

II.

NOTICE OF A RARE MEDAL OF PROVOST DRUMMOND OF EDINBURGH, PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY BY GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Before attempting to describe the medalet now presented to the Museum, I may mention that I procured it in London, and that I have never seen another similar; nor can I find it recorded that such a medal was struck.

The *obverse* bears the portrait of Provost Drummond to the left, with a view of the Royal Infirmary in the distance. Legend—"G. DRUMMOND ARCHITECT. SCOT. SUMMUS MAGIS. EDIN. TER COS."

Reverse.—A view of the Royal Exchange, with the legend—"URBI EXORNANDÆ CIVIUMQUE COMMODITATI." And in the Exergue, or below the building, "FORI NOVI EDINBURGENSIS POSITO LAPIDE PRIMO ORDO PER SCOTIAM ARCHITECTONICUS EXCUDI JUSSIT. XIII SEPTEMBRIS MDCCLIII."

This medalet, therefore, bears to have been struck on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the New Royal Exchange by George Drummond, Grand-Master of the Freemasons, Chief Magistrate of Edinburgh for the third time.

The view of the Royal Infirmary on the obverse would indicate that Provost Drummond had also something to do with that building.

To render the medalet more interesting, I subjoin one or two extracts regarding Provost Drummond.

Arnot, in his "History of Edinburgh" (Edin. 1779, p. 311), says,—
 "The foundation of the intended building (the Royal Exchange) was laid with great formality on the 13th September 1753; George Drummond, Esq., then Grand-Master of the Freemasons, whose memory, as a patriotic magistrate, will ever be revered by the citizens, performing the principal part in this ceremony. To add to its solemnity, a triumphal arch, theatres for the magistrates and officers of the grand lodge, and galleries for the other lodges and spectators, were erected upon the occasion. The contract, however, for carrying on the building was not settled till the 12th of June 1754, and next day the work was begun."

Arnot also says, with reference to the Royal Infirmary (p. 547),—
“But to none has the Royal Infirmary been more indebted than to George Drummond, Esq., who was seven times elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh. As the improvement of the city and benefit of the community were ever the objects which he assiduously endeavoured to promote, so this institution was in a peculiar manner the object of his public-spirited exertions. The managers of the Infirmary have testified their sense of these obligations, by erecting in their hall a bust of him, executed by Nollekins, with this inscription, “George Drummond, to whom this country is indebted for all the benefit which it derives from the Royal Infirmary.”

Nollekins' bust is still in the Hall of the Infirmary, and bears a striking resemblance to the portrait on the Medal, if we make allowance for his advanced age.

On looking over my correspondence with my young friend, Mr William Frederick Miller (now in London), a very clever engraver, and particularly interested in Scottish coins and medals as well as antiquities, I find in one of his letters, “The medal of Provost Drummond, the impression of which you so kindly forwarded, is very interesting, especially so to me, from my having at one time hunted up a good many particulars about a sister of his, May Drummond, a very singular woman, for a long time a minister in the Society of Friends, Edinburgh. In ‘Chambers' Traditions of Edinburgh,’ there is a short notice of the lady.”

I would suppose this medalet to be the work of a native artist.