. Malcolm, was a magnanimous prince, possessing great courage and perseverance, though, like other chiefs he despised learning, as monkish and unwarlike, and was unable to read or write. As a specimen of the literature and customs of the times, we may here insert the original Charter of the lands of Powmode, granted by Malcolm, and only lately discovered in a chest:-

"I, Malcolm. Kanmore. King. the first of my rein give to thee Barron Hunter upper and nether Lands of Powmode with all the Bounds within the flood with the Hoop and Hooptown and all the Bounds up and down above the earth to Heaven and all below the earth to hell as free to thee and thine as ever God gave to me and mine and that for a bow and a Broad arrow when I come to Hunt upon yarrow and for the mair faith I Bite the white wax with my teeth before Margrat my wife and Mall my nurse.

Sic subscribitur Malcolm Kanmore, King.
Margrat. Witness, Mall. witness."

After his marriage to Margaret - a Saxon Princess, Malcolm had still stronger inducements to hostility against the Norman dynasty, and in conjunction with some of the most powerful Saxon nobility, he endeavoured to recover the English throne for Edgar, his brother-in-law. It was while laying siege to Alnwich Castle, in pursuance of this purpose, that he was treacherously slain as thus narrated by Hollingshed: - "The forces of William Rufus had taken the castle from the Scots and put all within it to the sword. King Malcolm to withstand such exploits attempted by his enemy levied a great host of his subjects, and, coming with the same into Northumberland, besieged the said castle of Alnwich: and, now when the keepers of the hold were at point to have made surrender, a certain English knight, conceiving in his mind a hardy and dangerous enterprise, mounted on a swift horse without armour or weapon, saving a spear in his hand, up the point of which he bore the keys of the castle, and so issued forth of the gates, riding directly towards the Scottish camp. They that warded, mistrusting no harm, brought him with great noise and clamor unto the king's tent, who hearing the noise came forth of his pavilion to understand what the matter meant. The Englishman herewith couched the staff, as though it had been to the end that the king might receive the keys which he had brought; and whilst all men's eyes were earnest in beholding the keys, the Englishman ran the king through the left eye, and suddenly dashing spurs to his horse, escaped to the next wood out of all danger. The point of the spear entered so far into the king's head that immediately, falling down amongst his men he yielded up the ghost. This was the end of king Malcolm in the midst of his army." Malcolm was buried in the abbey of Tynemouth, but his son Alexander I, afterwards disinterred his body and buried it in the church of Dunfermline, before the altar of the Holy Trinity.

But it is the now well known historical fact that lies buried here which gives the greatest interest to this portion of the church.

KING ROBERT THE BRUCE



According to Fordun, he was interred in the middle of the choir. John Barbour thus describes the burial: -

They have had him to Dunfermline,
And him solemnly yerded syne.
In a fair tomb into the Quire,
Bishops and Prelates tht were there
Assolzied him, when the service
Was done, as they best could devise,
And syne upon the other day,
Sorry and wo they went their way;
And be debowelled was cleanly,
And also balmed syne full richly,
And the worthy Lord of Douglas
His heart as it forespoken was,
Received has in great daintie,
With fair and great solemnitie.

As may be supposed, this spot and that pointed out as the royal sepulchres generally, possessed no ordinary interest, especially to antiquarian eyes; and now that the ground is completely shut up from external view by the erection of the church over it, it is satisfactory to know that, previously a search was instituted and discoveries made gratifying to every one interested in Scottish history. There were six very large flat stones, the smallest above seven feet long, placed close together, and in two parallel rows; one of which, larger than the rest, being upwards of nine feet in length, was supposed to cover the remains of Robert the Bruce. In 1807 this stone was raised in presence of Mr Dalzell, a learned antiquarian; nothing remarkable, however, was found, except a stone coffin, containing the skeleton of a full grown person. Several square flat red bricks, part of the floor of the old abbey, were also turned up.

The royal dead were allowed to rest in peace till the digging of the foundations of the New Church, when, during the preparation that were going on in the *psalter* church-yard, the long sought for was discovered, on the 17th February 1818. The

TOMB OF KING ROBERT BRUCE

situation corresponds with that pointed out by our two earliest historians, Barbour and Fordun; while the appearances large trough, built of polished stone, about seven feet in length and eighteen inches in depth; the covering of which, when first observed, had on it several iron rings, in a very decayed state, and some of which were even entirely loosened from the stone. In this trough lay a very large body, six feet two inches in length, cased in lead. The lead was partly entire, except on the breast, where it was much corroded, exhibiting part of the skeleton of the body, in a state of considerable preservation. The body had been wrapped in damask cloth, extremely fine, and interwoven with gold, some fragments of which remained. Some-thing like a crown was observed upon the head; a wooden coffin appears to have surrounded the body, of which some vestiges still existed. The mouldered wood, conceived to be oak, lay strewed in the bottom of the tomb. and one or two nails of large size, and with heads exhibiting the appearance of silver, were picked up from among it. The grave was closed, and secured against any violent depredation by three rows of large flagstones, fastened to each other by iron bars. Several fragments of marble, cared and gilt, were dug from the ruins in the immediate neighbourhood of the tomb which in all probability were the remains of the monument tht had been erected over it.

Shortly after, preparations were made for property closing in the Patriot's grave, in presence of a deputation from, the barons of the exchequer, several celebrated literary character from Edinburgh, the magistrates, the parochial ministers and gentry. The tomb having been re-opened, a cast was made on the spot from the skull, by an artist from Edinburgh, and a square bed of brick and lime was laid down, on which was placed a new and massy coffin of lead, containing the Bruce's body. Immediately after, this coffin was filled with melted pitch, and the lid soldered down; and the site is now marked by the pulpit of the church, which is erected almost immediately above the grave.

"Thus," to use the words of the late Earl of Elgin, in his address on laying the foundation stone of the church, "thus were fortunately discovered the remains of a hero whose deeds make every Scotsman proud of the land which gave him birth, and

which, after a lapse of five hundred years were found in a state of almost entire preservation."

The late Dr Gregory of Edinburgh, designed an elegant **Latin inscription for Bruce's monument** had one been erected; but as the whole church may be considered such, the Doctor's Latin has been unceremoniously shelved. From the following translation, however, it will be seen that inscription was worthy of the subject; and that, in giving a place, either on monument or tablet, the Heritors would have supplied that which almost all visitors feel to be wanting: -

"Here, amidst the Ruins of the Old, in buildings a New Church in the year 1818, the Grave of ROBERT BRUCE, KING of SCOTS, of immortal Memory, being accidentally opened, and his Remains, recognised by sure Tokens, with pious Duty, again committed to the Earth by the people of this Town; a distant Generation, 489 Years after his Death, erected this Monument to that Great Hero and Excellent King; who, with matchless Valour in War, and Wisdom in Peace, by his own Energy and preserving Exertions, re-established the almost ruined and hopeless State of Scotland, long cruelly oppressed by an invertebrate and most powerful Enemy; and happily avenged the Oppression, and restored the ancient Liberty and Glory of his Country."

A sarcophagus, with a suitable inscription, was intended to be erected on the vacant spot before the pulpit, but unhappily has not yet been executed. A magnificent design for a marble monument to BRUCE has been produced by Mr J. NOEL PATON, an artist whose genius has already conferred fame on this his native town. The expence of its erection is estimated at £2000, which might be defrayed by general subscription over Scotland.

When Burns, the poet, visited Dunfermline, he hastened to pay his devotions at the tomb of Bruce; he knelt and kissed the stone with sacred fervour and heartily execrated the worse than gothic neglect of the first of Scottish heroes. Had he lived to have seen the New Church, built over the remains of Bruce and the other kings, he would have been fully satisfied.

At a lecture on Dunfermline Antiquities delivered before the Scientific Association of the town, by the Rev. P. CHALMERS, several interesting relics of Robert the Bruce were exhibited. These were a tooth, fragments of the gold cloth in which the body was wrapped, stones and iron rings which inclosed the grave, and the sword and helmet of the warrior, which have long been in the possession of the Earl of Elgin, Broomhall. And so lately as March, 1842, Mr Allan, superintendant of the churchyard, found on the north side of the church, a small silver coin of Robert the Bruce, in excellent preservation. The date was 1318, the period when Bruce was in the zenith of his fame, and the laurels of Bannockburn were yet unwithered on his brow. The coin was claimed by the Queen's Remembrancer for Scotland, and is now in royal custody.

CHAPTER IV.

If the visitor be at all ambitious of rising in the world, he will not fail, before leaving the church, to visit -

THE TOP OF THE STEEPLE

the view from which will amply repay the toil of the ascent. The stairs are all perfectly secure, though in some parts dark and narrow, and the steps greatly worn, like the big toe of St Peter at Rome, which has been kissed away by the devotion of millions. When near the top, we arrive at the belfry, the bells in which are large and sonorous. From a manuscript journal, dated 1728, we learn, that at that time "the two bells being both cracked, were cast anew at Edinburgh. The big bell, a donation from Queen Anne, weighed fourteen hundred weight, and the little bell belonging to the town, weighed twelve hundred weight." These bells can be heard in a quiet evening at the distance of two miles and if the visitor will take "the iron tongue of time" in his hands and strike a peal, he may have auricular demonstration of their strength of tone.

From the bells a few more steps lead to -

THE BARTIZAN

ninety-eight feet from the ground, the view from which we shall attempt to describe.

It is a panorama on a most magnificent scale, stretching from Benlomond on the west, to the Base on the east, and embracing all that variety of flood and field, river, and rock, and mountain, which go to the composition of a master landscape. The gem of the picture is the Firth of Forth, seen sparkling in the summer sun from Stirling, to the German ocean. Beyond are the Pentland hills, with their free and bold outlines; in the extreme distance is Soutra-hill, in Berwickshire, and the Lammermuirs, the Bass, and North Berwick Law, in East Lothian. Arthur's Seat in shape of couchant lion and Edinburgh with its Castle, are prominent objects; to the south are seen Hoptoun House, Blackness Castle, Bo'ness, Binnycraig near Linlithgow, and far beyond it Tintock Tap, in Lanarkshire. Southwest are the Campsie and Logie Hills, in Stirlingshire, and almost due west Benlomond and Benléd; may be seen towering in dim and airy distance. As we wind round the tower, the Ochils, and Dumyat, and the Saline hills, bound the view on the north west, while to the east, the Hill of Beath is a conspicuous object. The fore-ground of the picture consists of fertile fields, and waving woods, while villages and cottages stud the scene; below is the Town, busy with life, and stretching itself east and west in long and straggling lines. These are the principal objects seen from the top of the steeple; the general view embraces parts of fourteen counties, and it is allowed that, for grandeur, variety and extent of prospect, it is unequalled by any town in Scotland.

The height of the steeple is 156 feet from the base; it was built, as we have already said, by James VI, in 1598. What was called the old tower immediately adjoining, fell in August, 1807, involving in ruins a stable which stood near it, and killing five horses. It was rebuilt by the heritors. Another steeple, situated at the east-end of the church, fell a great number of years ago.

The Weather-cock deserves a passing notice. It is a yard long, and one foot and a half thick, in 1804, some person, for a wager, shot a ball through it, and in high winds the hole produces a whistling noise; the cock's first attempts at whistling greatly alarmed the inhabitants, who attributed its musical performances to some unhappy ghostly tenant of the adjoining churchyard. In 1746 Lord Charles Hay, provost of the burgh, narrowly escaped the fate of the weather-cock. He was taken for a Highland spy while viewing the country from the top of the steeple, when a ball, discharged with the deadly intent of letting daylight shine through him, shot off part of this military peruke, but did no further damage. The probable reason for this outrage is to be found in the act, that when the rebels had taken possession of Edinburgh, in 1745, they sent a peremptory order to the magistrates of the burgh, to attend at Holyrood-house, and pay the duties levied by the excise, together with all the cess the town contributed to government. After as much deliberation as was permitted, the town-council were reluctantly obliged to submit to the terms demanded, and paid to the Pretender's agents above £116 sterling.

In October, 1845, the weather cock was taken down from the spindle by an adventurous youth, named James Wright, who contrived a ladder of ropes for the purpose. After being cleaned and re-gilt, he replaced the cock without accident in view of thousands of the inhabitants, who gave him three deafening cheers. The same thing had not been done for a hundred years before.

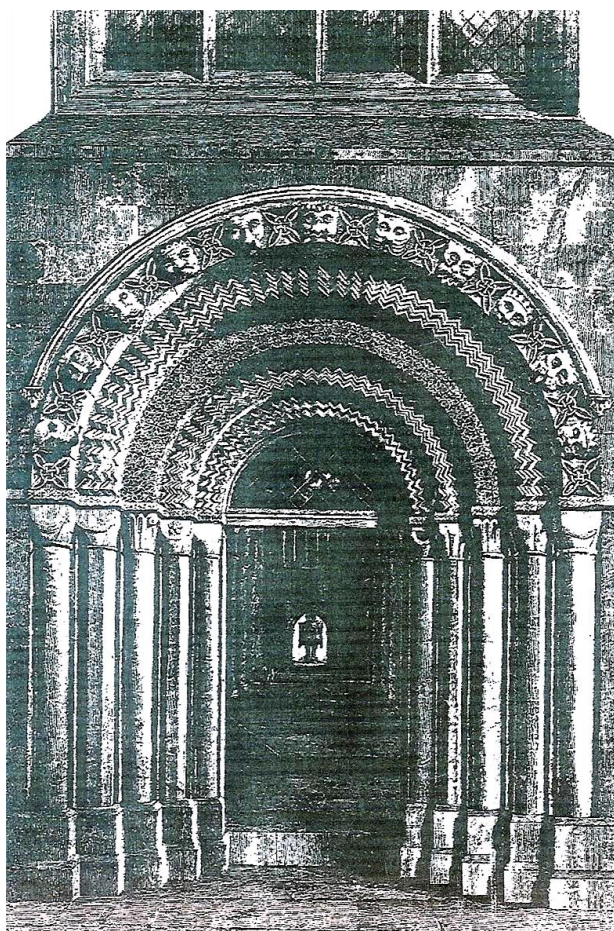
We now take leave of this ancient and venerable pile, trusting tht the light we have shed on the various objects within its hallowed wall was, will have enhanced he interest which attaches to it, - hoary with antiquity and illustrious as the birth place, dwelling-place, and burial-place of kings.

But lo! amid these ruined halls;
A temple rears its hallowed walls;
Sublime it lifts its gothic form,
Beside the ancient fane so grey;
Destined to resist the storm,
While centuries roll their years away!
The crumbling fabric by its side,
To this the fame of ages lends;
And with the bloom of youthful pride,
Its venerable aspect blends.
No longer shall the royal tombs,
Despoiled, unsheltered, now remain'
The ashes, and their sacred homes,
Outraged, defiled by hands profane, -
Shall, honoured with due reverence lie,
Beneath a splendid cemetery! - Mercer.

CHAPTER V.

No provincial town in Scotland can boast of a Church-yard like tht of Dunfermline, whether as regards beauty of situation, the manner in which it is laid out, the order, and good taste displayed in its management, or the interesting relics of the olden times which meet us at almost every step, as we stroll round the sacred edifice which we have just left. These we will endeavour to point out as we proceed,

THE WESTERN DOOR,



West Door. (Restored.)
Engraved by John Johnstone, Edinburgh.

Of the church is a fine old specimen of the Saxon arch. It has been highly ornamented, and doubtless, when fresh from the chisel, must have appeared an elaborate piece of workmanship. It is now sadly decayed, enough only remaining to tell of its former glory; an inspection will however gratify the visitor. The outer arch has been adorned with twelve heads, said to represent the Twelve Apostles.

Proceeding round the church on the south side, we come to a burying vault, from the inscription over the door of which, we learn that it was a gift of Queen Anne to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, 1616. Among other buried in it, is **Elizabeth Halket**, the lady of Sir Henry, who wrote the fine old ballad of "Hardyknute," a heroic poem

which long passed as very ancient. A modern writer asserts, with some show of reason, that this lady was also the authoress of that famous old ballad, "Sir Patrick Spens," long esteemed one of the most ancient of Scottish songs. His opinion is formed from a careful comparison of the two poems, a few verses of each of which we subjoins: -

HARDYKNUTE

The king of Norse, in summer tyde,
Put up with powir and might,
Landed in fair Scotland the yle,
With mony a hardy knicht.
The tydings to our gude Scots king
Came, as he sat at dyne,
With noble chiefs, in braif array,
Drinking the blude-red wyne.
"Go little page, tell Hardyknute,
"That lives on hill sae hie.
"To draw his sword and dreid of faes.
"And hast and follow me."
The little page flew swift as dart
Flung by his master's arm;
"Cum down, come down, lord Hardyknute,
"And rid zour King frae harm."

SIR PATRICK SPENS

The King sits in Dunfermline toune,
Drinking the blude-red wine;
O whare will I get a skeely skipper.
to sail this ship o' mine!
O up and spak an eldren knight,
Sat at the King's right knee,
Sir Patrick Spens is the best sailor
That ever sail'd the sea.

To Noroway, to Noroway,
To Noroway o'er the faem;
The king's daughter o' Noroway,
It's thou maun bring her hame.

They hadna sail'd a league, a league,
A league but barely three,
When the lift grew dark, and the wind blew loud
And gurly grew the sea.

The ankers brak, and the tap-masts lap.
It was sic a deadly storm,
And the waves came o'er the broken ship,
Till a' her sides were torn.

O lang, lang may the ladies look,
Wi' their gown tails owre their croun,
Before they see their ain dear lords
Come sailing to Dunfermline toun.

Half owre, half owre to Aberdour,
It's fifty fathom deep.,
And there lies gude Sir Patrick Spens,
Wi' the Scots lords at his feet.

Lady Wardlaw was an accomplished female, possessing much wit and humour, and played well on sever instruments.

At the east end of the church and surrounded by the only parts of the old walls which are now visible is

THE TOMB OF QUEEN MARGARET



In external appearances the tomb cannot boast of any thing magnificent. It consists of two tiers of massy locks of marble or mountain limestone, the undermost octagonal, the upper square. On wetting any part of the stone, the organic remains as fishes and shells, which occur in that species of rock, become visible. There are eight round hollows in the stone, four on each side, where according to tradition, stood ever-burning lamps for in 1323, Robert I, gave a church to the abbey "to maintain a burning and perpetual light before the shrine of the blessed Margaret, in the choir." This act of devotion was in the spirit of the times, and a brief glance at her history will shew that the memory of Margaret deserved to be held in remembrance;

When William the Conqueror ascended the throne of England, the exiled royal family set sail for Hungary, but were driven by a storm on the coast of Scotland, and into the Firth of Forth. They landed at a spot now called St Margaret's Hope, about five miles from Dunfermline, and Malcolm no sooner heard of the circumstance than

he visited them in person, and fell in love with the princess Margaret. They were married in 1070, and the acquisition of such a princess brought with it many national advantages. She introduced as elegance and splendour, hitherto unknown to the rude Gaelic chieftains, by dressing herself magnificently in rich garments of various colours, imported from foreign countries, and inciting others to follow her example. The state of the king was greatly augmented in his public appearances, by a more numerous retinue; and in private, by more sumptuous entertainment, and banquets served up in rich plate. She collected a number of females, of the best families, about her person, and instructed them in elegant embroidery and such accomplishments as were suited to their rank. The utmost decorum of manner, and the strictest decency of conversation, were carefully enjoined; nothing unseemly was ever done or uttered in her presence.

Margaret exercised the most unbounded benevolence both in public and private. The poor were relieved, the naked were clothed, and numerous captives were released from miserable bondage, by her bounty and interference; yet there was no ostentation in her charity, nor any vanity in the exercise of her numerous virtues, for they sprung immediately from the heart, and were the genuine fruits of sincere piety. She is said every morning to have prepared food for nine little children, all indigent orphans; on her bended knees she fed them; with her own hands she ministered at table to crowds of poor persons, and washed the feet of six every evening. While the king was busy in affairs of state, she repaired to the altar, and there with prayers and tears offered herself a willing sacrifice to the Lord.

The influence that the gentle Margaret had gained over the rough mind of Malcolm, by her virtues and conjugal affection, is recorded by Turgot, "Malcolm," he says, "respected the religion of his spouse, was fearful of offending her, and listened to her admonitions; whatever she loved or disliked, so did he; although he could not read, he frequently turned over her prayer books, and kissed her favourite volumes; he had them adorned with gold and precious stones, and presented them to her in token of his devotion."

Queen Margaret only survived her husband, Malcolm, four days. She died in Edinburgh Castle, 16th November, 1093, and was buried in the western church. The fragrance of her memory, however, and her pious deeds, did not perish; and as a proof of the veneration in which she was held, Alexander II, solicited the pope to enrol her in the catalogue of saints, as her body had exhibited "infinite miracles." She was canonized in 1250, one hundred and fifty-seven years after her death, and when Alexander III, and his mother disinterred the body, and placed it contiguous to the altar in the eastern church, the spot then deemed most sacred and honourable, where the solemn service were daily performed. This was called the "Translation of Queen Margaret." Her remains were placed in a golden shrine, magnificently enriched with precious stones. It is gravely related by early writers, that while they were processing with the body through the church, they reached the monument of Malcolm, whereupon the bones of St Margaret miraculously halted, and could not be moved till those of her husband Malcolm were placed in the same chest, after which there was no hinderance to the Translation. During the troubles of the Reformation, the coffer in which her head and hair were enclosed, were enclosed, was carried to the castle of Edinburgh, and from thence transported to the manor-house of George Dury, abbot of Dunfermline, who, after the plunder of the monastery, resided at his seat on Craigluscar Hill. After he had kept this religious pledge some years, it was in 1597 delivered into the hands of the Jesuit missionaries in Scotland, who, seeing it was in

danger of being lost or profaned, transported it to Antwerp,. Her relics were kept in the Scots college at Dousy, in a bust of silver. Over the chapel door of the college is engraven "*Sancta Margarita, Regina Scotiae, ora pro conversione Scotorum.*"

After her canonization many pilgrimages were made to the tomb of St Margaret, and near South Queensferry there is an eminence named Cross Hill, where was erected a cross at which pilgrims used to kneel, for there they first came in sight of Dunfermline Abbey, and the church of the Holy Trinity containing her shrine. The tomb was placed on the right of the high altar. Thick as the upper sone is, it is now broken into four pieces, which must have been done by some extraordinary force or violence, as the falling in of the roof, or large pillars, or split by the flames when the abbey; was destroyed at the Reformation.

As Mr Dalryell is of opinion the royal remains were deposited in tombs standing above the large flat stones at present under the north transept of the church, and as abbots were buried near the altar, and often with crosiers and jewels of value, it is not unlikely that the tomb of Margaret was destroyed, and the stone broken, in the search after plunder and spoil, which took place when abbey fell a prey to ruthless and regardless hands. Some years ago the earth below these stones was examined to a small depth by the heritors, but nothing was found except a few fragments of carved stones.

Let us bless the memory of good queen Margaret, and drop the tear of respect on her tomb.

_____ " she shone,

The brightest ornament on Scotland's throne,
In arts accomplished, pious, mild, serene,
A graceful female, and a gracious queen."

Turn we now to the contemplation of another master-spirit of a later day, whose tomb-stone stands a short distance to the north, it is that of -

RALPH ERSKINE

a name honoured and respected both in Britain and America, as one of the fathers of the Secession Church, which, from a small beginning in Dunfermline, has now spread over the length and breadth of the land. The history of the Secession is so generally known, that we will not enlarge on it here; we prefer giving from a private journal the following scene, which occurred after Mr Erskine had been libelled and deposed by the Assembly, worse authority he contemned. During all this time Mr Hardy was in the session house trembling; for he would not mount the pulpit till he saw if Mr Erskine was kept out of the kirk; and when the small scuffle was at the kirk door, he called to lock the session-house door; and when the kirk was composed and the psalms singing, he went forth, with his gentlemen door-keepers, to Baillie John Walker's house, but was in such confusion and disorder, that when they called for a dram, he could not ask a blessing on it, (as was said.)

Soon after a church was built for Mr Erskine Fifty-six years after, it as found incommodious when the present large meeting-house in Queen Ann-street was erected. It has been proposed to erect a statue of Erskine in front of that building, so historically interesting to dissenters. A plaster figure and pedestal were modelled by

Ritchie, sculptor, Edinburgh, and exhibited but the design failed (Oh! tell it not in Gath) for wasn't of funds. Mr Erskine was born in 1685 and died in 1752, having been for forty-two years a faithful minister of the gospel.

If the visitor has a penchant for studying -

EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS

he may gratify his desire to some extent; for in this, as in other old church-yards, there are many with "name and fame spelt by the unlettered muse." The attempts at verse are more sepulchral than poetical. In the north-west corner on different stones, we find -

"Time cuts down all
Both great and small."

"Reader, see how death all down puls,
For the greatest champion ere drew breath,
Was always conquered by death."

"Of worldly cares we've had our share,
When in this world as you are now are;
But now our bodies rest in dust,
Waiting the rising of the just."

Nor is a spice of church-yard wit awanting. A little beyond and between the thorn tree and the church we have, -

"Here lyes the corps of Andrew Robertson,
present deacon and convener of weavers
in this burgh;"

and farther on some lines in the Tom Bowling style, which we shall endeavour to present "all right and ship - shape." -

"Tho Boreas' blasts and Neptune's waves,
Have tossed him to and fro,
Quiet by the order of God's decree
He harbours here below.
Where now he lies at anchor sure,
With many of the fleet;
Expecting one day to set sail
His admiral Christ to meet."



The Wallace Thorn Tree
In Dunfermline Churchyard

If the church reminds us of Bruce, the thorn tree, does so of Wallace. In 1303 that hero was driven to "the forest of Dunfermline," and probably at that time took the opportunity of planting a thorn tree on his mother's grave. Long after, Wallace's thorn was blown down, but a slip of it was again planted on the same spot, and to this day bears witness to the final affection of "the peerless Knight of Ellerslie."

JAMES VI, BOWLING GREEN

In going round the church, we cannot fail to notice the smooth grassy level to the south. This was a Bowling-green, made by James VI, within the precincts of the abbey, by which means the ruins were in some measure removed, and many interest antiquities buried or destroyed. The ground contiguous, in front of the Fraternity was also levelled up a number of feet with stones and rubbish, when the New Church was finished, so that the original aspect is now greatly altered though the improvements must be allowed to compensate for the loss.

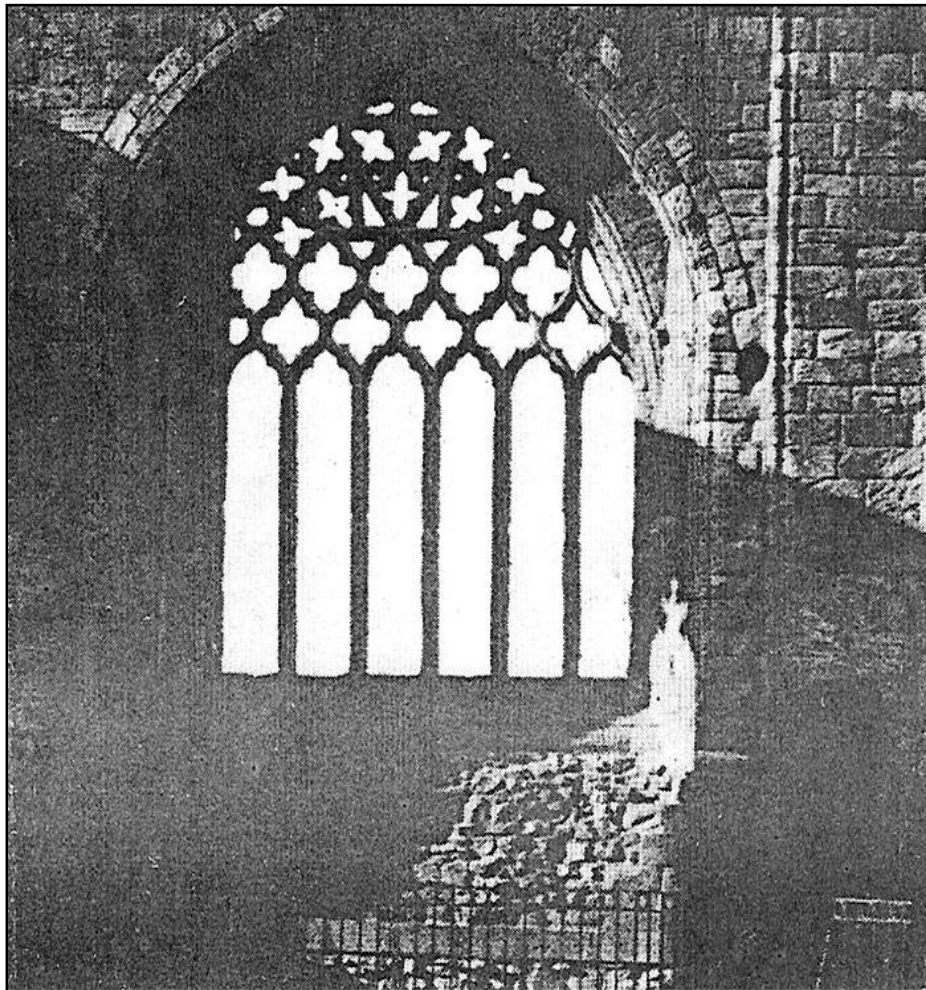
THE FRATERY



Robert Somerville. *Dunfermline sketches and notes*. Dunfermline, 1917.

or Hall of the Brethren, one "long lone wall" of which remains, was that part of the abbey used as a Refectory, or dining apartment. It must have been a magnificent public room, and fully justifies the remark made in page 8th, that three sovereigns with their retinues, could be accommodated in the abbey. It was doubtless in this hall that the nobles met and planned their incursions into England, which drew down the vengeance of Edward I, as already narrated. In the thickness of the walls at the east end, is a small closet, the roof of which is beautifully groined and ornamented. This is called the Musicians' Gallery, and was probably occupied by a band of choristers or harpers during feasts or by novices, whose duty it was to read the Scriptures during meals. The level of the hall floor is still distinctly marked. Under it were two stories of cells, probably sleeping apartments the narrow windows and doors of which are now built up, as may be seen from the street. These cells were supported by pillars, yet to be described.

THE WESTERN WINDOW



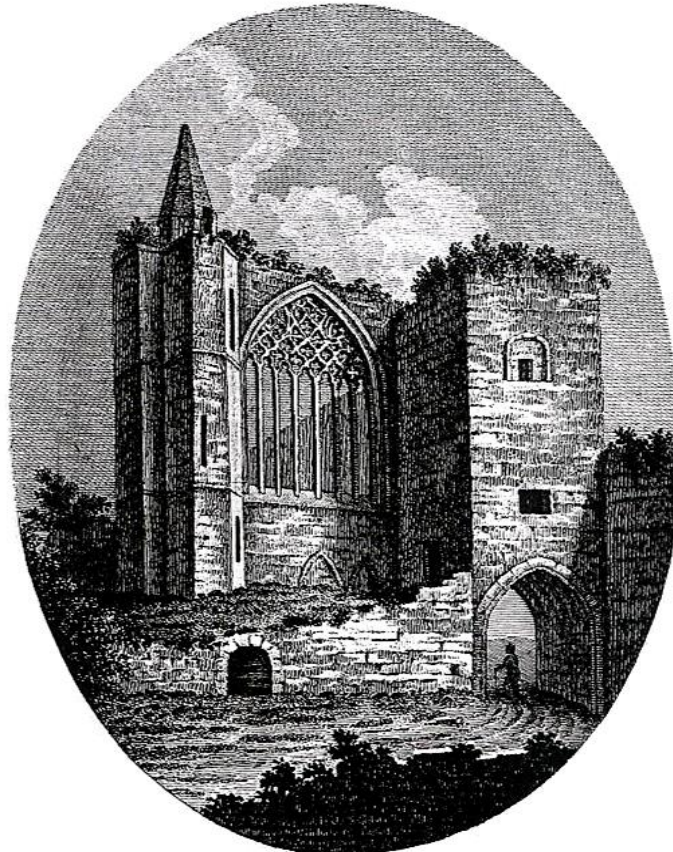
Is still remarkably entire, and for elegance of design and workmanship, is allowed to be one of the finest in Scotland. It must have been

_____ "the pride
Of some superior artist skilled
To fashion stone even as he willed."

A careful inspection will justify this eulogium. The design is intricate, yet perfect, and proportions just and beautiful, so that notwithstanding its depth and strength, it is yet airy and elegant. Many eminent architects have admired this window, which rivals the oriel in Melrose Abbey, whose "slender shafts of shapely stone" are immortalized in the "Lay of the Last Minstrel."

The only other portion of the old monastic buildings remaining, worthy of notice, is

THE GATEHOUSE



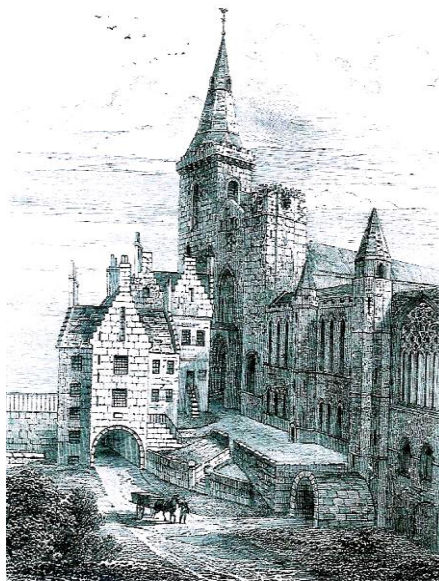
now called the Pends, under which the street passes, a large square tower, supported on strong ribbed arches, a fine specimen of the pointed style of architecture. This as it were, guarded or overlooked the entrance to the main court-yard, and consists of two apartments which vaulted roofs. In one of these the first damask loom was erected in the beginning of last century, by James Blake, who there secretly commenced what has now long been the staple trade of the town. That apartment is now used as a receptacle for grave-diggers, implements, suggesting to the mind Hamlet's apostrophe - "To what base uses may we come at last."

No just estimate of the extent and appearance of the abbey can be formed from what now remains. Founded in the eleventh century by Malcolm, each succeeding monarch added to the original building. In 1230 Alexander III, at great expence, enlarged it by more elegant structures, and increased the number of monks from thirty to fifty. Thus the building would receive various additions from age to age; and the decayed parts would be repaired according to the latest style of architecture then

practised. In the reign of Alexander III, from 1249 to 1286, the abbey had probably attained its utmost height of external splendour; as well as its greatest degree of fame for devotion and sanctity of monastic observance. The first abbot was Gotfrid or Gaufrid, who was ordained in 1128; and the last was George Durie, who held the office from 1530 till the destruction of the monastery. He died in 1572.

There was a covered passage from the Fraternity to the church, entering at the south door and joining the porch there, the remains of which are still to be seen attached to the old buttress. Along this passage the monks could walk in all weathers, and by day and night, to their frequent watchings and prayers in the church.

As connected with the abbey, but now entirely removed, we may mention that another Gatehouse or Pend stood at some distance north of the one yet remaining. It was taken down in 1780, as it obstructed the thoroughfare. To the west of the church also here stood an ancient edifice called the Queen's house, so called because Queen Anne in 1600 rebuilt an old porch and gate house which stood on the site, and had probably been attached to the abbey. Closely adjacent to the church on the west stood the Constabulary house, in which resided the high constable, mayor and sergeant who had charge of the king's palace. This was removed in 1752; and the Queen's house, which had been used as an academy, was taken down in 1797, having become ruinous.



Anne of Denmark's House.

Two traditions may be here mentioned, connection with the removal of some of the old walls, royal or ecclesiastical. One is, on the authority of Bocce, "That in 1448 there was found in a leaden coffin, and in a swaddling-cloth of fine linen a youthful corpse, retaining still a lively complexion all over, and not in the slightest degree corrupted. It was by antiquarians pronounced to be that son of St Margaret, who died in his infancy."

The other is, that about eighty or ninety years ago, "some labourers employed in removing part of the old walls came upon a recess, in which they found a human body in a state apparently of perfect preservation, but which immediately crumbled down into dust. It was the **figure of a lady** splendidly attired, and standing upright. On

making the discovery, the men called to the master, who was standing at no great distance; he instantly ran to the place, but so rapid was the process of decomposition, that when he came, there was nothing to be seen but a heap of dust. This, however, on account of the proportion of gold in the clothes, absolutely shone, as he expressed it, like so much gold dust. As Dunfermline was not a nunnery, and this could not therefore be an unfaithful votaress, as in the similar case of Coldingham, it may be supported that the figure was that of some lady of eminent rank, who had been thus buried by way of distinction." - *Chamers' Picture of Scotland*, ii.p.178.

We now take leave of the church and courtyard, converted by the hand of taste into a garden of flowers and fragrance, a sacred and a holy spot where Affection may go forth and cherish sweet memories, and whence Contemplation may, on the wings of faith, look upwards to a brighter world beyond the tomb.

CHAPTER VI.

On leaving the abbey, we naturally direct our steps to -

THE PALACE

the ruins of which are situated in the grounds of Pittencrieff, belonging to JAMES HUNT, Esq. by whose kind permission visitors are allowed to inspect these interesting relics of Scotland's ancient feudal glory.

The tradition from the street at once to the shady walks, and woods and glens of Pittencrieff, is striking and agreeable. Following the order of time, we may first visit

THE TOWER HILL

a short distance from the gate. It was on this hill tht Malcolm Canmore built the tower whence the town derives its name, and which figures in supported by two lions.



Here his marriage with queen Margaret took place, and here his family, future sovereigns, were born. Its natural advantages as a place of strength, would doubtless recommend it to the rude eyes of an engineer of the eleventh century, when might was right, and personal security was more prized than personal comfort. The hill rises abruptly out of the glen, causing the rivulet to wind round its base, and when its rugged declivities and steep sides were covered with thick woods, it must have been extremely difficult of access on three sides. A small fragment of the tower yet remains; it is part of a wall, almost level with the ground. It has been very thick; and the stones, which are small are strongly cemented with lime mixed with sea-sand, now as hard as the stones themselves. This fragment is now nearly eight hundred years old! It has been suggested, that a gothic pillar might with much propriety be erected on the site of this Tower, to the memories of Malcolm III, and of MARGARET his Queen.



We ought not to omit, that here Matilda, Canmore's daughter, was born, in the eleventh century. She was married to Henry I, king of England, and was solemnly crowned queen by St Anselm, bishop of Canterbury. She was styled by the people of England "The good Queen Maude;" a title which implies she was a worthy daughter of her mother, Margaret. Like her, she encouraged learning; was liberal towards monasteries; built the first stone bridge ever erected in England; and founded the

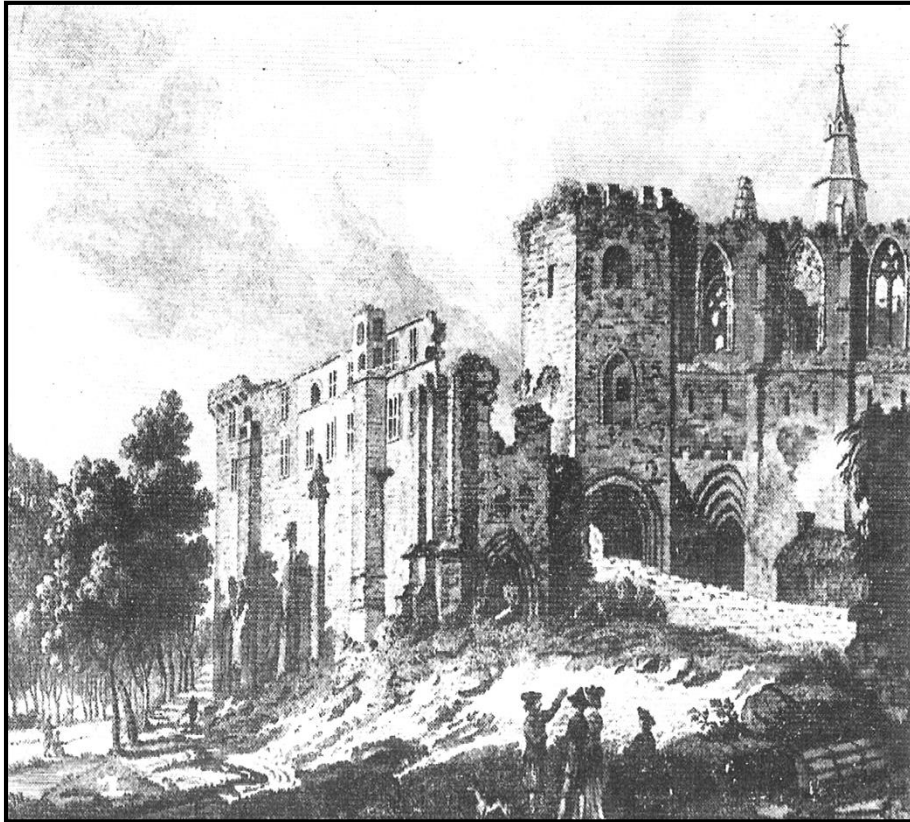
Leper hospital of St Giles in the field.

Henry was led to seek her hand from a wish to conciliate the Saxon population of England; in her son therefore was conjoined the blood of the Normans, Saxons, and ancient Celtic inhabitants of the country. She died in 1117, and was interred in Westminster Abbey. The Latin inscription on her monument ends by saying that "a whole day would not suffice to tell of all her goodness and virtue." Maude is one of the names bestowed on the infant princess Alice, second daughter of her Majesty queen Victoria.

A good distance up the glen, and out of Pittencrieff grounds entirely, is a cave in a rock, called St Margaret's Cave. It is about eleven feet deep, and six high, and was used by queen Margaret as a secluded place for private devotion. Thither she was one day followed by Malcolm, who was doubtful of her real object, but on seeing her so employed, he caused the cave to be properly fitted up for her use. The remains of a stone table, with something like a crucifix, were seen in it long ago.

From the Towerhill we may now proceed to -

THE RUINS OF THE PALACE



By Paul Sandby, R.A., 1780.

It is not known when the Scottish kings who occasionally visited Dunfermline, changed their residence from the old tower; but at an early period a royal palace was erected adjoining the monastery, containing greater accommodation. James the IV, resided here more than any of his predecessors; and probably, during his reign, the upper story of the palace, and the western end of it, were added to the original building. In the roof of one of the upper windows, there is a carved representation of the Angel appearing to Mary on a scroll, in Latin, is the angel's salutation, - "Hail! full with favour," and the Virgin's answer. The stone is chiefly noticeable on account of its date, which has given great trouble to antiquarians. The date is 1100,* in Arabic numerals, and the question is, whether it was engraven at that time, and if it is meant to indicate the period when the palace was built. Arabic numerals were not used in this country in 1100, while the circumstance of Abbot Dury's arms being sculptured on the stone, would indicate the early part of the 16th century as the date of sculpture. But the palace was built long before, for in 1323 David II, was born here. The probability is, that the stone was carved in Dury's time, as an ornament to the palace, and the date, 1100, put upon it, as the real or supposed age of the original palace.

Note: - Later Historians suggested this date of 1100, is the motto of the Durie family, which is CONFIDO.



In 1513, James IV, and his son Alexander, who was an abbot, were slain in the battle of Flodden Field; on which sad disaster that inimitable and soul-touching song, "The Flowers o' the Forest," was composed. His successor, James V, and his daughter queen Mary, resided here; and James VI, previous to his departure for England, often had his residence in this palace. The chimney of the room in which Charles I, was born is still in good preservation, and is to be seen in the west end of the wall, near one of the ivy-covered windows.

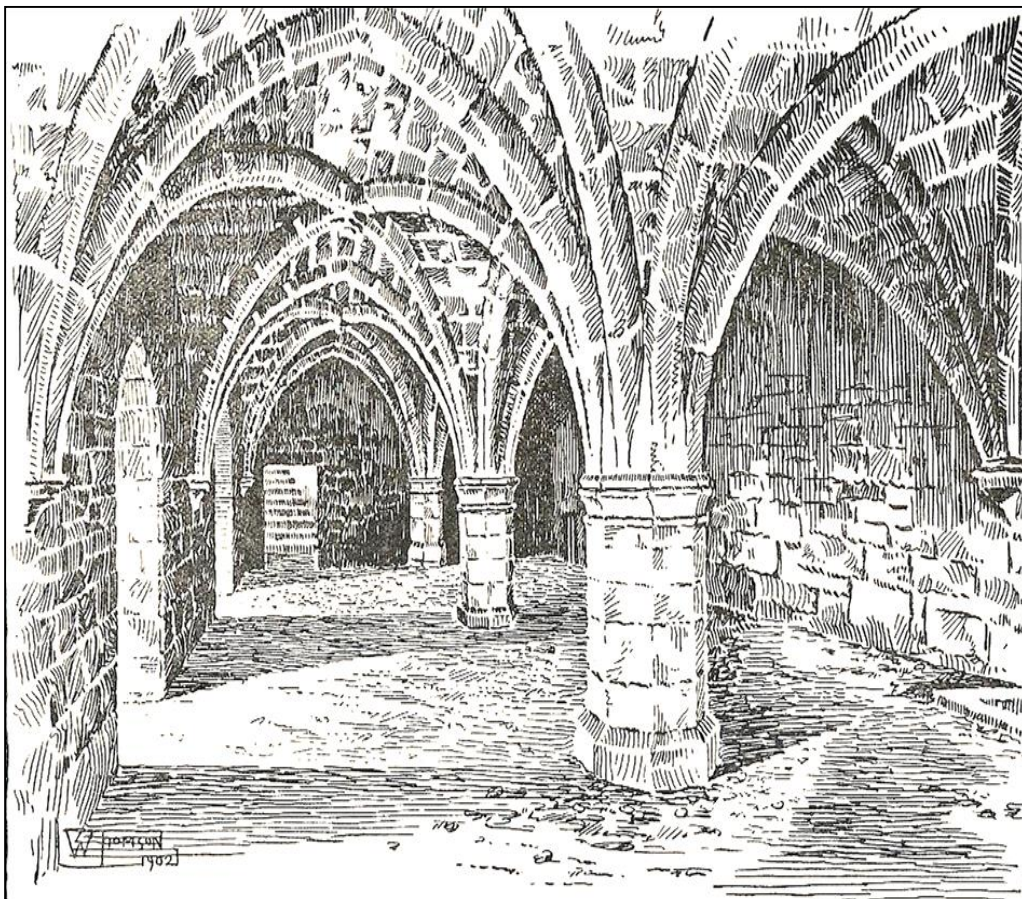
A curious anecdote is handed down of the infancy of King Charles, which is thus related in Chamers' Picture of Scotland: -

"Charles was a very peevish child, and used to annoy his parents dreadfully by his cries during the night. He was one night puling in his cradle, which lay in an apartment opening from the bedroom of the King and Queen, when the nurse employed to tend him, suddenly alarmed the royal pair by a loud scream, followed up by the exclamation, 'Eh! my bairn!' The king started out of bed at hearing the noise, and ran into the room where the child lay, crying, 'Hout, tout, what's the matter wi' ye nursie!' 'Oh,' exclaimed the woman, 'there was like an auld man came into the room, and threw his cloak owre the prince's cradle; and syne drew it till him again, as if he had ta'en cradle, bairn, and a' awa' wi' him. I'm feared it was the thing that's no canny.' 'Fiend, nor he had ta'en the girnin brat *clean* awa!' said King James, whose demonological learning made him at once see the truth of the nurse's observation; 'gin he ever be king, there'll nae gude a' his ring; - the deil has cusen (cast) his cloak owre him already!' 'This story is generally told,' adds the writer, 'and in the same maner, by the aged and more primitive portion of the inhabitants of Dunfermline, and the latter part of the King's observation is proverbial in the town, it being common to say to a misleard or ill-conditioned person, 'I dare say the deil has cusen his cloak owre you!'"

In 1633 this unfortunate Charles visited Dunfermline, where he held a court, and dubbed five gentlemen knights. Charles' sister, Elizabeth, afterwards queen of Bohemia, was also born here in 1596. In August 1650, Charles II, remained several days in the palace, and subscribed the National League and Covenant, which was the last time the palace received a royal visit. In 1651 the battle of Pitreavie, three miles south of Dunfermline, was fought between Cromwell's army and that of Charles, when the former was victorious, and some detachments coming to the town plundered the church, and very probably wrecked the palace, as it is not to be supposed they

would have any predilection for the place where Charles I, was born. From this time it seems to have been entirely neglected, and in 1708 he roof fell in.

Such is a brief history of Dunfermline palace. All that now remains are the south wall, and a sunk vaulted apartment, traditionally called the *King's Kitchen or Magazine*, from some powder having been stored in it in 1745. Originally, it was the King's cellar or store room. The roof of this apartment is arched and strongly ribbed, the pillars short and massy, the walls six feet thick, while the windows are very small and narrow, little more than loop holes looking out upon the steep glen beneath. In one corner is the entrance to a subterraneous passage, for what genuine old ruin ever wanted that appendage to give interest to traditional story! The entrance is low and narrow, and small enough to have been easily concealed, but about nine feet up, there is space to stand upright; the walls are built of strong masonry, and the roof is arched and sound; its direction is partly towards the monastery, with which, it was connected, and partly towards the west end of the old palace, where it had an outlet, being a hundred feet in length from its commencement in the king's kitchen. Whether from the sinking of the walls, or original construction, great part of the passage is now so low that one can scarcely get through it on hands and knees, burrowing like a mole.



The King's Wine Cellar, Dunfermline Palace.
Daniel Thomson. *The weavers' craft*. Paisley, 1903.

This cellar formed part of the original palace which consisted only of one story to which another was added probably by James IV. The addition and changes on the windows of the first flat are perceptible to this day, and the style of their architecture sufficiently indicates their era, which is that of Henry VIII. The length of the palace is about 150 feet, by 33 in breadth, and this was divided by a partition-wall into the sections.

The ancient ground story is now, inside, covered up with rubbish, on which fine trees are growing; but on the outside, the building is exposed to the foundation, which is on the solid rock, continued through all its length, the rock jutting out from the soil, and projecting beyond the foundation. Toward the glen there had only been loop holes in the original building. When the building was constructed, what is called the *king's kitchen*, and the ground story of the palace, must have been on the same level.

The proprietor of Pittencrieff several years ago repaired these interesting ruins, at a very considerable expence. It is much to be wished, that the Barons of Exchequer, or the Marquis of Tweeddale, who enjoys the fees of the mayor, bailie, and sergeant of Dunfermline, would shew a like generosity, and repair some parts of the Fraternity, which seems nodding to their fall.

About a hundred years ago the ruins of the Queen's House, which stood over the road between the place and the church, were inhabited by mechanics of all descriptions; the royal ruins were undefended by any wall, the space before them being an unfenced kitchen garden, while the principal trade of the town was confined to this quarter - the Kirkgate and precincts of the palace being in more request as residences than the better houses in the High-street.

When at length the inroads of time and the weather caused these artisans to quit their once royal abode, they of course took with them whatever articles of furniture they had become possessed of, and thus chairs and tables, beds and cabinets formerly in use by royalty itself, were scattered to the four winds, or ornamented some of the humble dwellings in the town. Thus the nuptial bed of queen Anne, which she brought from Denmark made of walnut tree, and curiously ornamented with carved figures, adorned an ale house, and was regarded with much veneration by its possessor, who, before her death, made a present of it to the Earl of Elgin, he entrance-hall of whose mansion, at Broomhall, it now graces. A beautifully ornamented cabinet, formerly belonging to queen Anne, and called her *Aumry*, or wardrobe, is now in the possession of Jams Hunt, Esq, of Pittencrieff. But the most successful collector of these antiquities is Mr Joseph Paton, of Wooers' Alley Cottage, who after years research, and at much expence, has succeeded in rescuing from oblivion an extensive and valuable collection of these interesting relics, not only of Dunfermline palace, but also of Linlithgow, Holyrood, Scone, Falkland, and Stirling and Loch-leven castles. His museum contains cabinets, chairs, tables ancient armour, swords, coins, &c. of exceeding interest and beauty, and in excellent preservation.

Here finishes our survey of the Antiquities of Dunfermline. Its Church and Abbey, Convent, Tower, and Palace, have successively passed under review; and over them we have endeavoured, as best we might, to cast the mantle of interest. If, on leaving the ruins, the stranger wishes to view the grounds of Pittencrieff, he may; and he will find it one of the sweetest and most romantic spots in all broad Scotland.

FINIS