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to write to the man to know how he will order the boy to go up and with whom.'

9th May 1739. 'John Clerk represented to the Committee that John Young, Merchant in Edinburgh, had a letter from John Young, Uncle to Richard Douglas, one of the boys in the Hospital desiring he may take out the boy and educate him at school and when learned to send him over to Cadiz to him and he will take care of him. The Committee remits to Mr. Thomson and the Treasurer to converse with the said John Young and report.' On 23rd May the Committee ordered the 'boy to be sent out, his uncle having promised to keep him at school until he got an opportunity to send him abroad to Cadiz.'

19th August 1741. 'Mr. Braidwood reported that he received a letter from Emelia Melvil, relict of George Smith, surgeon in Pittenweem, desiring him to acquaint the Manager that Captain James Melvil, Commander of an English merchant ship, has wrote from London to send up Robert Smith, my son, by the first pacquet bound for London and has undertaken to educate him in his business as a sailor and furnish him with all the necessaries in time coming, which, being read and considered by the Committee, they agree he should be delivered to the said Emelia Melvil the mother to be sent to London to his cousin.'

The only reference to the 'Rising' in 1745 appears in a Minute of the Governors on 11th November 1745: 'The Managers in regard of the confusion that has been in the City since the last General Meeting have not got the matters referred to them dispatched and therefore delayed making up the Report of their diligence till next meeting of the Corporation.'

The foregoing Notes have been taken from the early Minute Books of the Governors and Managers of the Orphan Hospital to which the subscriber has had the privilege of access.

JOHN RICHARDSON.

MISCELLANY

THIS feature was introduced with Volume XXIV, and is intended to be a receptacle for brief contributions of a miscellaneous nature relating to Old Edinburgh, and for *addenda* and *corrigenda* as to articles in previous volumes. For easy reference, the numbering will be continuous throughout the series.

14. DOVECOTES.

The following notes are furnished by Dr. A. Niven Robertson as supplementary to his article on 'Dovecotes in and around Edinburgh,' printed in Vol. XXV.

St. Catherine's Dovecote

This dovecote is joined on the west and east side to the outhouses connected with the mansion of St. Catherine's, in the garden of which is the famous Balm Well. It is situated to the south-east of the house and is ivy-covered. It is not readily recognisable as a dovecote, but the string course, sloping roof and crowstepped gables indicated its former functions. The walls are rubble, grey sandstone, and there is one flat string course on the north side. They are twenty-three inches thick. Each gable has eight crowsteps. The south wall is continuous on each side with the brick wall that encloses the gardens to the north, and it shows the outlines of three previous windows, now blocked up, which probably once acted as entrances for the pigeons. The entrance to the dovecote is in the north wall and is 6 feet 9½ inches high and 3 feet wide. Only 61 stone nest holes remain in the interior, and they are in five rows on the north wall only. They vary in dimensions and are about 17 inches deep, being rather roughly finished. The roof slopes to the south, towards the gardens, and is covered with red tiles. The external dimensions are 24 feet from east to west, and 12 feet north to south.

Greenend Dovecote

This rather derelict dovecote still stands, in a garden, behind some houses in Stenhouse village. It is a rectangular, two-chambered dovecote with a ridge roof. The walls are of rubble, of pink, yellow, and

pale lilac-coloured sandstone, and are 3 feet thick. There is a single string course. Oyster shells are present in the mortar. The entrance to the west chamber is in the north wall close to the west gable. This chamber contains 593 nest holes, the lowest row of holes being 2 feet 8 inches from the floor. The entrance to the east chamber is in the east gable and this chamber has 490 nest holes, the lowest row being 4 feet 8 inches from the floor. The roof is slated. The dove entrances are ten openings, in a wooden board, half-way down the sloping roof of the east chamber. The similar openings in the west roof are all broken down. I am indebted to Mr. Macrae, former city architect, for informing me of the existence of this dovecote.

Granton Castle Dovecote

This rectangular dovecote is situated in Mr. Smith's market garden, near the shore of the Firth of Forth. Its west wall is in line with the wall that encloses the market garden on its west side. It has been two-chambered. The walls are of rubble grey sandstone, and contain oyster shells. Some of the harling remains on the north wall. The walls are 2 feet 8 inches thick. Two broad string courses of sandstone are present on all the walls. The upper string course forms the cornice below the eaves on the south side, the lower course being 6 feet 8 inches up from the ground level. There is a window to each chamber in the south wall. An entrance in the west end of the south wall is 5 feet high, 28 inches wide; another entrance in the west wall is 3 feet 2 inches wide. There has also been an entrance in the north wall but it is now blocked up. No nest holes are now present but their former presence is easily traceable. Their number has been 880. Each nest was 9 inches wide and 10 inches high. Part of the partition that once separated the two chambers is still present. The roof slopes to the south and is slated. Each gable has six crowsteps with one higher step at the top to the back wall. The dimensions of the dovecote are 19 feet 6 inches long, 13 feet 11 inches wide. The walls are slightly recessed above the upper string course. The interior of the east chamber was used as an air-raid shelter by the Smiths, and had sleeping bunks round its interior.

Note.—Dr. Robertson points out that the caption for the photograph in Vol. XXV, opp. p. 184 should be 'Leny' and not 'Craigiehall.' He also expresses thanks to Mr. L. S. Paterson for these excellent photographs.

15. A Servitude Footpath.

The closing of the path that runs from the end of Morningside Terrace to the west end of Maxwell Street has reminded the writer of a curious passage in the history of Morningside. When the Royal Edinburgh Hospital was opened in 1813 it occupied roughly the area between the present Morningside Park and Maxwell Street, this being the site of the East House which was, of course, the original hospital. To the north and west of this lay the village of Tipperlinn, and the villagers used a footpath to reach the Jordan Burn, then an open stream, for the purpose, I gather, of washing their clothes.

In 1837 a proposal was being considered to extend the East House, but the extra land to be feued lay astride this path, which the villagers refused to relinquish. A satisfactory compromise was reached when an alternative path was provided to skirt the new ground to the west.

This original plan for extending the East House was dropped in 1840, and an entirely new scheme adopted, namely the construction of the present West House. This plan was put into execution, and the building of the West House was begun, but once more, in 1847, trouble arose about 'the servitude road from the village of Tipperlinn to the Jordan burn.' This path, the new one mentioned above, now ran straight across the middle of the Hospital's ground since, to build the West House, a big tract of ground had been taken to the west of the East House grounds. The villagers flatly refused to give up their right of way to the burn, and an impasse had been reached.

At this stage an almost incredible solution was found, for the Hospital ran a large wall along each side of the path, and excavated a sunk carriage drive which ran *underneath* both walls and path, so that transit between the East and West Houses was free, unhindered and entirely private!

In 1853 the rest of the village of Tipperlinn was purchased by the Hospital with the idea of boarding some of the patients there, and gradually the houses were granted to Hospital employees or their relatives. By 1861, however, the village was thought to be too dilapidated, and it was demolished, thus seemingly ending the problem.

Twenty-one years later trouble arose once more about this awkward little path, and this time a final verdict was reached. In the Agreement made by the Hospital with the Railway Company, which latter bore the rather grandiloquent title of 'The Edinburgh Suburban and

Southside Junction Railway Company,' it was agreed that the Company should do its best to close the path, which they were quite willing to do. When the Bill came forward two of the neighbouring feudal superiors had different views, however, and challenged the Company's right to close the path. One of these gentlemen was persuaded to withdraw his objection, but the other held to his protest, and when the Commons had passed the Bill, he had it challenged in the Lords. The Lords decided that the Commons had no jurisdiction in the matter of the path, which should have come under the control of the Edinburgh Police—and they threw out the clause. Thus, by the final decision of the highest authority in the land, the little path remained. The old right-of-way had beaten both Railway Company and Hospital Board.

Until recently one could see on this path the remains of the old East House wall on the east side, while the West House wall, now the wall of the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital, towers to its full height on the west side. Some time ago a fire in the yard to the east of the path led to its being closed . . . but I wonder if that action was *really* legal ?

HENRY TOD, Junr.

16. THE FRIENDS BURIAL PLACE, PLEASANCE.

Miss E. M. Mein called the Editor's attention to a small Note-book deposited by her in the Edinburgh Room, Edinburgh Public Library, wherein she describes certain tombstones in the above burial place not mentioned in W. Pitcairn Anderson's *Silences that Speak*. They number 27, and are situated on the south side of the ground against the wall of the Pleasance Church.

The stones are sandstone, without ornament, and the lettering is plain capital lettering without serifs. They measure 20 inches in height and 26 inches in width, with slight variations. The earliest one is dated 1819 and the last interment took place in 1914.

For further details about the burial place and interments, see Anderson's book, and references in *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

Acknowledgment is made to the Librarian, Edinburgh Public Library, for kind permission to make these extracts :—

Barlow, John, died 29th of first month, 1856, aged 40 years. His son Alfred died 30th of sixth month, 1857, aged 5 years.

Brantingham, George, of Kinmuck, died at Edinburgh on 8th of first month, 1874, aged 43 years.

Cruickshank, Alexander, died 3rd of second month, 1842, aged 84 years.

Cruickshank, Ann, died 31st of twelfth month, 1836, aged 62 years.

Cruickshank, Elizabeth, died 24th of ninth month, 182– (stone repaired at some time and becoming indecipherable).

Doull, Clement Rimington, died 8th of first month, 1862, aged 21 years.

Doull, David, died 8th of first month, 1858, aged 74 years.

Doull, Mary, died 6th of eighth month, 1868, aged 70 years.

Doull, William, died 5th of eleventh month, 1865, aged 37 years.

Gibbs, Helenus, died 20th of fifth month, 1876, aged 74 years.

Gray, Elizabeth, died 5th of eleventh month, 1872, aged 89 years.

Gray, William, died 4th of twelfth month, 1865, aged 76 years.

Johnson, William, died 21st of seventh month, 1837, aged 32 ; and Margaret Bryson, died 11th of twelfth month, 1862, aged 62.

M'Kenzie, Alexander, died 18th of second month, 1890, aged 38 years ; Mary Dowie, his wife, died 26th of first month, 1914, aged 64 ; and Allan, their son, died in 1890, aged 15 years.

M'Laren, Priscilla Bright, widow of Duncan M'Laren, born 8th Sept. 1815, died 5th Nov. 1906 (buried in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard).

[Commemorative stone on wall outside entrance.]

Mason, Robert, died 1st of fifth month, 1861, aged 81 years.

Miller, Ann, widow of George Miller, died 10th of tenth month, 1892, aged 82 years.

Miller, Ellen, wife of William Miller, died 20th of sixth month, 1841, aged 38 years.

Miller, William, born 28th of fifth month, 1786, died 20th of first month, 1882 ; Jane Miller, his widow, born 29th of fourth month, 1818, died 12th of second month, 1908.

Thompson, Edwin, resident physician in Royal Infirmary, died 21st of third month, 1870, aged 22 years.

Wellstood, Stephen, eldest son of James and Ann Geikie Wellstood, born 1st Nov. 1811, died 27th Jan. 1886.

Wellstood, Robert Lundie, fourth son of above parents, died 25th of third month, 1819, aged 2 years 8 months.

Wellstood, Jessie M., wife of Stephen Wellstood, died 9th April 1898, in her 75th year.

Wigham, Jane, widow of John Wigham, *tertius*, died 29th of eleventh month, 1888, aged 86 years.

Wigham, John, *tertius*, died 27th of tenth month, 1864, aged 80 years.

Wigham, John, junior, died 29th of fourth month, 1862, aged 80 years.

Wigham, Sarah Elizabeth, died 31st of eighth month, 1854, aged 20 years.

Woods, Joseph Thompson, died 8th of fifth month, 1867, aged 34 years.

17. A Forgotten Grave.

It is well known that 'Christopher North' (John Wilson) is buried in the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh. Near his grave are those of two brothers, James, and Robert Sym Wilson, but the whereabouts of the burial places of his mother and his wife have for long been a matter of speculation, even to his descendants.

The uncertainty has now been removed by reference to the Register of Burials of St. John's Episcopal Church in Princes Street. It appears from the Register that until the opening of the Dean Cemetery about 1845, the family grave of the Wilson family was in St. John's Church Burial Ground, in the walled enclosure immediately to the east of the church, known as the Dormitory. Unfortunately the headstone, for we must assume that there was one, has disappeared without trace, and for that reason all knowledge of the grave has faded out of memory.

The Wilson burying ground is situated in the north-east corner of the Dormitory, next to that of Dean Ramsay. According to the family records the piece of ground was purchased by John Wilson's younger brother, Robert Sym Wilson, for the sum of 60 guineas, but it is shown on the plan as the ground of John Wilson. It would appear from the entries in the Register of Burials that there were at least eight interments, including a sister of the Professor's, and a daughter named Harriet Woodville, a sixth child who is not mentioned in Mrs. Gordon's life of her father. Three of these interments are worth recording :

1824. Mrs. Margaret Wilson, widow of John Wilson, Esq., Merchant, Paisley, died on the 6th day of December, aged 71 years, and was buried in the dormitory of St. John's Chapel on the tenth of the same month. D. S. (Daniel Sandford).

1837. Mrs. Jane Wilson, wife of John Wilson, Esq., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, died 29th March 1837, and buried in family tomb, St. John's Chapel, 1st April 1837, aged 49. E. B. Ramsay.

1837. Mrs. Isabella Wilson, wife of James Wilson, Esq., of Woodville, Canaan, died 21st October 1837, and was interred in the dormitory of St. John's Chapel, Oct. 26th, 1837. E. B. Ramsay.

The last of these three entries will be of interest to lovers of Marjory Fleming, for Mrs. Isabella Wilson was, before her marriage, Isabella Keith, Marjory's 'dear Isa.' She married James Wilson in 1824, and died, after a short but happy married life, in 1837. Her husband died in 1856, and was buried near his brother in the Dean Cemetery. The following reference to the matter occurs in James Hamilton's life of James Wilson : 'He also expressed a desire to be buried in the Dean Cemetery, where his brother, the Professor, had been buried two years before, adding, in allusion to his wife's grave elsewhere, "the other spot will still be sacred to you." '

It is pleasant to place on record a hitherto unpublished tribute to the woman whose name is inseparably bound up with that of Marjory Fleming. The following note is extracted from the diary of Mrs. Keith of Ravelston, the sister of the Baroness Nairne. The occasion referred to was the death of her husband, Alexander Keith, in 1819 :

'28 Oct. 1837. Tidings came today of Isabella Keith (Wilson) having died last Saturday. The letter to me from Miss Wilson. Her mind and memory much gone. Liver complaint the disease, which at last carried off, O, I trust to glory. Never can I forget the time when she aided me so kindly to raise my mind heavenwards when in deep affliction at Ravelston, reading hymns etc. constantly to me after my sad bereavement.' F. Gent.

18. The Lochs of Drylaw.

It is somewhat surprising that Drylaw House, a plain, sedate mansion, the earliest portion of which was built while Charles I was still on the throne, and housing for several generations a family prominently connected with the history of Edinburgh as well as with distinguished service in various parts of the world—it is surprising that Drylaw has attracted little notice from local historians and

antiquaries. Though marked on John Adair's map of 1680, there is no mention of the building in the Midlothian volume of the Ancient Monuments Commission, nor in Grant's *Old and New Edinburgh*. Yet historically there are few more interesting houses in and around the city. Drylaw gathers to itself a rich variety of local history.

Situated on high ground overlooking the Ferry Road, the mansion is surrounded by a belt of stately trees, while stretching away in every direction are some forty acres, partly grass and partly under cultivation. The grounds are diversified with hedgerows, extensive flower-beds and fruit-trees, a lawn, and an old-fashioned kitchen garden. To the south there is a haunting view of Edinburgh and the Pentlands, while northwards, beyond the ancient dovecote, the eye rests upon the wide expanse of the Firth of Forth, the green uplands of Fife, and in the foreground Inchcolm and Cramond Island.

Above the main doorway are the armorial bearings of the illustrious family of Loch, who were owners of the property for a century and a half.

On entering the mansion one is ushered into a rather diminutive hall, the chief feature of which is a graceful balustrade of hammered iron, probably as old as the house itself. The principal rooms are of moderate size and are panelled in dark wood. Above one or two mantelpieces are mural paintings reminiscent of the scenery of Italy and the south of France. The ceilings are comparatively low, and the windows have small panes. Such are the outstanding features of Drylaw House.

Of the Lochs of Drylaw, whose head is now Baron Loch of Drylaw, little was known until the publication by Lt.-Col. Gordon Dalzell of the Binns for private circulation of a sumptuous and costly volume which revealed from authentic sources not only the meritorious services rendered by the family to the Empire, especially in India, but their close and conspicuous connection with Edinburgh.

The Lochs were landed proprietors in Peeblesshire at a very early date, and are reputed the only family to retain any trace of the blood of Eadulf, a Saxon settler. In the 12th century Walter de Loch was witness to a charter confirming the monks of Newbattle in part of the lands of Lochogow in Eddleston parish. The family seems to have been constantly in residence in Peeblesshire till 1439. In that year several members removed to Midlothian. But the 18th century found them again in their old haunts.

In 1765 James Loch, writer in Edinburgh, acquired the estate of Rachan, which in 1774 he conveyed along with other lands to John Loch, younger of Hawkshaw, in liferent, and William Loch, his eldest son, in fee. John Loch was progressive and alert in the management of his lands ; he introduced a breed of cows from Ayrshire, and planted the woods at Rachan.

The Lochs settled in Edinburgh in the first half of the 15th century. They owned considerable property in the High Street, in Blackfriars' Wynd, and at Kirk of Field. Some of these properties remained with them till near the end of the 18th century. In 1473 John Loch witnessed a charter of land on the north side of High Street. In 1480 he was farming the petty customs of Edinburgh. Then we learn of David Loch being made a burgess of the city in 1500, and of Richard Loch acquiring ground beside the Castle Wall.

Some members of the family served in the pre-Reformation Church. Sir Henry Loch was chaplain-sacristan of St. Giles', while Michael Loch was prebendary and deacon of Trinity College. In 1556 Sir Henry Loch assisted in taking down the images in St. Giles' and helped to save the Mass vessels. Again, in 1565, mention is made of John Loch having his property confiscated for adhering to the old religion, besides being imprisoned in the Tolbooth. He, however, regained his freedom and his belongings by command of Mary Queen of Scots.

For certain of the Lochs a roving life on the high seas, partly in search of adventure but mainly to amass wealth by trading with foreign parts, had its attractions. In 1543 Patrick Loch was afloat in the *Mary Gallande* with an eye to the Baltic trade, which, in the burgh records, is referred to as the ' Wild Adventures,' so perilous was the enterprise. Patrick was a brave and resourceful seaman. In the reign of Mary a privateering commission issued to him exhibits him in an amiable light :

> ' Now when Patrick Loche is about to proceed against the enemy [the English] with an armed ship called the *Mary Gallande*, he has desired these official tokens of our trust, by which we signify to You that he is our man, no robber, no pirate, but bearing just and lawful war with his country against the enemy. Wherefore we desire that if it shall happen him to bring or in any wise send to You any English ships in Your harbours You aid him with provisions and deny him no kindnesses.'

Patrick Loch was influential in Leith. When Mary was imprisoned at Lochleven, he and George Hume took a leading part in obtaining

the consent of the inhabitants to the election of Moray as Regent. Patrick was a contemporary of Archibald Loch to whom Mary granted land near the Market Cross of Edinburgh, the charter being signed jointly by the Queen and Darnley.

Of the Lochs, who traded with the Low Countries for fully a century, James was the most prominent. Made a burgess merchant of Edinburgh in 1613, he became Treasurer of the city, and was partly responsible for the reception of Charles I when, in 1633, he visited his Scottish capital to be crowned at Holyrood. He also was one of those instructed by the Committee of Estates to spend £12,400 Scots on the fortification of Leith, a step taken in 1639 in view of the possible arrival of a hostile fleet. Part owner of a vessel, the *Anna of Leith*, James Loch conveyed cargoes of herring and timber. He is said to have made a fortune in trade with Sweden. Anyhow he was able to buy property near Holyroodhouse, long known as 'Loch's land.' He was owner, too, of dwellings in St. Mary's Wynd, at the Netherbow, and on the Castle Hill. Nor ought it to be forgotten that he gave of his substance towards the building of the Parliament House. He also collected money from the inhabitants in the north-west quarter of the city for the repair of St. Giles' and the erection of the Tron Church. Furthermore, in 1644, he lent 5400 marks towards the support of the Covenanting army, and in 1650 bore the major portion of the expense of the troops opposed to Cromwell at Dunbar Drove.

The chief personal event of James Loch's career was his purchase in 1643 of the estate of Drylaw. The Forresters of Corstorphine were the previous owners. In 1406 Sir John Forrester, Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, settled Drylaw on his brother Thomas. The latter died without issue, and the estate reverted to Sir John, who obtained a charter, dated 10th July 1424, of the lands of Corstorphine, Drylaw, the barony of Nether Liberton, and the acres of Medowfield.

A subsequent laird of Drylaw was James Forrester. His daughter, Elizabeth, married David Makgill of Nisbet and Cranston Riddell. Makgill, through his wife, became possessor of Drylaw, and in his family it remained till near the middle of the 17th century when James Makgill, subsequently raised to the peerage by the titles of Viscount Oxfuird and Lord Makgill of Cousland, sold the estate to James Loch, who also acquired the lands of Groathill which have ever since been attached to those of Drylaw. He built the present mansion about 1648. The original house, portions of which still remain, was burned

by Hertford in 1544. This laird loaned large sums of money, and at his death in December 1653 there was due to him £52,943, 11s. 1d. Scots, including 16,000 marks by Sir William Dick of Braid.

Loch was succeeded by a son who bore the same name. He was one of the Commissioners of the Shire of Edinburgh for the collection of Supply on behalf of William III and Queen Mary. He married Isobel, daughter of George Foulis of Ravelston. On his death in 1690, Drylaw passed to his son George, who in 1697 married his cousin Jean, daughter of Sir John Foulis of Ravelston.

The eldest son, James, succeeded to Drylaw. In 1739 he was made a burgess and guild brother of Edinburgh 'for good services.' He lived a secluded life, and was of studious habits. He owned an extensive library, consisting of works of travel, history, philosophy, theology and science. He had a decided bent towards mathematical pursuits, and besides being an omnivorous reader was a large book buyer. He had an account with Gavin Hamilton, the Edinburgh bookseller, amounting to £211, 2s. 11d. Some of the items bought are interesting. The laird of Drylaw paid £2, 15s. for Archbishop Tillotson's works; £1, 16s. for Bishop Burnet's *History of the Reformation*; 13s. for Shaftesbury's *Characteristics*; but only 5s. for Bishop Butler's *Analogy of Religion*.

The scholarly James Loch died in 1759. His pecuniary affairs, unfortunately, were in disorder. This led to the sale of the bulk of the furnishings of Drylaw, the sum realised being £652, 18s. 2½d. The mansion was now let to Lady Margaret Wemyss, widow of James, ninth Earl of Moray, 'an excellent and hospital lady' who died at Drylaw in 1779. During her tenancy George Loch, only son of the late laird, and his wife lived abroad, chiefly in Rome, partly in attendance at the Court of the exiled Stuarts and partly in collecting books, coins, and engravings. The Jacobite proclivities of the Lochs were pronounced, so much so that had the laird of Drylaw refrained from assisting the Old Pretender and Prince Charles Edward to the extent, it is recorded, of £10,000, there would have been no burden on the estate.

Moreover, the financial situation did not improve in George Loch's absence, for his kinsman, James Loch of Hermandshiels, in whose hands he had left Drylaw, not only mismanaged the estate but added to its burdens by building House on Hill. Consequently it was an impoverished estate to which George Loch returned in 1779. For several years thereafter he manfully strove to place Drylaw on a sound financial basis, taking one of the farms into his own hands, and even

doing his own ploughing. But his efforts were unavailing, and in 1786 he was forced to sell Drylaw to William Ramsay of Barnton for £24,000. The purchase included Easter and Wester Drylaw, House on Hill, Groathill and Pirniehall—a total of 458 English acres. The most notable feature, however, was not disclosed till some years later when a portion of land at Craigleith was found to conceal an abundance of durable stone, which was wrought in the building of the New Town of Edinburgh and the London Docks. Craigleith Quarry yielded immense profits over a considerable period.

After the loss of Drylaw several members of the Loch family settled in England. Others went to the East Indies, where they entered the service of the Crown. James Loch, eldest son of the last laird of Drylaw, was entrusted by the first Duke of Sutherland with the management of his Scottish estates, and was responsible for the so-called 'Loch policy' of removing crofters in the inland valleys who were in a state of semi-starvation, and directing them to employment at the coast.

He was also associated with the Sutherland emigration scheme, and to him were mainly due improvements in agriculture as well as the opening up of the northern Highlands by means of canals.

A brother, John, was deputy chairman of the East India Company. He was an intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott, to whom he gave a 'promise of a cadetship to Allan Cunningham's son.' William Loch, another brother, joined the Bengal Civil Service, and was promoted an Agent of the Governor-General. Francis entered the Navy, and at one time commanded Nelson's flagship, the *Victory*. Subsequently he was naval aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria and a Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

During the period 1780 to 1932 there were sixty-two descendants of the last laird of Drylaw. Half that number spent the whole or the greater part of their service in India, chiefly in the Army. A number reached positions of distinction. Eleven were killed or died in the execution of their duty. No fewer than nineteen members served in the First Great War. Fourteen were officers in the regular Army, one was attached to the Flying Corps, and one was employed in munitions.

It will thus be seen that the old house of Drylaw is the ancestral home of a family the majority of whose members have rendered exemplary service in the upbuilding of the British Empire.

W. F. G.

19. Two Old Edinburgh Characters.

The multitude of 'originals' catalogued in Kay's *Portraits* proves that at that period Edinburgh was inhabited by a remarkable number of such persons of all grades of society. Widely, however, as Kay cast his net some queer fish managed to elude him. It is with two of these that we are now concerned.

About the year 1806 a curious being named Peter Nimmo first appeared at the University of Edinburgh where he entered himself as a student and paid matriculation fees for a course of lectures in Theology. Time wore on until, within the memory of Professor David Masson, and as late as 1846, Peter Nimmo still haunted the precincts of the University. Of his origin nothing is known. His chief claim to fame rests upon his celebrated interview with Wordsworth who took him to be an eccentric Scots baronet. Nimmo is thought to have paid such respectful attention to all that the loquacious poet had to say that he quite won the latter's good opinion by his qualities as a listener. By 1831, Thomas Carlyle, who was Nimmo's fellow-student, had published an article about him in *Fraser's Magazine*. A metrical rhapsody and a more dismal attempt at humour could scarcely have been perpetrated by Wilfred Shadbolt.

An earlier humorist than Carlyle was Philemon of *The Lapsus Linguae or College Tatler* who, in 1824, called the attention of the editor of that periodical to Dr. Peter Nimmo, 'the most illustrious character at present attending this University. . . . His notes of each course of lectures he has attended (and what has he *not* attended?) are at once copious and correct and his style is elegant. These notes —the fruits of a long and literary life—are now in the press. . . . This splendid work in 203 volumes folio, to which the world looks forward with so much anxiety, occupies . . . a great deal of Dr. Nimmo's time.' Philemon's puff of this imaginary work ends by giving the illustrious author's address as 'World's End Close, Canongate, 14th entrance, 10th door upstairs,' which may be a piece of genuine information. Grant describes World's End Close as 'the last gloomy and mysterious-looking alley on the south side of the High Street, adjacent to the Netherbow Port.' A fitting address, with its associations of mystery and misery, for such as Peter Nimmo.

The reminiscences contributed by John Hill Burton to Mrs. Gordon's *Memoirs of Christopher North* depict 'Sir Peter Nimmo [as]

a dirty, ill-looking lout ' whose presence at lectures was often made use of by the students to torment professors less able to keep order than was the redoubtable John Wilson. In Hill Burton's opinion the scarecrow student ' was merely an idly-inclined and stupidish man of low condition ' who saw that the practice of being a public laughing-stock paid better than honest industry and had cunning enough to keep it up. It was an established practice to get hold of the cards of important people, particularly if they were of a choleric nature, and to present them to Sir Peter with a request that he favour them with his company at dinner ; ' he always went, pretending simplicity, and using a little caution if he saw symptoms of strong measures. I suppose he sometimes got a meal that way. . . . He wandered about sometimes endeavouring to establish himself as a sponge in country houses.'

To Masson, however, who had made some enquiries into the history of this student of some forty years' standing, Peter Nimmo was ' a lank, miserable, mendicant-looking object of unknown age, with a blue face, often scarred and patched, and garments not of the cleanest, the chief of which was a long, threadbare, snuff-brown great-coat.' The Professor came to the conclusion that Nimmo ' had come up about the beginning of the century as a stupid youth from Dumbartonshire, honestly destined for the Church, and that he had gradually or suddenly broken down into the crazed being who could not exist but by haunting the classes for ever and becoming a fixture about the University.'

The curious biography of Peter Nimmo is carried a step further by James Laurie's ' Reminiscences of a Town Clerk,' published in the fourteenth volume of *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*. Laurie relates that he was a fellow-passenger with Professor Jameson and his class on a steamboat excursion to the Isle of May in 1829. All aboard ' enjoyed a lecture on the structure of the island,' and the writer goes on to say that, among the students, ' was the celebrated Sir Peter Buchanan Nimmo, a perpetual student of the University and a candidate for several chairs. Some people seemed to think that Sir Peter was more rogue than fool. He was in the practice of travelling through the country in summer and sorning upon old collegians. On one of these excursions he arrived . . . at Gosford House, East Lothian, and being well known to Lord Elcho, himself an old collegian, he was called in and introduced to the company then at dinner, one of whom

was the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. In the course of the bantering that took place . . . at Sir Peter's expense, the Duke conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, or, as Sir Peter affirmed, a baronetcy, and from that day forth Sir Peter bore the title. My sister heard Sir Peter himself tell this to Earl Grey . . . in 1834.'

A vilely written letter, addressed to the Duchess of Buccleuch by Peter Nimmo, is one of the curiosities of the Edinburgh Room at the Central Public Library. A perusal of it adds point to Philemon's sarcasm about Nimmo's literary gifts. After a somewhat high-flown opening, the scribe touches upon a recent walking-tour in the south, his attendance at University lectures, his niece's forthcoming journey to join her sister in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land—her passage being paid for by her brother—and, finally, the Duchess is requested to ask the Duke to beg King William to confirm Sir Peter's title or advance him to a baronetcy or to be one of the new peers, as this will enable him ' to succeed in getting a nice wife.' The plan, he says, was suggested to him by Lord Melbourne with whom he had had an interview when on his walking-tour in the south. The end of Peter Nimmo is as obscure as his beginning. A day came when he was seen no more about the classrooms, but he had provided a curious chapter in the student life of the University.

Our second character was a native of greater Edinburgh and, though not an eccentric in Nimmo's fashion, his now obscure history may interest readers appreciative of Scottish music, for he was, apparently, a kind of Lowland Neil Gow. This musical prodigy was named Peter Baillie, and the author of *Liberton in Ancient and Modern Times* states that he was born in a ' now vanished hamlet named Broken Briggs ' in 1774. ' His parents belonged to the labouring class and were both very musical, more particularly his mother. He was the youngest of the family, some of whom he surpassed on the violin. For some time he wrought in Burdiehouse lime quarries from which he was often called away to play the violin in competition. When very young he stayed occasionally with several families of distinction, entertaining them with his violin, and was a great favourite at Dalkeith Palace. He composed several pieces, principally reels and strathspeys.' . . .

David Baptie, who includes a note on Peter Baillie in *Musical Scotland Past and Present*, gives the date of his death as 1843, and continues that he was ' a famous violinist and composer of whose

somewhat romantic history but little seems to be known. He was supposed by some to belong to the gipsy race. . . . In 1825 he published a set of original tunes for violin and piano . . . [he] could extemporise variations on favourite tunes *ad infinitum*.' Baptie also relates that 'on one occasion the celebrated "Pate" Baillie, who was famous for extinguishing the smaller fiddlers when he appeared upon the scene,' was unlucky enough to find himself outclassed by William Thomson (1785-1840), a native of Penicuik, and a violinist of great ability, at a ball at Auchendinny House. The situation was more than Baillie could endure, and in a fit of temper he laid his violin down and jumped upon it.

One other reference to Peter Baillie occurs in Murdoch's *The Fiddle in Scotland*, in which it is stated that he published a meritorious selection of original tunes in Edinburgh in 1825. Would that a copy of this publication was forthcoming, for then the merit of Peter Baillie's compositions could be judged. As it is, all that remains now, as far as the present writer is aware, are two pieces of manuscript music containing the airs of three strathspeys set down in a semi-literate hand and signed P. Bailie, with the added commendation that the tunes are 'goud ones.'

M. Tait.

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