

## MR. DABNEY WRITES OF TRIP ABROAD

(Continued from last week)

**Melrose.**  
Melrose is an old-fashioned Scotch town, with a scattering population of about 2000. It is located on the hills about a mile from the river Tweed and overlooks the little valley, which is covered with groves, pastures and small farms.

The Melrose Abbey, founded in 1136, is as fine an old ruin as one may wish to see. Inside its walls is a three-cornered stone, which marks the place where the heart of Bruce lies buried, and another stone near by marks the grave of Alexander II. Many green vines are gently twining over some of the desolated walls. In the little cemetery adjoining, there are many tombstones, whose only inscription is the skull and crossbones.

The Elders Hills, a mile away, tower up 1300 to 1400 feet, and it was to those beautiful hills that Scott used to love to wander and point out the many places made famous in war and verse.

**Abbotsford.**  
Abbotsford, the home of Scott, is two miles west of Melrose and in going to it one passes the old house of seven gables.

Abbotsford is indeed a beautiful and a romantic place. The great stone building of forty rooms stands on the sloping hillside about 300 yards from the river, and from the large windows one can look out and see the clear, bright waters rippling along over the mossy rocks, while the long sloping hills beyond divided off into fields and pastures and interspersed with various sized groves and winding rock fences, lend enchantment.

In looking around one can imagine that every vale and hill were permeated with inspiration of that character that has made the place famous. In the various rooms of the palace are countless curiosities and treasure of bygone days.

Looking out of the library window, one can see a little monument in one corner of the yard. It marks the resting place of the dog that Scott loved so well.

**Ruins Are Romantic.**  
Dryburgh Abbey, considered one of the most charming monastic ruins in Great Britain, is five miles from Melrose and is where Scott and his loved ones are buried.

**Edinburgh Attracts.**  
Edinburgh is a commercial city of 300,000 people, located on the River Forth, and is splendidly built up with most all stone buildings. In the more modern part of the city the streets are broad and well paved. It has many pretty parks and splendid monuments, and among the monuments on Calton Hill I noticed that of Lincoln. It is about 15 feet high; its base is of polished red granite, from which a freed slave is looking up to the life size bronze cast of the great president. The monument was erected by Scotch and other Americans.

The Waverly railroad station is the largest in the United Kingdom. It

covers 23 acres of ground, 11½ of which are under cover.

There is a great gulch dividing the old from the more modern part of the city, the older part having been settled for more than 1000 years, and Castle Hill, as it is called, was the abode of the Scottish nobility until the middle of the 18th century, when they gradually began to build up and move to the north side of the gulch; hence their fine spacious buildings were divided up into smaller apartments and are now occupied by small shops, etc.

There is one long street extending from the Hollyrood palace to the castle, which bears three names—Canon-gate, High and Lawnmarket. High street is the more central, and in passing along it we come to John Knox's house, which projects out into the street much beyond those around it. The first story is used as a store or shop, and the entrance to the Knox apartments is reached by an outside stairway. The buildings along the street are from three to five stories high, built up solidly along both sides.

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of the street and pierced at short intervals by closes and courts, which give access to densely peopled habitations. Each court bears some name, as "Dunbar's Close," "Writers' Court," etc.

It is indeed interesting to go back into some of those places; one may see many interesting people. The children will gather around the stranger and will tell and point out this and that room or building that was once occupied by Scott, Burns, Allen Ramsey and many other people of note. For another sixpence they will make your head ring for a whole day with beautiful quotations from Scottish poems.

Further up on High street we pass the St. Giles Cathedral. It is a beautiful edifice, dating back to 1120, and it was in this building that the venerable Knox did much of his good work.

Hollyrood is a beautiful old palace and has given shelter to many famous personages.

As we go along to the further end of Lawnmarket street we come to the great castle, which is located on the high, rocky prominence 400 feet higher than the land around it, except where the street enters it by a graveled slope. Few cities can show such natural advantages for a military fort. Its location as such dates back to the sixth century.

### Walls Seventeen Feet Thick.

Upon entering the castle one crosses the drawbridge over the moat and passes through the gateway representing the outer fort, and then on up the winding way which leads to the ancient portcullis gate underneath a great tower, the walls of which vary from 10 to 17 feet in thickness. One may spend hours looking around through the different rooms and studying the architecture and plans of the old walls, as well as the prison cells and dungeons, some of them cut down deep into the solid rock.

In the castle yards one will see many old cannons used in the 15th century. The most noted one, "Moss Meg," is 22 feet long and did its bloody work at the siege of Dunbarton and other places.

Just back of this old gun on the citadel stands St. Margaret's chapel. It is the oldest and smallest building of its kind in Edinburgh. It is 10 by 30 feet inside, with walls three feet thick. It has three windows, 12 by 24 inches, one side and one window the same size in each end. The floor is of the hard natural rock.

There are many other places of interest to the tourist in and around the city. Musselbrough is a few miles out and is located on the River Esk. It is a very quaint place. There is an old Roman bridge across the river and from it one can see the battle-ground near where Queen Mary surrendered to the insurgent nobles in 1567.

An old parish church occupies the site of a Roman fort and it was in this church that Cromwell stabled his horses. The big house at the eastern end of the town is nestled in among beautiful trees and shrubs in the center of a 70-acre tract. It is an ancient country mansion, which afforded shelter to Prince Charles Edward and his officers. A secret passageway leads from it to the beach, nearly half a mile away.

Through the courtesy of Colonel

Hope, the present owner, we were shown through the 40-room old mansion, with its beautiful furniture, fine tapestries and extensive library.

From Edinburgh we drove out nine miles to the great bridge across the Firth of Forth. It is indeed one of the wonders of modern engineering. It is one and one-half miles in length and 150 feet high from base to highest point. The main piers of the cantilever are steel tubes 12 feet in diameter and carried up 370 feet, while the walls are 160 feet above high water. It required 50,000 tons of iron and steel, including 32 miles of bent plate, for the tubes, the whole being riveted together with millions of rivets. It covers a metal surface of 25 acres and required 250 tons of paint and 25,000 gallons of oil for painting it over once. Fifty men are constantly employed to do the painting, and it takes them three years to paint it over once. It is strictly a railroad bridge, double track, and there are scarcely ten minutes in the 24 hours but that a train is passing over it.

On our way to the bridge we passed by Lord Ramsey's estate, containing 25,000 acres of beautiful land. It is fenced on two sides with a dressed stone wall seven feet high, costing nearly \$700 per square yard. This



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work was done to give the people work during a famine 70 years ago. Adjoining this place is the Lord Rosebury's estate, containing many thousands of beautiful acres, with an elegant country mansion, and near it are very extensive paraffine works, where from the soft reddish shale they are extracting great quantities of paraffine oil.

Sterling, located near the River Forth, has 30,000 inhabitants and from a historical standpoint is very interesting. For ages it was the gateway to the highlands of Scotland, owing to its proximity to the old bridge across the River Forth, which was the key to the Scotch highlands for many centuries. The bridge is built of dressed stone, having four large arches and a strong iron gate. For many years it was the only place to cross the river with vehicles for more than 50 miles. It was near here that the great battle of Sterling Bridge was fought, and as we wander along the narrow winding streets and stop occasionally to visit the old church and cathedrals, it brings to memory many incidents noted in Scottish history.

### Epitaph is Peculiar.

We next visited the cemetery, which contains many old monuments, and on an old sun dial near Lucie's Rock I

noticed carved the following peculiar inscription: "I am a shadow, so art thou; I mark time, dost thou?"

From here we went up the esplanade to Sterling Castle, one of the most noted in Scottish history, and as we enter the portcullis gateway, which is about nine feet wide, we notice its construction, which is a framework of iron bars fitted into grooves in the stone at each side. It is raised and lowered with chains and windlasses. Just inside are heavy wooden doors almost covered with braces of iron and bolts and this door closes inside when the gate is dropped.

We are now inside the walls and are shown by one of the guides the many places of interest. In the Douglas room there is an old communion table with the date 1590, used in the castle by John Knox; also his pulpit; the cradle and chair used by James VI, and so on. Every room has more or less interest, and we may go down into the gloomy dungeons deep in the rocks under the castle, where many a weary prisoner passed away his last sad moments.

From the castle, which is located on a high rocky butte, one may look over the valley for miles to the south and east and see beautiful fields and meadows, while to the north and west the

hills are dotted with groves, farms and pasture land, and away beyond is Ben Lomond and other mountains.

From Sterling we drove out to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth, but the old tall tower is all that remains. Near it is the tomb of James III. From there we went out to the old battlefield of Bannockburn, and our Scotch guide, with some degree of pride, pointed out the different positions and the field maneuvers of the two armies, when Bruce, with 30,000 brave Scotch Highlanders, defeated and put to route the English army of 90,000.

### Aberfoyle.

We arrived at Aberfoyle on Saturday evening and remained until Monday morning, stopping at the Old Bailey. During our stay much time was spent roaming over the hills. Aberfoyle is a small village at the foot of the hills by that name. The scenery round about is very pretty and interesting. The hills are covered with heather, with occasional scattering trees and groves. Many sheep and cattle roaming at will may be seen on the various hillsides, or a deer may bound from its hiding ahead of you. There are also many peat bogs in little depressions on the hillsides, and in places one will see long ricks or cords of the

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