



DUNDEE FROM LAW HILL. 1586. J.V.

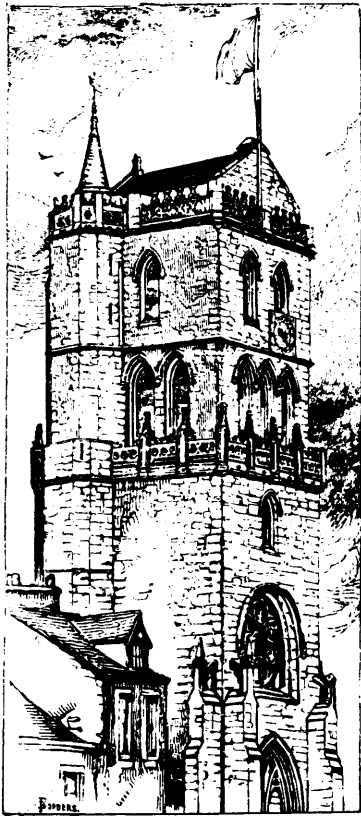
DUNDEE.

A REVERENT PILGRIMAGE.

PART IX.

Going northwestward from St. Andrews, we find in Dundee one of the greatest architectural

curiosities in Scotland—the famous square tower or belfry of St. Mary's. Hector Boese, the historian, writing in the fifteenth century, describes in glowing terms the miraculous landing in Dundee of David, Earl of Huntingdon, from the Holy Wars, and of his founding a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has been assumed that the existing tower was built by the Earl. The style of architecture, however—the Decorated Gothic—points to a



CHURCH TOWER, DUNDEE (1377-99.) Time of Richard II.

probably dates from the early part or middle of the fourteenth century though its association with the ancient structure described by Boese, to which it was doubtless an addition, have invested it with an interest often lacking in older remains.

"Ecce Tiber! Ecce Campus Martius!" cried the Romans, as the Tay and the plain, known later as the North Inch of Perth, met their gaze. Doubtless they meant it as a compliment; but the dweller on Tay laugh the comparison to scorn, and would not give their own majestic river for fifty Tibers, with all their associations—and mud—thrown in.

Nevertheless, the good town of Perth likes to boast of its Roman foundation. In later days the Stewarts often dwelt there—their court being housed in the Cistercian Convent. In Blackfriars' monastery, the poet-king, first and best of the Jameses, fell a victim to the jealousy of his fierce nobles. Of all the religious houses with which, previous to the Reformation, Perth abounded, nothing is left. The old Collegiate church of St. John, the patron-saint of the city, remains—strangely enough, since it was in it that the first of

Knox's sermons, which led to the demolition of so many sacred places, was preached, and it was in Perth that "the rascal multitude" began their work of destruction. Before the high altar of St. John's, Edward III of England stabbed his brother, the Duke of Cornwall, in 1366.

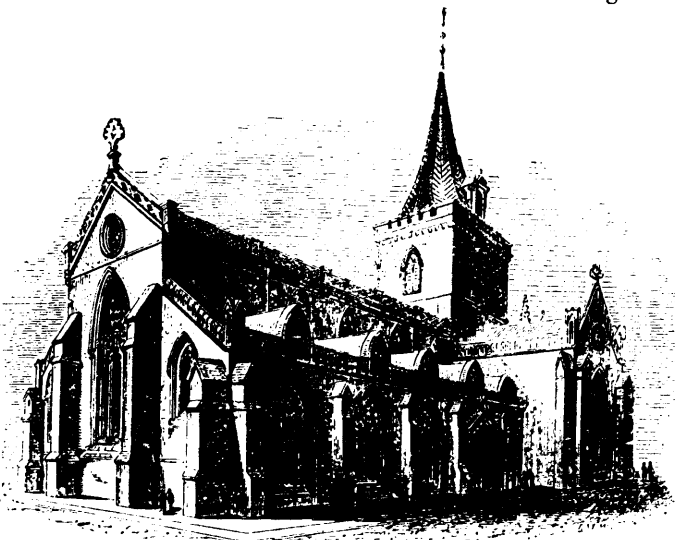
Few towns have more interesting environs than Perth. Attached to Scone Palace—built on the site of the ancient palace of the Kings of Scotland, and boasting among other treasures, bed-hangings embroidered by Queen Mary during her imprisonment in Loch Leven Castle—are the ruins of Scone Abbey, where the Stone of Destiny rested after the wanderings previously referred to, until carried to Westminster by Edward I. The Abbey, founded by Alexander I, in 1107, was destroyed at the Reformation by a mob; the only portion left, is used as a burial place by the owner of the palace and ruins, the Earl of Mansfield.

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And now we come to another of the old cathedrals—beautiful Denkeld, reposing on the margin of the majestic Tay, in the deep bosom of wood, crag and mountain. "Early chosen as a religious house, both St. Columba and St. Cuthbert appear in the traditions of Denkeld, which seems to have preceded St. Andrews as the seat of the Primate or High Bishop of Albany, and could boast that among its lay abbots in the eleventh century was numbered the progenitor of a race of kings. This minster was the scene of violence to the last. When the most illustrious of its prelates, Gavin Douglas, he who

"in a barbarous age
Gave to rude Scotland Virgil's page

came to take possession of his throne, in 1516, he was opposed by a shower of shot from the cathedral tower and Bishop's Palace; and it was not until the power of the great family to which he belonged had been gathered from Fife and Angus, that he obtained access to his church, thanks to the



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PERTH.

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