

Dundas, in the County of Perth. In these titles the name of "Dundas," in which we are chiefly concerned, henceforward merges and is lost. On his elevation to the peerage, the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh presented him with an address, in which they expressed their attachment to him and his family, their admiration of his talents, and their gratitude for the many services he had rendered to the country, and in particular to the City of Edinburgh. The new lord appeared in person before the Council and delivered a speech in reply, in which, among other topics, he dwelt on the practical blessings of the British Constitution, of which his own career, he said, afforded a striking example. "While we therefore continue to resist the fanatic principles of ideal equality, incompatible with the government of the world and the just order of human society, let us, he exhorted his hearers, rejoice in those substantial blessings, the results of real freedom and equal laws, which open to the fair ambition of every British subject the means of pursuing with success those objects of honour, and those situations of power—the attainment of which, in other countries, rests solely upon a partial participation of personal favour, and the enjoyment of which rests upon the precarious tenure of arbitrary power." While the civic authorities of Edinburgh, in the presence of Viscount Melville, are yet before our mind's eye, it will perhaps be of some interest to hear what Lord Cockburn, a contemporary, says of them, and their place of meeting, in the "Memorials of His Times." We must of course make allowance for the Whiggish bias of his pen. "In this Pandemonium," he says [namely, in what he had just before described as "a low, dark, blackguard-looking room, entering from a covered passage which connected the north-west corner of the Parliament Square with the Lawnmarket"], "sat the Town Council of Edinburgh, omnipotent, corrupt, impenetrable. Nothing was beyond its grasp; no variety of opinion disturbed its unanimity, for the pleasure of Dundas was the sole rule for every one of them. Reporters, the fruit of free discussion, did not exist; and though they had existed, would not have dared to disclose the proceedings. Silent, powerful, submissive, mysterious and irresponsible, they might have been sitting in Venice. Certain of the support of the Proconsul, whom they no more thought of thwarting than of thwarting Providence, timidity was not one of their vices." A curious picture, surely; of which, let us be thankful, no exact counterpart can be found in any city or town in the Empire at the present day.