

ing traveller. An irreverent age laid in ruins those numerous and stately monuments of the piety of a by-gone time. But it could not take away their beauty nor rob them of their charm. They are grand as of old and soul-stirring still. Not a stone of them but tells the history of the happy days that are gone, and speaks with more than eloquence to the generations as they pass. Melrose, Kelso, Dryburgh, Sweetheart Abbey, Lincluden, Dundrennan, all in ruins though they be, are objects of veneration to the believing, and the resorts of pious pilgrims. The traveller bard was most affected by the intensely interesting historical associations of Dundrennan Abbey. It was the last spot of earth on which Mary, the ill-fated Queen, breathed the breath of freedom. Relying on the consideration of her sister Queen and cousin, she spread her sail for England. Arrived there, expecting to be welcomed as a guest, she found herself a captive, and so remained till after nineteen years of exile and captivity, she was put to death by her irreconcilable enemy. This moved the poet to write severely of the English queen :

"But, as for thee, thou false woman,
My sister and my foe;
Grim vengeance, yet, shall whet a sword
That through thy soul shall gae.
The weeping blood in woman's breast
Was never known to thee;
Nor the balm that drops on wounds of woe,
Frac woman's pitying ee." (eye)

These scathing words, no power, not even that of time, can ever efface. Talk of vengeance ; could any be more terrible than the stigma thus indelibly associated with the memory of a great queen ?

There can be no doubt that the religious foundations of King David did much towards forwarding the cause of order and civilization among the people of the South of Scotland. What neither arms nor statesmanship could effect, the pious institutions, so far in advance of their age, were, in great measure able to accomplish. If they impoverished as James VI. would have it, they still more abundantly enriched the crown, and they continued to do so until the monasteries were robbed of their properties and their buildings laid in ruins. All this was done on the hypocritical pretext of reforming religion, whilst in reality, instead of reforming it destroyed, depriving the people of their

instructors, and both king and country of inexhaustible resources. At first, the spoliation was resisted, and successfully, so long as a power remained that could oppose it. James V., the last of the Christian kings of Scotland, upheld the Church in her rightful possessions in opposition to the advice and remonstrances of his fierce and unscrupulous uncle, Henry the VIII. of England. That prince insisted that his royal nephew should do as he himself had done in regard to the Church—fill his coffers with its revenues and leave the inmates of the monasteries and other clergy to starve. James refused to be guilty of such tyranny and injustice. He said, moreover, that when occasion required, his faithful clergy were always ready to assist him. When this statesman monarch departed this life all sense of piety and justice departed with him ; and spoliation and cruelty ran riot in the land.

Burns, in his travels did not neglect old England. He visited Newcastle, Hexam, Alnwick Castle, Warkworth, Morpeth, together with some places of lesser note. Arriving at Carlisle, he must have thought of those brave men of Prince Charles Edward's army who were left behind on the retreat from Derby to defend against a more powerful enemy a place that could not be defended. Although no Jacobite, his sympathies, no doubt, were awakened as he called to mind the fate of those unhappy men. He travelled by the sea coast to Annan in Scotland—Annan, so well known as having been the parish of Edward Irvine as long as he was an orthodox follower of John Knox, but who was discarded when he professed to believe sounder doctrine and founded the sect which claims to be "The Catholic Apostolic Church."

At Annan there is now a flourishing Catholic mission under the care of the Reverend Lord Archibald Douglas of the Queensbury family.

Soon after his return to Scotland, Burns made an excursion to the west Highlands ; but had not proceeded farther than Inverary, when some untoward circumstance induced him to retrace his steps. He is not known to have had a grudge against the McCallum-More or the Campbells generally. Some one at Inverary must have offended him ; hence the following pretty compliment :