

a very grave man, had got on well in the world, while Sydney himself did not for a long time attain to any great degree of comfort, so he declared that his brother had risen by his gravity, while he himself had sunk by his levity. Smith, on being asked whether he ought to be addressed as The Most Reverend, the Right Reverend or the Very Reverend, replied that taking everything into consideration he ought to be style "The *rather* Reverend".

The Reverend Archibald Alison, author of the "Essay on the principles of Taste", was for many years of his long life closely associated with the literary set in Edinburgh. It was in 1800 that he came to the city as pastor of the Scottish Episcopal Chapel in the Cowgate. He was the father of Sir Archibald Alison Bart: the historian of Europe, and grandfather of the Alison of the Mutiny.

But doubtless those who know something of the History of Scotland are expecting certain members of the National Church to appear in the literary pageant.

The venerable and Reverend Dr. Hugh Blair was just passing away in 1800. An Edinburgh man, the minister of one of its chief parishes, the Canongate, Professor of "Rhetoric and Belles Lettres" in Edinburgh's University, Hugh Blair cannot be excluded from any representative gathering in the city. He figured, indeed, very prominently in its most select literary parties; he helped to entertain Dr. Johnson, he wrote on the Ossian controversy, and he published his once so widely read "Sermons".

Another bulwark of the National Zion was the Reverend Alexander Carlyle, D.D., minister of Inveresk who did not die until 1805. Known

as "Jupiter Carlyle" on account of his handsome person, the Reverend Doctor Carlyle was a figure in literary circles not only of Edinburgh but of London, also. He was born as far back as 1722, He studied at the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leyden. He had seen the mob hang Captain Porteous in September, 1736. In 1745 he joined a troop of volunteers raised to defend Edinburgh from Prince Charlie's Highlanders; he witnessed the Battle of Prestonpans from the top of the old tower there.

And now, although we have not recognized every member of this great pageant of intellectuals, enough has been said to show how talented were the men and women of Scotland's capital in its Augustan age. It is true that some of us are apt to underestimate, others to overestimate the value and the characteristics of any epoch we may happen to be studying. We underestimate these when we fail to acquire the proper historical sympathy, we overestimate them when we fail to attain to a proper historical perspective. Remembering these things, therefore, and desiring to avoid the Scylla of lack of sympathy as well as the Charybdis of lack of perspective, we may safely assert that the period we have had under review was a particularly bright one. Every domain of the intellect had its explorer, everything that can interest the human mind had its student or its exponent.

We, who were born in Edinburgh, do not want to wrap ourselves round with the garment of the Pharisee and give thanks that we are, therefore, not as other men; but we do think that we can, without offence, be described as citizens "of no mean city".

