

V.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FROM DR DANIEL WILSON, TORONTO, HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT., RESPECTING A VOLUME CONTAINING VIEWS OF OLD BUILDINGS IN EDINBURGH, SENT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE SOCIETY.

[In reading the following extract from Dr Daniel Wilson's letter respecting his donation to the Society, Mr Laing said that this volume of prints and drawings had not yet reached Edinburgh. It will be exhibited, of course, at the first ordinary meeting of the Winter Session; but he thought the Members, in the meanwhile, might be pleased to hear something of their old and esteemed Associate.]

“UNIV. COLL., TORONTO,
“May 24, 1869.

“MY DEAR LAING,—I have availed myself of a private opportunity to forward to your care a large folio, titled ‘Memorials of Auld Reekie.’ Will you do me the favour to present it to the Society of Antiquaries. It contains a Collection of engravings, maps, plans, woodcuts, &c., of old Edinburgh, and some few original drawings. You will find a little sketch of the exterior of St Margaret's Well, made by me long before its site was invaded by the Railway, when it occupied a nook in the pretty sequestered lane leading down to Restalrig, with an elder tree growing at its side.¹ Two old drawings of St Anthony's Chapel, when much more complete than now, may also attract your attention. Had I remained in Edinburgh, the collection would no doubt have been greatly increased, and possibly some of you may fill up gaps I have left. It is arranged nearly in the order adopted in my ‘Memorials of Edinburgh,’ beginning

¹ In the Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 143, &c., vol. iii. p. 165, will be found a special notice of “St Margaret's Well,” and of its successful disinterment from a railway vault to an admirable site in connexion with a fine spring of water in the Queen's Park. But I may take this opportunity to express a sincere hope that Mr Matheson of the Board of Works will at length be able to complete the design of its reconstruction, by rendering the exterior of the well an architectural ornament to the park adjoining the Palace of Holyrood.—D. L.

with the Castle and going down to Holyrood, &c. I left spaces for many things still wanted. Some few I have filled up, and I long flattered myself my exile from Scotland was *not to be for ever*. But that dream has faded away.

"The most common Views, if accurate, acquire a value through time, and now that the Lord Provost Chambers has originated a crusade against the Old Town, no time is to be lost in securing such records of its fleeting features."

Dr J. A. Smith said he well remembered the large and much-valued volume, which he had the pleasure of seeing in Dr Daniel Wilson's possession, and could testify to its varied and interesting collection of illustrations of *Old Edinburgh and vicinity*. It would form a valuable addition to the Library of the Society.

The Society then adjourned to the 30th November next, St Andrew's Day.

E R R A T A.

- Page 26, line 12 from bottom, for "*astrapalus*," read "*astragalus*."
 ,, 150, line 12 from bottom, for "*Gannistic beds*," read "*Gannister*."
 ,, 151, lines 9 and 8 from bottom, read "*granite and gneiss*."
 ,, 151, line 10 from top, for "*glazed*," read "*glued*."