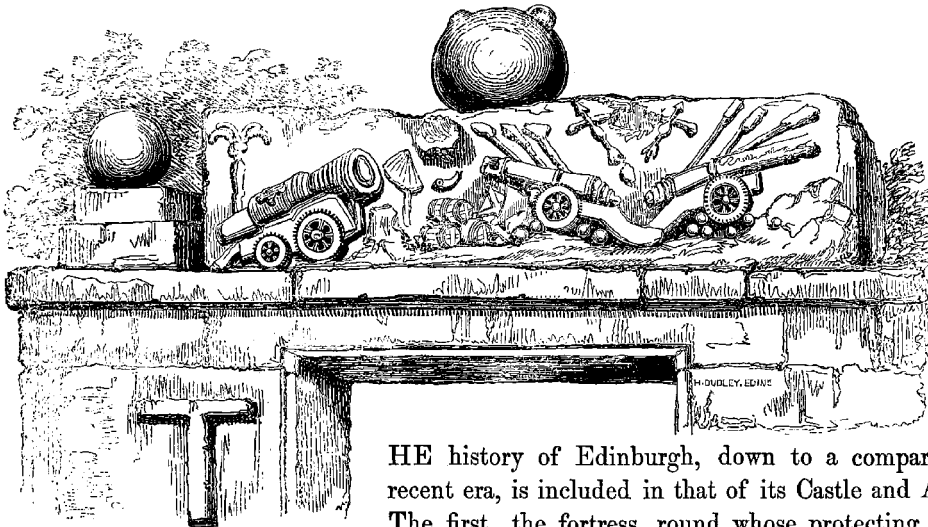


MEMORIALS
 OF
 EDINBURGH IN THE OLDEN TIME.

CHAPTER I.

EARLIEST TRADITIONS.



THE history of Edinburgh, down to a comparatively recent era, is included in that of its Castle and Abbey. The first, the fortress, round whose protecting citadel the rude huts of our forefathers were gathered and continued to increase, until, amid the wealth and security of more peaceful times, the Abbey of the Holyrood reared its consecrated walls, and absorbed to itself much of the wealth and the learning, many of the virtues, and doubtless also some of the vices, of the wild Saxons that peopled the fertile Lothians. It is unnecessary to follow in this History, the fanciful disquisitions of zealous antiquaries, respecting the origin and etymology of Edinburgh; it has been successively derived, both in origin and name, from Saxon, Pict, and Gael; and in each case, with sufficient ingenuity, only to leave the subject more deeply involved than at first. To expect that the first rude gathering of the hamlet, that forms the nucleus of the future capital, should leave its traces in the surviving records or traditions of the past, were as unreasonable, as that the rustic should challenge the veracity of a living historian, because he fails to adorn his

VIGNETTE—Ancient carved stone over the entrance to the Ordnance Office, Edinburgh Castle.

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pages with the 'mute inglorious' history of his native village. All that tradition could have preserved of its early history, may still be traced by the intelligent eye, in the natural features of its romantic site.

In the midst of a fertile and beautiful country, and within easy distance of a navigable estuary of the sea, rises a bold and precipitous cliff, towering upon three of its sides, an inaccessible natural fortress, to the height of 300 feet above the plain. In immediate connection with this, the sloping hill forms at once the natural approach to the Castle, and a site protected already on one side by a marsh and lake, and on all but one by steep approaches, admitting of ready defence and security from surprise. Here at once is discovered a situation, planned, as it were, by the hand of Nature, to offer to the wandering tribes of early Caledonia, the site for their Capital; when every one's hand was against his brother, and war was deemed the only fitting occupation of men. Nor was it until the union with our once natural foes, had made the rival sisters, 'like kindred drops to mingle into one,' that Edina ventured forth from her hilly stronghold, and spread abroad her noble skirts over the valley of the Forth.

But in addition to the natural obscurity of an infant city, the history of Edinburgh, as of Scotland, is involved in more than usual uncertainty, even down to a period when both should fill an important page in the annals of the British Isles, owing to the double destruction of the national records, first, under Edward I., and again under Cromwell; leaving its historian dependant for much of his material on vague and uncertain tradition, or on information obtained by patient labour, or fortunate chance in the pursuit of other investigations.

The earliest notices refer almost exclusively to the Castle, which has been occupied as a fortified station as far back as our traditions extend. The remotest date we have been able to discover, assigned for its origin, is in Stow's *Summarie of Englyshe Chronicles*, where it is placed as far back as 989 years before Christ; sufficiently remote, we should presume, for the most zealous chronologist. "Ebranke," says he, "the sonne of Mempricius, was made ruler of Britayne; he had, as testifieth Policronica, Ganfride, and other twenty-one wyves, of whom he receyved twenty sonnes and thirty daughters; whyche he sente into Italye, there to be maryed to the blood of the Troyans. In Albanye (now called Scotlande) he edified the castell of Alclude, which is Dumbrityn;¹ he made the castell of Maydens, now called Edenbrough; he made also the castell of Banburgh in the 23d yere of his reign. He buylded Yorke citie, wherein he made a temple to Diana, and set there an Arch-flame; and there was buried, when he had reigned 49 yeares."

From more trustworthy sources, we learn of its occupation as far back as the fifth century by the Picts, from whom it was wrested by the Northumbrian Saxons in the year 452. And from that time, down to the reign of Malcolm II., its history exhibits a constant struggle, maintained between them and the Picts, and each alternately victorious. From Edwin, one of these Northumbrian invaders, it may be remarked, who rebuilt the fortress about the year 626, the name of Edwinesburg, as it is termed in the oldest charters we have any notice of, is derived with more plausibility, than from any other of the contradictory sources from which learned antiquaries have sought to deduce it.

Passing intermediate incidents of uncertain significance, the next important epoch is that

¹ Dumbarton.

of 1093, when Donald Bane laid siege to the Castle, in an unsuccessful endeavour to possess himself of Edgar, the youthful heir to the crown, then lodged within its walls. In that year, also, Queen Margaret, (the widow of Malcolm Canmore, and the mother of Edgar,) to whose wisdom and sagacity he intrusted implicitly the internal polity of his kingdom, died in the Castle, of grief, on learning of his death, with that of Edward, their eldest son, both slain at the siege of Alnwick castle ;¹ and while the usurper, relying on the general steepness of the rocky cliff, was urgent only to secure the regular accesses, the body of the Queen was conveyed through a postern gate, and down the steep declivity on the western side, to the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, where it lies interred ; while the young Prince, escaping by the same egress, found protection in England, at the hand of his uncle, Edgar Atheling. In commemoration of the death of Queen Margaret, a church was afterwards erected, and endowed with revenues, by successive monarchs ; all trace of which has long since disappeared, the site of it being now occupied by the barracks forming the north side of the great square.

[1107.] In the reign of Alexander I., at the beginning of the twelfth century, the first distinct notices of the town as a royal residence are found ; while in that of his successor David, we discover the origin of many of the most important features still surviving. He founded the Abbey of Holyrood, styled by Fordun “ Monasterium Sanctæ Crucis de Crag,” which was begun to be built in its present situation in the year 1128. The convent, the precursor of St David’s Abbey, is said to have been placed at first within the Castle ; and some of the earliest gifts of its saintly founder to his new monastery, were the churches of the Castle and of St Cuthbert’s, immediately adjacent, with all their dependencies ; among which, one plot of land belonging to the latter is meted by “ the fountain which rises near the corner of the King’s garden, on the road leading to St Cuthbert’s church.”²

[1178.] According to Father Hay, the Nuns, from whom the Castle derived the name of *Castrum Puellarum*, “ were thrust out by St David, and in their place the Canons introduced by the Pope’s dispense, as fitter to live among souldiers. They continued in the Castle dureing Malcolm the Fourth his reign ; upon which account we have severall charters of that king granted, apud Monasterium Sanctæ Crucis de Castello Puellarum. Under King William [the Lion], who was a great benefactor to Holyrood-house, I fancie the Canons retired to the place which is now called the Abbay.”³ King David built also for them, and for the use of the inhabitants, a mill, the nucleus of the village of Canonmills, which still retains many tokens of its early origin, though now rapidly being surrounded by the extending modern improvements.

¹ Lord Hailes records a monkish tradition, which may be received as a proof of the popular belief, in the strong attachment of the Queen to her husband. “ The body of Margaret, Queen of Scotland, was removed from its place of sepulture at Dunfermline, and deposited in a costly shrine. While the monks were employed in this service, they approached the tomb of her husband Malcolm. The body became on a sudden so heavy, that they were obliged to set it down. Still, as more hands were employed in raising it, the body became heavier. The spectators stood amazed ; and the humble monks imputed this phenomenon to their own unworthiness ; when a bystander cried out, ‘ the Queen will not stir till equal honours are performed to her husband.’ This having been done, the body of the Queen was removed with ease.”—*Annals*, vol. i. p. 303.

² *Liber Cartarum Sanctæ Crucis*, p. xi.

³ Father Hay, *Ibid.* xxii. Richard Augustin Hay, canon of St Genevieve, at Paris, and *prospective* abbot of Holyrood, at the Reformation, though an industrious antiquary, seems to have had no better authority for this nunnery than the disputed name *Castrum Puellarum*.

The charter of foundation of the Abbey of the Holyrood, besides conferring valuable revenues, derivable from the general resources of the royal burgh of Edinburgh, gives them a right to dues to nearly the same amount from the royal revenues at the port of Perth, the more ancient capital of Scotland; justifying the quaint eulogy of his royal descendant, that "he was an *soir sanct* for the crown."¹

By another important grant of this charter, liberty is given to the Canons to erect a burgh between the Abbey and the town of Edinburgh, over which they are vested with supreme rule, with right of trial by duel, and by fire and water ordeal. Hence the origin of the burgh of Canongate, afterwards the seat of royalty, and the residence of the Scottish nobility, as long as Scotland retained either to herself. In the same charter also, the first authentic notice of the parish church of St Cuthbert's, and the chapelries of Corstorphine and Libberton are found, by which we learn that that of St Cuthbert's had already, at this early date, been endowed with very valuable revenues; while it confirms to its dependency at Libberton, certain donations which had been made to it by "Macbeth of Libberton," in the reign of David I., erroneously stated by Arnot,² as Macbeth the Usurper.

The well known legend of the White Hart most probably had its origin in some real occurrence, magnified by the superstition of a rude and illiterate age. More recent observations at least suffice to show that it existed at a much earlier date than Lord Hailes referred it to.³ According to the relation of an ancient service-book of the monastery, in which it is preserved, King David, in the fourth year of his reign, was residing at the Castle of Edinburgh, then surrounded with "ane gret forest, full of hartis, hyndis, toddis, and sic like manner of beistis;" and on the Rood Day, after the celebration of mass, he yielded to the solicitations of the young nobles in his train, and set forth to hunt, notwithstanding the earnest dissuasions of a holy canon, named Alkwine. "At last, quhen he wes cumyn throw the vail that lysis to the eist fra the said Castell, quhare now lysis the Canongait, the staill past throw the wod with sic noyis and dyn of bugillis, that all the bestis wer raisit fra thair dennis." The King, separated from his train, was thrown from his horse, and about to be gored by a hart "with aful and braid tyndis," when a cross slipt into his hands, at sight of which the hart fled away. And the King was thereafter admonished in a vision, to build the Abbey on the spot.⁴ The account is curious, as affording a glimpse of the city at that early period, contracted within its narrow limits, and encircled by a wild forest, the abode alone of the fox and the hind, where now for centuries the busy scenes of a royal burgh have been enacted.

David I. seems to have been the earliest monarch who permanently occupied the Castle as a royal residence—an example which was followed by his successors, down to the disastrous period when it was surrendered into the hands of Edward I.; so that with the reign of this monarch, in reality begins the history of Edinburgh, as still indicated to the historian in the vestiges that survive at the present day. After the death of David I., we find the Castle successively the royal residence of his immediate successor, Malcolm IV., of Alexander II., and of William, surnamed the Lion, until after his defeat and capture by

¹ Sir D. Lindsay's *Satyre of the Estaitis*. Ed. 1806, vol. ii. p. 67.

² Arnot, p. 5. Macbeth of Libberton's name occurs as a witness to several royal charters of David I. [1124-53.] Vide *Liber Cart. Sanctæ Crucis*, p. 8 and 9. Macbeth the Usurper was slain, 1056.

³ *Annals*, David I.

⁴ *Liber Cart. Sanctæ Crucis*, p. xii.

Henry II. of England, when it was surrendered with other principal fortresses of the kingdom, in ransom for the King's liberty. Fortunately, however, that which was thus lost with the fortunes of war, was speedily restored by more peaceful means; for an alliance having been concluded between Ermengarde de Beaumont, cousin to King Henry, Edinburgh Castle was gallantly restored as a dowry to the Queen, after having been held by an English garrison for nearly twelve years.

In the year 1215, Alexander II., the son and successor of William, convened his first Parliament at Edinburgh; and during the same reign, still further importance was given to the rising city, by a Provincial Synod being held in it by Cardinal l'Aleran, legate from Pope Gregory IX. The revenues of Alexander could not rival the costly foundations of his great grandfather, David I.; but he founded eight monasteries of the Mendicant Order, in different parts of Scotland; one of which, the monastery of Blackfriars, stood nearly on the same spot as the Royal Infirmary now occupies; near which was the Collegiate Church of St Mary-in-the-Field, better known as the Kirk-o'-Field, occupying the site of the College—all vestiges of which have long since disappeared. But of these we shall treat more at large in their proper place. His son and successor, Alexander III., having been betrothed to Margaret, daughter of Henry III. of England, nine years before, their nuptials were celebrated at York, in the year 1242. Arnot tells us "the young Queen had Edinburgh Castle appointed for her residence;" but it would seem to have been more in the character of a stronghold than a palace; for, whereas the sumptuousness of her namesake, Queen of Malcolm Canmore, the future St Margaret of Scotland, while residing there, excited discontent in the minds of her rude subjects, she describes it as "a sad and solitary place, without verdure, and by reason of its vicinity to the sea, unwholesome; that she was not permitted to make excursions through the kingdom, nor to chose her female attendants; and lastly, that she was excluded from all conjugal intercourse with her husband, who by this time had completed his fourteenth year." "Redress of her last grievance," Dalrymple adds, "was instantly procured, redress of her other grievances was promised."

Shortly after, the Castle was surprised by Alan Dureward, Earl of March, and other leaders, while their rivals were engaged in preparation for holding a Parliament at Stirling; and the royal pair being liberated from their durance, we shortly afterwards find them holding an interview with Henry, at Werk Castle, Northumberland. During the remainder of the long and prosperous reign of Alexander III., the Castle of Edinburgh continued to be the chief place of the royal residence, as well as for holding his courts for the transaction of judicial affairs;¹ it was also during his reign the safe depository of the principal records and of the regalia of the kingdom.²

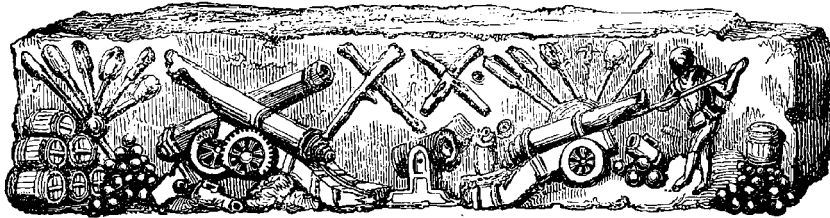
From this time onward, through the disastrous wars that ultimately settled the Bruce on the throne, and established the independence of Scotland, Edinburgh experienced its full share of the national sufferings and temporary humiliation; in June 1291, the Town and Castle were surrendered into the hands of Edward I. Holinshed relates that he came to Edinburgh, where "he planted his siege about the Castell, and raised engines which cast stones against and over the walls, sore beating and bruising the buildings within; so that it surrendered by force of siege to the King of England's use, on the 15 daie

¹ Caledonia, vol. ii. p. 586.

² Ibid. p. 587.

after he had first laid his siege about it."¹ He was here also again on 8th July 1292, and again on the 29th of the same month; and here, in May 1296, he received within the church in the Castle, the unwilling submission of many magnates of the kingdom, acknowledging him as Lord Paramount; and on the 28th of August following, William de Dederyk, alderman of Edinburgh, with the whole community of the town, swore fealty to the usurper.

Immediately after the final triumph of the Bruce, few occurrences of importance, in connection with Edinburgh, are recorded; though here, on the 8th March 1327, his Parliament held its sittings in the Abbey of Holyrood,² and here also his sixteenth and last Parliament assembled in March 1328. From the glimpses we are able to obtain from time to time, it may be inferred, that it still occupied a very secondary station among the towns of Scotland; and while the Castle was always an object of importance with every rival power, its situation was much too accessible from the English border, to be permanently chosen as the royal residence. In the interregnum, for example, after the death of Margaret, the Maid of Norway, we find, in 1304, when a general Parliament was summoned by Edward to be held at Perth, for the settlement of Scotland, sheriffs are appointed for each of twenty-one burghs named, while Edinburgh is grouped with Haddington and Linlithgow, under 'Ive de Adeburch';³ and the recapture of the Castle, on two successive occasions by Edward, obtain but a passing notice, amid the stirring interest of the campaigns of Bruce.



Towards the close of 1312, when the persevering valour of Bruce, and the imbecility of Edward II., had combined to free nearly every stronghold of Scotland from English garrisons, we find the Castle of Edinburgh held for the English by Piers Leland, a Gascon knight; but when Randolph, the nephew of the Bruce, laid it under strict blockade, the garrison, suspecting his fidelity, thrust him into a dungeon, and prepared, under a newly chosen commander, to hold out to the last. Matters were in this state, when a romantic incident restored this important fortress to the Scottish arms. William Frank, a soldier, who had previously formed one of the Scottish garrison, volunteered to guide the besiegers by a steep and intricate path up the cliff, by which he had been accustomed in former years to escape during the night, from military duress, to enjoy the society of a fair maiden of the neighbouring city, of whom he was enamoured. Frequent use had made him familiar with the perilous ascent; and, under his guidance, Randolph, with thirty men, scaled the Castle walls at midnight; and after a determined resistance, the garrison was over-

¹ Chronicles, 1586, vol. iii. p. 300.

² Acts of Parliament of Scotland, vol. i. fol.

³ Hailes' Annals, vol. i. p. 285.

VIGNETTE—Ancient stone from Edinburgh Castle, now in the Antiquarian Museum.

powered. Leland, the imprisoned governor, entered the Scottish service on his release, and, according to Barbour, was created by the King, Viscount of Edinburgh; but afterwards, he adds, he thought that he had an English heart, and made him to be *hangit and drawen*.¹

In the commencement of the following reign, during the unfortunate minority of David II., the usurper, Edward Baliol, held a Parliament at Edinburgh, 10th February 1333, consisting of what are known as the *disinherited barons*, with seven bishops, including both William of Dunkeld, and, it is said, Maurice of Dunblane, the abbot of Inchaffray, who there agreed to the humiliating conditions proposed by Edward III. It is even affirmed by Tyrrel, though disproved by later authorities, that Edward attended in person, and received the homage of Baliol as Lord Paramount of Scotland; but two years later, Leland informs us of his residence at Edinburgh from the 16th to the 26th September, when "he received the homage of Robert, sunne to the daughter of Robert Bruse, king of Scotland."

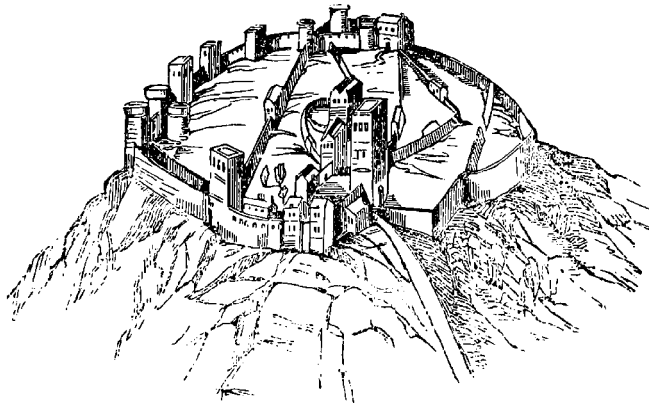
Soon after this return of Edward to Scotland, Guy, Count of Namur, landed at Berwick, with a considerable body of men-at-arms, to the assistance of the English; and marching upon Edinburgh, its Castle being at that time dismantled and ruinous, he was encountered on the Borough-muir by the Earls of Moray and March, with a powerful force, when a fierce and bloody battle ensued. In accordance with the chivalrous notions of the times, Richard Shaw, a Scottish esquire, was challenged to single combat by a knight in the train of the Count of Namur, when, after a brave encounter, each fell, transfixed by the other's spear. On the bodies being afterwards stripped of their armour, the chivalrous stranger proved to be a woman, who, from some undiscovered cause, had periled her life in this romantic and fatal enterprise. While victory seemed inclining to the enemy, the opportune arrival of William de Douglas with a reinforcement determined the fortune of the day. The Count's force gave way and retreated, though still in order, and fighting gallantly with the pursuing enemy. Part of them retreating through St Mary's Wynd, were met there by a body of Scots, headed by Sir David de Anand, and suffered great slaughter; the few who escaped, joined the remainder of the force that had effected a retreat to the Castle rock, then dismantled and defenceless, and there piling up a temporary rampart with the dead bodies of their horses, they made a last attempt to hold out against the Scottish forces. But thirst and hunger compelling them to capitulate on the following day, they were suffered by the Earl of Moray to depart, on promising not to bear arms against David in the Scottish wars. In the following year, the Castle was rebuilt by Edward, and put in a state of complete defence, as one of a chain of fortresses, by which he hoped to hold the nation in subjection; but while Edinburgh then remained in the hands of the English, the adjacent country was filled with praedatory bands of Scots, ever ready to take them at advantage. Alexander Ramsay, in particular, after having succeeded, with a band of only forty resolute men, in raising the siege of Dunbar, concealed himself and his followers in the caves, excavated in the cliffs beneath the romantic house of Hawthornden,² and so ingeniously constructed for concealment, as to elude the vigilance of the most cunning

¹ Hailes' Annals, vol. ii. p. 38.

² On the gable of the old house at Hawthornden, the well-known residence of the poet and historian, is a tablet erected by Bishop Abernethy Drummond, with the following inscription:—"To the memory of Sir Lawrence Abernethy of Hawthornden, 2d son of Sir William Abernethy of Salton, a brave and gallant soldier, who, at the head of a party, in 1338, conquered Lord Douglas five times in one day, yet was taken prisoner before sunset."—Fordun, lib. xiii. c. 44.

enemy to whom the secret was unknown. The entrance is still shown in the side of the draw-well, which served at once to cloak its purpose, and to secure for the hiders a ready supply of water. From thence they sallied out, from time to time, as occasions offered, and not only harassed the enemy in the neighbouring capital, but extended their inroads even as far as into Northumberland.¹

In 1341, the Castle was recovered from the English, by an ingenious stratagem, planned by William Bullock, who had previously held the castle of Coupar for Baliol. Under his directions, one Walter Curry of Dundee, received into his ship two hundred Scots, under the command of William de Douglas, Frazer, and Joachim of Kinbak, and casting anchor in Leith roads, he presented himself to the governor of the Castle, as master of an English vessel, just arrived with a valuable cargo of wines and provisions on board, which he offered to dispose of for the use of the garrison. The bait took; and the pretended trader appeared at the Castle, according to appointment, early on the following morning, attended by a dozen armed followers, disguised as sailors. Upon entering the Castle, they contrived to overturn their casks and hampers, so as to obstruct the closing of the gates, and instantly slew the porter and guard. At an appointed signal, Douglas and his men sprung from their concealment, in the immediate neighbourhood, and, after a fierce conflict, overpowered the garrison, and took possession of the Castle, in the name of David II. In the following month, the young King, with his consort, Johanna, landed from France, and, within a short time, the English were expelled from Scotland. When a few years afterwards, the disastrous raid of Durham, terminated in the defeat of the Scottish army, and the captivity of the King, we find, in the treaty for his ransom, the merchants and burgesses of Edinburgh, along with those of Aberdeen, Perth, and Dundee, are held bound for themselves, and all the other merchants of Scotland, for its fulfilment. And, ultimately, a Parliament was held at Edinburgh, in 1357, for final adjustment of the terms of the royal ransom, where the Regent Robert, the steward of Scotland, (afterwards King Robert II.) presided; at which, in addition to the clergy and nobles, there were delegates present from seventeen burghs, among which, Edinburgh appears for the first time placed at the head.



After David II. returned from England, he resided during his latter days in the Castle, to which he made extensive additions, enlarging the fortifications so recently rebuilt, and adding in particular an extensive building, afterwards known by the name of "David's Tower," which stood for 200 years, till battered to pieces in the regency of

¹ Caledonia, vol. ii. p. 290.

VIGNETTE—The Castle, from a map engraved in 1575, showing King David's Tower.

James VI.; and here he died on the 22d February 1370, in the 42d year of his age, and was buried in the church of the Abbey of Holyrood, before the high altar. He was a brave and gifted prince, who in happier times might have elevated the character of his people. Tradition represents him as beguiling his tedious captivity in England with his pencil; and Barnes relates that he left behind him, in a vault in Nottingham Castle, the whole story of our Saviour's passion, curiously engraved on a rock with his own hand.¹

With the death of this unfortunate prince, terminated the direct line of the Bruce, that had so nobly established, in the independence of Scotland, their right to the throne; and with it too may be considered to close the first epoch in the history of the Scottish capital, while as yet it was only the occasional seat of her Parliaments, and the temporary residence of her prince, with many of the characteristics of a frontier town, ever on the watch to repel the approach of foreign invaders, or with resolute endurance to stand the first brunt of the Southron's hostile inroads.

Abercromby² says of it at this time—"Edinburgh was then but a small burgh, or rather, as Walsingham calls it, a village, the houses of which, because they were so often exposed to incursions from England, being thatched for the most part with straw and turf; and when burnt or demolished, were with no great difficulty repaired. The strength of the Castle, the convenience of the Abbey, the fruitfulness of the adjacent country, and its no great distance from the borders, made after kings chuse to reside for the most part, to hold their Parliaments, and keep their courts of justice in this place." Their mode of defence corresponded with the character of their habitations. When an overwhelming host crossed the borders, and poured down in irresistible fury upon the neighbouring Lothians, like the borderers of later times, they drove off their cattle, concealed their more bulky wealth, and even carried away the straw roofs of their houses, as some security against a conflagration,³ leaving the enemy to wreak their futile vengeance upon the walls, that could be again replaced, to satisfy their simple wants, almost ere the retreating foes had reached their homes. Yet they never failed to retaliate; and no sooner had the invaders been starved into a retreat, from the deserted plains, than the burgers of the smoking hamlet were at their heels; and as Abercromby adds, "Conformably to their usual custom, followed the enemy into his own country, and never put up their swords till by a retaliating invasion they had made up for their losses."

To complete the view of national manners at this early period, we shall add the lively picture of Froissart,⁴ which, notwithstanding the peculiarities incident to a foreigner's description of habits altogether new to him, exhibits traits that may still be found under comparatively slight modifications at the present day, after all the changes that five centuries have produced. "The Scots," says he, "are bold and hardy, and much inured to war; they bring no carriages with them, on account of the mountains they have to pass, neither do they carry with them any provisions of bread or wine; they have no occasion for pots or caldrons, for they dress the flesh of their cattle in the skins, after they have taken them off, and being sure to find plenty of them in the country they invade, they carry none with them. Under the flaps of his saddle, each man carries a broad plate of

¹ Martial Achievements, vol. ii. p. 141.

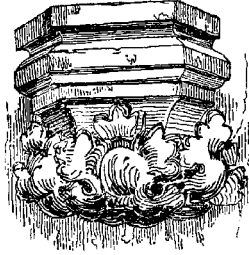
² Ibid, vol. ii. 189.

³ Banatync, Misc. Edin. Regiæ Scotorum Descrip.

⁴ Ibid, vol. i. p. 32.

metal,¹ and he trusses behind him a bag full of meal. They place this plate over the fire, mix with water their oatmeal ; and when the plate is heated, put a little of the paste upon it, and make a thin cake, like a cracknell or biscuit, which they eat to warm their stomachs : it is therefore no wonder that they should perform a longer day's march than any other soldiers !”

¹ Scottice, a Girdle.



VIGNETTE—Corbel, from St Giles's Church.