



GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

## A REVERENT PILGRIMAGE.

### PART IV.

"Glasgow for bells,  
Lithgow for wells,  
Fa'kirk for beans and peas,  
Peebles for clashes and lees,"\*

says the old proverb. Linlithgow, Falkirk and Glasgow—to name them in due order—are all in the pilgrimage we begin to-day. As for Peebles—were it on the line of march and had it an ancient church to draw us,—the rhyme should not keep us away; for that old town on the Tweed, the occasional residence of the Stewarts, and the scene of the poet-king's, "Pebblis to the Play," is well worthy of a visit.

Linlithgow Church, which stands between the Palace where Queen Mary was born and the town, is one of the few specimens of Gothic architecture still remaining in Scotland. It was founded by David I, the builder of Holyrood Abbey, and by him dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, who was also regarded as the patron saint of the town. It was in an aisle of this church that James IV saw the mysterious apparition, warning him against the expedition which was to end in fatal Flodden. I will let Pitscottie tell the tale:

"The king came to Lithgow, where he happened to be for the time at the Council, very sad and dolorous, making his devotion to God to send him good chance and fortune in his voyage. In the meantime there came a man, clad in a blue gown, in at the kirk door, and belted about him in a roll of linen cloth. He seemed to be a man of two-and-fifty years, with a great pike-staff in his hand, and came first forward among the lords, crying and speiring for the king; but, when he saw the king, he made him little reverence or salutation, but leaned down grofing on the desk before him, and said to him in this manner: 'Sir king, my mother hath sent me to you, desiring you not to pass, at this time, where thou art purposed; for if thou dost, thou wilt not fare well in thy journey, nor

none that passes with thee. Further, she bade thee mell (meddle) with no woman, nor use their counsel; for if thou do it, thou wilt be confounded and brought to shame.'"

"By this man had spoken thir words unto the king's grace, the evening song was near done, and the king paused on thir words, studying to give him an answer; but, in the meantime, before the king's eyes and in the presence of all that were about him for the time, this man vanished away."

Modern science—or scepticism—which does not believe in apparitions, explains this one as a contrivance of James's queen. The advice was excellent at any rate, whether ghostly or otherwise.

Of the "wells" remaining, the most curious is a fountain, surrounded by a figure of St. Michael and bearing the legend: SAINT MICHAEL IS KIND TO STRANGERS.

Falkirk's old church, founded in 1057—which, from the colour of its stone, gave the town its original name, Eglishbreck, or "the speckled church"—was demolished about fifty years ago. But you must note, as you pass the place, that almost every foot of ground is historic. Here Wallace and his friend, Sir John Graham, were defeated by the troops of Edward I. in 1298.\* Further on, Prince Charlie and his Highlanders gained a complete victory over the Hanoverians under Hawley. Still further is Bannockburn—the thought of which makes Scottish hearts beat faster, even to-day. Sir Walter Scott's story of his countryman, the farrier, who, having removed to England, had the audacity to practise as a full-fledged M.D., justifying his possible or probable homicides on the plea, "It'll be lang before I mak up for Flodden,"—has lately made its periodical rounds. What may pass as a companion to it is not, perhaps, so familiar. An English gentleman, visiting Bannockburn, was

much pleased with his guide, and, on leaving, proffered a handsome *douceur*. "Thank ye, kindly, sir," said the Scot, "but I couldna tak it!" "You and yours," he added compassionately, waving his hand over the battle-field, "hae paid dear eneuch for Bannockburn." The tale, I confess, seems to require more than the usual "grain" of allowance. The peasant proud of Bannockburn is common enough; but the guide who, on such delicate grounds, refuses a fee, is more incredible than Pitscottie's apparition.

And now, fellow-pilgrim, grasp your good staff with firmer hand, for we are going to climb to yonder heights, where Stirling Castle keeps watch and ward over many and many a mile around. The Greyfriars' or Franciscan Church stands on the declivity of the castle rock. Built in 1494 by James IV, and added to by Archbishop Beaton, uncle of the Cardinal,—it is a well-preserved specimen of the later pointed Gothic. To the English antiquary it might appear a century older than it is, for the depressed or perpendicular style which prevailed in England at the time of its erection was never adopted in Scotland. The massive column of the interior still remains intact, and the external walls, with the exception of those of the transept, are in good preservation. In this church the Earl of Arran, regent of Scotland, abjured Romanism in 1543. In 1567 the youthful James VI was crowned in it, John Knox preaching the coronation sermon. In one of the two places of worship into which it has been divided, Ebenezer Erskine, founder of the Secession church, officiated.

But, pilgrims to holy places as we are, we are drawn from the Church to the Castle—the proud stronghold, for the taking of which Edward I. was forced to bring all the besieging engines in his Tower of London. Alexander I. died in it. Bruce and Baliols held it in turn. About the time of the accession of the house of Stewart it became a royal residence, and it was always a favourite abode of the Jameses—some of whom were born, some baptized, and some crowned in it. Its situation is as grand as its historical associations are interesting, and there are few finer views in the British Islands than that to be seen from its battlements; the romantic Abbey Crag rising from a wilderness of verdure; the fertile Carse of Stirling, with the laby-

\* Gossip and lies.

\* Sir John Graham and Sir John Stewart, both of whom fell in the Battle of Falkirk, sleep in the churchyard of "the speckled church."