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EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF

THE BURGH OF GLASGOW

WITH CHARTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

VOL. VI.

A.D. 1739-59.

EDITED BY

ROBERT RENWICK, DEPUTE TOWN-CLERK.



GLASGOW:

PRINTED FOR THE SCOTTISH BURGH RECORDS SOCIETY.

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PREFACE.



BEGINNING in 1739, the selections printed in the present volume close with "our monarch's hindmost year but ane," that notable year in which a "blast o' Janwar' win' blew handsel in on Robin." As it happens a blast of January wind is chronicled in the records the "late violent storm and hurricane," as it is termed, but it was experienced in the beginning and not at the end of the period embraced in the extracts. Breaking over the country on the night and morning of 13th and 14th January, 1739, uprooting trees, "tirlan the kirks," and working other grievous havoc both on land and sea, the storm seems to have been of almost unexampled severity. In Glasgow the top of the tolbooth steeple was thrown down, parts of the Cathedral spire were hurled through the roof, numerous other buildings in the city were damaged, and at Port-Glasgow the quay and housing likewise suffered. Such are some of the effects noted in the city records, which refer to public property alone, but that the disaster and loss were wide-spread may be gathered from the accounts of its ravages furnished by the annalists of the day.¹

No enumeration of the inhabitants has been preserved in the long interval between 1712 and 1740, within which space the population rose from 13,832 to 17,043. Three years later the

¹ A notice of the storm appears in the first number of the *Scots Magazine*, which started on its long career in January, 1739.

number is given as 18,366. This represents an average yearly increase of 441, a ratio which is all but maintained for the ensuing twelve years, as the population in 1755 is stated at 23,546. In 1757 the city and suburbs are said to have contained 25,546 inhabitants. It may, therefore, be assumed that the dwelling-house accommodation of Glasgow had been augmented by nearly one-half between 1739 and 1759, but the area over which the buildings were spread was not proportionately extended. At the latter date a reference to the laying out of Argyle Street and Virginia Street (p. 554) indicates the limit attained by the westward expansion of the city, though, at some little distance beyond the latter street, progress had already been made in the formation of the Grahamston suburb. In an eastward direction the new buildings included the Saracen Head inn, outside the old Gallowgate port, which was about that time taken down as an obstruction to traffic. A few new buildings were erected on the site of the Old Green, additional building sites were laid off in King Street, and private proprietors were doubtless utilising their vacant ground in a similar way. From a representation made by the dean of guild court to the town council in 1758 (p. 527) it appears that back buildings were already too closely packed together, tending to produce insanitary results. Condensation and heightening of buildings rather than expansion of area were resorted to for the housing of the citizens. But in the eyes of observant strangers Glasgow still maintained its reputation for beauty,—“one of the prettiest towns in Europe,” says Smollet. Bishop Pococke, from Ireland, who toured Scotland in 1747, 1750, and

1760, describes Glasgow on the occasion of his last visit, admiring its situation on a hill, with the pleasant effect of gardens on the southern slopes, and mentioning that the houses in the newer part of the town were finely built of hewn stone. Most of the houses were four stories high, and some five. The streets were well paved, and sometimes on the sides, but mostly in the middle, was laid a stone pathway, about a foot broad, on which the people walked. Several merchants had "grand houses," and there was a "fine old townhouse and a beautiful new townhouse adjoining to it."

Fortunately the pencil has supplemented the pen in preserving for us a portraiture of the Glasgow of that day, the works produced in the Foulis Academy of the Fine Arts, between 1754 and 1775, including various contemporary views drawn and engraved by the students of that institution. A reproduction of one of these copperplate engravings, giving a view of the city from the south-west, forms the frontispiece to the present volume.¹ In the foreground of this view, the date of which is 1764, the ruins of the wind mill are shown, and, on the opposite side of the river, Broomielaw quay, where a few boats are moored or in motion, the "cran" being shown at the extreme left of the quay. The ground on which the figures appear was named Windmill Croft, to the right of which are the few houses forming the village of Gorbals, with the old chapel and Elphinstone tower recognizable

¹ Mr. William Young, R.S.W., obligingly selected this view, very few copies of the original engraving of which are known to be in existence; and thanks are due to the owner of one of the

copies, Mr. William Beattie, Dineiddwg, for kindly allowing it to be photographed for reproduction.

over the top of the building at the south-east extremity. Jamaica Street bridge, not yet erected, was to occupy a few years later a site to the right of the wind mill and to the left of the glasswork, which latter is emitting the only smoke made visible in the picture. Fronting the north bank of the river is the Old Green, fringed with trees, and towards the east end of the green the spacious town's hospital, the Dreghorn mansion, and Bailie Craig's house, with other buildings of lesser note. Over the tops of the Gorbals houses the "brig port" is seen at the north end of the old bridge, itself obscured by buildings. The prominent spire near the end of the bridge is that of the Merchants' House in Bridgegate. Farther to the east the newly erected St. Andrew's church, with its steeple, is conspicuous. The spire of Ramshorn church, at the head of Candleriggs, stands out over the tops of the Old Green trees, as does likewise the lower spire (100 feet high) of Hutchesons' Hospital in Trongate. The thinner spire, situated towards the east in the same street, is that of the Tron church, and close by the more massive Tolbooth steeple. The College spire, half-way up the High Street, gets prominence, though the smaller turret of Blackfriars church can scarcely be detected. The Cathedral, with its north-western tower, and their surroundings, on the elevated ground, are clearly depicted, and to the left is seen the thin line of Rottenrow buildings along the ridge of Deanside Brae. In the background of the view, the tree-topped hills include Summerhill, Hamilton Hill, Keppoch, Cowlairs, Broomhill, Garngadhill, and Easter and Wester Craigs.

In his History of Glasgow, published in 1777, John Gibson says that the trade of Glasgow, which had been in a languishing state, began to revive about the year 1735, though it was carried on but slowly for a considerable space of time. From the year 1750 the trade to America and every species of commerce showed an annual increase; and manufactures of almost every description were likewise in a flourishing condition. Gibson was of opinion that the commerce to America first suggested the idea of introducing manufactures into Glasgow, pointing out that they only began to be considerable when the legislature, about the time referred to, made special provision for encouraging the manufacture of linen. By an act of 1748 the importing or weaving of French cambrics was prohibited, and by an act of 1751 weavers in flax or hemp were allowed to settle and to exercise their trades anywhere in Scotland free from all corporation dues, while a bounty was given on the export of linen. $\angle$ Going into detail, Gibson gives a long list of articles manufactured in Glasgow with the dates of their introduction, and shows that the value of goods manufactured in 1771 was about half a million pounds sterling.

In 1718 the art of type-making was introduced by James Duncan, a Glasgow printer, but the typography of Glasgow books was mostly of inferior quality till the Foulis brothers, who carried on business between the years 1741 and 1776, established a world-wide reputation for the excellency of their work. In 1753 Robert Foulis started, in the university buildings, an academy for the instruction of youth in painting

and sculpture, and though this venture was not remunerative it did much for the promotion of art. In the making of types efficient progress had been made by Alexander Wilson who was in the year 1757 admitted a burghess in recognition of "his great ingenuity in typefounding, by which printing has been advanced in this city within these few years to a great degree of perfection" (p. 507). Wilson had entered on business as a typefounder at St. Andrews. Subsequently he set up a type foundry at Canlachie, and having become associated with the Foulises was nominated typefounder to Glasgow University in 1748. Twelve years later he was appointed Professor of Practical Astronomy. As is well known, the university likewise gave protection and encouragement to James Watt, who could not practice his craft in the city on account of his not possessing the requisite qualification for admission to one of the trades' incorporations, and who was, in the summer of 1757, accommodated with a shop in the college yard and allowed to style himself mathematical instrument maker to the university.¹

The first newspaper published in Glasgow had made its appearance on 14th November, 1715, changing its name in the fourth number from the *Glasgow Courant* to the *West Country Intelligence*, but it did not live longer than May, 1716, by which time sixty-seven numbers had been issued. The next venture in that line was the *Glasgow Journal*, begun on 20th July, 1741, and the treasurer's accounts show payments both

¹ Coult's History of the University, pp. 230, 264.

for the paper and the insertion of advertisements. Previous to that time the town supplied the chief coffee house with news-letters, but these appear to have been superseded by the newspaper. Upon the town becoming owners of the coffee house adjoining the exchange in Trongate, they discontinued the complimentary supply of news letters to the old coffee house on the opposite corner of the street.¹

The new coffee house, though let to a tenant at Whitsunday, 1738, was not then ready for occupation, "neither windows put in, doors hung, hearth stones laid, kitchen plastered, nor garret floor laid," and as the place was not finished till September of that year, compensation for loss had to be paid. A new tenant, Alexander Cockain, vintner, entered to the coffee house at Whitsunday, 1741, and occupied it, as enlarged and improved, under a renewal lease for nineteen years from 1744. In his Autobiography, Dr. Alexander Carlyle, who attended Glasgow College in 1743-5, refers to the practice of the Glasgow merchants resorting "to the coffee house or tavern to read the newspapers, which they generally did in companies of four or five in separate rooms, over a bottle of claret or a bowl of punch. But they never staid supper, and always went home by nine o'clock without company or further amusement. At last an arch fellow from Dublin, a Mr. Cockaine, came to be master of the chief coffee house, who seduced them

¹ Glasgow Records, V., p. 502. The old coffee house occupied the first floor of the tenement at the corner of Trongate and Saltmarket, which was built for the Merchants' House about

the year 1682, and was sold in 1753. Glasgow Records, III., p. 321; VI., pp. 588-9. Glasgow Memorials, pp. 40, 41.

gradually to stay supper by placing a few nice cold things at first on the table as relishers to the wine, till he gradually led them on to bespeak fine hot suppers and to remain till midnight.”¹

The progress of the city suffered no serious interruption in consequence of the rising of 1745, though on intelligence being received of the approach of Prince Charles and his Highland followers, no small degree of consternation prevailed. The city was not prepared for defence, and the entry of an army could not have been successfully opposed, but this danger, with all its terrors to a commercial community, was obviated at the time as the Prince passed on to Edinburgh, and was content to accept from Glasgow a sum of money amounting to only about a third of his original demand. The raising of two battalions of 600 men each, and other efforts in demonstration of loyalty to King George, occupied the attention and drained the resources of the citizens for the next three months; and after all they had to undergo the hardships attendant on a visit of the Prince and his men on their return from England. Remaining in the city for more than a week, the exhausted and battered Highlanders were supplied with food and clothing, and more money was demanded and paid. Claims were subsequently made on the government for repayment of expenditure, and in this application the community were so far successful, mainly through the well directed assiduity of Provost Cochrane whose account

¹ Autobiography, pp. 75, 76.

of his proceedings in London and in attendance at royal levees is specially interesting.

As far back as the year 1734 a commencement was made with the acquisition of ground for the site of St. Andrew's Church. On 25th June of that year, it was represented that the town council for a considerable time had been contemplating the building of another church, and that negotiations with Patrick Bell, merchant, had resulted in the purchase from him of his ground, known by the name of Bell's Yard, and situated on the south side of an abrupt bend of the Molendinar or Gallowgate Burn. Purchases of tenements and ground were also from time to time made for the formation of accesses both from Gallowgate and Saltmarket Street, the first of these being subsequently named St. Andrew's Lane and the latter St. Andrew's Street. The actual erection of the church seems to have been proceeded with in 1740. In April of the preceding year the town council arranged for obtaining stones from the Crackling house quarry, in lands then belonging to Hutchesons' Hospital, on or near the site now occupied by the Dundas Street Station of the North British Railway; and in September, 1740, a building plan was adopted and the magistrates were instructed to see the work executed. From that time, during the ensuing sixteen years, the building went steadily on, the treasurer's yearly accounts showing the detailed expenditure with continuous regularity. The new church was destined to be occupied by the congregation of the Wynd Church, a building which had

become so dilapidated in the beginning of 1753 that it had to be closed, and its "whole timber, glaswork and iron work and thatch roof" were appointed to be sold (p. 362). At the same time the town council "considering that it is necessary that the new kirk in Bell's Yeard be finished in the stone work and slated," resolved that it should be "with all diligence, finished in the timber work and plaistering," and skilled tradesmen were forthwith to be employed for the purpose. But two or three years more elapsed before the new church was opened. Thomas Moore, from Manchester, a musician of some note¹ was appointed precentor in June, 1755, but he came in the double capacity of precentor and teacher of psalmody and church music in the town's hospital, and it does not follow that the church was ready for occupation at that time. In June, 1756, on the occasion of Moore's salary being increased, it is stated that he had been assiduous in the teaching of psalmody, and no reference is made to his church duties, but in the following October he was admitted a burgess under the express designation of precenter in the new church. In May, 1757, a committee reported that several of the seats in the city churches were unset, "and particularly in the new church and Tron church, and that, nevertheless, they observed these unset seats occupied." William Craig, who had been admitted minister of the Wynd church in 1738, retained his charge as minister of the new church, he and his congregation having assembled in other

¹ See "Scottish Music: its Composers and Sources." By James Love (1891), pp. 215-6.

churches during the interval between the closing of the one and the opening of the other.

During the leisurely erection of St. Andrew's church other places of worship had obtained a footing in the city. In 1740 a body of seceders from the Established church formed themselves into the Associate Congregation of Glasgow. At first the members occupied a tent at Crosshill, but shortly afterwards they acquired a portion of Craignaught Yard, and there erected a church fronting Shuttle Street, a site in the immediate vicinity of that which is still possessed by their lineal successors, the U.F. Congregation in North Albion Street. But the associate members having differed on the great burgess oath controversy, another congregation, the Antiburgers, set up a second church in 1747. A third congregation which settled in the city was connected with the Church of England, St. Andrew's Episcopal chapel having been opened in 1750. But it is probable that for a considerable time the number of members withdrawn from the city churches to other denominations did not materially affect the necessity for providing accommodation proportionate to the increase in population. In consequence of complaints made by the inhabitants of want of seats in the churches, the town council, in 1759, instructed a committee to consider how far their desires could be met by the repair of part of the choir betwixt the Inner High church and the Outer church and converting it into a church or place of worship (p. 547). This proposal, whereby four separate congregations would have assembled in the Cathedral, was not adopted, the requisite

accommodation being secured by the re-erection of the Wynd church.

Previous to the erection of a Gaelic chapel in Glasgow it may be supposed that one or other of the city ministers would follow the practice adopted by the minister of Ramshorn kirk, Mr. John M'Laurin, of whom it is recorded that "he used to preach in the Irish tongue once in the month to the Highland people residing in the burgh and who did not understand the English language, and likewise visited, instructed, and catechised them in their own native language" (p. 436). The Glasgow Highland Society was formed in 1727 with the object of raising and maintaining a fund for the education of poor boys born in the Highlands or descended from Highlanders and putting them to trades, whereby they might be placed in a condition to live comfortably in life and be useful to society. The scheme had proved successful so far, and with the view of its being made more effective and placing the management in a position of authority, the magistrates and council, in 1751, constituted the society into a legal corporation by the name of the Charitable Highland Society in Glasgow (pp. 332-6). Obviously the augmented population of Glasgow was to a considerable extent composed of incomers from the Highlands.

As the outcome of negotiations and discussions which occurred between the ecclesiastical authorities and the town council, in 1721, on the occasion of the appointment of the minister of Ramshorn church, all parties approved of a "modell and method of calling ministers." Under the procedure so

adopted, the elders of the vacant charge, taking the advice of the city ministers, reported to the town council the person they proposed, and, if the council approved the choice, intimation was made to the heads of families, and, if they were "generally satisfied," the general session of the city was called upon to pronounce an opinion. Should the general session be likewise favourable, application was made to the presbytery to appoint one to moderate in a call to the person named in a general meeting of the town council and all the sessions of Glasgow, where the election was to be determined by the majority of votes. The call which followed was made in name of the town council, ministers, and elders of all the sessions of Glasgow. ⁽¹⁾ The arrangement thus arrived at was not disturbed till the year 1755, when Ramshorn kirk having again become vacant, Provost Murdoch represented that it would be proper for the council to consider in what manner they were to proceed on that occasion, that the method of calling ministers to the town laid down by the model of 1721 appeared to him to be derogatory to the just right of the magistrates and council, and that it was beyond their power to renounce the rights of the town or tie up their successors from exercising these rights when they should think proper. To facilitate the settlement then on hand it was "by a great majority" agreed to proceed according to the model of 1721, but that in any after settlement the nomination of the minister should be first made in council, and afterwards voted on, in

¹ Glasgow Records, V., pp. 108-9.

the form of a call by the magistrates and council and kirk session of the vacant parish, "by majority of voices." Eventually a minister was settled by compromise, and a submission to eminent lawyers was entered into for the purpose of regulating future procedure. This arbitration, however, was not carried to a decision, and, on the occasion of the reopening of the Wynd church and the settling of a minister, similar difficulties and contentions were encountered. After the failure of various attempts at an amicable arrangement, the lords' commissioners for the plantation of kirks were applied to, and in 1763 they pronounced a decret finding that the magistrates and council, as representing the community, were exclusive patrons.

Though no notice occurs in the records regarding the various visits of George Whitfield to Glasgow and neighbourhood, in 1741 and subsequent years, it has been stated that in 1748 the magistrates refused him the use of the High Kirk yard, his usual meeting place, while in 1757 he preached, at their request, for behoof of the poor of the city, preaching likewise in August of the following year for the benefit of the funds of the Highland Society. A story to the effect that a temporary playhouse which had been erected within the walls of the castle was pulled down by excited members of the preacher's audience, after delivery of an address on 2nd August, 1753, seems to have originated on erroneous information.¹ About that time, however, some trouble had arisen in con-

¹ See Macgregor's "History of Glasgow," pp. 331-2.

nection with theatrical affairs as is shown by an order on the treasurer in February, 1754 to settle with the town's Edinburgh agent "an account of the town and college in relation to the players that came there and set up a public playhouse last year"¹ (pp. 386, 566).

The first banking company belonging to Glasgow was established in 1749 and was called the Ship Bank. Another bank called the Glasgow Arms Bank commenced business in 1753. In the records the former is referred to as the old bank and the latter as the new bank, and it will be observed that the town council had transactions with both. The Ship Bank was subsequently amalgamated with the Glasgow Bank, established in 1807, and both were afterwards incorporated with the Union Bank of Scotland."²

Previous to 1755 the town treasurer personally intromitted with the revenues of the burgh, but on 29th April of that year the provost represented that the town's affairs had in some degree suffered through want of a proper accountant and inspector of the revenues, which had never hitherto been put in a proper method of management. Thereupon the town council resolved that a proper person should be appointed as town's accountant and chamberlain, who should have power to review and rectify all accounts, affairs, and business relating to the dues and revenues yearly payable to the town, as well

¹ A company of comedians visited Glasgow in 1728, and Wodrow blames the magistrates for granting them the use of the weigh-house for their performance. Chambers' "Domestic

Annals," III., p. 550.

² See Sir James Marwick's "Water Supply," &c. (1901). Appendix, p. 103.

as all debts and burdens with which the same might be affected, and particularly to reduce all such accounts and the affairs of the town into a proper method of management, and to rank and methodize matters so that all the affairs might be then more easily comprehended (p. 432). In accordance with this resolution, Arthur Robertson, merchant, who had succeeded Zacharias Murdoch as collector of the impost on ale and beer, was, on 20th May, appointed "the toun of Glasgow's accountant and chamberlain," at the yearly salary of £60, but rising to £100 on the lapse of an annuity to his predecessor in the impost collectorship (pp. 433, 437-8). In October of the following year the provost reported that the chamberlain's books having been examined, it was found that he had, with great exactness, engrossed and recorded the whole transactions and affairs of the city, and put them in a regular good order, which was in future to be continued. It was then resolved that the chamberlain should receive all debts and money due and payable to the town, and that on the other hand all payments should be made by the treasurer, he having the power to receive the necessary sums for that purpose from the chamberlain.¹

The rules for the election of the town council, as laid down in the "sett" reported to the convention of royal burghs in 1711, had been in operation before that time, and remained in observance till a few changes were introduced in 1748. At that time a committee reported that the constitution of the

¹ P. 486. The treasurer's account, printed *postea*, pp. 569-73, shows this system in operation.

town council had long been complained of as having a tendency to continue the government of the city in a particular set longer than might be for the public interest; that sometimes there was difficulty in getting the more creditable burgesses to accept office, and that time and experience had discovered sundry defects in the former constitution; and to remedy what was considered amiss various alterations and amendments were agreed to (pp. 275-81). For refusal to accept office a councillor became liable to a fine of £20, and a magistrate to a fine of £40 sterling; and it will be noticed from the extracts that on two or three occasions fines were exacted from defaulting councillors.

For a long series of years there was little change in the clerkship of the burgh. Alexander Finlayson, who had at one time acted as town's agent in Edinburgh, but who had resigned that office in 1705, on his becoming an under clerk of session, was on 13th January, 1713, appointed town clerk of Glasgow, and John M'Gilchrist, then depute clerk, was continued in that office "to supply the absence of the said principal clerk." No new appointment became necessary till thirty-five years afterwards, when, in the year 1748, "Alexander Finlayson, their principal clerk," demitted office on account of his advanced age preventing "that application and attendance in the affairs of the city, which, in his more vigorous and younger years, he chearfully attended." But the town council, considering that he had been entrusted with the town's affairs either as agent or clerk for sixty years, appointed him and Thomas Miller,

advocate, both of them non-resident, "to be joint principal clerks of the city," and the survivor to have the sole appointment (p. 272). Miller, who eventually became lord president of the court of session, survived his colleague, but resigned the clerkship on his receiving the appointment of lord justice clerk in 1766. John M'Gilchrist was again continued as depute in 1748, and remained in office till 1754, when, on account of his "bodily indisposition and weakness," an interim depute was appointed. M'Gilchrist wrote with his own hand one set of the duplicated council records, and that part of his work came to an end in the middle of a minute which he was apparently not able to finish.

In the early years of the century, when the principalship of the University was held by John Stirling, an intimate friend of Robert Wodrow, much trouble arose in connection with the prosecutions and suspensions of John Simson, professor of Divinity, for heterodoxy, and it may be surmised that these controversies to some extent influenced the principal in the disposal of his estate. By his will he left to the magistrates a sum of £100 sterling, directing that the interest should be given to two of the city ministers yearly, one of whom was to preach a sermon against Popery and the other a sermon against Arianism. Though Stirling died in 1727 his widow liferented the estate, and it was not till the year 1740 that the legacy was paid over to the town treasurer. Eighteen years later, at a time when Moderatism had attained ascendancy in the church, and the zest for polemical discussion had somewhat abated, the

nephew and heir of the late principal represented to the town council that for a "great number of years past" the city ministers had neglected to preach the sermons, or rather were of opinion that the necessity of preaching such yearly sermons was in great measure "superseded by our happy establishment in church and state, and the wholesome laws made against Popery, and the few converts that Popery or Arianism have for some time made in this place." Keeping in view the intention of the donor that the interest should be applied to pious or charitable uses, the nephew now desired that the annual interest should be paid over to the Glasgow Marine Society, which had been lately founded with the view of affording relief to seamen who had become old and decayed in the service of the merchants of Glasgow, and also for the benefit of their widows and children. In this application the ministers concurred, and effect was given to it by the town council, who, on 13th January, 1759, instructed the treasurer to pay over the interest to the Marine Society in future (p. 541).

In consequence of several complaints regarding the inconvenience of having slaughterhouses within the city the town council, in June, 1743, selected a site at Skinners Green, near the confluence of Molendinar burn with the river Clyde, and there constructed a commodious slaughterhouse which was finished and opened before the end of the following year (pp. 189-91). All the previously existing slaughterhouses were thereupon closed and the fleshers were enjoined to resort to the new premises, for the use of which certain dues were

appointed to be levied. A contiguous market house had likewise been erected for the convenience of the fleshers, but though they had been warned to remove from the former beef and mutton markets in Trongate and Bell's Wynd, respectively, they were allowed to continue their occupancy during the pleasure of the council. No change was made in the holding of these markets for the next ten years, but in February, 1753, the town council, taking into account that the markets were at a considerable distance from the slaughterhouse, and that there was vacant ground on both sides of King Street, which would be suitable for the sale of both beef and mutton, as well as for other public uses, authorised the purchase of property for that purpose, and likewise of ground on the south side of Bridgegate for the formation of a lane to the slaughterhouse (p. 362). The work of erection was shortly afterwards proceeded with; and in anticipation of the new markets being ready for occupation at the ensuing Whitsunday the fleshers were, in December, 1754, warned to remove from the old beef and mutton markets at that term. Rules and regulations to be observed in using both the markets and the slaughterhouse were approved of on 8th December, 1755, and it may therefore be assumed that by that time the new arrangements were in operation. Writing in 1777, Gibson says that the markets—

. . . "are justly admired, as being the completest of their kind in Britain; they are placed upon both sides of the street, the one upon the east is 112 feet in length, and 67 feet in breadth, in the centre of which is a very spacious gateway, decorated, on each side, with coupled Ionic columns, set upon their pedestals, and supporting an angular pediment;

at the north end is a very neat hall, belonging to the incorporation of butchers, the front ornamented with rustics and a pediment. This market is entirely appropriated for butcher meat. Those upon the west side of the street are divided into three different courts, set apart for a fish-market, a mutton-market, and cheese-market. The whole length of the front is 173 feet, the breadth 46 feet, in the centre of which, as in the opposite side, is a very spacious gateway, of the Doric order, supporting a pediment; this is the entry to the mutton-market; each of the other two has a well-proportioned arch, faced with rustics, for their entrance.

All these markets are well paved with free stone, have walks all round them, and are covered over, for shelter, by roofs standing upon stone-piers, under which the different commodities are exposed to sale; they have likewise pump-wells within, for cleaning away all the filth, which render the markets always sweet and agreeable.”¹

Prior to the year 1755 the gardeners had been in the practice of occupying stalls on the north side of Trongate for the sale of vegetables, but on 18th June of that year the town council resolved that the house in New Wynd, lately the Wynd Church, should be fitted up as a market place “for selling their herbs, greens and other stuffs,” and so soon as this should be done the gardeners were directed to vacate their street stalls and occupy the new green market. This proposal, however, was relinquished in favour of another scheme, whereby part of the old beef market in Trongate and Candleriggs Street was converted into a “commodious and convenient green market,” and though the gardeners were at first averse to leave their stalls, they eventually migrated to the new building which was ready for occupation in August, 1756. The remainder of the old beef market site was occupied

¹ “History of Glasgow,” p. 149.

by a new guard house which was substituted for a former building in Trongate. Regarding the new guard house and green market Gibson says—

“The Guard-house is a very handsome building, with a piazza, formed by arches and columns of the Ionic order, set upon their pedestals; the entablature supports an Atic course, in which are oval port-holes, ornamented with palm-branches. The lower part is divided into two apartments; the west end, which is the largest, is destined for the privates, the other for the officers; over these are lofts for holding ammunition, &c. Adjoining to this building, upon the north, fronting Candleriggs-street, stands the Herb-market, which is neat and commodious, in length 130 feet, in breadth 41 feet. The principal entry is decorated with coupled Ionic columns, supporting an angular pediment. This market is laid out in the same manner with those in King-street.”¹

Though parts of the New Green, such as Milldam, Peat Bog, and Dassic Green, were among the earliest of the common lands of the burgh, another portion, consisting of twelve acres, interjected between the Old and New Greens and named Linnenshaugh, was long possessed by the bishops' rentallers, and was not acquired by the community till 1662 and 1665, when it was purchased on their behalf “for making of ane commounne grein there (as they intend) *ad perpetuum*.”² It was on the westmost corner of Linnenshaugh that John Graham of Dougalston and other merchants proposed, in March, 1745, to erect houses and worklooms for the purpose of carrying on a woollen manufactory. In their application for about an acre of ground (p. 199), the promoters of the scheme undertook never to ask for an extension, “being sensible and

¹ “History of Glasgow,” pp. 150-1.

² Glasgow Charters, vol. II., pp. 329, 335.

convinced that the Green to be continued as such is a real benefite, and for the good of the inhabitants;” and the town council, holding like views as to the undesirability of encroachment on public property, agreed to give the site, but only on condition that in future the Green should not be impaired or lessened or applied to any other purpose than a green for the service of the community. On account of the citizens generally being averse to the contemplated alienation it did not take effect, and the Green at that part remained unbuilt on till about 60 years later when the new court-houses were erected on or near the spot which had formerly been selected for the manufactory.

Considerable revenue was derived from the grazing of cows and horses on the New Green, and from a public washinghouse which was placed there for the use of the inhabitants. “There is a singular conveniency,” says Bishop Pococke, “which is a sort of portico built round a court for washing, with a large furnace in each corner. It is in the Green, and is farmed out by the city. Everyone pays for boiling water by the measure, and they lay the cloaths to dry on the Green, which grazes a hundred cattle, at twenty shillings a head.” But while utility was the main object to which the Green was applied amenity was not overlooked. In March, 1754, there was a sudden sinking of the riverside walk at the head of the Green, the cause of which was not definitely known, and it was probably in connection with the work of restoration that, two years later, the town council resolved to ornament

the Green with a new walk and the planting of young trees on the borders (p. 457). By this time the Old Green, through extension of the town's hospital, the glass house, the rope work, and private dwellings, must have afforded little or no accommodation for the recreation of the public.

The desirability of procuring greater facilities for wheeled traffic led to increased attention being bestowed on the repair of highways and the building of bridges; and about the middle of the century the introduction of turnpikes and the upkeep of roads by the exaction of tolls became general throughout the country. Two acts of parliament, passed in 1753, made provision for the proper maintenance of roads converging on Glasgow, and branching out in all directions through the adjoining shires. In these acts the existing roads are described as much frequented by passengers, though "by the deepness of the soil in some places" and their "narrowness and ruggedness" in others, they were, in many parts impassable in winter for wheel carriages and horses. The road which latterly formed the western extension of Argyle Street was formed two years later. A resolution of the corporation of bakers in May, 1755 (p. 447) refers to a proposal by the magistrates of Glasgow, "as managers, trustees, and overseers of all the turnpike high roads round about Glasgow," to form the road, and mentions that a contribution of £100 was to be obtained from the shire of Dumbarton, the town of Glasgow was to give £150, and £150, being the balance of the cost, was to be borne by the bakers and the maltmen equally. The

bakers would reap the advantage of having their wheat carried by load horses to the mills at Partick and their flour carried back to Glasgow, and the maltmen would enjoy the like benefit in getting their malt carried to and from the malt mills. During the construction of this road the causeway betwixt Cowcaddens bridge and the town suffered considerable damage by the carting of stones, apparently from the Wester Common quarries, and at the desire of the trustees on Garscube Road the town council agreed to make the necessary repairs. In connection with the expenditure on other roads, the town advanced money and interposed their credit in raising funds to meet the expenditure of the road trustees. But the annual revenue having been too far encroached upon in making these advances for road expenditure, the town had to borrow £1,500 to meet tradesmen accounts and other liabilities (p. 540).

A survey of the river Clyde was made about the year 1750 with the view of its being deepened by the construction of dams and locks, and in 1755 a report on the subject was obtained from John Smeaton, engineer of Eddystone lighthouse. About this time navigation of the lower estuary was greatly facilitated by the construction of a lighthouse on the Cumbræes, the act of parliament authorising which had been obtained in 1756; and in the summer of 1757 the Merchants' and Trades' houses impressed upon the town council the necessity of carrying out improvements on the river itself nearer Glasgow. It was represented that many inconveniences attended the trade of the place, arising from the state of the river, by the

frequent obstructions and sometimes the absolute impossibility of transporting goods between Glasgow and Port-Glasgow and Greenock, occasioned by the scarcity of water and many shoals in the river. The town council was therefore desired to apply to parliament, in the ensuing session, for authority to remove the shoals and make locks, or to execute such other works as might be necessary for rendering the carriage of goods up and down the river more easy, certain, and convenient. In December the town council appointed a commissioner to apply for an act of parliament, but the scheme does not appear to have been sufficiently matured, as the provost, in March, 1758, wrote to Smeaton desiring him to come to Scotland in October following, or sooner if possible, to give his advice concerning the proper steps to be taken for rendering the river more navigable. A new commission was issued in January, 1759, and this time the application resulted in the obtaining of an act of parliament authorising the magistrates and council to straighten and deepen the river from Dumbuck Ford to Glasgow bridge, to make locks and weirs, and to execute such other works as might be necessary. Preparations were made for the construction of a lock, and money borrowed to meet the expense, but on account of the difficulties encountered and foreseen in carrying out the scheme authorised by the act, it was eventually abandoned.

On account of its dilapidated condition, Glasgow bridge had been frequently undergoing repairs, and the erection of a new

bridge was sanctioned by the act of 1759. The old bridge was so narrow and inconvenient that there was not room for one carriage to pass another, and on account of its weakness and insufficiency heavy carriages had to cross the river by the ford. If, however, the locks were erected and deepening effected, the fords would cease to be available, and accordingly the commissioner who was first appointed to apply for an act was asked to obtain authority to widen, enlarge, and strengthen the bridge in such manner that every kind of wheel carriages might at all times pass and repass. But subsequent negotiations led to a change of plan, and instead of widening the old bridge it was resolved that a new one should be erected. The act narrates that the magistrates purposed erecting a bridge near to the place where the old bridge stood, to be thirty feet in breadth, and to be sufficient for wheel carriages of all kinds. The new bridge was to be built before the locks and dams should be completed and the fords rendered impassable, but these works were not executed, and the bridge actually built was sanctioned by an act of parliament passed in 1768.

That Glasgow's first attempt to improve the navigation of the river on a large scale resulted in failure must be regarded as a fortunate issue. The discarding of locks and dams led to the adoption of a more effective scheme, the original promoters of which, however, only aimed at making the upper waterway a more convenient means of communication with a distant yet indispensable port. The generation of that day, enterprising though they were, had no conception that

the work they began would end as it did in the establishment, at the Broomielaw, of a seaport which was to prove of such signal influence upon maritime, industrial, and commercial development.

R. RENWICK.

GLASGOW, April, 1911.

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CORRECTIONS.

Page 43, line 31, for "decript" read "decripit."

„ 141, lines 2 and 4, for "Wardrop" read "Woddrop."

„ 141, line 24, for "cause" read "caused."

„ 336, between lines "25 and 26 insert "11 February, 1754."

„ 533, line 25, for "14th" read "13th."

„ 630, column 1, line 32, for "52" read "521."

Vol. V., page 149, lines 12, 13, and 14, for "Potterfield" read "Porterfield"; for "Sutton"
read "Fulton"; for "Moffat" read "Meffan."