

VI.—*Part of a Letter from GEORGE WALKER, Esq. Landscape Painter, to the Secretary, respecting Ancient Monuments in Edinburgh.*

DEAR SIR,

Edinburgh, 9th February 1802.

ALTHOUGH I have been able to attend to business at home for these two months past, yet I have been prevented from going out since October last by the rheumatism. . . . This I regret the more, as it prevents my attending the Society this evening to hear the proposed plan for surveying the Antiquities of Edinburgh. The Society are undoubtedly greatly obliged to the Gentleman, whoever he be, that intends calling their attention to a subject so interesting. I sincerely wish the plan may be adopted and carried into execution.

Amongst other subjects, the Monuments erected to the memory of several great and illustrious characters, both in the Chapel at Holyroodhouse and the Greyfriars' Churchyard, should not be passed unnoticed; for although the reputation of these great men is rendered more lasting by their writings and actions than by any monuments that can be raised, yet, if correct drawings were made of them, they could be etched at a small expense; and, in the event of a second volume of the Society's Transactions being published, they might be inserted in it, with a short account of each, which would not only be interesting to many families in the kingdom, but would also be the means of handing down to posterity specimens of the state of the fine arts in this country at various periods, at least so far as relates to architectural design, and the efforts in sculpture therein exhibited. The two Roman heads inserted in the wall of a house opposite the Fountain Well deserve also some attention. By order of the Duke of Buccleuch a mould was taken of them some time since; and I believe the Society are in possession of a plaster cast of it. I have not, however, heard whether any account has ever been given of them.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

Mr Alex. Smellie, Secretary, &c.

GEO. WALKER.