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GUIDE

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To CUMNOCK

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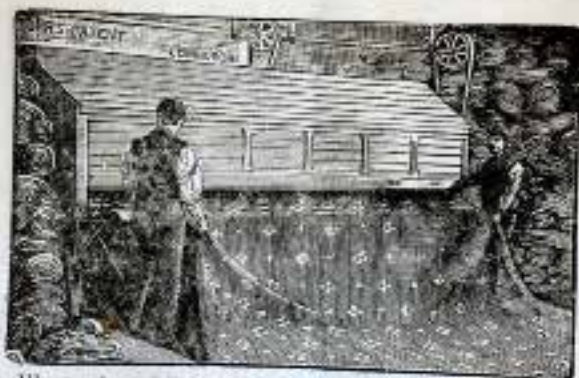


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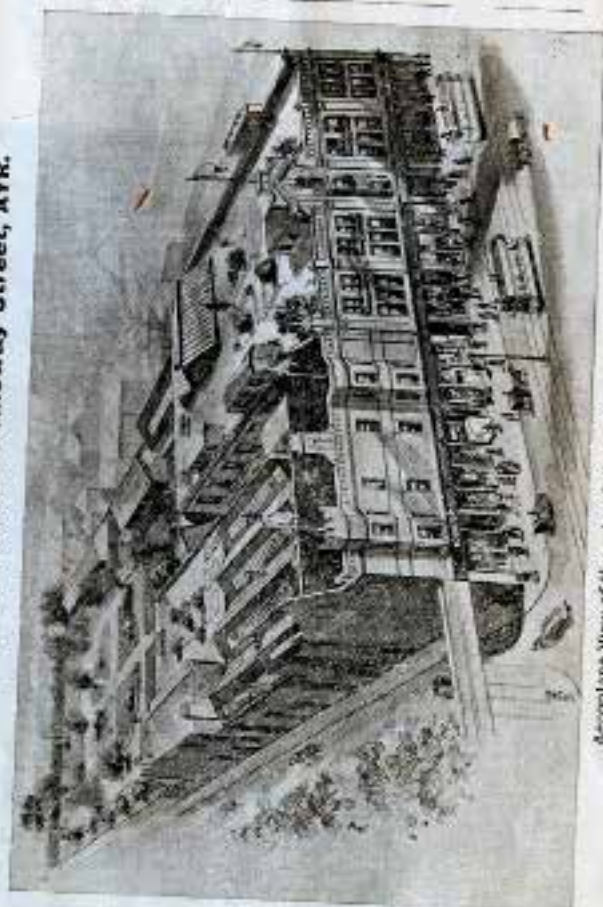
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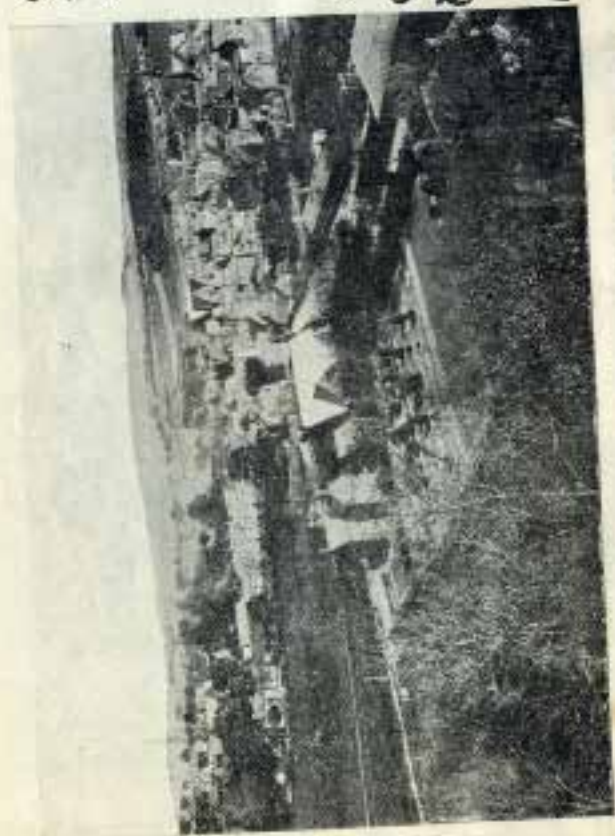
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Illustrated Guide to CUMNOCK.

1903
Authorised by the
Town Council.

CUMNOCK.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. P. BALLANTINE, GLAINOCK STREET.

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Acknowledgments

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Further acknowledgment is due the Rev. Mr Warrick for the interest taken in the preparation of the Guide, from valuable hints received, and for his kindness in revising proofs, etc.

Thanks are due to several friends from whom information was secured; to Mr Miller, of the Cumnock Studio, for Photographs, and to the Advertisers who enabled the Guide to be issued at a popular price.

J. P. BALLANTINE.

The Town of Cumnock.

THE BURGH OF CUMNOCK AND HOLMHEAD is situated in a hollow amongst surrounding hills, at the junction of the Lugar and Glaisnock waters.

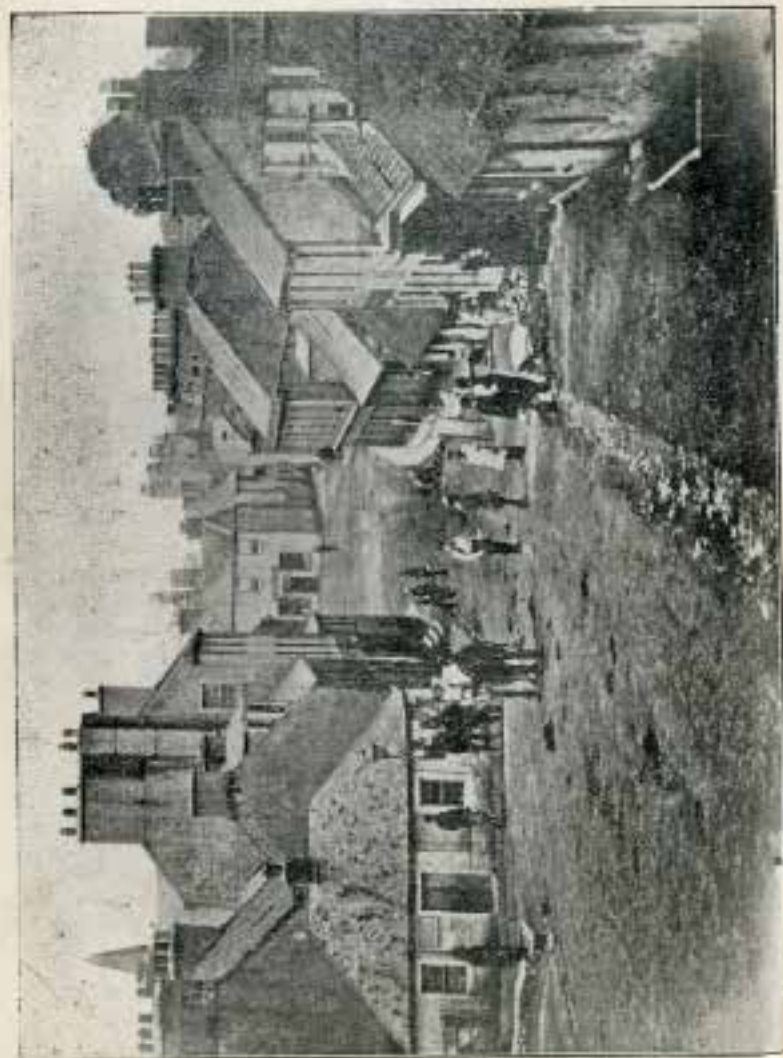
It is sixteen miles from the coast, directly east from Ayr,—the County Town, and is distant from Auchinlock one mile; Ochiltree, four and a half miles; and New Cumnock, five and a half miles. To give a better idea of its situation, it is on the main line of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway, between Kilmarnock and Dumfries, sixteen miles from Kilmarnock, and forty-four from Dumfries. From Glasgow it is distant thirty-seven miles by rail.

At the 1911 census the population within the Burgh was 3,417, and in the Parish, outside of the Burgh, 2,048, making a total of 5,465. The area of the Burgh is 267½ acres. The elevation at various points is, at Bridgend, 353 feet above sea level; at the Square, 381 feet; at the New Station, 449 feet; and at the Old Station, 530 feet.

Historical Sketch

The origin of the word "CUMNOCK" has been traced to different sources, principally from the Gaelic. One of these interpretations means the "hollow in the hills," another, "the meeting of the waters," and perhaps the most likely, "the Sloping Hill." Any of these interpretations accurately describes the situation, as Cumnock certainly lies in the hollow of the hills, and also is built at the junction of the Lugar and Glaisnock waters.

Considerable confusion is caused in these days of much travelling between "Cumnock" and "New Cumnock." The two parishes at one time were one, the portion taken off to form the new parish being called New Cumnock. The correct term for the Burgh is "Cumnock."—That is the postal and business term. The term "Old Cumnock" is used by



the Railway Company alone, largely for their own convenience, and to minimise the confusion both to passengers and goods that is always taking place between the two stations. "Old Cumnock" is the name of the Parish. This is the official name in Government documents.

In tracing back the history of Cumnock old records show that at the end of the Thirteenth and beginning of the Fourteenth Centuries Cumnock was often mentioned in the stirring days of Wallace and Bruce. Through the fighting of the Dumfries, then Barons of Cumnock, frequent mention is made of The Castle of Cumnock. The Castle, of which no traces are now to be seen, was situated in New Cumnock, near to that part which is still known as The Castle. It was some centuries later before the division of the Parish was made. In these old writings reference is made to Cumnock Church, which was situated in the town of Cumnock.

As time went on the village of Cumnock gradually grew in importance. The small unhealthy houses, situated in close streets, gradually gave way to better houses built of stone. Several of our present lanes and back streets were then the main streets. What is known as the Square, now one of the principal business centres of the town, and containing important business premises on its four sides, was then occupied by the Church surrounded by the graveyard. Even then it was lined round with houses, but the backs, and in some cases the gables of the houses, were turned towards the churchyard. Their fronts faced Bank Lane, Tower Street, and the narrow passage known as the Black Bull Close. These were not only main streets but they were also on the main highway between Glasgow and Carlisle.

At the present day there still remains a link with Tower Street and the Old Churchyard in the form of a right-of-way passage through one of the houses giving access from Tower Street to the Square. In olden times this would lead from Tower Street to the Churchyard.

In the olden days the main Glasgow road for the south turned into Bank Lane and from there into Tower Street. From Tower Street it crossed Gaisnock Street into the Townhead and proceeded up that old street right on until it passed Barshare Farm and Craigside Farm, whence it made its way to New Cumnock and the south. In the same way the road to Edinburgh also went up Townhead Street but turned off by a road leading past Dunbrocken Farm. This road is still marked by several fine old trees which then lined the roadside. The road joined

the Lugar Road beyond the present railway station.

With the removal of the Churchyard from the Square the street round the Church was opened up. The passage from the Square to Glaisnock Street was very narrow and contracted. This was caused by an old house which was built as a continuation of Tower Street towards Townhead Street, forming a lane between the Square and Glaisnock Street. This lane was a special terror to the show-folks who then travelled the country with large vans drawn by large numbers of horses. It is told about one of Wonslow's large vans passing through this lane which was so close fitting on both sides that a well known inhabitant who put his head out of the top window of the two storey house which formed one side of the lane nearly lost his head through its being struck by the van. This old house which abutted on the street was cleared away. Even then the corner was narrow and still remains so. With the fast motor traffic of the present day it is a corner requiring caution to negotiate it safely.



Old Established Church, Cumnock.

The erection of a bridge over the Lugar water near the present Congregational Church, at a point known still as "Stepends"—a name which indicated the method of crossing the stream—and the coming of the railway into the parish, tended towards wider streets and the erec-

Glaisnock Street,
Cumnock.



tion of more up-to-date and better houses. Perhaps no better illustration of the improvements gradually made could be found than the two pictures of Glaisnock Street we give. One of these shows Glaisnock Street in the early fifties, and the other nearer the present time. In the old print old thatched houses stood on the ground now occupied by some of the largest business premises. With one exception all the houses shown on the old print have been replaced with modern buildings. The exception, formerly one of the largest houses is now amongst the smallest. Undoubtedly there are a number of fine buildings in Glaisnock Street but its appearance is greatly spoiled by the narrow part in the centre. The Square has changed its appearance in an equal degree being now completely surrounded by large business premises. In the side streets, excepting where they are occupied by business premises, the alterations have not been so drastic. Nearer the outskirts of the town beautiful cottages have been erected in all directions. As these are usually set back a little from the street and the fronts laid out with flower plots, the effect in summer is most pleasing and will compare with any town of its size.

Formation of Burgh

The year 1866 was an important one in the history of Cumnock. In that year the town was formed into a Police Burgh. Like many other small places in making such a change feeling was exceedingly keen. The inhabitants were divided into two distinct parties, those in favour of forming the Burgh, and those opposed to the new movement. Between those parties there was bitter enmity, and personal abuse was indulged in against those prominent in the new movement in a way that would not be tolerated in more enlightened days. After the usual preliminary steps had been made of petitioning the Sheriff, etc., a vote was taken of the inhabitants, the voting qualification being a £10 rental. So close was the voting that there was only a majority of three votes in favour of forming the Burgh. This, however, was sufficient, and the act was adopted. Gradually the bitter feeling died down, and as the improvements in time manifested themselves the wisdom of the step was admitted by those who were most bitter against it at the time. Amongst the earliest improvements carried out was the lighting of the streets with gas. Up till then there had been no lighting of the streets of any kind so that the introduction of the gas lamps must have proved a great boon.

Another outstanding improvement that was faced by the young

Council was the introduction of a water supply for the burgh. The supply had depended principally on pumps and wells. These in dry seasons were far from adequate, and much of the time of housewives was spent waiting their turn at the various pumps. The sinking of the pits in the neighbourhood of the town was threatening to diminish further the already too scanty supply. The new council fully realised their responsibility and set about securing a supply of water for the



On the Lugar Water, Cumnock.

town. After due consideration it was decided to gather a supply from the springs on Watson hill, about two miles south of the town. A reservoir to collect the water was made near to Borland Farm; filters were built nearer to the town, and the supply was introduced in the beginning of 1869. For the convenience of those houses where the water was not taken in, public street pumps were erected at intervals

throughout the burgh, but these have now all been removed and all the houses supplied by private taps.

The water supply, introduced at the commencement of the Burgh, through the introduction of modern conveniences in the houses, the increase in the number of houses, and by other causes, gradually became inadequate. A new eight inch main was laid down, in addition to the old main, from the filters to the town. This greatly helped the supply, but to meet this extra supply it was found necessary to extend the storage capacity. This has now been completed. Steps are now being taken to increase the filtering arrangements, and in other ways to improve the water supply.

In street lighting great improvements have been made on the first endeavours of the Council. Additional street lamps have been added wherever it was found necessary, and all the lamps have been fitted up with incandescent burners, so that all parts are now well lit. At night the principal corners and crossings are provided with all night lamps. A system of automatic regulators is gradually being fitted whereby the lighting and extinguishing of the lamps is automatically carried out.

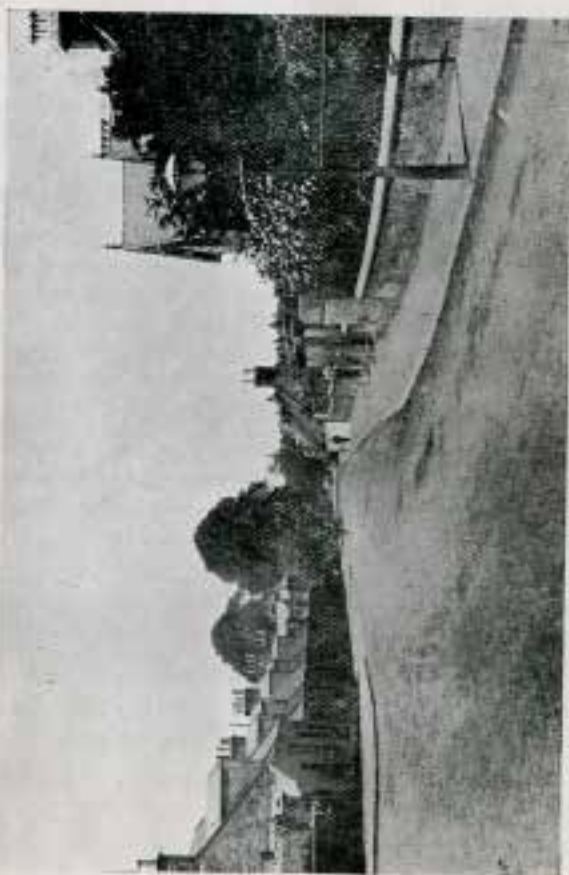
The Dean of Guild Court, comprising the Town Council, with the Provost as Dean, keep all buildings and alterations up to the standard, so that for several years steady progress has been made in bringing dwellings and household conveniences up to modern requirements.

The streets formed within the Burgh whilst receiving regular attention have within the past year or two been brought up to more modern ideas. A year or two ago a scheme was adopted by the Council whereby whole sections of the streets were in rotation metalled with a heavy coating of tarred metal. A tar spraying apparatus is used to coat the road with tar in summer, greatly modifying the dust nuisance from passing motors in dry weather; and for the wet weather a horse brush has been provided to keep the streets free from mud.

One of the greatest and most beneficial improvements in recent years has been the formation of proper footpaths. The greater part of the burgh has already received attention, and the remaining portions are expected to be completed at no distant date. It will then be possible in all weathers to walk from end to end of the burgh on footpaths free from mire.

A Burgh Surveyor and staff of scavengers are responsible for the

Ayr Road,
Cumnock.



cleansing of the town. The principal streets are swept daily and carts from the cleansing department overtake the whole town daily for the emptying of ashbuckets and removal of rubbish.

It will therefore be seen that the Burgh of Cumnock may be said to keep abreast of the times in making its houses sanitary and its inhabitants healthy. Cumnock has always been recognised as a healthy place to live in. Its situation amongst the hills has a sheltering effect, many of the storms from which surrounding places suffer passing over it round the hill tops. As a practical illustration of its health qualities, the last quarterly medical report—at the time of writing—and that for a winter quarter, showed that the death rate was only 7 per 1000 of the population, and of the seven the greater number were aged persons.

As a holiday resort it has long been a favourite. It is bracing without being too exposed, and visitors invariably find themselves greatly benefited by their holidays spent in its neighbourhood. It has splendid railway facilities, having a station on the main line of the Glasgow and South Western Railway, and another station on the Ayr and Carstairs Edinburgh Branch Railway. From these stations a good service of trains run in various directions.

If the visitor is fond of walking there are endless beautiful spots within reach, in all directions. A pleasant feature is the lack of restrictions with which they will find themselves surrounded. Reference will be made later to several favourite walks that are well worth visiting.

Cyclists will find roads with a good surface. The situation of Cumnock means a climb going away from it, but it compensates with an easy run back. A large choice of interesting runs are available.

Other attractions include Bowling, Tennis, Golfing, Fishing, etc., of which further particulars will be given throughout the Guide. There is therefore no lack of opportunity to spend a delightful holiday.

Accommodation for small or large parties can usually be obtained. As a rule the local booksellers are able to furnish addresses to applicants.



CHURCHES

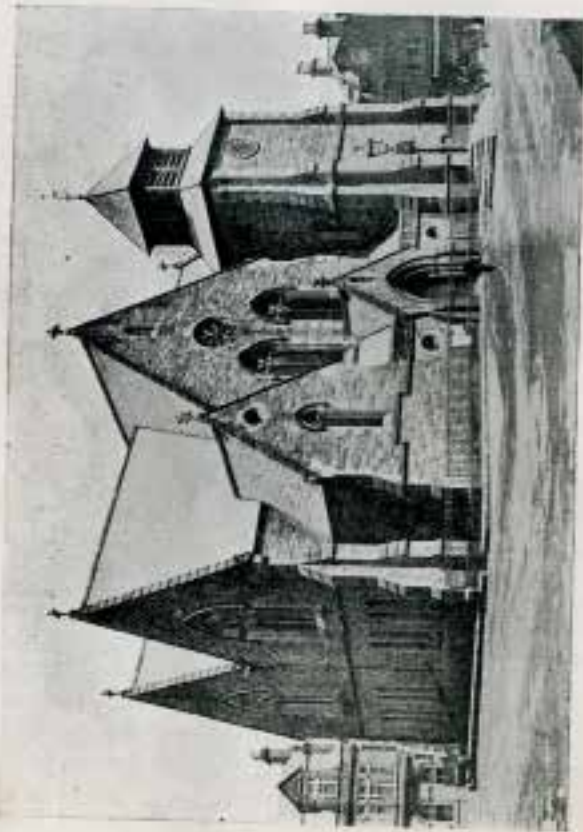
In Cumnock there are six churches: The Established Church, West U. F. Church, Crichton Memorial U. F. Church, Congregational Church, Baptist Church, and St. John's R. C. Church. Service in all the Presbyterian Churches is conducted on Sabbath forenoon at 11-15 o'clock, and in most of the churches in the evening at 6 o'clock. During the winter months an Union Evening Service is conducted in rotation in the Established Church, West Church, Crichton Memorial Church, and Congregational Church. In St. John's R. C. Church, Mass is celebrated at 9 and 11-30 o'clock in forenoon, and Benediction at 6-30 o'clock in the evening. On week mornings Mass is celebrated at 8-30 o'clock. On Sunday evenings a meeting is conducted in the Parish Church Mission Hall, under the auspices of the Ayrshire Christian Union. A meeting of the Brethren is held in a little hall in Ayr Road.

Established Church

The Rev. J. Spence Robertson, the present minister, was ordained in July, 1873. He succeeded the Rev. James Murray who was ordained shortly after the Disruption in 1843, and continued minister until his death thirty-one years later. It was during Mr Murray's time that the present beautiful church was built, replacing the former plain building which stood on the same site in the centre of the Square. This old building, which had outside stairs at each end leading to the gallery had a large entrance porch, over which was the Session House and Belfry. On either side of the entrance porch were two large windows. As these were kept shuttered during the week they formed an ideal spot for handball, then a game greatly played by the youths.

The present church was completed in 1866. As will be seen from the accompanying photo its appearance is imposing and a fine example of Gothic architecture. There is a fine arched doorway in the centre of the front of the church, with two lesser arched doorways at each end, but all leading into the vestibule from which the two doors lead into the body of the church. Entrance to the galleries is made from two

Established
Church,
Cumnock.
"O"
(Showing the
Old Market
Cross).



broad stairs near to the two side entrances. At the south-east corner of the front building is the foundation for a spire. This has been carried only to the height of the church roof, and there a town's clock has been erected. Over this is a small bell tower, in which a finely toned bell is hung. The interior of the church has a very massive appearance. There is a large open roof supported on massive Corinthian pillars. The windows include several very fine Pictorial Glass Memorials, and the twelve Apostles in the window behind the pulpit. There is a very fine "Lewis" Organ, in front of which is a beautifully carved pulpit. There is also a very fine white stone Raptorial Font. An outstanding feature is a special gallery, facing the pulpit, with a private entrance for the Marquis of Bute. This is furnished with carved oak chairs, and there is a little retiring room connected with this gallery. Underneath the church is the Vault of the Bute Family. In the church are a number of Memorial Tablets in memory of the following:—

REV. THOMAS MILLER, D.D., Minister of the Congregation from 1767-1819.

REV. JAMES MURRAY, Minister of the Congregation from 1843-1875.

MR. JAMES THOMSON, M.A., Clerk Scholar of the University of Glasgow, and one of its most distinguished students. Died in South Germany in 1876.

Memorial Tablets for members of the Boswell Family, Garrallan; and the Allison Family, of Leigan.

Some years ago a large Mission Hall was built. This is situated in the Glebe close to the entrance to the Church Manse.

West United Free Church

The present Church building was erected about the year 1831. It replaced an old church built on the same site in 1775. This old church was built in troublous times, when there was much feeling against the Burghers and Seceders. A small body of Seceders had been meeting together and holding prayer meetings for some time. In 1773 they were recognised by the Burgher Presbytery of Glasgow and granted a regular pulpit supply on two Sabbaths a month. In 1775 they built their first

West United
Free Church,
Cumnock.

church. So great was the local opposition to the building of the church that the land owners refused them a site to build on. At last a private individual offered them a site at the junction of the Glaisnock and Lugar waters. The small company commenced to build their church and got their foundations built but they soon experienced another difficulty when the factor of Lord Bute's Estate refused them sand to build their church. This brought their building to a standstill to the great delight of their opponents. One night a fearful storm arose, terrible in its fierceness, and the waters rose to a height they had never touched before. The foundations of the church were flooded, but when the waters receded it was found that the floods had completely filled the foundations with sand so that there was sufficient to complete the building of the church. This incident had a great effect on the opponents of the new church. Under the able ministration of the Rev. James Hall and the Rev. David Wilson the dissenters' church grew and increased, and amongst documents in connection with the building of the church manse reference is made to its "800 members." In 1831 this old church was replaced by the present large building. On the outside the building has little appearance, and at first in the interior also there was no attempt at adornment. The pulpit was a circular one with a canopy sounding board overhead, and with the Precentor's desk in front of the pulpit. The front of the gallery came well forward, and the seats throughout were placed closely together, numbers instead of comfort being evidently the object. Close on 40 years ago the interior of the church was greatly improved. The pulpit was altered into a more modern platform pulpit; the gallery was set further back, and the seats throughout the church widened and made more comfortable; two very fine stained glass windows were placed on the two sides of the pulpit. About 30 years later further alterations were again carried out, including hot water heating, new lighting, and, as the result of a legacy to the church, replacing all the windows with stained glass. A year or two later a fine organ was installed.

At the rear of the church, the old Class-room—round which so much of the past history of Cumnock was associated—was replaced with a fine vestry and commodious church halls.

The present minister, the Rev. Stewart R. Scott, M.A., was ordained in 1914, succeeding the Rev. Alexander Macdonald, who, for 43 years, was the greatly respected minister of this congregation.



Crichton Memorial United Free Church, Cumnock.

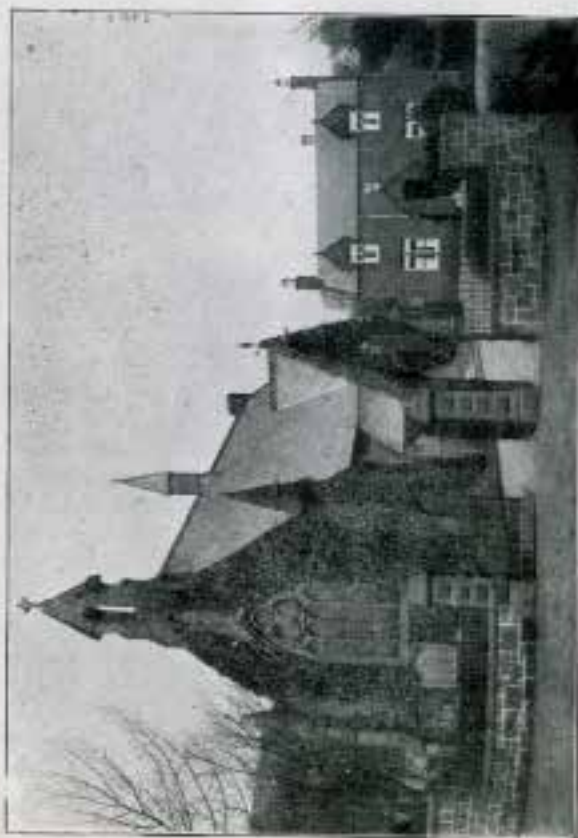
Crichton Memorial United Free Church

At the Disruption the Rev. Ninian Bannatyne, who had been Parish Church Minister for 13 years came out and joined the Free Church. A good number of his members came with him, and they built a church in Ayr Road. The building was without much ornamentation, and of a design largely adopted by that body all over Scotland. Mr Bannatyne was greatly beloved by his congregation amongst whom he ministered for over thirty years, until his death. He was held in the greatest esteem by the whole district. He was succeeded by the Rev. Alexander Adamson, B.D., who ministered for nine years, and then was translated to Dundee. The present minister, Rev. John Warrick, M.A., was ordained in 1883. The original church was used for worship until 1895 when the late Miss Crichton of Hillside House, Cumnock, presented the present beautiful church as a Memorial of her father the late Hew Crichton, and her brother the late Sheriff Crichton. The Memorial Church is the outstanding building in Cumnock. Its architecture is of decorated Gothic design, and includes a spire of 140 feet high, which can be seen for miles round in all directions. The wood-work of the Church is much admired. The roof is lined with pitch pine and the pews are of the same material with moulded ornamental ends. The pulpit, organ-case and screen enclosing the platform are of solid oak richly panelled and cusped. The screen contains some finely polished brass grilles. The Organ was supplied by Messrs Ingram & Co., Edinburgh. Four large windows in the gables with mullions and delicate tracery are filled with stained glass. In each of these windows Bible characters or incidents are effectively portrayed. Above the entrance door there is a large rose window, rich in design and colour.

Congregational Church

For several years after 1836, a few persons met and worshipped together on Sundays. They gradually grew in numbers until they were able to form themselves into a congregation, associating themselves with the Congregationalists or Independent Church. They met in a hall belonging to the Black Bull Hotel, but as they grew in numbers they were able to purchase the old parish school, situated in the Square, facing the Established Church, of which Wm. Willie was at one time

Congregational
Church
and Manse,
Cumnock.



the teacher. In later years their church was purchased by the Clydesdale Bank. A new site was selected adjoining Lugar Bridge on which to build their church, and the present church was opened there in 1883. The style of the building is Gothic, with a very pleasing outside appearance. The interior of the church is very compact, and is without any gallery. It is seated for about 350 persons, is well lit, and comfortably heated. There is a nice pipe organ, with a platform pulpit in front of organ case. At the back of the church there is a compact little hall suitable for class purposes. Some years after the church a manse was built adjoining the church so that church and manse are enclosed within the property walls. The present minister is the Rev. Mark N. Robson who was placed in 1913, in succession to the late Rev. William Matheson who was minister to this congregation for about 30 years. Mr Matheson was held in the greatest esteem by the whole community.

Baptist Church

This Church was formed in the year 1875 but it was not until the year 1887 that the present neat little Church was built by the members in the Barrhill Road. It is seated for about 200, and is quite suitable for the members of this church. The pulpit is a platform one, with the Baptismal Font underneath. In the lower flat there is a small hall suitable for smaller meetings. The last pastor was Rev. H. M. Meikle, now minister over a large congregation in London.

St. John's R. C. Church

About the year 1840 a number of Catholics who used to meet amongst themselves for worship began to receive occasional visits from priests from Kilmarnock and Glasgow. About 1850 a Mission was formed in Cumnock with its own priest. The first priest was the Rev. William McCabe, and the place of worship was the hall opposite the Dumfries Arms Hotel, afterwards used as a drill hall. Two years after his settlement Father McCabe died and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Wallace. During the ten years he was in charge the place of worship was removed to a hall connected with the Black Bull Hotel, and later to a little chapel he fitted up above his dwelling in Barrhill Road, in a house almost opposite Lady Bute's Hospital. On his death

St. John's
R. C. Church
and
Presbytery,
Cumnock.



in 1863 the Rev. John O'Dwyer succeeded. Through his energy Birnieknowe Church and Presbytery was built and Cumnock Catholics worshipped there, under several priests, until the year 1882 when the present St. John's Church was opened. This church was built by the late Marquis of Bute and was maintained by him until his death. With the exception of a fine covered porch at the entrance, over which is a beautifully carved window, and the foundation of a spire at its south-east corner, there is little attempt at architectural ornamentation on the outside. In the interior everything is beautiful. The floor is laid with Mosaic tiles, and the windows of the Church and Sanctuary contain beautiful stained glass. The ceiling of sanctuary and the altars are painted by Westlake, the well known artist, and there are several valuable paintings by this same artist. A very fine Lewis organ is installed in which are several exceedingly fine effective stops. In the tower a very fine set of tube chimes are placed. In 1885 this chapel had the distinction of being the first ecclesiastical building in this country to be fitted up with electric lighting.

In connection with this church in 1886 a day school was opened in Bank Avenue. A year or two ago the first school buildings, composed of wood and iron, were removed and re-erected beside the church premises as a recreation hall, and new school premises were built on the old site. In 1914 a very commodious Presbytery for the use of the resident Priest was built, also within the church boundaries. From the appended photo it will be seen that the church property is very compact. The Rev. Martin Meagher, was placed here in 1907. Father Carmont is his assistant.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Town Hall

For many years Cumnock suffered greatly from lack of a proper Town Hall in which to hold its meetings. These were held in halls connected with the Dumfries Arms Hotel; in earlier years in what was the old hall above the stables, in front of the hotel, and later in a hall above the newer stables in the stable yard. Neither place was suitable.

Town Hall,
Cumnock.

They were small in size, the ventilation was not good, and the entrances were bad. Still, with all these defects, many happy nights were spent and many first-class artistes took part in the entertainments held in them. For special meetings, political and otherwise, the U. P. Church was often obtained, and in connection with these meetings happy incidents can still be recalled. The opening of the new Public School greatly improved matters, and many enjoyable concerts have been listened to there, rendered by the Choral Union, The Cumnock Orchestra, and other musical societies. It was not until 1883 that the town possessed a suitable public hall. Lord Bute came to the rescue and, besides granting a free site, headed the subscription sheet with a donation of £500. The present Hall was the outcome. This cost £3,000 and so heartily did the townfolks take up the matter by subscribing themselves and obtaining subscriptions wherever they could be got, that at the opening over £2,000 had been subscribed. In 1896 a special effort was made to clear off the remaining debt on the hall which, through alterations, had been increased to £1,000. A Bazaar was organised and through this means the debt was cleared off. The hall is most conveniently arranged. In appearance it is very attractive. A fine entrance doorway, between large pillars supporting an ornamental stone balcony to which access is had from the Lesser Hall, leads into a roomy entrance hall. On the left hand is the Council Room, suitably furnished for the meetings of the Town Council and other Public Bodies. On the same side is the office of the Parish Council. On the right hand is a large Committee Room, in which are found the books of the Public Library. A pay box is beyond this room, and the stair to the balcony and lesser hall. The main door to the large hall faces the front entrance. The hall is large and well ventilated, and well lighted. At the south end is a platform the full width of the hall with convenient steps at each side leading from the hall floor to the platform. Good retiring rooms are provided at the back of the platform. The hall is seated for about 800 but when necessary can accommodate larger numbers. At the north end is a small balcony accommodating about 100. The ceiling of the hall is panelled with heavy cornicing, giving a very attractive appearance. Upstairs is a Lesser Hall, also of fine appearance, seating about 300. A small kitchen with cooking apparatus adjoins the Lesser Hall. The buildings are comfortably heated with hot water pipes and radiators. A dwelling house for the hall keeper is attached. All the buildings are very complete and are suitable for either large or small parties. The various committee rooms are much in use for

Town Hall,
Cumnock.

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committee meetings, and several of the Friendly Societies meet regularly in the Town Hall Buildings. There are few towns of the size of Cunnoek in possession of better Town's Buildings.



Baird Institute, Cunnoek.

Baird Institute

With the passing away of Mr John Baird, Architect and Draper, Cunnoek became possessed of an Institute that has proved of great value to the inhabitants. Amongst Mr Baird's legacies was one instructing his Trustees to erect Reading and Recreation Rooms on

ground of which he was the proprietor. The Institute was opened in 1891. It consists of a large Reading Room, in which all the leading newspapers and magazines are to be found. This room also contains photos of the donor and original trustees. A small Museum, the contents of which were largely collected by Mr Baird himself finds a place in the Institute. This Museum also contains fine specimens of stuffed foxes and other animals, donated by the late Mr John Ballantine, Photographer, one of the original Trustees. A Recreation Room for Draughts and other games, and a Billiard Room with two tables complete the equipment of the Institute. The latter room is always well patronised. The charges for membership and tables are very moderate.

Lady Bute's Cottage Hospital

Of all the gifts presented by the Bute Family in this district none have proved a greater boon than the Cottage Hospital erected in Barrhill Road by the Dowager Marchioness of Bute in 1882. The Hospital has, since its opening, been under the charge of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. There are 10 beds and 8 children's cots, and the Hospital is fully equipped for surgical cases. The beds are always occupied; accident cases from the surrounding pits and district, urgent operations, etc., keeping them busy. It can safely be said that many a life has been saved by the medical aid and faithful attention of the Sisters received in the Hospital. Although in charge of the Sisters the hospital is non-sectarian, and the ministers of the patients can visit them at all times. The visiting days for the friends of patients are Thursdays and Sundays from 2 till 4 p.m.; in serious cases exception is made.

Post Office

For many years the Post Office Buildings occupied premises in Ayr Road, adjoining Glaisnoek Street. The situation was central and convenient for the general public. In view of the taking over of the telephone business, and of further extensions, the premises were considered too small, and new quarters were built in Lagar Street. To the majority of those doing business the new site is not so convenient as the old office. In appearance outwardly there is little to indicate

that the building is the G.P.O., but the interior of the office is certainly a great improvement on the old premises. The counter accommodation is almost double, and the private tables for writing telegraph messages are of the latest design. There is a closed cabinet for telephone messages. For the postal officials the new premises must be a great boon, as these are fitted up in a most complete style, everything to simplify the work and assist the officials down to the smallest detail having been introduced.

The service of mails is very good. There is an early morning delivery of letters, another delivery in the afternoon and a third in the evening. There is also a mid-day mail which is open to callers at the office at 1-30. Mails are also despatched six times in the day.

Within the past year or two wall boxes have been placed in all the populated parts of the town, and also in a number of places in the country districts. These wall boxes are of great convenience.

Court House

Amongst the public buildings falls to be included the Court House. About twenty years ago a new Court House was built behind the Police Station in Townhead Street. This is commodious and well appointed. The bench for the Magistrates is large and has a suitable retiring room. The accommodation for the officials, law agents, and the public is ample. There is a room for the Superintendent of Police, a witnesses room, guard room, Sergeant's room and three police cells. Quarterly Sheriff Courts for small debt cases are held. A monthly Justice of Peace Court is held on the first Monday of the month, and additional J. P. and Burgh Courts are held as required.

Banks

Three Banks, "The Royal Bank of Scotland," and "The Bank of Scotland," in Glaisnock Street; and "The Clydesdale Bank" in the Square do business in the town. All possess well appointed offices, and each has a large dwelling house for the Agent included in the Bank buildings. Two of the Banks, the Royal Bank and the Clydesdale Bank have opened branches in Auchinleck.

Cumnock Schools

Since the days of the Disruption Cumnock has been greatly favoured through having school masters of outstanding ability. Mr John McKinnell was the parochial teacher at the time of the Disruption. He came out, and was appointed headmaster of the Free Church School. Mr David L. Scott, succeeded him as Parish School master. Mr McKinnell retired and Mr Robert Brown was appointed to the Free Church School in 1867. On the Education Act coming into force in 1872 the two schools were united and Mr Scott and Mr Brown appointed joint head-masters. Some years later Mr Scott retired and Mr Brown was appointed sole head-master. This post he continued to hold



Public School, Cumnock.

until 1899 when he retired. All these three teachers were held in the highest esteem by the whole community. On Mr Brown retiring Mr John Dick, M.A., was appointed head master. In the olden days Mr Scott, with perhaps one pupil teacher and Mr Brown, with perhaps two could undertake the teaching of the three "R's" to the children of the parish. There was no limit to the number of pupils in one room, or to the size of the classes, and good men were turned out then, some attaining to headmasters' positions in high educational centres.

On the passing of the Education Act a new school was built. Cum-

Upper
Glaisnoch
Street,
Cumnock.



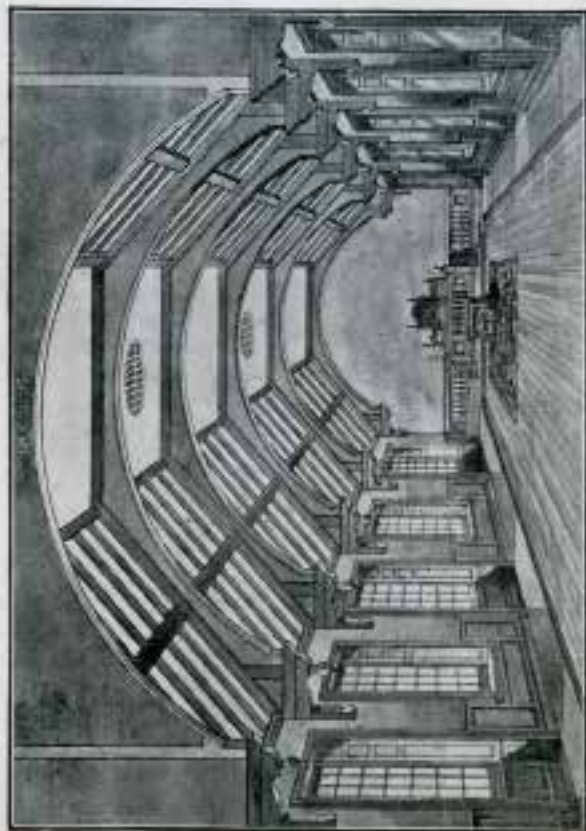
siderable feeling was caused by its size and expense. It was thought by many to be far beyond requirements. It was soon found necessary to utilise the old Parish School as an Infant Department; in time this also was not sufficient, and the Mission Hall adjoining, had to be called into use. The Department insisted on further building and a large Infant School, on modern lines, was built in the play ground, in rear of the main building. In this new addition ample accommodation was found for the Infants, also a large room for cooking, laundry and kindred subjects, head master's and teachers' rooms, etc. The old parish school is fitted up as a Science Laboratory.

On the selecting of certain schools in Ayrshire as District Higher Grade Schools, Cumnock was chosen as the centre school for the surrounding Parishes. This necessitated still further extensions and the School Board purchased Hillaide House and grounds adjoining their schools for this purpose. The dwelling house was altered to suit the requirements of the several classes. These include a large art room, and in the basement a model furnished parlour, kitchen and bed room for household subjects. Manual training and school gardening are also included in the subjects taught. An idea of the great change in education since the Disruption days is obtained from the fact that there are now 870 pupils on the roll with a staff of the Headmaster and Twenty-one teachers. This staff includes four special teachers in the Higher Grade School.

Drill Hall

Cumnock has always taken a very practical interest in the Volunteers and afterwards in the Territorials. Its company is usually the strongest in the Battalion. The Volunteers long found quarters in the hall above the Dumfries Arms Stables. This was neither large enough or quite suitable to the requirements. When the County Association assumed responsibility for the Territorials, it was decided to build a new drill hall in Townhead Park. It is not very central but is nearer to the shooting range and is suitable for those using it. The building was nearing completion on the outbreak of the war. The contractors were hurried on, and the building was opened, and has since been used for recruit training. The buildings include a large drill hall, an armoury, modern miniature shooting range, recreation room, with the necessary office accommodation. It has hot water heating throughout, and will be a great boon in future for drill purposes.

Interior of
Masonic Temple,
Ayr Road,
Cumnock.



Masonic Temple

Amongst the Institutions must be included the Masonic Temple which was opened a few years ago in Ayr Road. The lodge is "St. Barnabas, No. 280." That it is of old standing is shown by the fact that it has already celebrated the centenary of its formation. During all these years the lodge has kept together and continued in office. The want of a suitable place of their own to meet in was long felt, and under the able management of the then presiding officer, Mr John Home, H.W.M., the undertaking was faced and successfully carried through. The opening ceremony in 1912 was a great Masonic event in the district.

The Temple consists of a well appointed hall of good size, in which the meetings are held, a large committee room, tyler's room, clothing room, all adjoining the large hall on the upper floor. On the ground floor there is a spacious entrance hall, a cosy smoking room, a kitchen with well furnished catering plant, etc., and with suitable lavatory accommodation. The Temple throughout is very complete and well suited for the purpose it was built for. The frontage of the property on the ground floor is taken up with several shops and offices, all fully occupied. With the exception of the summer months meetings are held regularly throughout the year.

There is also a Royal Arch Chapter, and an Eastern Star Chapter, both of which meet regularly throughout the year. Visiting Brethren are always welcomed.

Gas Company

Cumnock Gas Company, which is managed by a private company, was formed in 1836. At first the storage capacity of the holder was about 4,000 feet. This was ample for some time, but about thirty years later this holder was replaced by another one of 8,000 feet. A few years later a further additional holder of 17,000 feet was added. In 1908 a complete reconstruction was undertaken, and a modern installation added, including new tower scrubber and washer, a condenser, exhaust engine, purifiers, station meter, tar steam pump, etc. Four years later a large spiral holder with a capacity of 80,000 feet was added. The newer buildings include Directors' room and office.

Dumfries
House
Bridge.
Cumnock.



Cumnock Picture House

Like all towns of any size Cumnock now possesses a Picture House. A large building has been erected between the Dumfries Arms Hotel and the Town Hall. It has seating accommodation for close on 1,000. Picture Shows are given nightly, two house turns being given on Mondays and Saturdays, and on the latter day a children's matinee is also given. Vaudeville turns form part of the programme.

INSTITUTIONS.

Cumnock Fairs

Amongst the oldest institutions of the Town of Cumnock are the annual Fairs. In 1509 King James IV granted a Charter allowing a weekly market to be held in Cumnock, and an Annual Fair, lasting for a week. In course of time this fair was given up, and in 1681 an Act of Parliament granted three fairs to be held in June, July and October, and a weekly market.

In those days the fairs played a more important part in the life of the farmers and dwellers in farming districts than they do now. They had no tradesmen's carts calling weekly from house to house exchanging their farm products for household necessities. The fairs were the great distributing centres. Great displays of shoes, clothing, and particularly of wooden household utensils, then greatly in vogue, were made and the supplies were purchased by the farmers and their wives at these fairs. Instead of the modern "dolly stall," the attractions then were nut and sweetie barrows, drawn from market to market by dogs. The local "wee shops" contrived to hold their own against these incursions and wonderful concoctions in sweets in walking sticks and hearts were displayed in the windows, and the "blackman" was in large demand. The Fair morning "snap men" with raisins for eyes can still be remembered by those who looked forward to their appearance as an event of importance. The original dates of these fairs were altered and another fair was added, but now two of the four have

gone to the wall, and the remaining two are also fast losing in importance.

The race on the March fair is also an event of antiquity, mentioned in very old records, but it also has greatly fallen off and some years has been dropped altogether. Under present conditions the date of the March Fair is now considered too far ahead of the May Term to be of much use for hiring purposes. The weekly cattle marts, and the great freedom hired hands now enjoy of visiting the town on Saturday nights, etc., have changed conditions altogether.

In the west of Scotland Cumnock Fair is still considered an important one and is attended by farmers and others from the surrounding counties. There is a good business done at the spring fair by seed merchants, and at the autumn fair by feeding stuff merchants.

Athenæum Library

The Athenæum Library is one of Cumnock's oldest institutions. In the olden days it played a far more important part in the life of the town than unfortunately it does in our own time. In the olden days the Athenæum was responsible for the greater part of the entertainments. Lectures delivered by the best known lecturers were frequently delivered. Concerts, penny readings, etc., were held under its auspices. Much of this work has been taken up by other societies, but there still remains with us the important work of the Lending Library. Over 3,000 volumes are contained in the Catalogue. All classes of literature are fully represented. The charges for membership are extremely moderate. During the winter months the Librarian is in attendance to exchange books on two nights of the week. During the light nights of summer the library is open on only one night. The Library is housed in one of the committee rooms of the Town Hall.

Market Cross

Like most old burghs Cumnock possesses a Market Cross. This is situated at the entrance to the Established Church in the Square. Its present site was not its original one. It is said to have been situated in Townhead Street at one time, but that street was then on the main

Glasnock
House,
Cumnock.



road to Edinburgh. Later it was erected in the Square near the Barrhill exit. It has been on its present site for many years. The value put on it, for some years, as a historical relic can be judged from its being utilised as an ordinary street lamp post, but better appreciation has since prevailed and the lamp head has been removed, and other steps have been taken to preserve the Cross. The question of enclosing it within a suitable railing has been considered by the Council, but this has not yet been carried out. The Old Cross has been adopted as the Official Seal of the Burgh. The original carvings are now much weather worn but these are supposed to be the arms of the Earls of Dumfries. Two dates are visible, 1703 evidently referring to its original date, and 1778 to the year in which it was repaired.

PAST AND PRESENT INDUSTRIES.

Snuff Box Making

Amongst Cumnock's past industries first place must be given to Snuff Box Making. About 1820 the industry was an important one and many were employed in the various establishments. Much of this success was accounted to the secret hinge, of which Cumnock makers at first alone knew the secret. When at its height, in one year, the value of the snuff boxes manufactured reached the high total of £6,000. For the best class of work as high as £6 or £7 were obtained for single boxes, and it was a common thing for snuff boxes at one guinea to be sold to passengers by the stage coach whilst the coach was waiting at the hotel. The reason of the high price was the miniature paintings on the lids. These were painted by artists many of whom afterwards became world famous. Amongst these were Daniel Maenece, who afterwards became Sir Daniel Maenece, President of the Royal Scottish Academy; Horatio McCulloch, and William Leighton Leitch, who afterwards became tutor in water-colour painting to the Queen, the Royal Family, and the Nobility. All these as young men spent some time painting miniatures on Cumnock snuff boxes. For about 20 years the industry flourished, and then competition and lower prices compelled other methods, hand painting giving place to machinery by which tartan and other designs were produced. The industry is long since dead.

Handloom Weaving

Another industry which must be mentioned is that of handloom weaving. When at its height over 100 looms were employed in Cumnock. The Townhead was the principal centre of this industry although looms were in other parts of the town. The weavers as a class were intelligent, and took great interest in politics. In Cumnock they were radicals of the old school. Several politicians who came to the front owe their careers to the political education they received in the weaving shops during the meal hour discussion. The introduction of the steam loom killed the industry. With dogged perseverance the weavers fought against the innovation but were forced at last to give in and turn their energies to other work.

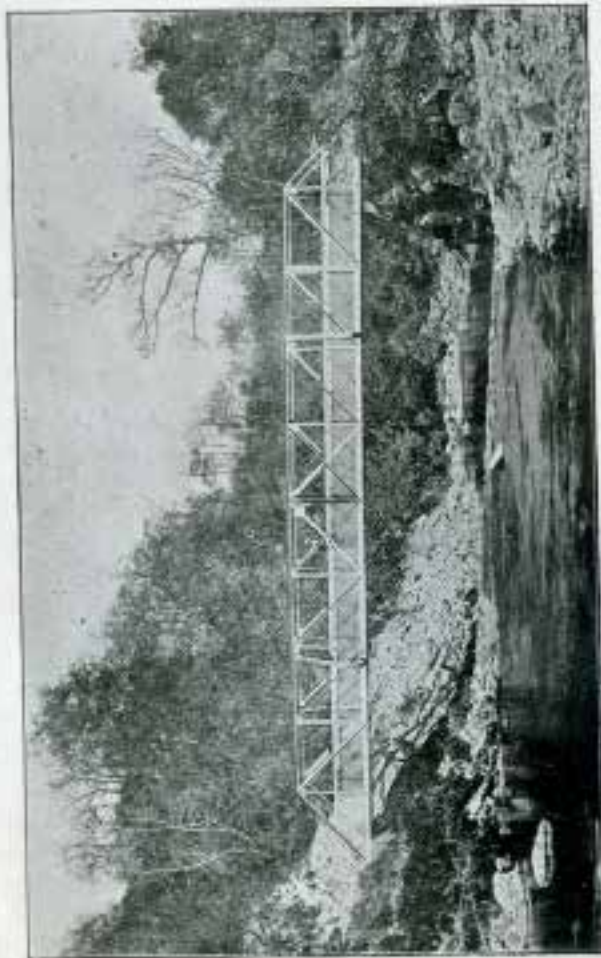
Shoemakers

Shoemaking was another industry employing a number of men. Over 30 were engaged in this work in Cumnock. That such a large number should find employment in a population of less than 2,000 shows they must have supplied a wider field than their own neighbourhood. From the "Statistical Account" of the parish drawn up in 1798 it is shown that in one year 6,000 pairs of shoes and 100 pairs of boots were made in Cumnock. Here again the introduction of machinery has killed the industry. Like the weavers the shoemakers held strong political opinions.

George M'Cartney & Co.

Amongst old established industries, but in this instance, not a "past" industry must be included that of M'Cartney's Works. Established in 1812 it has already celebrated its centenary. George M'Cartney, a young engineer, on completing his apprenticeship started working for himself in a little shop at a farm outside the town. His first threshing mill was so successful that orders for others followed. He removed to Cumnock and commenced in the premises which are still occupied by the present members of the firm, who still retain the original name "George M'Cartney & Co." Several important improvements on the mills made them famous and orders came in from all parts of the kingdom and also from the colonies. As an indication of the extent of the business of the firm, it may be noted for some years the

Rifleman's
Bridge,
The Banks,
Cumnock.



Manufactured by
C. M'Cartney
& Co.,
Cumnock.

mills were turned out at the rate of 100 a year at an average cost of £80 each. Their sterling character is best illustrated by a letter received by the firm some time ago from a farmer who wrote asking what was wrong with his mill. He said "It had stuck. He wanted to know why it had stuck, as he had run it for 40 years, and it had never stuck before." M'Cartney's Mills still hold the field, but the present members of the firm have equally developed other branches. One of the most striking features in modern industry is the great extension of the use of electric power, and it is gratifying to note that this old established firm have not been slow to take advantage of this fact. Some ten years ago they struck out in a new line by producing the "Orb" Ironclad Electric Switchgear. This venture has met with a gratifying reception in Electric Circles, and their gear is being increasingly adopted in Shipyards, Factories, Armament Works, Mines and other places where a thoroughly reliable and efficient article is of the first importance. One of the more recent developments is the Flame and Explosion Proof type for ensuring safety in fiery mines. The name "Orb" is accepted as a guarantee of good quality and the Scotch produce is well known over Great Britain, in addition to being represented in most countries in the world.

Cumnock Pottery ©.

Another old established industry which still continues to do business is the Cumnock Pottery Company. This business was established by James Taylor, who first applied steam to navigation. Mr Taylor came to Cumnock as Inspector of Mines on Dumfriess House Estate and it was whilst he was there the Pottery was commenced. The date was about 1791. A specialty of the Pottery has been its brown ware. Their flower pots, plain and glazed, are very well known. This company is the originator of the popular Scotch Motto Ware. In all the large cities they hold first place, and through London agencies large consignments are forwarded to all our Colonies.

Local Newspapers

There are two local papers published in the town. The "Cumnock News," now published for about forty years,—a local edition of that old established county paper, "The Ardsrossan and Salterans Herald." "The Cumnock Chronicle," printed and published in Cumnock, has been established over thirteen years.

Of other industries in the district, by far the most important are the mining works of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., and the Carriden Coal Co. The works of the first are situated in Lugar, Auchinleck and surrounding districts, whilst the works of the latter are in Cumnock Parish, their pit—Garrallan—being a little distance out of town. The houses of a number of the workers are in the town. In the town itself there are no public works employing large numbers of men. There are the usual tradesmen employed, such as engineers, joiners, builders, labourers, etc. Amongst the merchants a very good class of shops will be found. These are well fitted up, carry good stocks and will be found to supply the wants of their customers in a way that will compare favourably with many towns of a larger size.



The Burn, Cumnock.

CUMNOCK AND THE COVENANTERS

In writing about Cumnock and the Covenanters reference must be made to Mr A. B. Todd, who passed away, within a day or two of his 98rd birthday, on Sunday, 31st January, 1915. During his long life Mr Todd devoted much of his time to Covenanting matters of which he was a recognised authority in Scotland. He made pilgrimages

to most of the Covenanting shrines in the south of Scotland. Amongst his publications are "Homes, Haunts, and Battlefields of the Covenanters," and "Covenanting Pilgrimages and Studies." He also issued a volume of poems.

In the walled off enclosure at the entrance to the Old Churchyard lie the remains of four Covenanters, three of whom were shot for their adherence to the Covenanted work of Reformation. The fourth is that of Alexander Peden, "The Prophet."

The first of the four to lose his life was Thomas Richard, farmer in Greenock Mains, an old man of 80 years who had never taken an active part in the fight between the Covenanters and the soldiers. All that could be brought against him was that he had shown kindness to those who were being hunted by the dragoons. Some of the soldiers disguising themselves entered Richard's farm, pretending they were Covenanters. They seized Richard and hurried him off to Cumnock, where without trial he was shot, by the order of Colonel James Douglas. All attempts to intervene on behalf of Richard were useless. He was buried, out of contempt, at the Gallows Hill. The following is the inscription on the stone in the enclosure.

HERE LIES
THE CORPSE OF
THOMAS RICHARD,
WHO WAS SHOT BY COLONEL JAMES DOUGLAS,
FOR HIS ADHERENCE
TO THE COVENANTED WORK OF REFORMATION,
ON THE 5TH DAY OF APRIL,
ANNO 1685.

Hail, passenger, this stone does show to thee
For what, by whom, and how I here did die.
Because I always in my station
Adhered to Scotland's Reformation,
And to our sacred Covenant and Laws,
Establishing the same: which was the cause,
In time of prayer I was by Douglas shot.
Ah, everly never to be forgot.

A month later other two Covenanters, David Dun and Simon Paterson, when returning from Dalmeilington, where they had attended a conventicle held by James Benwick, were captured by the soldiers on Corsegelloch hillside. They were hurried to Cumnock where they met

the same fate as Richard, and were buried beside him at the Gallows Hill. Their fate is told in the following lines on their tombstone.

HERE LIES DAVID DUN
AND SIMON PATTER-
ON, WHO WAS SHOT
IN THIS PLACE BY
A PARTY OF HIGH-
LANDERS FOR THEIR
ADHERANCE TO THE
WORD OF GOD AND
THE COVENANTED
WORK OF REFORMA-
TION. 1685.

The interest in this stone is increased through its association with "Old Mortality." It is believed that he recut the inscription, and competent judges declare the depth and size of lettering to be similar to other stones it is known he recut.



Peden's Monument, Cumnock.

The fourth Covenanter who lies in this little enclosure is Alexander

Peden. On the life of Alexander Peden, with its chapters of courage, hardship, faith, and narrow escapes from his persecutors, it is not our intention to dwell. These particulars have already been told by many writers. Whilst hiding from the soldiers, Peden felt death drawing near to him, and he came to his brother's farm, where he died two days later. He was buried at Auchinleck, but his body was not allowed to lie there. The soldiers who were hunting him on hearing of his burial, in order to revenge their failure to shoot him, lifted the body. Their intention was to hang it on the Gallows Tree at Cumnock, but this degradation they were not allowed to carry out. They buried the body at the Gallows Hill, in the place of shame. Even here their vindictiveness failed, as their act in burying Peden there turned the Gallows Hill into a place of honour round which future generations buried their beloved dead. The original stone marking his grave, erected by loyal Cameronians, was replaced by a plain tombstone with the following inscription:—

HERE LIES
MR. ALEXANDER PEDEN,
FAITHFUL MINISTER OF THE
GOSPEL
SOME TIME
AT GLENLUCE,
WHO DEPARTED THIS MORTAL LIFE
THE 26TH OF JANUARY, 1686,
AND WAS RAISED AFTER SIX WEEKS
OUT OF THE GRAVE,
AND BURIED HERE
OUT OF
CONTEMPT.
MEMENTO MORI.

Largely through the efforts of the late Mr A. B. Todd, in 1891 a handsome Gothic Monument of Aberdeen Granite, was erected over Peden's grave. The monument is over twenty feet high, and is of very pretty design. Professor Blackie, who was associated with Mr Todd in securing funds for the monument, was present at the inauguration ceremony. He composed at an earlier period the following lines as a tribute to Peden's courage and faith.

Here let me stand, beneath the sacred shade
Of these twin thorns, that shield a prophet's bones!
I have stood high on monumental stones,

Auchinleck
Old and New

Churches
near where
Peden was
first buried.



Where Memphis kings, august, made high parade,
Not moved as here. My loves are with the heaves,
Who stand erect for freedom and for right,
When rampant pride, harsh law, and sworded might
Would crush out thought, and stamp all men for slaves;
And such was Peden. In the days when kings
Claimed right divine to murder honest men,
And venal bishops flapped their vulture wings
For God's dear souls, hoarded from glen to glen,
Peden stood firm, and to his faith then shown,
We owe that now we call our souls our own.

The inscription on the new monument is as follows:—

IN MEMORY

OF

ALEXANDER PEDEN

(A NATIVE OF SORE),

THAT FAITHFUL MINISTER OF CHRIST,
WHO, FOR HIS UNFLESHING ADHERENCE TO THE
COVENANTED REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND, WAS
EXPELLED BY TYRANT RULERS FROM HIS CHURCH
OF NEW LUCE, IMPRISONED FOR YEARS ON
THE BASS ROCK BY HIS PERSECUTORS, AND HUNTED
FOR HIS LIFE ON THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS
AND MOORS, TILL HIS DEATH ON 26TH JANUARY, 1686,
IN THE 60TH YEAR OF HIS AGE, AND HERE
AT LAST HIS DUST REPOSES IN PEACE, AWAITING
THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST.

Such were the men these hills who trod
Strong in the love and fear of God,
Defying through a long dark hour,
Alike the craft and rage of power.

In connection with Peden mention must be made of the Twin Thorns which grow over his grave. Tradition tells of a prophecy of Peden's that great calamities would befall when these two thorns met over his head. For many years care was taken to prevent this and the thorns were pruned whenever they required it. They were also helped to keep apart by many branches and twigs being taken away by visitors. Many of these were taken to the Colonies. The thorns continue to blossom to the present time.

In Cumnock parish another monument to a Covenanter is found at the little farm of Stonepark. The Covenanter buried there is a

Cumnock man John M'Geachan, then farmer in Meikle Auchingibbert. A covenanting minister, Rev. David Houston, was being conveyed by a company of soldiers to Edinburgh in order to undergo his trial. An attempt at rescue was quietly planned. The Covenanters hid at Bello Path, a narrow pass immediately beyond Lugar, on the road to Muirkirk. As the soldiers and their prisoner approached the pass they were suddenly attacked. The soldiers fled and the minister was rescued. In the scuffle John M'Geachan was shot by a soldier. Although wounded, M'Geachan tried to crawl back to his farm but died at Stonepark on his way there. On the stone erected there is the following inscription:—

HERE LIES
 JOHN M'GEACHAN,
 WHO FOR HIS CONSTANT
 ADHERENCE TO THE WORD OF
 GOD,
 PROSECUTING THE ENDS OF
 OUR NATIONAL LEAGUE AND
 COVENANT, AND APPEARING FOR
 THE RESCUE OF THE
 REV. DAVID HOUSTON,
 ONE OF THE PERSECUTED
 MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL,
 WAS SHOT AT BELLOW PATH BY
 A PARTY OF BLOODY DRAGOONS.
 XXVIII JULY, 1688.
 ERECTED ANNO 1728.

Although not in Cumnock parish mention must be made of the graves of three martyrs on Corsegelloch Hill. Like Dun and Paterson they were coming from a conventicle of James Renwick's, this time in Galloway. In order to avoid the soldiers they travelled mostly by night. They had reached Corsegelloch Hill and whilst resting by day had fallen asleep. Whilst they slept the soldiers came on them. They were seized and ruthlessly shot, by the orders of Colonel James Douglas. Some country folks who had seen the soldiers pass and later heard the shooting suspected the cause, and on the departure of the soldiers searched the hill and came on the bodies of the three youths. These they reverently buried where they lay. A stone was afterwards put up with the following inscription:—

HERE LIES JOSEPH WILSON
 JOHN JAMIESON, JOHN HUMPHREY,
 WHO WAS SHOT BY A PARTY
 OF HIGHLANDERS FOR THEIR AD-
 HERENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD
 AND THE COVENANTED WORK OF
 REFORMATION. 1685.

This stone has now been replaced by a handsome monument raised on the spot where they fell.

Within reach of Cumnock by cycle there are several other Martyrs' Monuments at New Cumnock, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, Mauchline, etc.



Templand Viaduct from Steppends.

Situated as Cumnock is in the centre of the Covenanting country it is only natural that there should be found in it a number of interesting relics. The most valuable of these is Cumnock's Covenanting Banner. Like many other relics, its value for long was not appreciated, and it lay forgotten in the house of a doctor. On being discovered it fell into the more appreciative hands of the M'Geachan family, themselves of covenanting descent. The Rev. James Murray in his "Songs of the Covenant Times," in a poem on "The Banner of the Covenant" states that it was in the care of Mr Hugh M'Geachan. Later it was in



Covenanting Flag and other Relics.

the care of Mr Douglas McGeachin, but since his death it has been in the safe keeping of the Rev. Mr Warrick, Crichton Memorial Manse, Cumnock, who will be pleased to show it at any time to interested enquirers. Mr Warrick also possesses a large Folio Bible closely associated with covenanting times in Midlothian. One of the dragons in the Pentland district drove his sword into this bible with the intention of tossing it into the fire. As often as he made the attempt the Bible fell to the floor and so escaped. The marks of the sword are clearly shown on the bible. The Banner and Bible with other relics are represented on the accompanying plate.

Old Churchyard and New Cemetery.

We have already, at the beginning of this Guide referred to the Burial place round about the old church in the Square. Burials in this church yard ceased about 1765-69. We have also learned about the covenanters being buried at the Gallows Hill, to degrade the dead heroes still further. When a new church yard was necessary we find, no doubt led by covenanting sympathisers, that the inhabitants honoured these covenanters by burying their dead beside them. In this way the burial ground was taken to Barrhill Road. When digging foundations for the church in the Square in 1866, a number of bodies were removed and buried in the new church-yard, and some of the stones were also transferred; thus we find stones of older date than the church-yard itself.

Particulars have already been given of the covenanters in the little enclosure at the entrance to the church-yard.

In all old Churchyards there are stones with histories which at the time they were erected would be understood, but in course of time become a source of curiosity. An instance of this is found at the entrance to our old churchyard. The very first stone facing the entrance on the right hand and about three or four yards beyond the gate is a small square stone. This refers to the death of one Hugh Pearson, in the year 1757, and also of some other person who died later. About four yards from this stone, on the right hand of the gate, at the foot of the iron steps over the wall, stand three stones close to each other. The centre stone of the three is an exact replica of Pearson's stone. How two stones for the same persons come to be on different lairs is now a curiosity.

In connection with the interesting stones mentioned in the following lines a coincidence, rather unusual, but making them easy to find is the fact that they stand almost in one straight line. Commencing with Peden's Monument in the enclosure at the gate, the next in line is Mrs John Merry, the heroine of "Corn Riggs." This is easily distinguished by three stones together of which the centre one is a tall obelisk. The farthest stone of the three is that of "Bonnie Annie." A few stones farther over, still in line are "Winsome Willie's", the "Model Wife's"—the stone with the egg shaped ornament,—and that in memory of James Taylor, in a small walled enclosure. The double stone for the two ministers Mr Frazer and Mr Bannatyne is against the stone wall, and the oldest stone in the churchyard—that to the Rev. Patrick Hume—is a little farther to the right on the same wall.

Lovers of Burns will find interest in the tombstone of "Winsome Willie," Burns's teacher friend. The inscription is as follows:—

TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM SIMPSON,
LATE SCHOOLMASTER IN CUMNOCK
AND OCHILTREE,
WHO DIED JULY 4, 1815,
AGED 57 YEARS.

Here Winsome Willie lies, whose worth
In Burns woke equal love;
And death, which wreathed the ties on earth,
Has knit them now above.

Another Burns stone is that of the heroine of "Corn Riggs." Annie Rankin was the daughter of John Rankin to whom Burns addresses the epistle, "O rough, rude, ready-witted Rankin." Annie Rankin was the wife of John Merry, and died in 1843, at the age of 84.

Amongst other interesting tombstones that of James Taylor, the inventor of steam navigation, should be noted. At the time of his death Taylor was acting as Inspector of Mines on Lord Bute's estate.

IN MEMORY OF
JAMES TAYLOR,
THE INVENTOR OF STEAM NAVIGATION,
WHO DIED AT CUMNOCK,
15TH SEPTEMBER, 1825,
AND WAS HERE INTERRED.

"The Model Wife's" Monument is a tall four sided pillar with an ornament in the shape of an egg on top, and is easily picked out.

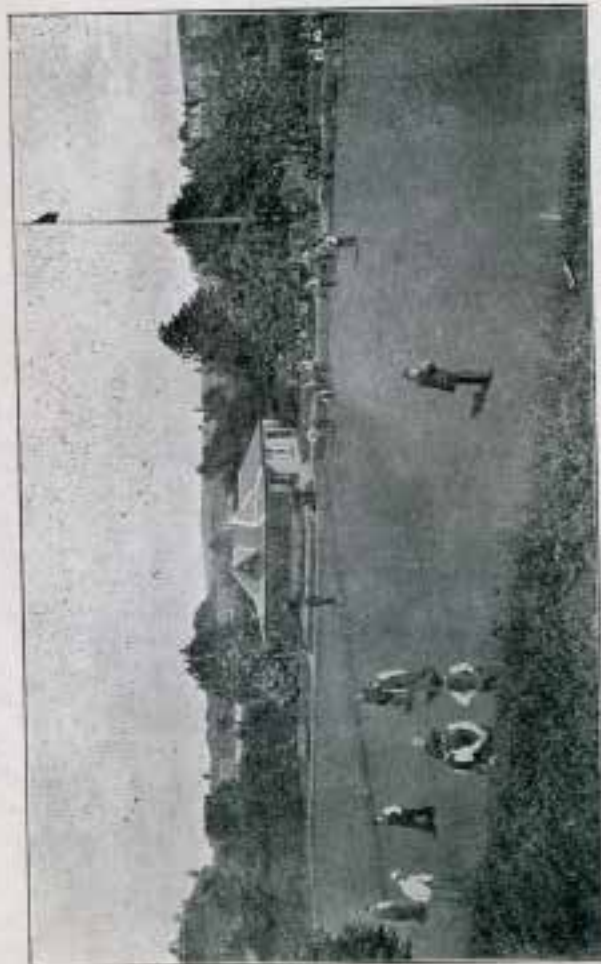
HERE LIES INTERRED ANN MENZIES,
DAUGHTER OF ADAM MENZIES OF TROLOSS
AND SPOUSE OF JAMES JOHNSTONE,
MERCHANT IN CUMNOCK.

FOR GOODNESS OF HEART, FREE OF ALL GUILE,
FOR SINCERE HONESTY AS A FRIEND,
FOR FAITHFUL AFFECTION AS A WIFE,
FOR PREFERRING DOMESTIC HAPPINESS
AND DECENT ECONOMY
TO DISSIPATED PROFUNDON,
EQUALLED BY FEW,
SURPASSED BY NONE,
IN JUSTICE TO HER WORTHY CHARACTER
FROM THE CONSTANT EXPERIENCE OF ELEVEN YEARS,
THIS CONCLUSIVE TESTIMONY IS INSCRIBED
BY HER AFFLICTED HUSBAND,
AS THE LAST PLEDGE OF HIS HEART FELT DUTY
AND MOST TENDER REGARD.
SHE DIED MAY 20TH, 1776,
AGED 36 YEARS.

The oldest stone in the churchyard is dated 1737. It is that of the Rev. Patrick Hume, who was Minister of Kirkmichael. This was removed from the burial place in the Square.

There are several interesting monuments to ministers erected by their congregations. A twin stone already referred to contains notice of two ministers, the Rev. James Frazer, who was Parish minister from 1819 to 1829, and the Rev. Ninian Bannatyne, who was first Parish minister for 13 years, and then for 30 years in the Free Church. Another minister is the Rev. James Murray, for 31 years the Parish minister, who died in 1875. Another Memorial stone in the early history of the old U. P. Church is that of the Rev. David Wilson, and also that of the Rev. Robert Brown who succeeded him and died in 1847, in the 24th year of his ministry. There are many other interesting monuments that will well repay an hour spent amongst them.

What is locally known as the New Cemetery was opened about 1877. It is situated on the New Cumnock Road immediately beyond the New Station. The cemetery is modern in its arrangements, is well laid off with walks and is beautified with shrubs. There are no ancient stones, but amongst its dead are numbered many who in life were prominent figures in Cumnock. There are many beautiful monuments.

Bowling
Green,
Cumnock.

RECREATIONS.

Bowling.

First place must be given to the Bowling Club under the heading of "Recreations." For many years Cumnock has been a participant in this favourite pastime. The first green was opened about the year 1869 before bowling greens were so plentiful as they are to-day. It is conveniently situated in the Car Road, off Ayr Road. The first green was well patronised and reared many players who could hold their own on any green. Step by step improvements were carried out. A pavilion was built; then a part of the green was cut off to make room for an additional large green beside it. Some years later a Bazaar was held from the proceeds of which the greens were entirely remodelled, two full sized greens being made alongside each other, laid with sea shore turf. The club house was enlarged and committee rooms added. At first there was a little trouble with the new greens, but that has now been overcome. The club has taken a prominent part in the Ayrshire and Glasgow match. It has won that trophy once, and the club has also been the highest Ayrshire winner in more than one occasion when Glasgow won that trophy. Weekly and monthly tickets are arranged for visitors.

Tennis.

Situated in Ayr Road, close to the Lugar Water, a double court has been opened for many years. The courts are of ash. There is a good membership and terms are moderate. Short terms are arranged for visitors.

Golf.

A nine hole course is situated on the farm of Netherthird, close to the border of the burgh, on the New Cumnock Road. The holes are of average length and several require careful play. The feature of the course is the sporting nature of the last three holes. In all of these a burn and good high scuar require negotiating. The seventh green is over the scuar and burn to a green on the flat beyond. The eighth drive is from the top of the scuar down a narrow strip of grass bounded on

one side by the burn, and on the other by a wood, and takes careful play. At the ninth hole a pitching shot is required from the bottom of the scour to the green on top. The situation is very pleasing. There is a good membership. Visitors tickets are arranged.

Curling.

Curling is one of the outdoor games that has suffered with the changed conditions of modern life. In the past when weavers and shoemakers were numerous, parish matches drew out large numbers, and from their old stories curling seemed to go on for weeks. Now the most of it is done on artificial ice in the city. The Townhead-Flush was the nearest pond but it was never satisfactory. Woodhead Pond, about a mile and a half out of town, has long been the favourite pond. Its distance from town was the objection, and a few years ago Lord Bute presented the Club with a field behind the cottages in Ayr Road. A large pool was made, but through water difficulties it has not proved a success. A proposal to make Tur-nae rinks at this pond has not yet matured. Cumnock Curlers have recently been successful in winning the "Eglinton Jug" in competition in the Ice Rink at Glasgow. Rinks skipped by Mr John Fleming have been successful on two occasions, while those captained by Mr John Brown and Mr Andrew Murdoch have each carried off the trophy once.

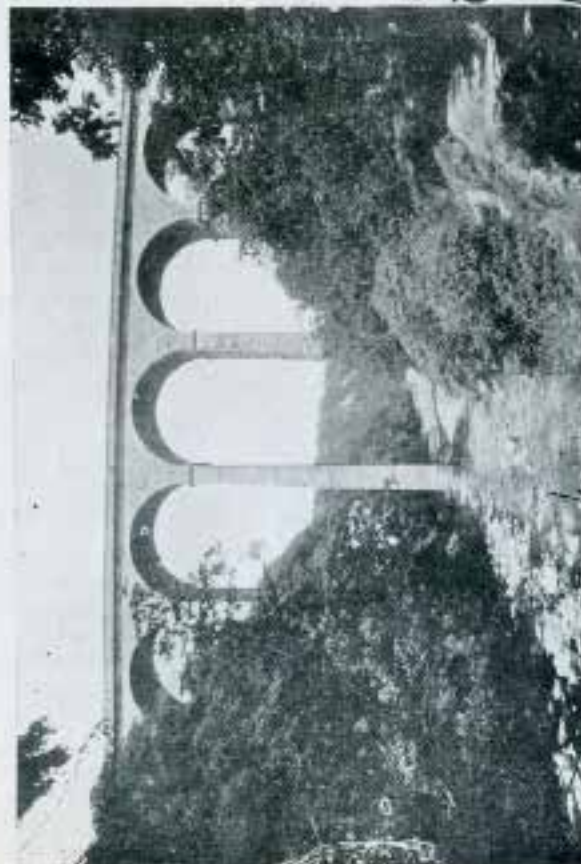
Football.

A good football field, through the kindness of Lord Bute, has been provided on exceptional terms. This is situated near the New Station, and takes the name of the "New Station Park." For some years playing teams have been intermittent. Recently a Junior Team has been formed and this has taken a prominent part in local and county competitions.

Fishing.

Followers of the Piscatorial Art can find some open waters in the Lugar and Glaisnock. Much of the water is preserved, but permission can usually be obtained to good fishing districts, when water is in condition. There are one or two angling clubs in the surrounding districts, which hold regular competitions.

Templand
Bridges,
The Burns,
Cumnock.



Favourite Walks in the District.

IN compiling a Local Guide it is necessary that a list of places of interest, within walking and cycling distance be included in its pages.

In some of the walks enumerated mention is made of entering fields. It is hoped that at such places walkers will be careful to close the gates.

It is only by respecting growing crops, closing gates, etc., that the great privilege of our present freedom to visit local beauty spots can be retained.

"The Bank."

First place will naturally be given to what is locally known as "The Bank." This is a walk along the banks of the river Lugar, where the railway crosses it at the Templand Bridge. The entrance to this favourite spot is by Bank Avenue which strikes off Barrhill Road beyond the Churchyard. On the left hand are cottages and on the right St. John's R. C. School. By passing through the gate at the end of the Avenue a road leads down towards the water. In wet weather this may be rather soft, but as you near the river the beautiful outlook repays any such discomfort. The scenery is very grand. On the left hand is the Lugar water flowing through the great arches of the bridge, the banks being beautifully wooded. The railway bridge is of great stability. It consists of fourteen arches, the height of the central ones, from the bed of the river to the top being 175 feet. Beyond the bridge the beauty of the scenery increases. The trees lining the banks to the river's edge, rise abruptly to a great height, and in certain seasons present a picture of great beauty with endless varieties of colouring. A fine avenue through the trees in summer weather makes a shaded approach to further beauty. At the end of the avenue an open space is temporarily disturbed on account of Burgh necessities, but eventually it will be restored in keeping with its surroundings. A path on the right of this place leads to the water edge, at a part known as the Quarry Pool, a favourite resort of the boys in hot weather for bathing. The water banks here are rocky and in heavy waters the effect is very good.

In returning to the town a little variation can be made by ascend-

ing to the top of the ridge, at the end of the avenue, on the left hand. A narrow footpath along the top leads back towards the railway bridge, and gives a fine outlook further up the river. Towards the bridge the "Sunny Mote" is passed, a favourite spot in summer weather. In olden times these Motes were the places where Courts of Justice were held.

Those who wish to continue their walk, instead of returning to the town, will find stepping stones above the Quarry Pool by which, when the water is low, they can cross the river. They then ascend to the top of the cliff on the opposite side from which a very fine outlook down the river is obtained. A footpath leads along the river, passing the Rifleman's Bridge, a neat suspension bridge used by the Territorials in their rifle practice. This road rejoins the public road at Logan Bridge, from which, again looking down the river, a fine effect is had with the water and rocks.

If time permits the walk can be continued through the village of Lugar, with its great iron works. Beyond the village interest is found



Lugar Village.

in visiting Bello Mill where Murdoch the inventor of gas was born. A very fine Memorial Tablet to Murdoch was unveiled two years ago at Bello Mill. Beyond Bello Mill is Bello Path, already referred to in connection with the rescue of a minister from the soldiers in covenanting times.

New Cumnock Road.

ANOTHER direction for an outing is New Cumnock Road. Passing up Glaisnock Street, the Dumfries Arms Hotel, the Pictures House, and the Town Hall are passed on the right, with the Gas Works and Cumnock Pottery on the left. The old Pottery Row with its white washed and thatched houses is succeeded by a long line of cottages. These cottages have all garden plots in front, and in the summer months they make a very fine display of flowers. St. John's R.C. Chapel and Presbytery stand out prominently amidst their surrounding trees, and at the top of the hill stands the A. & C. Railway Station. Here, on the left hand, the fine railway bridge over the Glaisnock water calls for attention. There are thirteen arches in the bridge, and from the water bed to the top of the bridge the height is considerable. Close beside the arches on the flat plot at the bottom is a stone known as "The Deil Stane," on which the marks of the Deil's hoof and other marks were duly pointed out by the older boys to the younger ones. Immediately beyond the Station lies the New Cemetery, and on the other side of the road a little further along, beside a double cottage standing by itself, is the entrance to Cumnock Golf Course, which has already been noticed under the heading of "Recreations." Proceeding along the road to the farm of Skerrington the road branches into two. Keep to the left hand. At the bottom of the fields to the right is one of the places mentioned in Burns' "Halloween."

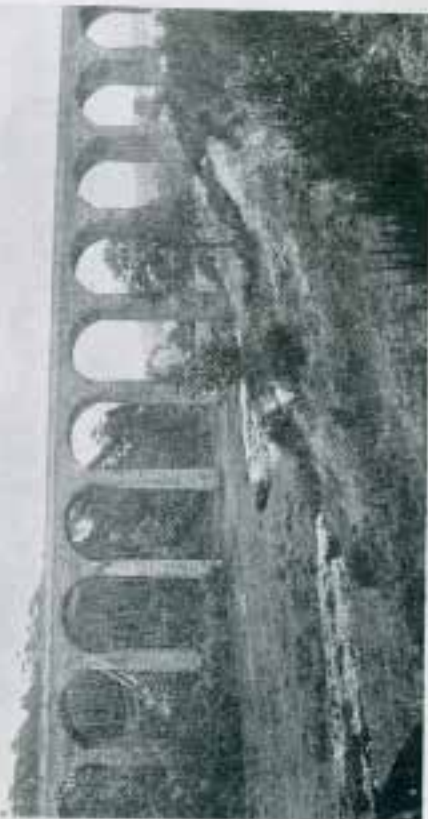
"She thro' the whies, an' by the cairn
An' o'er the hill gaed scrievin';
Whare three lairds' lands met at a burn,
To dig her left sackalween in
Was bent that night."

The three lairds' lands are the estates of Dumfries House, Glaisnock and Skerrington.

Soon the Burgh Filters and the enlarged reservoir of the Burgh Water Supply beyond the railway bridge are passed.

Opposite the Reservoir is the farm of Borland Smithy, on which is the site of Borland Castle. No trace of this ruin now remains, but occasionally the plough strikes the foundations, which are only a few inches under ground. Near to this farm, but close to the railway is a sand pit in which pre-historic urus, containing a small quantity of bones have been found. On the left side of the main road, beyond the reservoir, is the farm of Chapel. It is known an Ecclesiastical building of

Viaduct
and
Deil Stane,
Cumnock.



some kind once stood here, but no trace of it is now visible. In the Chapel farm house is to be seen a sculptured stone, evidently taken from the ruins of this old building, and no doubt others were used in building this farm house.

About half-a-mile farther along, a road branches off to the right crossing the railway at Polquhup, and rejoining the main road at Benston Old Limekilns. From here the return walk to Cumnock can be made, the road being mostly downhill.

If cycling or driving, a more extended round can be made by continuing on the New Cumnock Road. A small loch will be noticed on the level meadow on the right hand. It is called the Black Loch, and it forms the water shed for the south west of Scotland. It is situated on the summit and has the peculiarity of having an outlet at its two ends, both running from the loch. One runs in Cumnock direction, and the water passing through this end eventually reaches the Firth of Clyde with the river Ayr. The water leaving the other end reaches the Solway Firth with the river Nith via Dumfries. Two other small lochs, the Creech and Lochside help to make the connecting link with the river Nith.

Beyond the approach to Lochside House is situated New Cumnock Golf Course, a nine hole course, of which there is a good local membership. New Cumnock lies close at hand and is soon reached. This village consists of three distinct parts, Pathhead, The Castle and Bridgend. Passing through the main street to the Public School, a sharp upward turn to the right brings you to a branching road. The road to the left leads along the classic Afton Water, immortalised by Burns in "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." For over five miles Glen Afton passes through scenes of great beauty, and in some parts rugged and steep hills on either side. The County Glen Afton Sanatorium lies close to the road amongst the hills, in a very suitable place for the open air treatment. The head of the Glen, at Craigharroch, is a favourite spot for picnic parties.

On returning back to the branching road at Old Mill, take the road leading to Connelpark, a large mining village which is in sight. In the centre of these mining houses a road again strikes off to the right. This leads back to Old Cumnock passing the Ha' Rannell, a rather bleak outlook of bare hills, Benston Smithy and Old Lime Kilns, on to the houses at Roadside. Below these houses is the entrance to Glaisnock House amidst beautiful trees. Opposite the Lodge, amidst the trees is

a little Chapel built by a former proprietor, and in which the children of the district still meet at sabbath School, and Sunday evening services are held. Glaisnock House sits in the midst of old trees. The old portion of the house is well covered with ivy, but large modern additions have been made to it. The private grounds include a picturesque Glen that is well worth visiting. The road rejoining the New Cumnock Road at Skerrington Farm and Cumnock is an easy down-hill route home.

The distance is—the walk by Polquhup, 6 miles, and the full round, without visiting the Glen, about 13 miles. If Glen Afton is visited, the excursion is fully 23 miles.

Ayr Road, Dumfries House and Ochiltree.

One of the most popular walks is along Ayr Road. Even in stormy weather this road is well sheltered and a mile or two down and back is always enjoyable. A few notes of a more extended run is given.

At the end of the houses on the right are the Tennis Courts. Bankend row and Farm are at the other end of this field.

Immediately beyond this farm house is the main entrance to Lord Bute's Mansion, Dumfries House. The entrance Lodge is situated amidst stately fir trees, and the approach continues along an avenue of trees for over a mile. Amongst these trees near to the lodge stands a majestic larch known as "The Fair Maid of Cumnock." Near to Dumfries House, on the banks of the Lugar is a very fine specimen of a Silver Fir, measuring about 15 feet, 3 feet above the ground. The river Lugar runs alongside for the greater part of the way.

Close to this drive the old ruin of Tarrinzean Castle is passed. Only one corner of a wall still stands, sentinel like, on an eminence looking on the Lugar Water flowing away below it.

About 100 yards west of Dumfries House is the site of Lefnores Castle. No part of this old Castle now remains above the ground, but the late Marquis of Bute through extensive excavation exposed portions of the old walls. These may still be seen.

Dumfries House was built about 1760, but in recent years extensive additions have been carried out, and many modern improvements added. The main entrance is reached by a very wide flight of stairs, and leads

Dumfries
House,
Cumnock.

into a large entrance hall. The front is three storeys high, and shows many large windows. At each end a large wing stands out. The extensions have been carried out in the wings to the rear of the main building. A complete system of fire-proof roofing and floorage has recently been carried out with reinforced concrete. In front of the house are large flower plots, in which bronze statues occupy prominent places. Amongst the paintings are many valuable works of art, including several Baeurnas. The library contains many treasures.

Amongst the furnishings are tapestries, etc., of rare antiquity. A prominent feature in the grounds near to the House is a very pretty stone bridge over the Luggar Water. The bridge has several large stone pillars and other ornamental work. It leads to the Gardens, and to the entrance Lodge at Auchinlock.

In the Gardens stand a magnificent specimen of the Maple or Sycamore Tree, said to be over 300 years old. It measures about 15 feet in circumference, 3 feet above the ground. This is the oldest living thing in the Parish of Cumnock.

We continue our walk however along the main road towards Ochiltree and are at once attracted by the magnificent trees—oak, beech and lime—which adorn it on either side. It may be noted that at this point the direction of the road has been altered. The old road which kept to the right passed close to the mansion of Lord Bute. In order to secure greater seclusion his Lordship offered to make a new road a little further away from his house, on condition that the old road was shut up. This was done at a time when there was a great scarcity of labour owing to the passing away of the weaving trade. On the left hand about three-quarters of a mile from the town a large circular clump of trees, known as Dettingen Wood will be seen. This clump was planted in commemoration of the battle of Dettingen in Bavaria in 1743, at which the then Earl of Dumfries was present as aide de camp to his uncle, the Earl of Stair, who commanded the British force. Soon we pass on the right hand, the Home Farm with the beautiful residence of the Estate Factor. On the left a road branches off to Dumfries House Railway Station. The main road continues, nicely wooded for a mile or two until Ochiltree is reached.

On crossing the bridge over the Burnock Water, at the entrance to Ochiltree, a view of Ochiltree House is obtained, from which house John Knox married his second wife—the daughter of Lord Ochiltree, one of the most zealous supporters of the Scottish Reformation. The

The Cross,
Ochiltree.

village largely consists of one long street built on a steep hillside. It was here that George Douglas Brown was born, who was cut down at the commencement of what promised to be a brilliant literary career. His well known book, "The House with the Green Shutters," contains references to places that can be traced in his native district.



Ochiltree House.

Returning home a change is made by taking the Barony Road. Ochiltree Churchyard is passed at the foot of the village, close to the Lugar Water, and surrounded by trees, making an ideal spot for a last resting place. An interesting half-hour can be spent in this sacred spot inspecting the headstones, including Burns's contemporary, Patrick Simson, brother of Wimsome Willie. The outlook from the bridge over the Lugar is very pleasing. From the bridge a very steady climb of some length takes you to the Barony Road, near to the entrance lodge of Auchinleck House. The road is a straight one to Auchinleck, mostly well sheltered with trees. The Barony Pit is close to this road. This pit is amongst the deepest in Scotland. The buildings and machinery connected with it are large, massive, and of the very latest description, electricity being utilised to a great extent. Very large numbers will be engaged when the pit is in full working order. Close to Auchinleck another large pit is passed—Highhouse—to which are attached long mining rows. Passing the Church and Churchyard which is noteworthy as the burial place of James Boswell the biographer of Johnson, a few yards takes you to the Cumnock Road in the Main Street. From the top of the hill, after leaving Auchinleck, a good view of the New

Birthplace of
Geo. Douglas
Brown
in Ochiltree.



Cumnock hills in the distance is obtained. The County Council Fever Hospital, on the left nearer Cumnock, stands out prominently, and the town itself is soon reached.

For those not able to walk or cycle so far, a bus goes the round daily, at a moderate charge. It leaves the Square at twelve o'clock, allows about an hour in Ochiltree and is back in Cumnock at three o'clock.

Distance (without Dumfries House Grounds), 9 miles.

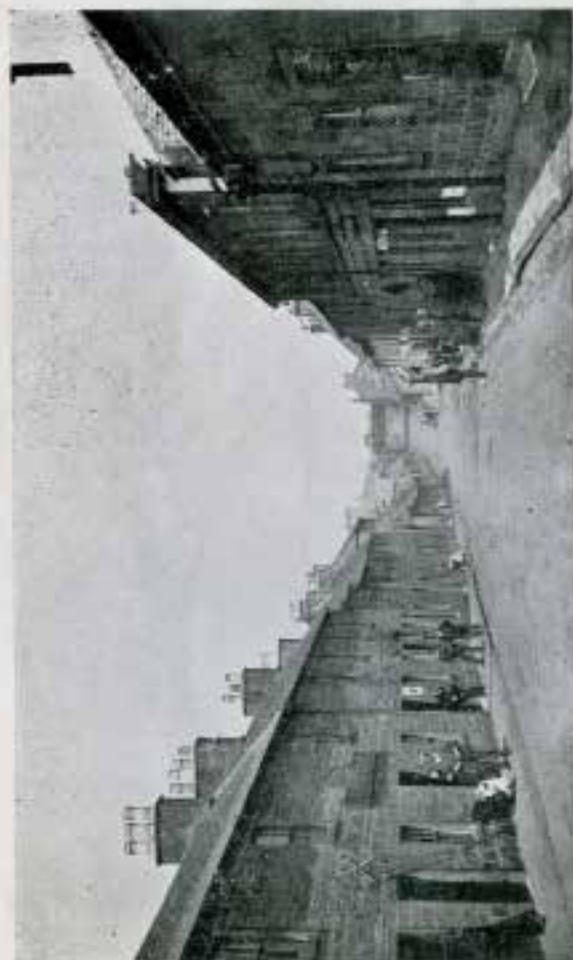
Craigends and Plantainside

A nice circular walk along country roads is made by leaving New Cumnock Road on the left between High Brickhouse and Skerrington Farm, by a road known as Craigends Roadend. This road leads past Craigends farm to Blackfauld houses where it joins the New Cumnock road from Meadow farm. Turning to the left this road is followed until Plantainside Smithy is reached. It passes close to Stonepark where John McGeachan, the Covenanter, lies buried. Keeping to the left hand towards Lugar Road the entrance lodge to Logan House is passed. This house stands amidst beautiful surroundings, which have been greatly added to by the shrubs and endless variety of flowers planted by the present occupiers. The House is hidden amongst the trees from the road, but a good view of it is obtained from the railway which passes close in front. Logan House is famous for its connection with Hugh Logan of that ilk who is remembered as the "Witty Laird of Logan," and of whom many humorous tales are told. Continuing, Lugar Road is reached at Logan Toll, and passing the old Station the town is at hand.

Distance about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Craigends and Barshare

A shorter walk in this same direction is made by leaving New Cumnock Road at Craigends Roadend, but at Craigends Farm, instead of going to Blackfauld, a "farm road" to the left leads down to a burn at the foot of the hill. The burn is crossed by a foot bridge at the side of the road. From the burn the road towards Barshare farm is steep,



but the surroundings are pretty, and on a fine summer morning this is a delightful walk. At Barshare Farm the road crosses the railway by a high bridge. From this bridge a fine view of the town is obtained. The Bridge is only a short distance from Drumbrochan Farm road-end, and the way home passes the New Drill Hall, and through Townhead Street, at one time the centre of the weaving industry.

In wet weather the farm road between Craighends and Barshare is soft, and near these farms, on account of the cattle, may be dirty, so that it is well to select this walk in suitable weather.

Distance about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The Holm Burn.

A slight variation of the last walk is a favourite one with many people. Between Craighends Roadend and the farm the road passes over the Holm Burn. Many leave the road and follow the burn down through the Golf Course to where it runs into the Glaisnock water. Keep on past Barshare Wood, under the railway bridge, by "The Deil Stane" to Townhead Park. For those desiring a quiet walk nothing finer could be found.

Distance fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Bowes Glen.

A very popular walk, starting from the Cairn Road is to the Bowes Glen. At the top of the Cairn Brae a gate straight ahead leads into a field. Leave the public road at this gate and enter the field. The Glen is on the left hand but it is advisable to make for the Bowes farm on the opposite side of the glen. In ordinary weather this is easily done as the burn is small. The Bowes side of the glen is open and easier to walk along. The other side is wooded from the edge of the burn and rises to a considerable height. In summer and autumn the effect is very pretty and attracts many walkers. The water track is followed until the Bowes farm road is reached. This road leads past the farms of Horseleugh and Burnsides, and Skerrington Mill, rejoining the New Cumnock Road opposite the Golf Course on Netherthird Farm.

The distance is close on 3 miles.

Woodroad,
Cumnock.

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Woodroad and Rigg Road.

A walk, which might be termed a breakfast appetiser, from the number of walkers who do this walk in summer before breakfast is the one under this heading. Turn off Auchinleck Road at Lugar Bridge, keeping the Congregational Manse on the left hand, and following the banks of the Lugar Water. After the old pit is passed, the steep side of the hill on one hand, the water on the other, with the Railway Bridge and its surrounding trees in front combine to make a very pretty picture. The road up to Templand Farm, situated almost under the Bridge, and the cinder path to the left, along the railway side which is continued until the Auchinleck Road, is reached, is a pretty stiff climb, but you have reached the height and the remainder of the walk is down hill. Keep to the left, facing towards Auchinleck. The outlook along this road on a clear morning is very far reaching. In particular it gives a very fine view of the extensive woods on Dumfries House Estate. On crossing the bridge over the railway, Rigg farm is soon reached, and at the farm the Ash Road leads off to the left. This brings you on to the Auchinleck Road a little above the Fever Hospital and Cumnock is close at hand.

Distance about 2½ miles.

Cairn Road Walks

Cairn Road and Garrallan.

Leaving the town by the Cairn Road, which strikes off Glaisnock Street at St. John's Chapel, a short stiff walk takes you to the top of the Cairn Brae. From this a very fine panorama of the town is obtained. The Cairn Road is continued past Cairn farm and Mossback. At the latter the New Cumnock highroad is reached. Keep to the right and for a while the road is purely a country one of fields and woods. At Garrallan old Toll the road to the left goes on to Skares mining row. We take the one to the right passing Garrallan School and amongst the trees Garrallan House—the residence of the Boswells of Garrallan. The mining row of Garrallan and the new colliery pit of the Carriden Co. are also passed and Ayr Road is reached at Bankend Cottages.

Distance about 5 miles.

Cairn Road and Corsegelloch.

This walk is also the direct road to the Covenanters' Monument at Corsegelloch. About half-way between Mossback and Garrallan Toll a farm road strikes off to the left. This is the road leading to Milzoch Farm. Continue this road past this farm until the next farm, Auchingilsie, is reached. The road finishes here and a path only leads to the hill. At certain seasons even this path may be grown over, but the hill lies in front straight up from the farm. As you approach the hill a little gully marks the Corsegelloch well, a beautiful, cool, clear spring of water rising out of the hill. From this spot the monument is easily found a little further over the hill, where it stands surrounded by its little railing. A notice of this monument appears under the Covenanters.

Distance to Monument:—From entrance to farm road to Auchingilsie, about one mile; from the farm to the springs, over half-a-mile; from springs to monument, under a half mile.

Cairn Road and Benston Toll.

Another walk in this direction is obtained by turning to the left at Mossback Farm and continuing on the New Cumnock highroad for about a mile and a half, until Benston Toll is reached. Passing along this road, in clear weather, a most extensive view can be obtained, from the Lowther Hills, away to the south, with the historic Corsencon intervening, and the winding Nith glistening in the sun, to Cairntable and Blackside, while the town of Cumnock nestles in the valley below. For an extensive view no walk can excel this one. Even Ben Lomond can be seen on a clear day. At Benston Toll the return walk passes the Lime Kiln, Roadside and Ghaisnoek, as described under the New Cumnock walk.

Distance over 7 miles.

Dumfries House Station Road.

Two other walks starting from Ayr Road can be recommended. By reversing the Cairn Road route and leaving Ayr Road at Bankend Cottages, at the direction board pointing to Garrallan, the road leads past Garrallan Pit. From the railway bridge a very fine view of the town is obtained. Continuing towards Garrallan House the entrance

to the disused Knochterra Pit, on the right hand, is followed until Dumfries House Station is reached. The Longrigg, a very attractive road, bordered with fine firs of great height leads down to Ayr Road which is joined at Longrigg Cottages. Turn to the right, passing the entrance to Lord Bute's House Farm on the left, and the walk to Cumnock is a very pleasant one.

Distance fully $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The Pluck Road.

The second walk takes you past Garrallan House to Garrallan old Toll House, beyond the School. At the Toll turn towards Skares, but leave the main road at the first turn on the right hand, leading past the farm of Dykes. Pass under the railway bridge near the Pluck, a double row of old cottages, and continue towards Skares Station. The road turns to the right and an easy down hill walk brings you to Ayr Road, near Orchardton Farm. Keep to the right and Cumnock lies fully two miles ahead.

Distance about 7 miles.



Cubbs' Glen, Lugar.

Cubbs' Glen.

There is still another walk in Lugar direction that should not be missed as it takes in one of the prettiest spots in the whole district. This is to Cubbs' Glen, on the Glenmuir Water. There are different ways of getting to this glen. The best way is to turn off Lugar Road at the old Logan Toll, and follow the Glenmuir Road past Logan gates to Plantain-side Smithy. Then take the first farm entrance on the left at Longmore. A path from here leads right to Barlonachan Farm, which is at the foot of the glen. It is better that the water should be pretty low in visiting the glen as it is then possible, by crossing and re-crossing the stream to pass through the glen. In this way the beauty of the scenery is seen to advantage. The banks at some parts rise to a considerable height, and as they are covered with trees, the effect is very grand. A walk along the top of the glen on either side is also well worthy of being taken.



Bello Mill, Lugar.

The return journey from Barlonachan farm can be made by following the water. This brings you down to where the Bello and Glenmuir waters join at Bello Mill, forming the Lugar water. This part is very pretty. It was at this Mill that Murdoch, the inventor of gas was born, and a cave near the Mill can still be seen where he carried on his gas

experiments. After passing through Lugar village which is close to the Mill, Cumnock is reached in less than half-an-hour.

Distance—between 6 and 7 miles.

This walk could be extended before returning to Lugar, by keeping to the right at the head of the Glen and crossing over Darnulloch bridge. Then proceed a mile or two up the Glenmuir Valley towards Dalblair, a shooting lodge of the Marquis of Bute, and view

"Glenmuir's wild solitude, lengthened and deep."

as described by Hislop in "The Cameronian's Dream." The extra walk is well worth making.



Ballochmyle Bridge, Mauchline.

Mauchline and Catrine.

Another pleasant cycle run is by Auchinleck to Mauchline and Catrine. At the upper end of Auchinleck on the Sorra and Mauchline roads are a number of very pretty cottages, and behind these have recently been built several miners' rows. Mauchline Road, which is a continuation of the Main Street of Auchinleck, is followed for two or three miles. The surface of the roads is good and the levels easy up and down hill. Past the railway bridge the road to Catrine turns off to

the right, but the road straight ahead is still followed. A short distance from this point the entrance to Catrine House is passed, and the road takes a sudden dip, with a very quick turn requiring careful riding. The road continues to droop and at the bottom of it the turn across Howford Bridge, over the water Ayr, is again very sharp, and should be cautiously taken. The scenery at this spot is very grand and well worth visiting. We have entered the classic grounds of Ballochmyle, the famous Ballochmyle Bridge being a little further down the water. The peculiarity of this bridge is its large single span and great height. Its surroundings of rocks and wooded banks make the scenery most attractive. It is a favourite spot with pic-nic parties. A steady climb for about a mile takes you to the top of the hill, and then the run to Mauchline is easy.

In Mauchline there are several places associated with Burns worthy of a visit, and time should be taken to visit the Burns' Memorial Homes, situated a little beyond the village, and near the farm of Mossiel where Burns wrote several of his poems.



Burns Memorial Homes, Mauchline.

The return home can be made by various routes.

A pretty run is to come back by Barskimming Mill. This road leaves Mauchline via Loudoun Street and the road to the Station, keep-

ing the station and New Cemetery on the left hand. The river Ayr is reached about a mile out, and is crossed by one of the old bridges. The scenery all through, but particularly at the bridge, is very pretty. The Mill stands on the left hand amidst very beautiful surroundings. At the end of the bridge a cot house has its milk house hewn out of the solid rock. On leaving the river Ayr the first public road on the left hand leads to Ochiltree and then to Cumnock. A further extension could be made by keeping straight on the road instead of taking the Ochiltree turning, and going on to Stair Brig, passing through charming scenery, but adding several miles to the round.

We will now follow the Catrine road from Mauchline. This makes a splendid easy down hill run of nearly two miles into Catrine. Situated here are the famous Cotton Mills in connection with which are two very large water wheels, well worth visiting. Keeping to the left at the railway station, a steady climb, of fair length, takes you to the top of the hill after which the road past the pit is followed to Auchinleck. From this road, about one mile from Catrine and close to Gilmilnscrew House, a branch to the left leads to the very pretty village of Sorn, situated on the edge of the water Ayr. Near at hand is Sorn Castle whose natural surroundings have been enhanced by the floral and shrub display in the private grounds attached to the Castle.

Distance for the round, via Catrine, about 14 miles; via Barskimming and Ochiltree, over 15 miles.

Many other walks and cycle runs could be added, but sufficient have been given to show visitors that there are endless ways of spending a pleasant holiday in this district.

The popularity and cheapening of motor runs has added wider fields, and many day circular tours can be taken with Cumnock as the starting point. Several motors can be hired in the district, and a large motor char-a-banc, from a local garage, makes periodical trips in the summer months.





Poesie Nansie's Hostel, Mauchline.



Sorn Village.

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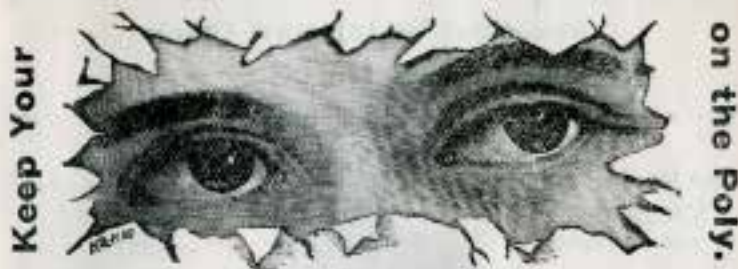
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LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE CONSISTENT WITH
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ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND AMERICAN CLOCKS AND TIME-
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All kinds of STERLING SILVER and ELECTRO-PLAYED GOODS suitable for
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Table and Dessert Knives, Forks and Spoons in great
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Hairdressing.

Gentlemen requiring

HAIRCUTTING,

SHAVING,

SHAMPOOING,

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should call at

Albert Lawrence's,

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Razors, Gillette Blades, Stropps and all Shaving
Requisites in stock.



A choice selection of
TOBACCOS, PIPES, CIGARETTES,
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GOLDIE'S Drapery and Clothing Warehouse, Square, CUMNOCK.

Thoroughly Up-to-Date and Reliable Goods will
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In Ladies' Wear.

We submit a selection of most beautiful MILLINERY in its season. Dress Materials in great profusion. Dressmaking in superior Styles, under capable management. Underwear of all kinds in most serviceable kinds.

WE SELL "PESCO" UNDERWEAR.

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We have a splendid stock of Up-to-date Materials in this Department. Suits and Suitings in great assortment for Men, Youths, and Boys—every size kept in stock. Shirts and Underwear, Hats, Caps, Ties, and all requisites for Gent.'s outfit.

WE SPECIALISE IN GENT.'S RAINPROOF COATS.

For the Household.

We can offer you specially good value in Blankets, Flannels, Furniture Prints, Lace Curtains, Linen Towels and Table Cloths. Carpet Squares, Floorcloths and Bedding.

FULL STOCK OF "HORROCKSES" COTTONS,
FLANNELETTES AND SHEETINGS,

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Takes this opportunity of thanking his many customers for the liberal patronage bestowed on him since commencing business here, and has every confidence in again soliciting a continuance of their patronage.

SAUSAGES and
CORNER BEEF of
Best Quality all the
year round.



Have you tried
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BLACK PUDDINGS
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POTTED MEATS?

Famed Cumnock Flower and Heather HONEY supplied.

Up-to-date Styles.

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Fine selection of Mouldings.

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The Best Place to spend a Happy Evening.

The Management have made arrangements for a
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ARTISTES OF THE BEST QUALITY

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Nothing Cheap but the Prices.

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LUGAR STREET, CUMNOCK,

FAMED FOR

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS,

ALSO

WINES AND SPIRITS.



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Hansen's,

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"Alma" Dairy Salt, Etc.,

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Carriage and Motor Hirer, CUMNOCK.

Vehicles of all sizes. Open and Closed Motor, Etc.

All Orders receive Prompt and careful Personal Attention.

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*Dressmaker and
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ARE UNSURPASSED FOR FLAVOUR AND STRENGTH.

Prices—1/10, 2/-, 2/4, 2/6 and 2/9 per lb.

This is a line we do well.

Finest Danish Butter, Ham, Cheese.

For Quality and Price we can't be beat.

For Cheesemaking.

FULLWOOD & BLAND'S RENNET and
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Haddocks and Kippers daily



All Orders entrusted to us will have our best and prompt attention.

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ALL GOODS DELIVERED FREE BY OUR OWN VANS.

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Full ranges of New Goods of every description.

New Suitings, New Dress and Costume Cloths.

New Millinery, Dainty Styles, to suit everyone.

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**Hats, Caps, Shirts, Ties, Gloves,
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'The SCOT'

Comprising the very Latest and most
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All-Weather Sporting and Walking
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Gent's Shoes, a special feature, for
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Our Latest Enterprise

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Fitted up with the most approved
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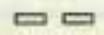
81 King Street, KILMARNOCK.

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**ORR'S 'Cremetta' Geo. B. Cree,
Hair Tonic.**

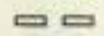
Improves the Hair.
Removes Dandruff.

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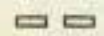


'Cremetta' Pomade.

1/- per Pot.



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Hot Puns every Saturday Evening.
Marriage and Christening Cakes
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Biscuits and Pastry in great variety
Wedding Suppers, Soirees and
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Creams, Ices, Etc., Etc.

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TRY CREE'S Superior Home-Baked Oat
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The Smartest Styles and Best Value
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Lightfoot Shoes for Ladies, for Dainty Design and Ease
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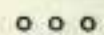
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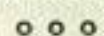
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COMFORTABLE SLEEPING ROOMS.

VISITORS AND COMMERCIALS SPECIALLY CATERED FOR.



Breakfasts, Dinners, Teas, Etc.

Moderate Charges.

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ARTIFICIAL TEETH can now be fitted so as to defy detection. This you realise occasionally when you suddenly discover that an acquaintance's teeth are not natural. When this happens you have hit upon a person who has good Artificial Teeth, and whose opinion on these matters is worth having.

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Your decayed, broken teeth can be extracted without causing you the least pain.

The Most Up-to-Date Methods.

Every new appliance or process that Science, Art, or Humanity can produce for the perfection of our work is immediately adopted by Mr BRYAN, on being satisfied that it will be beneficial to his clients.

Whether you require One Tooth or a Complete Set, you will get the same care and attention.

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Specialities in MARRIAGE, BIRTHDAY, and CHRISTENING CAKES.
PASTRIES AND FANCY BREADS.

Provision of Marriage Suppers, Soirees and
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