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EDINBURGH CASTLE.

The site on which Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, is built is said to be one of the most striking in Europe and the prospect obtained from the most elevated points is varied and extensive—

"Traced like a map the landscape lies
In cultured beauty stretching wide;
There Pentland's green acclivities;
There Ocean, with its azure tide;
There Arthur's Seat and gleaming through
Thy southern wing, Dunedin blue!
While in the orient, Lammer's daughters,
A distant giant range, are seen,
North Berwick low, with cone of green,
And bass amid the waters."

The general architecture of the city is imposing, and the greater number of its public buildings distinguished by chaste designs and excellent masonry. Like Montreal it derives its stone for building from a quarry immediately outside the city, whose stone is excellent in quality and of a character so dense and non-absorbent that it retains a clean appearance for a very long time.

The remarkable resemblance between Edinburgh and Athens, which has been often remarked by travellers who have visited both capitals, has acquired for Edinburgh the title of "Modern Athens." Dr. Clarke remarks that the neighborhood of Athens is just the highlands of Scotland enriched with the splendid remains of art, and Mr. W. H. Williams observes that the distant view of Athens from the Ægean sea is extremely like that of Edinburgh from the Frith of Forth, adding, with native enthusiasm, "though certainly the latter is considerably superior."

Standing at the head of castle hill, a precipitous rock overlooking the city, is Edinburgh Castle, which doubtless formed the nucleus round which Edinburgh rose.

Its elevation is 383 feet above the sea, and in times before the invention of gunpowder must have been an impregnable fortress.

Much historical interest attaches to it. In former times it was called *Castrum Puellarum* (the camp of the maidens), as it is said the daughters of the Pictish Kings resided there before their marriage. One of the most romantic scenes in its history was on the occasion of its recovery from the English by the Earl of Moray, with thirty trusty men in 1313. The attacking party was guided by Francis, a soldier who had been accustomed to climb and descend the cliff surreptitiously to pay court to his mistress. The darkness of the night, the steepness of the precipice, the danger of discovery by the watchmen, and the slender support which they had to

*Lammermoor Hills.

trust to in ascending from crag to crag, rendered the enterprise such as might have appalled the bravest spirit. When they had ascended half way they found a spot large enough to halt upon, and there sat down to recover their breath, and prepare for scaling the wall. This was done by means of a ladder, which they had brought with them. Ere all had mounted, however, the sentinels caught the alarm, raised the cry of "treason!" and the constable of the castle and others rushing to the spot made a valiant though ineffectual resistance, and the strong castle remained in the hands of the assailants.

the sceptre was made during the reign of James V., most probably during his visit to Paris in 1536, when preparing for his intimate alliance with France by marrying one of her princesses.

After the accession of James VI to the crown of England, the regalia, popularly called "the honors of Scotland," remained in Scotland, where they at different times passed through many adventures. During the Commonwealth, Edinburgh Castle and all the strongholds below the Forth were in the hands of the English, therefore the Scottish Parliament, on June 6th, 1651, the last day on

with the wife of the Lieutenant Ogilvy, deputy governor of the castle, and with Christain Fletcher, wife of the Rev. James Granger, minister of Kinneff, contrived a daring scheme for extricating "the honors" of Scotland from their precarious situation. In prosecution of their plan Mrs. Granger went to the castle of Dunnottar, having obtained permission of the English general to visit the Governor's lady. In her charge Mrs. Ogilvy placed the regalia. This was done without her husband's knowledge, in order that when obliged to surrender the castle he might with truth declare he knew nothing of the time or manner of their removal.

Mrs. Granger concealed the crown in her lap, while the sceptre and sword wrapped in bundles of flax were placed on the back of a female domestic, and thus they were transported in safety to the manse and placed in the minister's charge.

On the surrender of the castle the disappearance of the jewels led to the imprisonment of Governor Ogilvy and his wife. Mrs. Ogilvy's health sank under close confinement; but her courage did not give way. In the spirit of the house of Douglas, to which she belonged, she exhorted her husband with her dying breath to preserve inviolable the secret entrusted to him.

The sceptre of Scotland performed its last grand legislative office by ratifying the treaty of union on January 16th, 1707. The regalia were then deposited in the great oak chest in the crown room of Edinburgh Castle. The secrecy of this act and the sudden disappearance of the regalia led to the existence of a doubt as to their really having been so deposited, so that in 1817 a committee of gentlemen, amongst whom was Sir Walter Scott, proceeded to the crown room, commanded the King's smith to open the great chest, whose keys had been lost, and found the regalia just as it had been left a hundred and ten years before.

Another curious treasure preserved in the castle is Mons Meg, a gigantic piece of artillery made in Belgium in 1476. It is made of thick iron bars hooped together, and is about twenty inches in diameter at the base. In 1682 it burst while firing a salute in honor of the Duke of York's visit. It was removed to the Tower of London in 1614, and restored to the castle in 1829 by the Duke of Wellington, on petition of Sir Walter Scott. It stands on the Bomb Battery, a point from which the finest view of Edinburgh is obtained. The inscription on the carriage on which it is mounted states that it was employed at the siege of Norham Castle in 1497.



EDINBURGH CASTLE.

One room in this castle in particular attracts much interest—the crown room in which is deposited a strong oak chest containing the insignia of Scottish royalty, a crown, a sceptre and a sword of state. The workmanship of the ancient portion of the crown betokens an antiquity as early as the 14th century, and it is supposed to have been worn by Robert Bruce. The sword of state was presented to King James IV. by the warlike Pope Julius II., in the year 1507, while

which they sat, ordered the regalia to be transported to the castle of Dunnottar, there to be kept till further orders. But soon this castle was attacked and it became plain that it could not hold out much longer. In this emergency three ladies determined to rescue the "honors" from their peril. Lady Margaret Erskine, a daughter of the Earl of Mar and the mother of the Earl Marshal, in whose possession the regalia were, but who was a prisoner in England—in concert