

same, we believe, that is now preserved in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries under the name of "John Knox's pulpit." Along the walls there hung a series of portraits of sovereigns and eminent statesmen, some of them the work of Sir Godfrey Kneller, but these were among the first of its decorations that disappeared, having, it is said, been bestowed by Queen Anne on her secretary, the Earl of Mar.¹ Others, however, of those paintings adorned the walls within the recollection of our older citizens, and are now, we believe, at Holyrood House. Portions also of early decorations, including fragments of ancient tapestry, the hangings in all probability that were put up during the Protectorate, were only removed towards the close of last century. Nicoll tells us "The Preses and the remanent memberis of the great counsall did caus alter much of the Parliament Hous, and did caus hing the Over hous with riche hingeris, in September 1655, and removit these rounes thairintill appoyntit for passing of the billis, and signeting of letters. So wes also the Lower Hous, diligatlie hung."² Nor should we omit to mention the Creed and Ten Commandments, once so appropriately suspended on the walls, and mentioned in a MS. volume of last century as "taken down when the Court was repaired."³ Those decorations have been replaced by statues of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President Blair, son of the poet, Lord Melville, Lord Chief Baron Dundas, Lord Jeffrey, and Lord Cockburn. But, superior as those sculptured marbles undoubtedly are, as works of art, to the paintings and tapestry they replaced, the cold beauty of the marble—even though wrought by the chisels of Roubillac, Chantrey, Brodie, and Steell,—very imperfectly supplied the place of the luscious colouring of Kneller, or even the faded antique needle-work, which helped to harmonise the walls with the grotesque yet rich effect of the old oak roof. But happily since then the portraits of royalty have been, not inaptly, replaced by those of eminent judges and members of the bar.

To a stranger visiting the Scottish capital few of its public buildings are calculated to excite a more lively interest than the scene of its latest legislative assemblies; for while this shares with the deserted Palace and the degraded mansions of the old town many grand and stirring associations, it still forms the Hall of the College of Justice, founded by James V: at once the arena of the leading Scottish nobles and statesmen of the last two centuries, and the scene of action of many of the most eminent men of a later day. Beneath the old roof, thus consecrated by historic memories, the first great movements of the civil war took place; and the

¹ *Minor Antiquities*, p. 187. The following are mentioned in Brown's *Stranger's Guide* for 1820:—"The outer hall is ornamented by full-length portraits of King William III, Queen Mary his consort, and Queen Anne, all done by Sir Godfrey Kneller; also of George I, John Duke of Argyle, and Archibald Duke of Argyle, by Mr. Aikman of Carnegy."

² Nicoll's *Diary*, p. 162.

³ Supplement to *Court of Session Garland*, p. 4