

well-known families:—Cassels, Cockburn, Cosby, and Macdougall, the last admitted to be the oldest clan in Scotland, whose origin is lost in the mists of antiquity, but whose crescent can be traced to the great Somerled of the Isles. In the centre of the east gallery was displayed a large panel, on which were emblazoned the Royal arms of Scotland, with its lion rampant or on gules, and on either side were the shields of the clan Macpherson and the Kirkpatrick family. On the north side of the building were the shields of the Frasers, Raes, Grants, and Davidsons.

A dado of draped crimson cloth was arranged round the lower walls to a height of several feet from the floor, and above this the woodwork and windows were concealed by numerous signal flags and ensigns, while the doors leading from the vestibule into the ball-room, and from the ball-room into the supper-room, were hung with heavy curtains. Along the wall at the north-west corner of the building a table was placed, where during the evening the lighter form of refreshments were served, and here, as elsewhere, the greatest taste was shown.

The supper tables, which were of a number to accommodate 200 guests, were placed in the magnificent new conservatory to the south of the building, which was erected to accommodate the magnificent collection of palms presented to the city by Sir David Macpherson. There, as in the main building, the scene was dazzling. A number of coloured globes covered the electric lights and shed a subdued radiance. The east side and the end of the conservatory were tastefully draped with bunting and flags, and on the west side were disposed great masses of palms. A temporary flooring was laid down, and on this were placed the tables, shining with all their wealth of plate-glass and china, while on the snowy damask and in epergnes appeared cut blossoms of extreme beauty and every variety of colouring. Here, as elsewhere, it was