

Ferrie began to get home sick and tired of sight-seeing, and would not agree to go up the Rhine, as we proposed on leaving London. I meant to have crossed into Germany to visit my old haunts, and to have returned by Hamburg, my headquarters for several years. I lived in Hamburg from the Spring of 1798 till the Fall of 1801.

We took a steamer from Antwerp direct to London, and spent ten days at Clapham Common, my nephew John Ferrie's princely abode. We then went to Bath and spent a week with our nephew, Mr. H. Aikman. After visiting friends at Bristol we came back to London, took the express train to York, and spent a day there, seeing the Cathedral and other sights, and went from thence to Edinburgh, where we stayed ten days with our numerous relatives in the City and countryside. Finally we went to Glasgow, took lodgings, where we remained for four months.

The hospitality we received during this time, I look back to with the most grateful feelings, and while we live we will never forget it, or be able to repay it. We visited again my native place, Irvine. The kindness of our relatives and friends there, was far beyond our deserts. The Provost called a meeting of the magistrates and council and they voted me the freedom of the Borough, and invited me to meet them next day to receive the diploma, which was delivered by Provost Robertson, after a very eloquent, and to me, most flattering speech. We then proceeded in a body to the head Inn, and had a déjeuner at which all the elite of the place were assembled to pay their compliments on the occasion; and surely they did butter me thick enough.

We again went to Edinburgh to take leave of our friends, who quite overpowered us with their kindness. While in Edinburgh, I received a second invitation from the citizens of Glasgow, to a public dinner to be given to me on the 15th of April. They would take no refusal. This hurried us from Edinburgh, as we had many places to visit ere the day came. We went to Pt. Glasgow, and spent a few happy days with our relatives there. From there we went to Greenock, and put up at my nephew's, Thomas Fairrie, where such kindness and attention were paid, which must have made us happy, independent of the sumptuous eating and drinking which we partook of during the eight days we spent with him. We returned to Glasgow on the 15th in time for the dinner, which went off well. There were only about one hundred who sat down, whereas had it not been for some untoward circumstances, three times that number would have been present. The newspapers gave a very fair report of the whole affair.

We took passage home by the steamer City of Glasgow, which sailed direct from the Broomilaw to New York. The leaving was a most painful thing to us. We left the Broomilaw on the afternoon of the 16th of April, and, after encountering bad weather and head winds nearly all the way, and being several times surrounded by ice, we arrived on the morning of the 3rd of May at New York, where we found our sons, Colin and John, waiting to welcome us to this side of the wide Atlantic.