

was one of the junior counsel engaged on the case. I saw him for the last time when he was eighty years of age, and he then recounted to me, with the full detail of an eye-witness, the story of the trial and execution. So deep an impression had it made on him that he remembered those distant scenes very much better than many recent events.

The actual houses in Tanner's close, West Port, where the crimes were committed, have long ago disappeared in city improvements. I could, however, take anyone desirous of seeing the locality to within two hundred yards of Burke's haunts.

The towering mass of the mediæval castle of Edinburgh frowns grimly over the place where murders more dreadful than any perpetrated in the darkness of its dungeons were carried out in hovels, some of them under the full light of day.

No wonder that Edinburgh was

scandalized! Edinburgh, the Calvinistic Holy of Holies, the very high place of Presbyterianism! Edinburgh, with its martyrs of the Grassmarket and their graves scarcely a stone's throw from these scenes of unimaginable turpitude, had good reason to be scandalized! Edinburgh the royal and saintly; the school of a decorum that was a very paragon to less favoured places; the centre of social illumination and multiform culture, in ecclesiastical, legal, educational, medical, scientific and charitable circles: this city had revealed to it with sudden and brutal frankness such unplumbed depths of degradation to which it had been thought no human nature, male or female, could ever descend. It was a terrible unveiling to the city of that other Knox—John the stern Reformer—the reprover of all iniquity, the great citizen of that same Edinburgh the *Utima Thule* of respectability.

