

Magistracy of Jedburgh with the freedom of the town—his reception everywhere triumphant.

May 13.—Visits Dryburgh Abbey, and spends an hour among the ruins, since hallowed by the dust of Scott.

June 8.—Returns to Mossgiel—The family of his bonnie Jean now court his society—Returns to Edinburgh, where he obtains permission to erect a tombstone over the grave of Fergusson. The architect was two years in completing it, and the Poet was two years in paying him; for which they are quits. "He had," says the Poet, "the *hardiesse* to ask for interest on the sum, but considering that the money was due by one Poet for putting a tombstone over another, he may with grateful surprise, thank heaven that ever he saw a farthing of it." Proceeds on his first Highland Tour, by way of Stirling, to Inverary—Visits the Harvieston ladies, and becomes acquainted with Miss Chalmers.

July.—Spends this month at Mossgiel—Writes his Epistle to Willie Chalmers.

August.—Revisits Stirlingshire, in company with Dr. Adair of Harrowgate—Visits the ruined Abbey of Dunfermline—Kneels down and kisses with sacred fervour the stone which covers the grave of Robert Bruce—Shown at Linlithgow the room where the beautiful and injured Mary Queen of Scots was born—Crosses the Forth, and arrives in Edinburgh.

August 25.—Sets out on his third and last Highland Tour, in company with his friend Nicol—Visits the Duke and Duchess of Gordon—Dines with them, and forgets his friend Nicol, who, in a foaming rage, induces the Poet reluctantly to turn his back on *bonnie Castle Gordon*, with a vexation he was unable to conceal.

September 16.—Arrives once more in Edinburgh, having travelled 600 miles in twenty-two days—Composes verses on Lock Turit, and

Bruar Water—Forms an intimacy with Clarinda—Is overturned in a hackney-coach by a drunken coachman; and is confined to his room for six weeks with a bruised limb—Writes his celebrated Letters to Clarinda—Contributes numerous songs to Johnson's *Musical Museum*.

December 30.—Writes to his friend Brown that Almighty love still reigns in his bosom: and that he is at this moment ready to hang himself for a young Edinburgh Widow. (She turns out to be a married lady, whose husband is absent in Jamaica.)

December 31.—Attends a Grand Dinner to celebrate the birth of Prince Charles Stuart, and produces an Ode on the occasion.

1788. (20)

March 30.—Composes (partly on horseback) *The Chevalier's Lament*.

April 13.—Settles with his Publisher, Creech, and receives upwards of £600, as the produce of his Second Edition—Advances £200 to assist his brother Gilbert; but, when afterwards solicited to become bail for him to a considerable amount, he is compelled to decline in justice to his family.

May 25.—Takes the farm of Ellisland.

August 3.—Marries his bonnie Jean, and contributes many of his best songs to the *Museum*.

1789. (30.)

July.—Receives an Epistle, part poetic and part prosaic, from a young poetess, Miss Janet Little, which he does not well know how to answer, being no dab at fine-drawn letter-writing.

September.—Writes the noblest of all his ballads, *To Mary in Heaven, Lines on Friar's Carse Hermitage*, etc.

October 16.—Contends for the prize of *The Whistle*, at Friar's Carse—Drinks bottle for bottle in the contest, and celebrates the occasion by a Poem.