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which published in 1824 *Views of the Principal Buildings in Edinburgh*. In the absence of Sir John Marjoribanks of Lees, Bart., Lord Provost of Edinburgh (then in London), Waugh, as acting Chief Magistrate, read to a crowd assembled in the High Street a letter from the Lord Provost, containing the first distinct intelligence that had reached Edinburgh of the victory of Waterloo. Bailie Waugh also opened a fund 'for the widows and children of those brave men who had fallen in the late Glorious Battle.' He was a considerable proprietor in the Newington district, the topmost houses on the east side of Minto Street as well as those at the south-west corner of Salisbury Road being built by him.

VIII. CELEBRITIES AND UNIDENTIFIED HOUSES

This account of famous residents of George Square would be incomplete without some reference to a few distinguished personages who are known to have lived there for longer or shorter periods but who for a variety of reasons cannot be connected with any particular house.

In *Henry Erskine: His Kinsfolk and Times*, Lt.-Col. Fergusson states categorically that Erskine, while residing in George Square, had amongst his neighbours Jane, Duchess of Gordon. He recalls an anecdote in which her Grace regretted 'removal from her old house in George Square to the New Town.' Erskine is quoted as the authority of the Duchess's lament at 'having to leave the house which had been her home so long, but that really the Old Town was intolerably dull.' The remark, it is said, brought from Erskine the witty rejoinder: 'Madam, that is as if the sun were to say, "It seems vastly dull weather, I think I shall not rise this morning."' "

Unfortunately for the truthfulness of the story, Fergusson adds: 'This is one of the incidents which have been told as occurring in England. It is left to the curious in such matters to establish the correct version of the tale.' But however we

may regard its authenticity, there is hardly room for doubt that Jane, Duchess of Gordon, resided in George Square, and apparently for a considerable time.

Another aristocratic *habitué* of George Square, according to Sir Walter Scott,¹ was the venerable Countess of Balcarres, who died a painless death at the age of ninety-four. Her residence most likely was in the interval between her removal from Hyndford's Close and her departure for George Street, where she had Scott as a neighbour. The daughter of Sir Robert Dalrymple of Castleton, she married the fifth Earl of Balcarres (d. 1768),² and was the mother of Lady Ann Barnard, authoress of 'Auld Robin Gray.'

The countess, who looked upon Mrs. Alison Cockburn as 'a second mother,' was a woman of marked individuality. In *Lives of the Lindsays* we read how her benign influence radiated the ancestral home in the East Neuk of Fife. She was an omnivorous reader of the Waverley novels, although apparently unaware that the author was the lame youth who used to visit the Balcarres family in Hyndford's Close. The countess knew her daughter's ballad of 'Auld Robin Gray' by heart. In one of her last letters she paraphrased two lines, and applied them to her decrepit state. 'Tell Annie,' she writes, that

My wheel I turn round but I come little speed,
For my hand is grown feeble, and weak is my thread.

¹ *Letters*, viii. p. 38.

² He was dubbed 'the patriarch' by Mrs. Alison Cockburn. 'May he live a thousand years and more!' she exclaimed. After spending a week at Balcarres, she writes to David Hume: 'The "old lord" asked for you, disputed with you, confuted you, came over to your opinion, but had no faith when I told him you was (*sic*) tired of public life. 'Ods fish, is the fellow a fool? What can a man of his talents do in a poor ruined country like this?'—Mrs. Cockburn's *Letters* (p. 46). This earl damaged his career by taking part in the 'Fifteen rebellion. He was 'a grey, gaunt man' of thirty-five when he married Anne Dalrymple, aged twenty-three. She had refused him at first, but when she heard (thinking himself near his end) he had left her half his fortune, she 'first endured, then pitied, then embraced,' becoming the mother of eleven children.

When she resided with her mother in George Square, Lady Anne Lindsay (as she was before marriage) occasionally betook herself to the Assembly Rooms in Buccleuch Place where she danced in the 'Maiden set.'

The Countess of Glasgow also comes into this category. The wife of John, third Earl, she was Elizabeth, second daughter of George, Lord Ross of Halkhead. Eventually she became heir to her brother William, the thirteenth and last Lord Ross. As indicated on another page, the town house of this family stood behind the north side of George Square, and probably it was there that the Countess of Glasgow resided.

In 1782 Lady Rae had her house in the Square. The youngest daughter of John Stuart of Blairhill, she in 1761 married Sir David Rae, Bart., who succeeded Braxfield as Lord Justice-Clerk, taking the judicial title of Lord Eskgrove, the name being derived from his country seat at Inveresk. He did not live to enjoy the baronetcy, dying five months after, in October 1804. If all accounts be true, Lord Eskgrove was rather eccentric, at least such is the impression conveyed by Cockburn's unflattering portrait. In his earlier days the judge was a close friend of the poet, Hamilton of Bangour, whose verses he edited for publication, prefixing a short introduction. His son, William, the second baronet, was Lord Advocate, and a notable political figure. Scott apostrophises him as 'Dear loved Rae' in the introduction to the fourth canto of *Marmion*, a compliment which Rae acknowledged in 1841 when he brought in a bill in Parliament for the erection at Edinburgh of a monument to Sir Walter. 'Sensible, cool-headed, and firm, always thinking of his duty and never of himself' was Scott's eulogium of Sir William Rae.

About 1776 George Square provided a town abode for John Maclaurin, who sat on the bench of the Court of Session as Lord Dreghorn. He was the son of Colin Maclaurin, the

renowned mathematician, who in his professional work in Edinburgh University had the support of Sir Isaac Newton. A learned and able lawyer, Dreghorn practised a literary talent by writing satirical verse. He was the author of *The Philosopher's Opera*, a *jeu d'esprit* on David Hume and John Home, author of *Douglas*. From the same pen, too, came an *Apology for the Writers against Douglas*. He was also the author of *Essays in Verse*, which, along with his other writings, was published in 1798.

In one of the houses on the east side of George Square¹ there lived from 1797 to 1800 Thomas Kennedy of Dunure and Dalquharran Castle, Ayrshire. Lineally descended from Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill (whom James VII nominated for the Lord Provostship of Edinburgh), he was an advocate. His son, Thomas Francis Kennedy, was M.P. for Ayr Burghs, 1818-34. He built the harbour of Dunure and, from the design of Robert Adam, the original portion of the modern house of Dalquharran. An ardent Whig, he was the friend and political co-worker of Jeffrey and Cockburn. Kennedy married Jane, daughter of John Adam of Blair-Adam and Maryburgh.

From the *Lives of the Haldanes* (p. 68) we learn that James Alexander Haldane (1768-1851) took up house in George Square, shortly after his marriage in September 1793 to the only daughter of Major Alexander Jones of Culleonald, Banffshire. Haldane's mother was a sister of Admiral Duncan, who had his town house at No. 5.

Both James Haldane and his brother Robert, following in the footsteps of their famous uncle, served for some years in the Navy, but while still young men they came under religious influences which diverted their energies into entirely new channels. Robert founded the 'Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home,' built numerous places of worship ('tabernacles' they were called), and supported a band of

¹ Further researches have shown it to be No. 59.

itinerant preachers, spending in this manner over £70,000 in twelve years.

James Haldane, on the other hand, made an evangelistic tour throughout Scotland in the company of the well-known English divine, Simeon of Cambridge. In 1799 he was ordained pastor of a tabernacle which his brother built in Leith Walk, where he preached for half a century without salary. At first his congregation was affiliated with the Independents, but in 1808 Haldane and his flock became Baptists. Both brothers wrote books of theology and engaged in numerous controversies. The late Viscount Haldane of Cloan, who was Lord Chancellor in 1912, was the great-nephew of the two evangelists.

IX. NOTE ON THE ARCHITECTURE

The charm of George Square to an architect lies in the simplicity of the masonry as compared, for example, with the formally designed frontages of the houses in Great King Street; also in the variety of surface tooling as well as the Nasmyth chequer work, rather disparaged by Arnot but now much admired.

The buildings on the south side exhibit two different styles of tooling. One shows horizontal grooves close together, while the other consists of a plain space about an inch wide. Although the alternations of these two styles are not carried out with mechanical regularity they yet appear frequently enough to form a pattern of their own.

Simplicity and neatness combined with comfort and dignity is the keynote of these Georgian houses whose situation and lay-out are superior to those of Charlotte Square. Good entrance doorways flanked by pilasters supporting an entablature and adorned with excellent brass handles, knockers, number plates, and bells, often surmounted by attractive fanlights (where the hand of the Victorian

'improver' has not been at work), give access to arched halls where graceful stairs wind upwards displaying mahogany handrails and ironwork of pleasing design.

The rooms are lofty and well lit. As in most Georgian houses, the chimney-pieces are the important decorative feature. These, in the Adam style, are embellished by marble of various shades, and have handsome basket grates with brass ornaments. Deep window recesses, wainscots, handsome doors, and recesses, also in the Adam style, are typical of the rooms.

The windows are still, in many cases, of the twelve-paned variety. On the south side a 'round tower' at No. 39 breaks the line with good effect. The most interesting features of George Square are, however, the very early type of bow window at No. 15, and several 'wheel' windows on the north and south sides. A circumstance worth noting is that the masonry of the gable-end of No. 1 shows traces of the original position of the first entrance, which apparently faced east in uniformity with No. 46.

X. LIST OF INHABITANTS, 1766-1926

(The dates placed after each name denote period of entry)

- No. 1 Capt. Hon. Charles Napier, R.N., of Merchiston Hall, 1767
 Lord Woodhouselee, 1786-90
 Mrs. Christie of Balchristie, 1804
 Thomas Burns, W.S., 1808
 Wm. Alester, Writing Chambers, 1810-16
 James Lewis, merchant, 1848
 Alex. Cormack, L.D.S., 1871
 Edward Henderson, 1882
 Scottish Branch of General Council of Medical Education and Registration. James Robertson, 1888
 Alex. Miles, surgeon, 1897
 John D. Logan, L.D.S., 1903