

the wealthy people of Glasgow and Edinburgh, they would throw off the authority of the Free Assembly and take their stand again for the old principles of 1543.

Besides shewing the strength of the Church as compared with Dissent, Fife has much that is historically interesting. Take the metropolitan Parish of CUPAR. There we have a burial ground consecrated in 1415. The Church was built in the same year. William Scott was the name of the Minister (or Priest) who designed the plan of the spire and built it at his own expense. Among the ancient monuments and landmarks in Cupar, the thoughtful observer cannot be long alone. He looks with mingled feelings upon the monuments erected over the burial-place of the *heads and hands* of certain Covenanters who were martyred during the infamous reign of Charles II. The inscription on the one side runs thus: "Here lie interred the heads of LAUR. HAY, and ANDREW PITULUCH, who suffered martyrdom at Edinburgh, July 13, 1681, for adhering to the Word of God and Scotland's covenanted work of Reformation; and also one of the hands of DAVID HARKSTON of Rathillet, who was most cruelly murdered at Edinburgh July 30, 1680, for the same cause." Our Covenanting forefathers are usually described in books and articles in magazines which issue from the South of the Tweed as if they were made of material which admitted of no quality except rigidity. A little knowledge of the men and a slight acquaintance with Scottish antiquities shew this to be totally unfounded. I am convinced that one of the elements of strength in the Covenanting struggle was the dash of poetry which kindled their wild enthusiasm and carried the great movement to a triumphant issue. In this as in nearly all the other instances, they have a poetic inscription upon this singular tombstone. Here it is:—

"Our persecutors, filled with rage,
Their brutal fury to assuage,
Took heads and hands of martyrs off,
That they might be the people's scoff;
They Harkston's body cut asunder
And set it up a world's wonder,
In several places, to proclaim
These monsters gloried in their shame."

The Kirk-Session Records reach back to 1648; and the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, from 1654 to the present hour.

Another most interesting Church in this interesting Shire is that of MARKINCH. It is one of the many Churches whose history goes back beyond the Roman Catholic Supremacy to the days of the Old Culdee, or Original Scottish Church. Away back about 920 it

was gifted by the Priory of St. Andrew's to the Culdee Missionaries, who took up ground in that neighborhood. They got, along with the Church, large tracts of land at a distance for the support of the Ordinances of Religion. That passed into the hands of the Roman Catholics when Rome obtained the ascendancy, and naturally passed into the hands of the Protestant Church when Rome lost Scotland. By a curious turn of affairs in History, nearly all these lands due to the Church have gone to the Crown, and this day are used to pay for our expensive wars and our wealthy sinners. When Rome got the upper hand, the Markinch lands were mortgaged back to St. Andrew's, and, when their Religious Houses were suppressed at the Reformation, these lands were taken by the Crown; lands which were given for religious uses and put to those purposes for 600 years, were coolly swept into the huge coffers of the Scottish Parliament, and are at this hour used to relieve the British taxpayer of some of the burden which his love for fighting entails. That is a phase of the Church question which Dissenters will not be at pains to make plain. They won't tell you that the Church has been plundered. They won't tell you that Church lands have made the British Crown rich whilst the Church herself is left poor. No; that does not suit their convenience. It is stern fact all the same.

This County of Fife is rich in monuments and antiquities of which the history is entirely lost. In it we have the Mugdrum Cross, similar to four others in the Parish of Aberlemno, in Forfarshire, supposed to be in commemoration of victories gained upon the field of battle. We have also Druidic remains and traces of Roman occupation, linking us with the remote pre-Christian past; making it one of the most interesting Counties of Bonnie Scotland, and, as such, just the place to enjoy the relaxation and pleasure of a profitable summer holiday. Ever thine, C.

THE REV. HUGH STOWELL BROWN, who died some time ago at Liverpool, G.B., and who was one of the most forcible speakers of the day, was at the age of twenty-one an engine-driver on the London and North-Western Railway. Carey was a shoemaker, Williams an ironmonger's apprentice, Moffat a gardener, Livingstone a factory lad. It is remarkable how many of those who have done most for the world have started only with the advantages of the million. There is surely in that something which not a few of our readers should find encouraging.