

GLASGOW

PAST AND PRESENT

By SENEX

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME III.

GLASGOW

DAVID ROBERTSON AND CO.

MDCCLXXXIV

941.2 6146
61461
J08-3

TO THE
Glasgow Archaeological Society

THE FOLLOWING LOOSE JOTTINGS
RELATING TO
GLASGOW AND ITS ENVIRONS

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

SENEK

PREFACE.

IT was altogether a chance circumstance which suggested to me the idea of noting down the following loose and desultory jottings regarding Glasgow and its Environs, and particularly respecting the Low Green and its neighbourhood. I possessed little information on the subject of the early history of this our first public park, except what had been taken notice of by our different Glasgow historians; but being in the ninety-second year of my age, and remembering the state of the locality in question, shortly after the date when the Plan annexed to this pamphlet was drawn up, and seeing that no part of our city has undergone greater changes than this portion of it, I have thought that a few notices regarding the said locality may perhaps be acceptable to many of our citizens, especially to those who take delight in lingering over stories of olden time.

I eschew all claim to any original information of importance as to the early history of this district of our city, and now come forward merely as a gleaner from the works of others, interspersed with a few of my own memoranda, loosely thrown together.

As I have before stated, it was an accidental circumstance which turned my attention towards writing a few notanda regarding the Low Green of Glasgow, viz., the following letter, addressed to me as "Senex," from a stranger:—

“To SENEX.—SIR,—Many friends here and elsewhere would be highly gratified were you to be good enough to write any reminiscences of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Chapel here. It is now the oldest of the Episcopal communion in Scotland, and for many years was the sole chapel in the West, and was frequented by the Dukes of Hamilton, the Lords of Douglas, the Cathcart family, the Pollocs, and the *elite* of Glasgow and vicinity. You might have materials for a few articles, which would take well.—Yours truly, A. B.”

To this request I answered as follows :—

“To A. B.—SIR,—Although it is not in my power to give a satisfactory account of the early history of the first Glasgow Episcopal Chapel, nevertheless, as I possess a plan of the grounds on which the said Chapel and St. Andrew’s Church were erected during the course of last century, I think it may be interesting to many of our citizens to look back to the days when the lands in question were lying waste, and open to the public, as if they had been a mere common in connection with the Old Green of Glasgow.

“Perhaps no part of Glasgow has undergone so great a change within the memory of our octogenarian citizens as the Old Green and its environs, in consequence of the Camlachie and Molendinar Burns having been arched over, and formed into a tunnel ; from the opening up of the south part of the Gallowgate, by the formation of London Street and St. Andrew’s Square ; by the erection of the splendid mansions of Charlotte Street upon the ancient lands of Merkdaily ; and, in short, by the whole of the Saltmarket and the lands in the vicinity of the Green having been pulled down and rebuilt, so that the entire space in question has put on quite a new face, and would scarcely be recognised by our forefathers had they returned to us on furlough.—Yours truly, SENEX.”

Such, then, was the origin of the following sheets.

CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

CHAPTER I.

The Old Green of Glasgow—Charter to Bishop Turnbull in 1450—King's Isles—The Bishop's Forest—Weaponschawings, and penalties for non-attendance—Petition of Hugh Tennent to the Court of Session—Bridgeton in 1725—Walkinshaw of Barrowfield—Orr of Barrowfield—Advertisements of sale of Barrowfield

Pages 1-14

CHAPTER II.

The Andersons of Stobcross—The Bells of Cowcaddens, and Bell's Park—Incorporation of Tailors—Bailie Ronald, Breeches Maker to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and Provost M'Dowall—Feu-duties in Anderston and Finnieston—Lady Barrowfield—Story of the marriage of John Orr of Barrowfield—Anecdote—The Green eighty years ago—Craig's Park—The Golf Fields lands in 1758—Provost Mackenzie—Sketch of Alexander, Richard, and James Oswald—Extracts from *The Glasgow Mercury* 15-41

CHAPTER III.

Kelvinbank in 1781, and Kelvingrove in 1790—Coal Quay at Windmillcroft—First railway in Glasgow—The Windmill in 1780, and salmon fishing—Deepening and embanking the Clyde in 1780—Patrick Reid, possessor by "wadset" of Washington Street—Henry Monteith's attempted purchase of Washington Street for Clyde Trust in 1814—Washington Street, whence named 42-53

CHAPTER IV.

Cleland's sketch of the Green—Improvements in the Green, 1638-1664—Fleshers' Haugh in 1792—The Green as it stood in 1816—Coal under the Green, and proposal to work it in 1858—Discussion in the City Council—Proposed improvements in 1813—Subsidence of the Green in 1754—The Point Isle in 1760—Dowcot Green Island—The Horse Ford—Battle of the Bell o' the Brae 54-71

CHAPTER V.

Regent Murray's approach to Glasgow and Hamilton, after Langside, 1568, by the Horse Ford—Erection of the stone dyke across the Clyde—Rutherglen Quay and traffic—Stoppage of the fords by Act of Parliament, 1768—Golborne and Clyde deepening in 1773—The Broomielaw in 1760—The old Bottlework—The Bottlework Company—Gorbals Church—Hutchesontown in 1794 . . . Pages 72-87

CHAPTER VI.

Residenters in the Briggate—Baillie Craig's house in 1736—The old Custom-House—The Water Port—The Plague in 1574—The Old Bridge and a walk over it in 1778—Attempt by the Magistrates to shut it up—Provost George Murdoch

88-102

CHAPTER VII.

Water Port Dyke and extension of the Bridge—Ben Barton's house—The first printer in Glasgow, temp. 1638—Removal of spikes for exhibition of heads of traitors—General Assembly in Glasgow in 1638—The Crawfurds—The mansion of the Campbells of Blythswood—Dillon's lawsuit with John Campbell of Blythswood—James Campbell and his creditors—James Rankin, tobacconist—Speculation in tobacco in 1776—Curious story of James Maxwell, Esq.—Flood in Briggate in 1782—Laughable story of David Dale's dinner-party in 1795 . . . 103-126

CHAPTER VIII.

Fleming's saw-mill on the Molendinar—Its demolition by the Magistrates in 1764—Fleming's lawsuit against the Magistrates—Depositions of witnesses, containing many interesting notices—First introduction of Scots Crown Fir—Sawmillfield—Commencement of Forth and Clyde Canal 127-142

CHAPTER IX.

Port-Dundas as a harbour *versus* the Broomielaw—Cow-milking on the Green—Rates for grazing—Dell in the Green—The Washing-House, and Scotch mode of cleansing clothes—Castle Boins—The Big Tree—The Green the scene of military punishment—A soldier shot, 1750—Dispute between the Magistrates and the Officers of Colonel Herbert's regiment 143-161

CHAPTER X.

- Four orphans in 1741—M'Call's Black House—Prince Charlie in Glasgow in 1745—His appearance described—Review of his host—The Glasgow Royal Volunteers in 1778—Mutiny at Leith—Collision between Magistrates and J.P.'s—Recruiting as practised in 1778—Population and Mortality Bill of Glasgow in 1777
 Pages 162-175

CHAPTER XI.

- Injury to the trade of Glasgow by the American War—Sale of Merkdaily Lands—Opening of Charlotte Street—St. James's Square—Barrowfield—Bowling Green and the Archers' Butts—Struther's Brewery—First brewing of porter in Glasgow—Lawsuit in regard to it—List of brewers summoned before the Justices in 1777—Printfield at Fleshers' Haugh—Favourite bathing-place—First person baptized by immersion in Clyde 176-190

CHAPTER XII.

- Opening up of Duke Street—Glasgow Police in 1788, and measures of the Magistrates for regulation of the city—Improvements in the city—St. Andrew's Church—Eaglesholm Croft—Dispute about electing a seventh minister for Glasgow—Dr. Porteous—The "Long Stairs"—The "hanging stair" in the Tontine—Weavers' riots—Town herds 191-205

CHAPTER XIII.

- Humane Society House founded in 1790—Nelson's Monument—The great storm of 1810—Arns Well—The Slaughter-House and regulations thereanent—Markets in 1744—Queen Mary in Glasgow with Darnley—Lamplighting in 1792—The Glasgow Streets in 1560—Saracen's Head Inn—Causewaying in Glasgow in 1578
 206-218

CHAPTER XIV.

- Costume of the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Glasgow—Convencr Newbigging—Salary of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh—Scotch Episcopalians—History of and interesting particulars regarding St. Andrew's Church—Anti-Burgher intolerance—Episcopal liberality—Union of Scotch and English Episcopalians—Articles of Union and Act of Consecration 219-233

CHAPTER XV.

Lunardi's balloon ascent, 1785—The "kist o' whistles"—Choral Union in Glasgow, 1756—Concert in 1789—The Devil's Kirk—Willow Acre—Various ministers of St. Andrew's Church	Pages 234-247
---	---------------

CHAPTER XVI.

General Wolfe in Glasgow in 1753—Wade's sketch of the Episcopal Chapel—Bishop Home's opinion of the Scotch Episcopalians—Roman Catholic Meeting-House eighty years ago—Burgess Oath—Popery riot in Glasgow in 1779-80—Address to Lord George Gordon—Statute Labour Assessment in 1765—Sundry regulations by Town Council—Baillie Bogle's villa, 1712—Conclusion	248-261
---	---------

ADDITAMENTA.

	PAGE
Preface	265
The Water Bailie Court of Glasgow in olden time	267
Municipal elections	271
Loose jottings regarding Glasgow about the year 1775	281
Glasgow in the olden time	285
Much Ado about Nothing: a Glasgow story of olden time	296
Collectors of Customs in olden time	304
Friends of the People	307
The oldest house in the Trongate of Glasgow	311
The Glasgow shows of olden time	313
Cotton	369
A French prophecy regarding America	378
The late Mrs. Douglas of Orbiston	380
The Deanside Well and the convents of the Friar Preachers	382
Answer to an "Old Burgess"	385
My first decade	386
The Lands of Gorbals	396
The grandfather of Charles Wilsone Broun, Esq.	399
The 10th of October, and the Glasgow Grammar School of olden time	403
The Glasgow Grammar School a hundred years ago	422
Origin of the Royal Bank of Scotland	425
St. Enoch's Church of old	428
St. Enoch's Gate and St. Enoch's Church	428
First American Ambassador to London	429
First trader between Glasgow and Belfast, and first vessel that passed through the Great Canal from sea to sea; also first Spanish prize	430