

Trinity,—“ Lord of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

In 1834 there were only 24 established churches in Edinburgh: six Episcopalian churches, and 32 chapels and meeting places of other denominations—62 in all. Dr. R. S. Candlish was minister of St. George's Church, Dr. William Cunningham of the College Church, and Dr. John Lee of the old High Church. Dean Ramsay, whose “Reminiscences” (1857) proclaimed him a Scotchman to the backbone, was incumbent of St. John the Evangelist: Dr. Alexander Lindsay, of lasting fame, was in the North College Congregational Church; James Haldane in the Leith Walk Baptist Tabernacle, where he preached fifty years without any salary to congregations of three thousand. There were four Roman Catholic churches. In 1901 there were upwards of 150 places of worship, of which 46 pertained to the Church of Scotland and 75 to the United Free Church.

Apart from St. Giles, the most important public buildings in Edinburgh in 1834 were the University, the Royal Institution, the Register Office, Holyrood Palace, Heriots' and Donaldson's Hospitals, the High School and the Calton Jail. The unfinished National Monument, consisting of twelve massive columns that cost £1000 each, stood, as it still does, on the summit of Calton Hill. Since then the City has been embellished with many splendid buildings and monuments—the National Gallery, the Scott Monument, the Albert Memorial, etc. The Episcopalian Cathedral of St. Mary's, erected at the cost of the Misses Walker, is considered to be the finest ecclesiastical edifice built in Britain since the Reformation.

A familiar sight at that time was the so-called ‘blind man’ who sat on the Mound, seeking alms from the passers-by. He had sat there for years and had been liberally patronized. He had the knack of turning up the white of his eyes and rolling his eye-balls in a way that attracted notice and elicited compassion.