Reminiscences of Edinburgh. THE CANONGATE.

There is an indescribable feeling of de-Incre is an indescribable feeling of de-light experienced when we visit the scene of any event that has been disting-uished in history for deeds of heroism or of constancy in love. Who can read of Marathon, Thermopylæ or Bannock-burn, without having emotions stirred within him at the time, which he recalls with pleasure, and speaks of afterwards

within nim at the time, which he recalls with pleasure, and speaks of afterwards with increased satisfaction?

There is no street in Edinburgh so distinguished in history for romance displayed in deeds of daring or of love by heave men and heautiful women as the brave men and beautiful women, as the Canongate. Other streets have arisen since it was built in all its glory more elegant in architectural design, beauty of finish and commodious dimensions, but with all their beauty and amenity of situation, they never can occupy the same conspicuous place in history with the winding, old fashioned street running frem Holyrood Place to St. Mary's

Who that has ever visited the apartments of the beautiful Mary Stuart, and looked upon her couch where she sought looked upon her couch where she sought to forget her sorrows, and, perhaps, in her dreams recalled scenes of delight, passed away like visions of the night never to be restored; who that has looked upon her small round table, when she sat almost solitary, with none able to cheer her; who that have looked out of the window she was wont to gaze out of the window she was wont to gaze from, reflecting upon her blighted hopes, her present sorrows, and watching and dreading the shadows of approaching evil that awaited her; who that has done so unmoved must have had a heart har-der than stone! The Canongate was at that time the place of residence of Scot-land's noblest knights, and fairest ladies, and there are houses there at present now turned to a very different purpose, which were then the scenes of thrilling interest to those concerned in them, that have affected the interests of their descendants and their country to such

an extent as they never anticipated.

Could the shades of the departed occupants of some old houses in the Canongate, which were at one time supposed to visit them at midnight, be permitted to tell their tales of woe, many passages in the page of history would be revealed of which the world is ignorant at pre-

Since Mary Stuart and her son of famous memory inhabited Holyrood, many royal personages have occupied the Palace. Prince Charles Edward, with his few nobles and Highland chieftains, en joyed a brief sojourn in the home of his joyed a brief sojourn in the home of ms ancestors, while the Canongate was crowded by the clansmen and numerous followers, as so graphically described by Sir Walter Scott. Ex-Kings of France and Royal Princes have found an asylum within its sacred walls, and have been seen strolling up and down the Canongate and round by the Watergate in a very unostentations manner. gate in a very unostentations manner. But it was reserved for a comparatively recent time that the Canongate should be arrayed with a lustre not surpassed, if ever equaled, in its most palmy days. In the year 1822 Edinburgh and all

Scotland were startled by the announcement that Royalty was to visit our ancient capital. This was so unexpected that the public mind became skeptical on the subject. The national bump of cautiousness was excited, considering it a hoax played off on the citizens. But when it was confirmed upon authority that George the Fourth was really on his way to our shores, the whole nation was aroused, and the people, inflamed with aroused, and the people, inflamed with enthusiasm, to give him a reception worthy of a sovereign. All the Scottish nobility, with the ladies and gentlemen of Scotland, flocked into Edinburgh as the great source and centre of attraction, till scarce a lodging was to be got for love or money. All the Highland chiefs were in activity, ence more mustering their clans, and leading them on to the scene of action to contest the palm of loyalty in presence of their lawful monarch. While Sir Walter, to add to the enthusiasm, wrote a ballad that was sung in the streets by hundreds, the sung in the streets by hundreds, the cborus of which was, "Carle, now the King's come."

The Calton Hill was crowded by thousands watching the progress of the royal fleet steering into Leith harbor, and when at length the roar of cannon pro-claimed the landing of the King the ex-

citement became intense.

Atlength, the procession being formed, the whole moved up Leith Walk in splendid array, amidst the acclamations of the multitude to Picardy Place, where the keys of the city were formally dethe keys of the city were formally de-livered to his Majesty. After proceed-ing along York place they turned into Prince's street, moving slowly onward to Holyrood by the Calton Hill, amid the most enthusiastic cheers of the peo-ple. The weather being very fine the entire procession was witnessed by more than 200,000 loyal subjects, the whole producing a most picturesque effect, such as no other city in Britain could

During his Majesty's stay he honored the city with his company to a grand banquet in the Parliament House, which was got upon a princely style, presided over by the Lord Provost, who was knighted upon this occasion. The King also visited the theatre one evening, to witness the performance of the national drama of Rob Roy, with which he seemed well pleased. The most brilliant day on the occasion of the King's visit, was that upon which he proceeded in State to the Castle. Upon this occasion the Canongate was blazing with more than its ancient glory. Every window was crowded with the most elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, for the use of which during the procession most exorbitant sums were asked and paid for

by the ladies, and upon reaching St. Mary's Wynd, a bevy of beautiful girls, dressed in white, and bearing bouquets of flowers, surrounded the carriage,

strewing garlands upon the ground before his Majesty.

The procession now entered the Netherbow, and were within the bounda-

ries of the city.

After proceeding up High street,
Lawnmarket and Castlehill, they entered the ancient fortress, where the
Regalia of Scotland was then lying, re-

returned to Holyrood, by the Calton Hill, surrounded by the peerage of Scotland, wearing their coronets and robes of office, according to their several ranks, mounted on horses richly caparisoned, and attended by equerries in gay clothing. These were accompanied with the Highland chiefs and their numerous followers, and as they began to defile followers, and as they began to defile below Nelson's Monument, the effect

was very imposing.

The Duke of Hamilton, as premier duke, bore the ancient crown of Scotland on horseback before him, attired in his full ducal robe. The Earls of Morton and Errol carried the regal sword and sceptre, and were attired in the same manner. The last named nobleman formed a very striking figure, he was young, handsome, and the very model of a cavalier, and the grace with which he rode and managed his horse captivated the younger portion of the spectators

very much.

The ceremony of displaying in public the Regalia of Scotland, the symbols of our independence, in connection with the Royal visit, thrilled the hearts of thousands with delight, and raised a national feeling of pride in the minds of those who witnessed it that can never be forgotten. The weather was most ausnicious and the entire proceedings auspicious, and the entire proceedings were conducted in such a magnificent style as was never witnessed in this country, and probably will never be seen

again.

The King during his stay attended divine worship in the High Church, which was considered a good omen, as recognising our Presbyterian form of church government. The King proceded up and down the Canongate on the carcion in a close carriage, in a the occasion in a close carriage, in a very unostentatious manner. The foun-dation-stone of the National Monument was laid during His Majesty's stay, but he did not honor the ceremony with his presence.

Yet once again and the Canongate is taken possession of by the upper ten thousand. Queen Victoria has come amongst us for the first time. She comes in such a gracious and kindly manner as to win the hearts of her people. She appears in the very grandeur of sim-plicity, accompanied by her royal consort, and surrounded by her children. She has laid aside all the trappings of royalty, and comes to show the women of Scotland an example of what a wife and mother ought to be. Dressed without any affectation of superiority, she smiles graciously upon all around her, and is altogether a model of what a Queen should be.

Leaving Holyrood Palace, the royal party proceeded up the Canongate, divested of all display, towards the castle, amid the hearty acclamations of assembled multitudes, and thus inaugurated a period that will long be remembered in Scottish history.

The royal party, strong in the affectionate attachment of the people, made a lengthened procession through the city,

returning by Leith to Holyrood Palace.
The precincts of the Palace have long possessed the privileges of a sanctuary to defaulting debtors, and a great many lodging-houses were clustered around it to afford them shelter. The occupants of these were chiefly scions of aristocracy who had lived beyond their means, half pay officers, and roues, who had kind friends that gave them a certain allowance to kept them out of prison. They were allowed to range through the Royal Park for exercise all the weel while on Sunday they might ramble where they would, none daring to make them afraid. But woe betide the poor refugee who prolonged his visit to the city, whether on errands of love or visits of sociality, if his watch was slow or he was too happy to reckon the time, until the great bell of St. Giles was heard to strike 12 o'clock while he was dallying with his fair one, or sitting at the hospitable board. The officers of the law were always on the alert on Sundays, and watched their men, and many a hard run has taken place down the Canongate after an un-timely debtor. But it was a race for freedom, which gave nerve and vigor to the victim, and once over the Abbey Strand he could defy his pursuer a effectually as the poor Israelite of old, when he fled from the avenger of blood

to the city of refuge.

It must not be forgotten that the White Horse Inn, a few doors below St.
Mary's Wynd, in the Canongate, was
the hostelry where the celebrated Samuel Johnson, took up his abode upon reaching Edinburgh, and to which his friend and biographer, James Boswell, hastened to welcome him to Scotland, preparatory to their visiting the He-

It cannot be denied that the Canongate has fallen from its greatness in more respects than one. Walk up and down its wynds and closes, and it becomes too obvious that the physical comfort as well as the moral condition of the people calls

Let us hope that better things and happier times are awaiting them, and that schools for the young, and missionary efforts for the mature and aged, may raise the population of the Canongate to a position of moral excellence which may prove more beneficial and lasting than the semi-barbarous gran-deur of past ages ever possessed, or could ever achieve for fallen humanity.

FATAL SNAKE CHARMING. — The Maysville (Ky.) Eagle is responsible for the following: That the serpent is endered with the serpent is end of the server with the serpent is end of the server with the s dowed with the power to charm birds which they capture, and the ability to fascinate the larger animals, and even to influence the intellect of man, is an old and established theory. A marvelous incident of this character has just been brought to our notice. A little boy four or five years of age, of Irish parentage, The King in his State carriage, with a numerous retinue and a most imposing cavalcade, composed of archers, military and Highland clans, left Holyrood Palace, proceeding by the Canongate, amid the cheers of the multitude and the waving of handkershiefs sion, one day his mother was induced to follow him to his play-grounds to see what attracted him grounds to see what attracted him so much, when to her horror she discovered her little darling playing with a trio of huge black snakes, wholly unconscious of his peril. The boy was completely fascinated, and would advance and retreat, and sport and dally with the hideous comrades as if he were in the absurged divide of his prothers and in the charmed circle of his brothers and sisters. The mother in terror ran to the house crying for help, when the father of the lad rushed to the rescue of his boy. tered the ancient fortress, where the Regalia of Scotland was then lying, reopened for the occasion, after having been lost sight of for centuries.

After inspecting the Castle, and viewing the city and surrounding scenery, the royal party re-formed in procession and

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