

A walk along the Antonine Wall in 1825: the travel journal of the Rev John Skinner

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ABSTRACT

In 1825 the Rev John Skinner, an Anglican clergyman from Camerton in Somerset, walked the length of the Antonine Wall from east to west, as part of an extensive Scottish tour. He recorded his observations at length in a journal and prepared daily a series of pencil sketches which constitute an invaluable record of the monument at a fixed date. His sketches include sculptures and inscriptions subsequently lost, and a few sites otherwise unrecorded. He also visited the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow in order to view its collection of Roman stones.

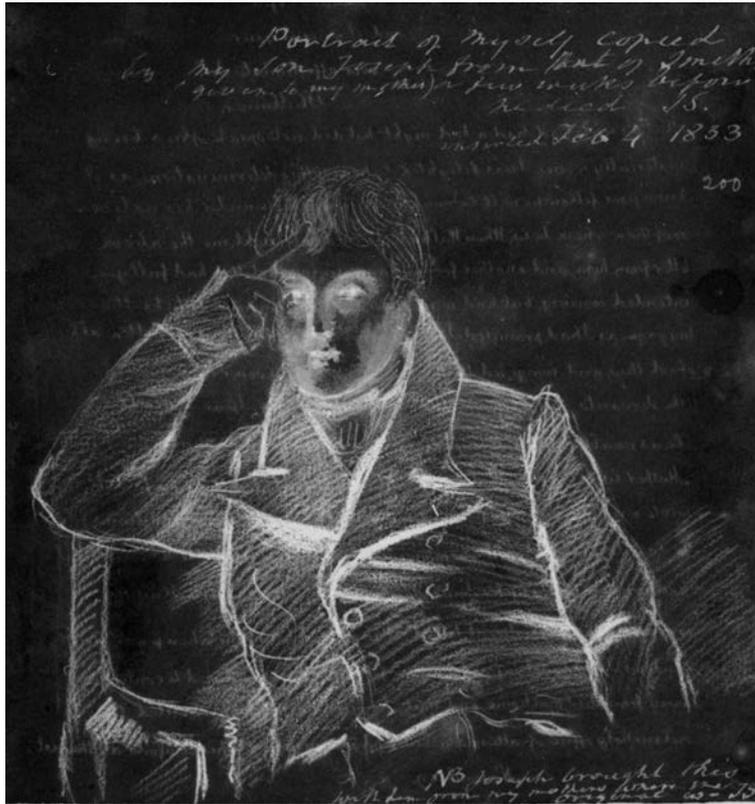
INTRODUCTION

Over a five-day period in September 1825 the Rev John Skinner of Camerton in Somerset, near Bath, traversed the Antonine Wall on foot from east to west, as part of an extensive ‘northern tour’ which took him as far north as Inverness. Skinner had travelled from the south-west of England with his son Owen, whom he left in Edinburgh owing to illness. On completing his Highland peregrination, he was reunited with his son, now restored to health, and in his company made a shorter excursion to Stirling and then to Glasgow, where he visited the University in order to view the Roman inscribed tablets taken from the Wall. During his travels, the journal was written up daily, in the evenings after supper in whatever inn he had lodged for the night. Even more valuably, he also prepared an extensive series of sketches on small sheets of paper, which effectively provide us with a comprehensive visual record of the standing remains of the Antonine Wall at a very precise moment.¹

After his return to Camerton, the journals were transcribed by his brother, in a neat hand that can be easily read today (in contrast to Skinner’s own handwriting which can be difficult to decipher). Sometimes the seeming peculiarities of punctuation result from clauses being associated with the wrong sentence, perhaps by his brother when the journals were transcribed. His brother mistranscribed individual words, especially proper names, or left gaps where the handwriting had defeated him. Sometimes the gaps were filled by Skinner himself, in pencil. The sketches were mounted on art paper and later improved as water-colours (below), the whole set of journals being bound in handsome leather-backed volumes. Skinner himself annotated these bound volumes profusely with quotations from authorities such as (for his northern travels) Camden, Gordon, Horsley and Roy. The bound journals are now held by the British Library.²

Skinner, who lived from 1772 until 1839, is better known today for his detailed accounts

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ILLUS 1 The Rev John Skinner. By S C Smith, copied by Skinner's son Joseph, 1833 (BL Add MSS 33727, fol 200)

of life and pastoral duties in his parish of Camerton, where he was vicar from 1800 until his death, and for his antiquarian observations on Roman and other antiquities in southern England (Anon 1840; Carlyle 1897, 346). Skinner amassed a collection of artefacts, which he bequeathed to the Bristol Institution; the material, now in Bristol Museum, is currently being catalogued, and at the moment of writing I remain uncertain whether any objects may derive from the Antonine Wall or any of his travels in Scotland.³ Although Skinner's MS account of the Antonine Wall was known to Sir George Macdonald, he made little real use of it except in relation to inscribed stones (Macdonald 1934, 294, 401, 437, 446). The account of Skinner's northern tour manifestly deserves full publication, especially for its

account of travel in the Highlands at a fixed date, and his many sketches.

In 1971 Skinner's journals were published in abbreviated form (Coombs & Coombs 1971); accounts of his travels outwith the south of England were omitted by the editors without explanation and almost all the archaeological passages were excluded. Indeed the reader could easily remain unaware that he had travelled to the northern half of Britain, as well as to France and Holland, and (as I now understand) to Egypt. On an earlier journey, in 1801, Skinner had visited Hadrian's Wall; this part of his journals has been published as a monograph.⁴ It is interesting to note the advance in his methods between these visits to the northern frontier works, and the greater emphasis on fieldwork and

observation on the later walk along the Antonine Wall.⁵

Father and son left Bath on 8 August 1825 by stagecoach, first to London, then north to Peterborough, Lincoln, York and Durham, Newcastle, Morpeth, Dunbar and Musselburgh, with Skinner making extensive notes of antiquities, sketching landscape features, historic and ecclesiastical monuments. They arrived in Edinburgh on 31 August and lodged at the York Hotel, not far from Edinburgh University.⁶ His son Owen, then a senior pupil at Winchester School, had been afflicted on the journey north by a mysterious illness. As a result Skinner was compelled to leave him in the care of a Dr Broster to whom he arranged to pay the very substantial sum of £106.⁷ In preparation for his onward travels, he visited 'Laring the bookseller',⁸ and bought two 'Tours through the country', and borrowed from the bookseller a copy of General William Roy's *Military Antiquities of the Romans in Britain* (1793).⁹ The next morning was spent reading and planning his itinerary; the bookseller had advised him to include the site at Ardoch.¹⁰ On 6 September he took the stagecoach to Linlithgow where he lodged overnight, and on the morning of the 7th visited the town and its Palace, before heading north on foot towards the River Forth at Bo'ness.

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It is time to take up the story, in Skinner's own words:

/157¹¹

Vol 4 The Vallum of Antonine

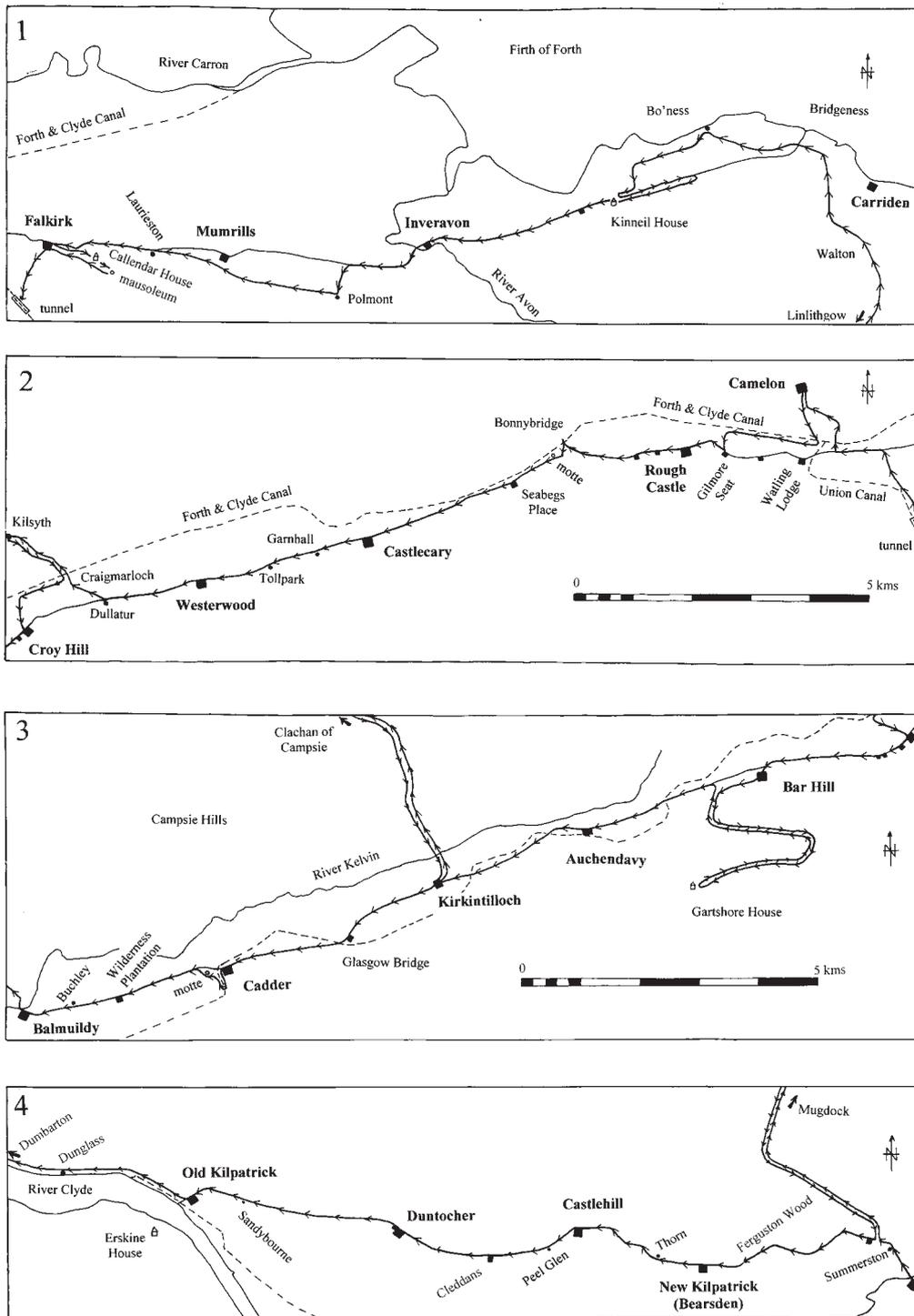
Continuation of the Northern Tour from Linlithgow to Dumbarton, along the line of the Vallum, which guarded the Pass, between the Forths [sic].

September 7 1825 [illus 3]

Having induced my former guide¹² to accompany me to Bowness, where the Vallum, here called Grimes Dyke, is first visible, I proceeded thither, taking in my progress an interesting view of the Palace and Lake of Linlithgow, to the left of the road: afterwards I traversed some extensive Corn

lands called Borough fields.¹³ Their vicinity to the Vallum, in connection with the name they retain, would induce one to suppose the Romans had established an outpost on the spot, but after careful examination of the soil, I discovered no pottery, or building stones, to confirm the idea I entertained; but it seemed as though some bank or dorsum of a road ran in a strait line towards Walton Farm, the occupier of which informed me, he had heard, the Vallum passed through his grounds, which the name Walton seems to /158 indicate.¹⁴

A little to the East of Walton there is a place called Caer ridden [sic], situate near a Bay on the Coast; this [sic] there can be little doubt it was a Roman Post, and port for their shipping.¹⁵ Caer in the composition of a word, every where signifying a stronghold, and ryold, a settlement near the water passage: vide, Rydlan Castle, Writhlington, etc etc Had time permitted, I should have examined the soil in the immediate neighbourhood. Continuing my course towards the Forth, I noticed the ruins of Blackness Castle and Harbour; and beyond that of Bridgeness: these are small seaports, situate on a Ness or projecting point of land, being on the Forth, which is here about four miles in width: principally used by the Collieries for the exportation of Coal, though formerly a considerable import was made through them to Linlithgow. Approaching Grange House¹⁶ I obtained the first view of what is called Grimes Dyke, a bank rising about five feet above the Corn lands, and pointing towards Bridgeness, or the Coast between that place and the Grange House;¹⁷ but as it is lost in some thick plantations, I could not decide whether it 159/ went strait forwards, or made a curve, which I should be inclined to think it did, towards Bridgeness;¹⁸ since we know the dyke was thrown up to connect stations previously occupied by the army under Agricola,¹⁹ who established a chain of forts from the Forth to the Clyde; in the same manner as he had previously done from Tynesmouth [sic] to Bowness, eighty miles more to the southward. While inquiring whether any Roman remains had been found in the neighbourhood, a man informed me that not long since he had assisted in digging up some stone Coffins contiguous to the line of Grimes Dyke, and pointed to the spot.²⁰ I rather think the cemetery was near the military road which ran within the boundary; and a strait line still visible seems to mark the line it took across the ploughed field which I have shown in my sketch of Grimes House and



ILLUS 2 The Antonine Wall, showing the route followed by Skinner in September 1825



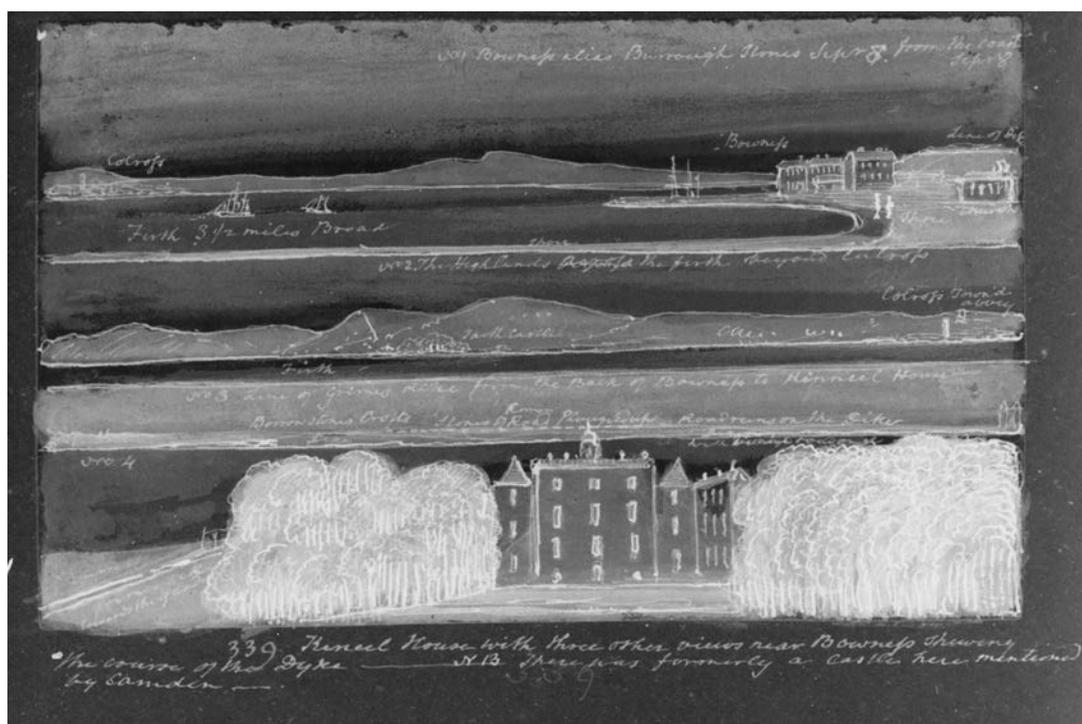
ILLUS 3 Skinner's Fig 338, 'Grimes Dyke running towards Bowness alias Burroughstones' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 4)

Dyke;²¹ but all the paving of the road, if this was indeed the road, has been removed. A woman also informed me, a companion of her's [sic] now at work, found a silver coin, as large as half a crown, the other day, near the Dyke, and she thought it was a Roman Coin; but the size of the piece induces me to believe it is much more 160/ modern. I told the woman if it were brought to me at the Inn at Burrow Stones on the morrow, I would reward her for her trouble. I found this but a sorry place, and had some hesitation whether I should not return again to Linlithgow to sleep; but feeling somewhat fatigued, having been on my feet almost the whole of the day, I was constrained to make the best of accommodations, and after tea, was fully occupied till bed time with my journals, etc etc etc

September 8 [illus 4]

Soon after breakfast I prepared to take leave of Bowness, alias Borough Stones,²² although mine hostess did every thing in her power to improve her accommodations; they were hardly bearable, and what is worse, the sheets were so damp, I was obliged to sleep in my clothes. The charges however

were equal to what I paid at the Hotel at Edinburgh; I believe I have to thank my guide in part for these extra charges; the honest Sergeant being pleased with the donation I gave him, of course magnified the merits of the donor: he himself had justly merited the five shillings I gave him, for his day's attendance, and carrying my Portmanteau to Bowness: but the guide who supplied his place to Falkirk, 161/ was a very different personage; a sulky, surly, ignorant sailor, and probably a smuggler. He bargained for four shillings before he set off from Bowness, and pretended to know every step of the line I wished to take, but instead of this, I was obliged to fee other people for information. We first walked along the shore of the Bay of Bowness, passing the Kirk; and a little beyond, a whisky distillery. I here made two sketches, one of the town of Bowness, jutting out into the Bay; the other of the Channel into the Frith [sic], three miles and a half in width, extending from Culcross [sic] on the opposite side of the water towards Kincardine, etc, etc.²³ At Culcross (which as the name implies, is situate on a winding shore;),²⁴ there is an Abbey, but I did not visit it, as a boatman informed



ILLUS 4 Skinner's Fig 339, 'Kinneil House with three other views near Bowness' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 6)

me the roof had just been taken off *to convert it into a ruin* [sic]. Leaving the shore in the course of half a mile, we proceeded to Kenneil [sic] House, where my notes taught me to expect traces of the Dyke,²⁵ but my guide knew nothing, and wanted to proceed strait forward to Falkirk; but this by no means suiting my purpose, I induced an old man at work on the steward's premises at Kenneil to show me the line it took from thence to Bowness. I find the Parish road going to that place is carried on the Dyke, and 162/ what my conductor imagined to be the boundary was in fact the Military road, running about thirty or forty feet to the South of it, following its course in a strait line, as he assured me, while ploughing, he had found the paving stones, about the width of a road, continuing through the fields called Kenniel [sic] Parks, and Borough Stone Crofts, in the direction of Grimes Dyke bank on the other side of Bowness. This line is perfectly strait, but if the Dyke went from Grimes House above Blackness Castle, to Caeridden Kirk beyond Walton, it must have made a considerable curviture. As the local appellation of Caeridden evidently implies the Caer or strong hold on the

Rydd or place of passage;²⁶ and so Graham or Grime may indicate the inclosure of the curviture, instead of the name of a Highland Chieftain: but I shall see in the course of my proceeding whether this conjecture be well founded.²⁷

Returning after half an hour's walk to my guide, whom I left at Kenneil, I walked through the avenue to the mansion, which has nothing very particular to recommend it to the notice of the traveller, although belonging to the great Duke of Hamilton. The sketch I took will best describe the place.²⁸ The Dyke evidently ran 163/ through the garden at the back of the house,²⁹ and there is every appearance of a station to the South of the line in a plantation of young trees, surrounded by a wall, as I noticed a strong bank, and squared stones, apparently the foundations of a strong wall well cemented.³⁰ I also saw a piece of Roman masonry over a ravine, probably a Bridge Pier within a stone's throw of Kenneil garden wall.³¹ General Roy supposes a station was here,³² and he is every way warranted in his supposition, from the evidence of the remains. There are no traces of the Dyke in the Corn fields beyond Kenneil House for nearly a mile, but at

Kenneil Farm, I observed the road running on its bank, and the Farmer said he had ploughed up numbers of Causeway stones a little to the southward of it. At Glenmont Farm, a little beyond,³³ I observed the same appearance; the parish road keeping on the Dyke and the causeway within it: as the Farmer agreed in his account of having ploughed up quantities of the paving stones of the Causeway as he called it, between Glenmont and Inneravon [sic], the military way is clearly ascertained: I here noticed the Fosse very visible outside the Dyke which is not less than six feet in height;³⁴ the military way still 164/ keeps the interior, but not visible otherwise than by the turning up of the paving stones: this piece of the bank and dyke may be an hundred and fifty yards in length, and is the most perfect I have yet seen. Descending the hill where the bank has been removed, I noticed some large stones pitched on end from three to four feet in length, apparently the foundations of the bank where the earth has been removed.³⁵ At Inneravon, where the boundary passes the Avon at the Ford,³⁶ I noticed on the high ground near the Farm House, a circular Tower or Speculum, called the Castle: this I am inclined to think was a Roman work; if not so, it was certainly built on the site of an outpost, as it must have been a very important situation on the line.³⁷ The tower is roofed with stone like a Norman Crypt but without groins or pillars, and reminds me of what was called Arthur's bun [sic] on the Carron.³⁸ By the bye [sic], the name Arthur identifies its original intention, and this might have been one of the same kind, and for the same purpose.³⁹ After crossing the Avon the Dyke ascended the hill which was secured by an agger: 165/ on the East side it seems to have kept the line of hills to Polmont Church, but I understand there is not the least trace of it till you come to that point where it is visible for a short distance pointing towards Falkirk. Polmont implies the Hill of the passage.⁴⁰ A violent storm coming on just as we got to Polmont, we were obliged to relinquish all idea of tracing it there, and I hastened my steps to Falkirk, where I arrived about three o'clock, so wet, I was obliged to change my dress.⁴¹ On dismissing my guide, and paying him the four shillings I had covenanted for, he was very sulky, and asked for more. I told him in England a much cleverer fellow than he was would have performed the walk for half the money, and thanked me too, and I would not give him a farthing more, so ended our conference. After dinner I was

directed to Callender House, which I had passed in the rain: the Dyke here assumes its original magnitude, being not less than twenty feet high taken on the slope, and the trench as many in width. It runs in front of the house, and has in one part been cut through, in order to afford a view of the distant country.⁴² I sketched the Mansion which is very capacious and surrounded by fine woods.⁴³ The Dyke is not to be traced 166/ beyond these premises to the East, as a long straggling village, almost joining Falkirk called Lauriston [sic] seems entirely to have defaced all appearance of it. Wishing to view the Town of Falkirk, and the country beyond, of which my Tour Book speaks so much,⁴⁴ I proceeded through a wood at the back of Callender House, and made my first sketch⁴⁵ near the Mausoleum, in which the late Laird of Callender, Mr Forbes, was interred a few years since.⁴⁶ It is a circular stone edifice, supported by Corinthian Pillars;⁴⁷ the flat, on the borders of the Frith [sic], and the mountainous Country beyond are seen to good effect from this point above the wood. The second sketch⁴⁸ shows part of the Town, and indeed the best part, namely, the roofs of the houses, surmounted by the Towers of the Church and Town house; the meadows stretching beyond, and the Carron Iron Works conspicuous for their train of dingy smoke, closed the scene: the distant view was involved in the Veil of Ossian.⁴⁹ Finding it would profit me nothing if I climbed the hill, which commands the Frith [sic], on account of the mist and rain, and feeling wet and uncomfortable, I retraced my steps through the grounds into the Town, and visited the Kirk which has been lately erected, and 167/ its old monuments discarded.⁵⁰

169/ Falkirk derives its name from Fal, the same as Dal and Val, and Cerig, pronounced Kirk. I am decidedly of opinion that the British Cerig (stone) which also indicated a building or Fortress of stone was the origin of the term Kirk, now used to signify a Church. Castle Carey is the Cadsle, or stronghold built of stone. The Roman stations which were walled in, were thus denominated by the Britons; Kirk Patrick, Kirk Caeridin, etc, etc, were doubtless walled stations the same as Castle Carey. Falkirk or Falcerig, was the fortress at the place of passage (surrounded by a barrier of stone) in other words, a Roman Post on the line.⁵¹ Having finished my observations and penned in my sketches, I went to bed at eleven o'clock. 170/

September 9 [illus 5]

The town of Falkirk, like Linlithgow, is dirty and ill paved; if my feet suffer considerably by walking over the rough stones, what must be the state of those who have no shoes; I counted no less than four girls quite lame, and I have noticed in Edinburgh and other places, more lame people than ever I have seen in England: not only the stones, but thorns, pieces of glass, etc, etc, must add their share to the annoyance. They do not seem to want the means to purchase the necessary article called shoes, since their dress in other respects is good; but it is the custom to go without; and this with another custom a hundred times worse, which shall be nameless, I wish were abolished, if not by Act of Parliament, by an Act of the Common Cryer prohibiting it, through the streets. Having made an arrangement with my Host, who was going to Kilsyth, to take my Portmanteau thither, as this was the only place where I could procure a comfortable bed; having also agreed with an intelligent person as guide, I left Falkirk a little after eight; the day was by no means promising, we marched with alacrity through the rain to the celebrated Tunnel which has lately been 171/ cut on the line of the Canal.⁵² It perforates the rock seven hundred and fifty yards, and has been completed under the direction of Mr Mitchell the proprietor of the little Inn I had just quitted, a very intelligent person and good engineer:⁵³ I took a sketch of it,⁵⁴ and another from the banks of the Canal,⁵⁵ as soon as we had quitted the Tunnel, of the Vallum, running from Falkirk towards Bentasker House (Ben et ask er).⁵⁶ The third sketch I made,⁵⁷ shows the Dyke, after having passed through the Plantations of Bentasker, issuing into a meadow, where it is seen in as perfect a state as I have yet noticed it, the bank being from twelve to fourteen feet in height above the bottom of the ditch.⁵⁸ In forming this vallum the earth thrown out from the Fosse formed the bank on each side; so that there was a double guard.⁵⁹ A road transects the Dyke a little beyond this meadow,⁶⁰ and houses and inclosures prevented our following the line; but it is seen very strongly marked from the basin of the Clyde Canal, where a junction is formed by the upper line running from Falkirk.⁶¹ We here left the Dyke awhile, to visit the site of Old Camelon, about a mile northwards.⁶² I saw traces of the Pictish Town,⁶³ but ascertained the curvature which the Carron river 172/ here made

gave name to the settlement,⁶⁴ as well as to Camalodunum⁶⁵ a Square Camp situate on the high ground above the old bed of the Carron is undoubtedly a Roman Castrum or outpost to defend the military road which passed through the midst of it, in the direction of Stirling.⁶⁶ The area between the banks of the station may contain from eight to ten acres, as it was not under tillage;⁶⁷ I found no pottery. Returning along the Roman road, now a lane leading through the fields towards Bentasker, I noticed its junction with the Dyke beyond the Canal;⁶⁸ its traces are here very faint, but on passing some plantations, and taking the higher ground to the left of the direction of Gilmore's Seat and Rough Castle, it is seen in its pristine form and strength. As we walked on the Canal bank, the line of the Dyke accompanied it to the left: I here sketched a vessel towing along the Canal;⁶⁹ my guide informed me that some sloops above a hundred tons in burthen pass along this cut, which unites the Clyde with the Forth. In the course of a mile or a little more, we ascended the height to visit Gilmore's Seat, to the South of the Dyke, the Roman work is seen in all its glory; the ditch being upwards of thirty feet in width, and twenty in depth; 173/ taking the slope. The country being here overgrown with heath and furze, it was with some difficulty I discovered the outpost: the etymon of Gilmore's Seat is still more difficult to discover,⁷⁰ at any rate it was only a small fort or Castellum, projecting thirty two paces to the South of the Dyke by thirty five in width;⁷¹ the military road which followed the line, touched the southern boundary of the fort, its dorsum apparently about ten feet across. Continuing to force our way among the heath and furze, half a mile further, which fatigued me more than five times the distance would have done on plain ground, we arrived at what is denominated Rough Castle; merely the aggers of a Camp are here seen; but as to giving the exact plan, I could not have done it, without the assistance of the General Roy, whose Survey I copied.⁷² The line of the Dyke is here very perfect, passing through some extensive plantations of Firs belonging to Mr Forbes of Callender House. Crossing the Moor, which indeed is a work of difficulty, and I may add of danger, as it is in parts very boggy; we gained once more the Canal bank, during a violent storm of rain, which completely soaked me, my Umbrella being of little use on account of the wind.⁷³ 174/ Hence we proceeded under the Canal by a Tunnel,⁷⁴



ILLUS 5 Skinner's Fig 353, 'The situation of Camelon near Falkirk' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 25)

to a small Public House near Bonny Bridge,⁷⁵ where we remained upwards of an hour drying our clothes, and refreshing ourselves with bread and cheese, eggs and whisky; the weather holding up, we continued our course, under the guidance of the man of the Public House to the Dyke, where I noticed a large tumulus of an oval form, measuring twenty two paces in length, close to the Vallum. This seems to have been a British burying place before the Roman occupancy.⁷⁶ Continuing along the line of the Dyke, which in places is very perfect, we arrived at Sebeg [sic] House, where we procured shelter during another heavy shower; this indicates the remain of a Mansion of former consequence,⁷⁷ and probably in still more ancient times, it was a Fort on the Dyke, as I have observed wherever the road passed the Vallum, a Castellum or small Fort was constructed between the stations. Sebeg implies the eg or stronghold of the eb or passage to the se or winding water.⁷⁸ During our walk, I remarked the doors of several houses formed in two divisions, like what is termed folding doors, which was undoubtedly a custom derived from the Romans,

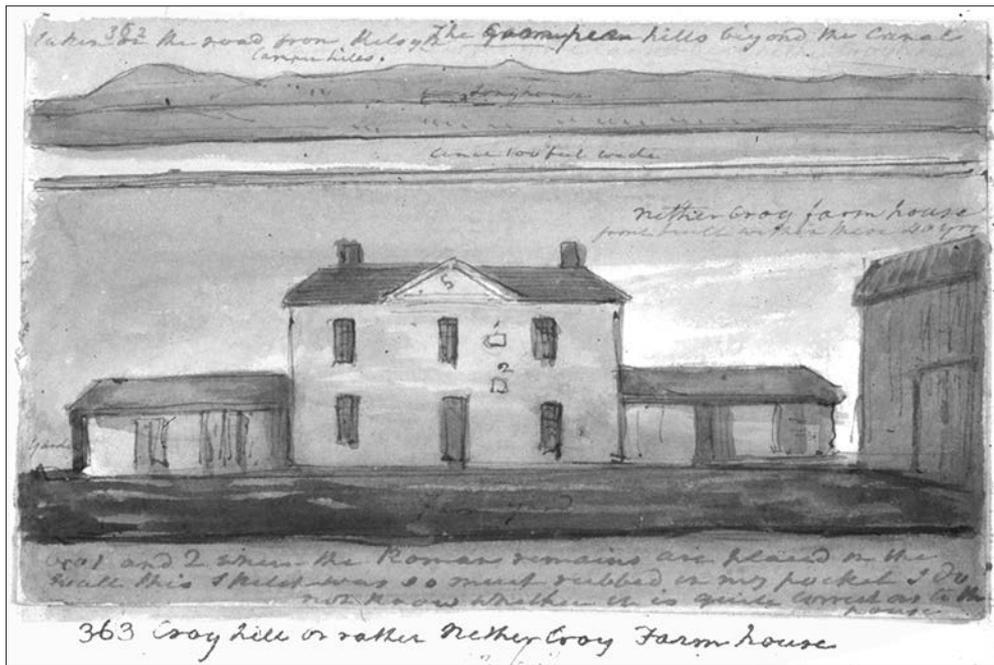
pulsare foras in Terence and Plautus evidently implying this;⁷⁹ and the stone threshold I discovered in the foundations of Roman walls at Camerton retains a bolt hole in /175 the middle, between the door posts for fastening the valve. I mention this circumstance as collateral evidence to prove that the Romans afforded the model of imitation to contemporary Britons, as well as to their successors the Saxons and Normans: but of this more hereafter. The Dyke and Canal pass close to Sebeg House, and a cross road joins the Falkirk, within a stone's throw of it. The Dyke continues very visible on the higher ground to the South of the Canal from Sebeg to the station called Castle Cary, but here we may truly affirm heic etiam periere ruinae!⁸⁰ not a vestige of this formerly large station can now be traced: the aggers and fosses are levelled, and the whole surface furrowed by the plough, and had it not been for the square building stones employed in the walls which form the division of the field, I should almost have doubted the spot pointed out to me by the farmer who occupied it as having been that of the Cadsle Cerig, or stronghold defended by

stone walls.⁸¹ The town of Castle Carey in Somersetshire, though upwards of five hundred miles distant, owns the same origin: also Capel Cerig in North Wales; and we may also add too Craig Castle which I passed on the road to Durham. General Roy supposes this station, Castle Cary, or, rather I should say the shadow of /176 Castle Cerig was the Curia Damniorum of Ptolemy, and states this is the only one per lineam valli to which he would venture to assign any of the names mentioned in the Itineraries.⁸² Altars and Inscriptions have been found here;⁸³ also the foundations of a Roman residence, with a Bath,⁸⁴ but now “Seges ubi Troja fuit.”⁸⁵ The proprietor of the soil, Lord Dundas, might indeed methinks have preserved this memorial better,⁸⁶ since the lines of the station were nearly perfect when General Roy took his survey, and though the plough, like time, is *edax rerum*;⁸⁷ the course of one we may arrest, that of the other we cannot. A military way, according to Roy, ran northwards from the Dyke at Castle Carey,⁸⁸ but no traces of it are visible; but I have again to remark that wherever there was a fort or station on the Vallum, there is every reason to expect to find a road communicating with the country beyond. These roads were the trackways of the original settlers before the Romans conquered the country, and were still retained on suffrage. Just beyond Castle Carey, the Dyke passes a stream called Redbourne (that is, the stream of the Rydd or passage) over which [sic] a lofty arch has been constructed,⁸⁹ and keeps the higher ground, where it appears in a very perfect state, ascending the slope to the North of Garenhaig Farm (Guer en /177 Hay, the Hay or inclosure of the Gaer, the same as Caer, a strong hold):⁹⁰ probably there was a small fort here, as it is contiguous to a crossroad: but Roy does not notice it as such.⁹¹ From hence to Old Toll House, near the former road to Glasgow, the Dyke is very perfect.⁹² I here entered into conversation with a person who told me he had been employed to set some curious figures in the wall of a house called Nether Croy Farm, which he thought worth my attention: he described them as being in the costume of Highlanders, with Plaid and Kelt [sic] Being well assured that this discovery referred to a different people, I felt anxious to visit the spot, but as the evening was closing in, I could not accomplish it. On quitting the Mason, I entered some plantations of firs, which afforded shelter from the rain, while I followed the course of the Dyke; continuing

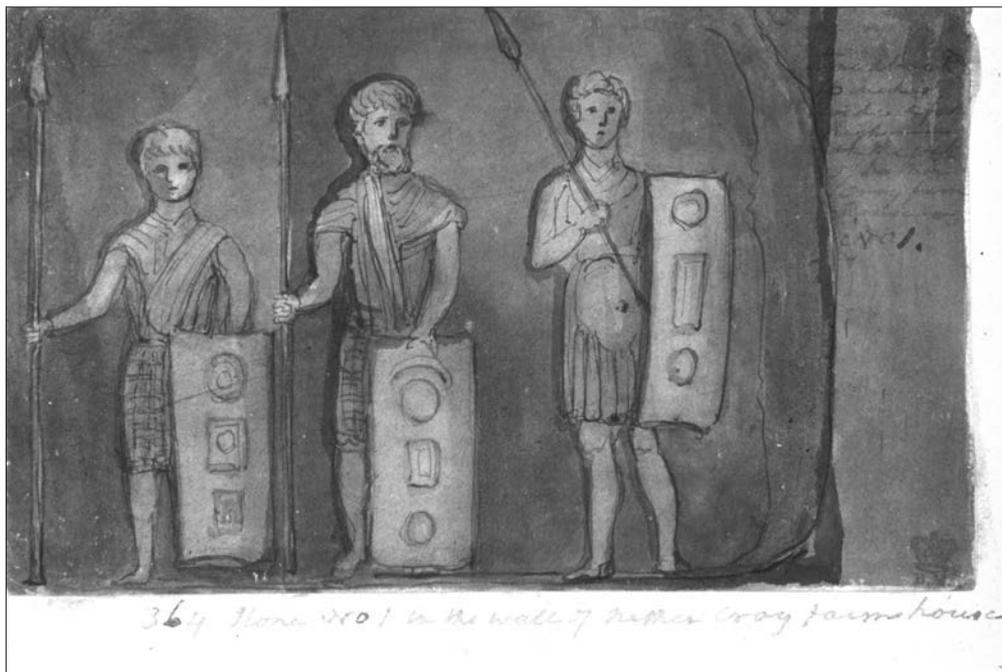
for upwards of a mile in a most perfect state to Westerwood Farm house. This dwelling is built on one of the Forts on the line; as the Farmer mentioned having dug up quantities of square stone used in building, also the paving of a Causeway which ran East and West, close to his house. Though the rain continued, I thought it better to proceed, as it was upwards of three miles to Kilsyth, where my /178 portmanteau was sent. The Dyke is very visible, though not so perfect to Castilon [sic] Dillator,⁹³ above what is called Dillator Bog: the marsh however has been drained and supplies the Canal. Passing this water at Marlock to the North of Croyhill, we ascended by a rugged road to Longhouse⁹⁴ to inquire the distance to Kilsyth: we were told only a quarter of a mile; but if two quarters had been added there to, it would have been nearer the truth: at length the lights of the town became visible through the gloom, and I arrived at the place of my destination, completely wet and tired about eight o'clock. After having changed my clothes and procured tea, I found myself equal to penning in the sketches I had taken, and writing part of my Journal till eleven, when I was glad to retire to repose.

September 10 [illus 6–13]

I agreed with the same man who accompanied me from Falkirk to proceed forwards as my guide to Kirkintilloch, whither my Portmanteau was forwarded by a Cart, and a note written from mine Hostess to procure me lodging for the night at that place, only six miles distant by the road, but as far again by the circuitous route we took. Passing Longhouse, we made inquiries about the farm where the figures were /179 preserved, and the best mode of ascending Croy Hill from thence: from this point I made a drawing of the hill, which derived its name from being the ic ory or Cry, that is, the stronghold above the water;⁹⁵ for before the Canal was cut and Dillator Bog drained, there was a Loch and Morass at the bottom of the hill; hence the name Morloch, by which we crossed the Canal to Atwood on the opposite side⁹⁶ Here I procured an interesting view of the line of the Dyke,⁹⁷ ascending to Barhill, about two miles and a half distant: of this I took a sketch and another of the Canal facing Longhouse, showing the range of the Campsey Hills beyond Kilsyth:⁹⁸ the Canal is here a hundred feet in width, and a fine feature in midst of the surrounding scenery. Arriving at Nether Croy Farm,



ILLUS 6 Skinner's Fig 363, 'Croy Hill or rather Nether Croy Farm house', with location of sculptures 1 and 2 (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 40)



ILLUS 7 Skinner's Fig 364, 'Stone No 1 in the wall of Nether Croy farm house' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 41)

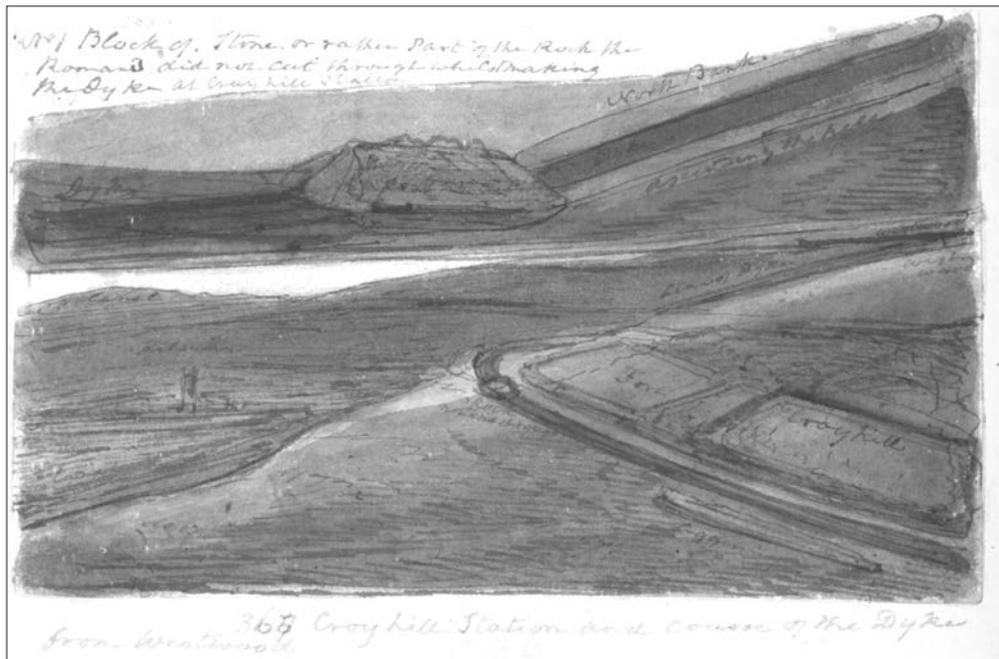
which is a modern building,⁹⁹ I observed the stones mentioned by the Mason, preserving a conspicuous station; for in his anxiety to guard them from mischief, he has placed them so high, I was obliged to procure a ladder to examine them; however my trouble was amply repaid, as the first I copied is without exception, the most interesting remain of the Romans in Britain; that is, if my conjectures respecting it prove correct; it measures /180 about ten inches in width, by one [foot] in height:¹⁰⁰ the figures it retains are carefully sculptured, and not the least injured by time; they are three in number, an aged man and two youths. The senior is represented with a full beard, a spear in his right hand; his left resting upon a hollow oblong shield, on which some armorial bearings are sculptured; the youth on his right hand has also a spear and shield similar to what is retained by the aged personage: the young man on his left hand, has a spear which he holds over his right shoulder; his shield ornamented in the same manner as the others: all the figures are clad in the garb of Roman Officers, as will be seen by the sketch I have taken,¹⁰¹ however imperfect it may be: but the subject well merits the time, skill, and execution of the best artist: since to all appearance, it commemorates the Emperor Severus and his two Sons Geta and Caracalla. The countenance of the Emperor, with his close curled hair and beard, so much resembles his portraiture on the Coins, that I cannot be mistaken in affirming it was intended for him. The youths are also persons of distinction, as we may perceive by their dress. Notwithstanding the lapse of ages the sharp /181 lines of the chissel [sic] on a close hard stone are beautifully preserved, and so is the expression of the countenances: the structure far exceeds any Roman work I have seen discovered in this Country. In all probability it was set up by the Soldiers quartered on the line of the Vallum, who accompanied the Emperor in his Caledonian wars, in order to commemorate some victory obtained over them, if so it is doubly interesting. The other fragment inserted below this in the wall,¹⁰² describes a naked female, probably the Dea Bona, or Fortune, standing between two twisted Pillars, part of a circular wreath beyond the second Pillar is supported by a crouching captive resting on his right knee and elbow, having his left arm under the circle:¹⁰³ beneath the wreath the letters VI may be discerned, probably VIC TORIAE [sic]: the other part of the stone, bearing the inscription, the

Farmer assured me was broken by chance when the Mason was putting it up, and thrown away: probably it recorded some victory gained by Severus over the Caledonians, of which History is silent; what a loss therefore is it to the literary World. We know but little of this important Campaign; /182 important it must have been in every sense of the word, to have called the Emperor together with his sons, the heirs to the Purple into Britain: the whole disposable force from the Southern stations, as well as the Legionaries of the II and VI quartered on the line, were then called into action under their direction.¹⁰⁴ Never did I so much regret the loss of a few letters, as on the present occasion: but I have endeavoured to give some idea of the remaining fragment which I hope will continue to proclaim what has been lost.¹⁰⁵ An Altar preserved in the Farmer's garden, dedicated to the Nymphs by a Vexillatio of the VI Legion is tolerably perfect, but the conclusion of the inscription is not so legible as the preceding lines.¹⁰⁶ Highly gratified with what I had seen at Nether Croy Farm, I proceeded under the escort of the Old Farmer, who seemed an intelligent person for his station in life, to the summit of Croy Hill, where among the Craggs of the rocks was established one of the strongest forts as to situation I have noticed on the line; the square stones let into the wall of a dwelling house, situate near the summit, and others employed among those of the inclosures, indicate that these were formerly well constructed edifices /183 in this desolate spot;¹⁰⁷ but the most singular appearance which the old man bade me remark, was a large mass of rock, lying in the trench of the Vallum itself just under the Fort, which has either baffled the perseverance of those employed to dig the trench, or they left it in the midst of the line, as a bridge of passage a little beyond, great pains were evidently bestowed to carry the trench strait forwards through the rocky barrier, which indicates there was some reason for leaving it unbroken.¹⁰⁸

My sketches Nos 1 and 2,¹⁰⁹ are taken towards Banhill [sic], where the whole line is visible running westward; as it is in the opposite direction from Croyhill station, quite to Westerwood Farm house, where was the Fort we visited last night: by having their positions in sight of each other along the line, any communication of the Romans might be made by signal, and conveyed from one extremity to the other with the celerity of our modern Telegraphs. This position of Croyhill, as well as Barhill, about a



ILLUS 8 Skinner's Fig 365, 'Stone No 2 in the wall of Nether Croyhouse. The Altar in the garden' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 42)



ILLUS 9 Skinner's Fig 368, 'Croy hill Station and course of the Dyke' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 45)



ILLUS 10 Skinner's Fig 370, 'Barhill Station' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 49)

mile beyond, is on a commanding elevation; and the view of these heights independently of their being connected with military operations must have been most interesting to the garrisons quartered here. At Barhill, as the name /184 implies,¹¹⁰ a British trackway crossed the line of the Dyke, a kind of natural amphitheatre is here formed by the rocks apparently pointing out shelter for the station; but the Romans preferred keeping the high ground, beyond where I traced the square of a double agger, the road running through an inclosure of six acres, as far as I could guess.¹¹¹ I observed also several of the fields in this neighbourhood ploughed in high ridges, the same as at Lincoln, and in the vicinity of York, which shows the Romans every where carried improvement with them.¹¹² One of their own writers remarks that they never conquered a people without colonizing or instructing them in agriculture and the arts.¹¹³ From Barhill, several inscriptions found on the spot, have been taken to Glasgow at different periods;¹¹⁴ others have been lately carried to a Mr Gordon's about two miles distant, which I resolved to get a sight of, expecting another such treat as I

had enjoyed at Nether Croy Farm; but was disappointed. Inquiring at a Farm House, contiguous to Barhill, respecting the remains which from time to time have been found there, the occupier informed me that some years ago, it was reported that three Highlanders had been dug up at Croy Hill; an Old man and his two Sons; and that they were found / 185 quite as fresh as though they had just been buried; this drew several people together, who were disappointed at perceiving these Highlanders were carved on stone, not human bodies as they expected. This had reference I found, to the stone afterwards carried to Nether Croy Farm which I copied. It is curious to observe that the common people themselves made the observation of the Roman dress; being similar to that of the Highlanders, which people certainly have retained the Costume first introduced by their conquering Colonists.¹¹⁵ I have not yet met with any Coins, nor indeed with any fragments of Roman pottery; although I have closely examined every station they occupied, and can only account for it, by supposing an accumulation of soil, either carried for the purposes of



ILLUS 11 Skinner's Fig 371, 'Fragment of an Altar found at Barhill' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 51)

manure, where agriculture prevails; or by growing of the Peat mosses in the more uncultivated parts. At Barhill, indeed, I saw fragments of an Amphora, found last week at the depth of three feet by a man making a ditch: as the soil around it was dark, it might have been used as a sepulchral vessel to contain the ashes of the deceased.¹¹⁶ I advised the man to extend his excavations in the direction where the discovery was made, and endeavoured to spur / 186 him to exertion by the hope of finding money. After a weary walk to Mr Gordon's to the left of the line of the Dyke,¹¹⁷ I found stones preserved in his Coach house, the upper and lower parts of two Altars:¹¹⁸ the first retains the letter Deo, but nothing beyond.¹¹⁹ In one respect it is interesting, on account of the zig zag border which the Saxons and Normans were so fond of imitating in their ornaments: indeed the twisted pillars accompanying the second fragment at Croy Farm which I have also noticed in some of the Roman sepulchral Cists in the British Museum were the models from whence

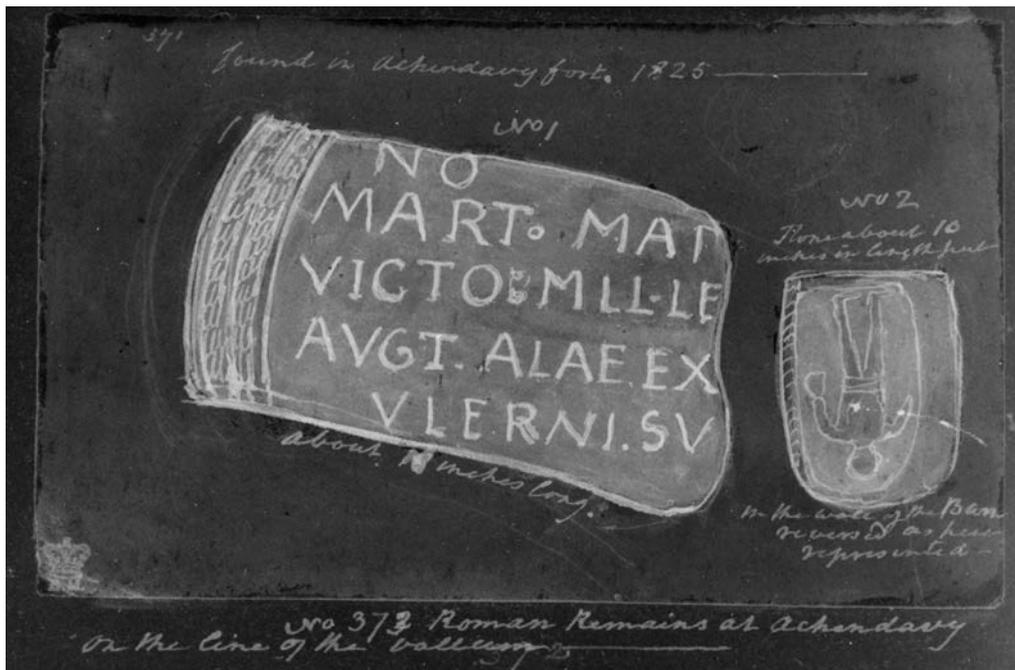
they were copied in their ecclesiastical edifices; everything convinces me that the Romans were the instructors of the English architects, and when we talk of the Norman and Saxon style, we in fact mean nothing but the Roman; for the English buildings were constructed both by Saxons and Normans after the models of the Roman edifices, which were remaining in the Country they conquered.¹²⁰ The line of the Dyke from Barhill, as it descends into cultivated grounds, is less visible, but the trench of one of the posts or small forts called Achen Davy [illus 12, 13] (that is, the place of defence near the passage over the water)¹²¹ is surrounded by a /187 deep moat; within this inclosure, building stones, and fragments with inscriptions have been found; a broke piece, about eighteen inches long, thrown and neglected in the farm yard, was pointed out to me, which I copied:¹²² from the circumstance of having the inscription surrounded with a wreath, I presume it commemorated some victory: it seems to have been dedicated to Mars by some of the soldiers, an [vacat]¹²³ of the legion, but which I cannot ascertain; indeed by carrying on the segment of the circle, one may perceive the wreath contained a long inscription, and probably a very interesting one, respecting the transactions of Severus in his Caledonian Wars.¹²⁴ Another stone rudely cut, of a human figure, is placed in the wall of a barn, with the head inverted; of this I also made a memorandum.¹²⁵ From hence to the town of Kirkintilloch, all trace of the Dyke is obliterated, as it passes through the meadow ground; at the latter place, the Peel or stronghold situate on a hill, in the centre of the town, must have been very strong. I did not make particular observations on this to day [sic], as I had so much to do on arriving at the Inn, that I did not quit it.

September 11 [illus 14–20]

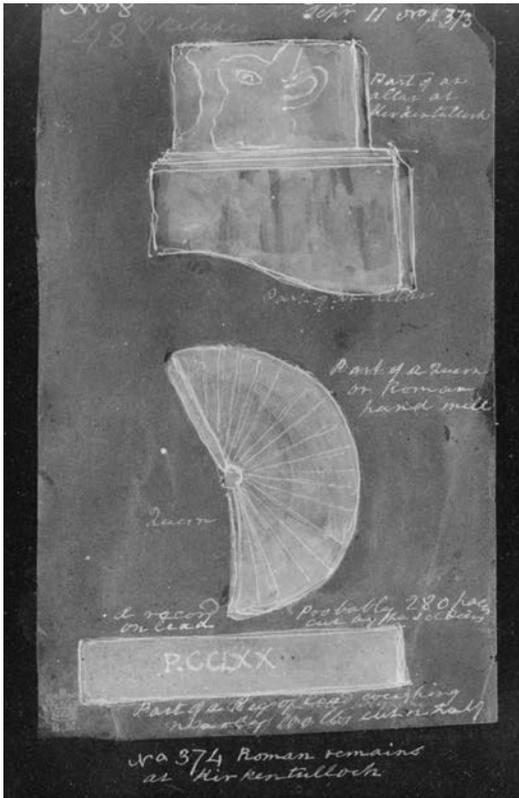
After a miserable night, not having closed my eyes till /188 past two o'clock, on account of the drunken set collected beneath my bed chamber, I left my room at eight, and dispatched my servant to Glasgow,¹²⁶ expecting to get a letter from Owen, who promised to write one directed to the Post Office, and I felt very anxious to hear how he was going on. At eleven I went to Church which was well filled:¹²⁷ the Preacher took his text from the Evangelist St John, who describes the two disciples on their road to Emmaus, conversing with our Saviour



ILLUS 12 Skinner's Fig 372, 'Achendavy Fort on the vallum' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 52)



ILLUS 13 Skinner's Fig 373, 'Roman Remains at Auchendavy on the line of the vallum' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 53)



ILLUS 14 Skinner's Fig 374, 'Roman Remains at Kirkentulloch' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 55)

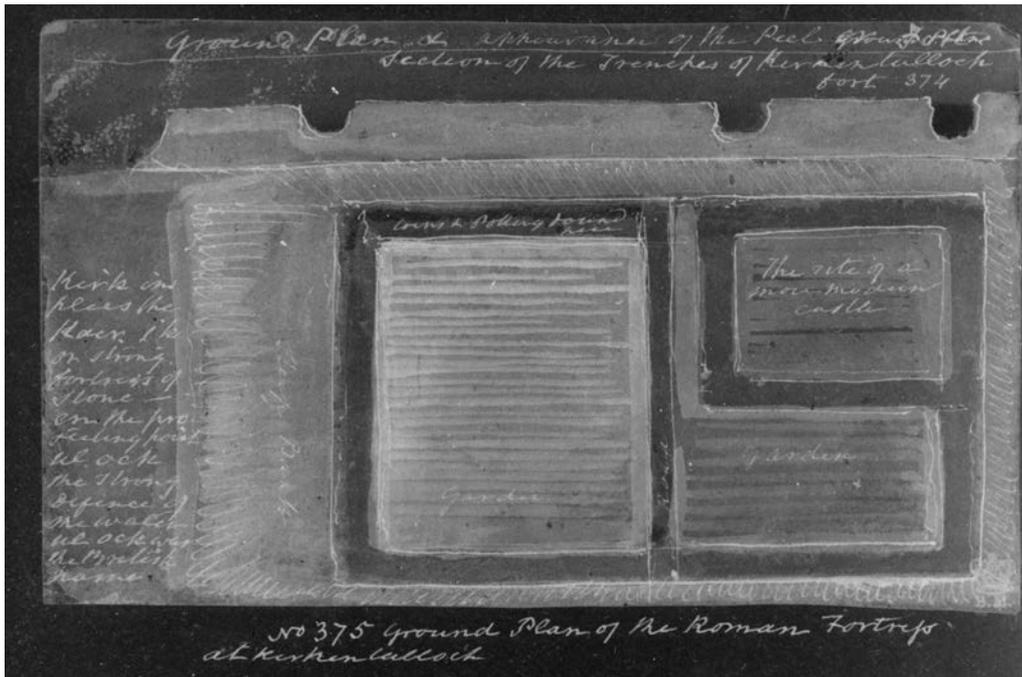
without knowing him, till he expounded the Scriptures unto them.¹²⁸ From this source, he took occasion to declare the doctrines the Messiah [sic] taught them; namely, that he was the Saviour spoken of by the Prophets, who was to die for the transgressions of mankind, and to rise again from the dead. The discourse continued nearly an hour and a half, and might certainly have been compressed within half that space, without losing its effect. I found the preacher was a young Student, engaged in assisting the clergyman of the place, who was absent on a visit. After Church, I walked to the Peel or Stronghold,¹²⁹ on the summit of the hill, and saw several of the square stones the Romans had employed in building the walls of the Fort. I am inclined to think that a more modern Castle or /189 Tower built in aftertimes, occupied the site of the Roman fort, as I observed a square within the original lines extending about fifty feet each way, and surrounded by a ditch, twenty five or thirty feet

deep, which although on the Roman site, does not altogether appear to be their work:¹³⁰ two or three Silver Coins, and some of Copper, have been found here; also a Pig of Lead, marked CCXX.¹³¹ Of this I made a drawing, after it had been sawn in half, it weighed nearly a hundred pounds. I was also shown the base of an Altar, having the representation of some animal carved in alto relievo, but so defaced, I cannot give it a name: also part of a quern or hand mill.¹³²

Hearing from an intelligent person that there was a picturesque glen and Cascade, five miles distant, formed by the streams descending from the Campsey [sic] Hills, I determined on walking thither after dinner,¹³³ and had the satisfaction of securing him as my companion. During our walk I gained much local information from my guide, who was a tradesman in the town. Passing through two Villages called Old and New Campsey, we pursued our course, and arrived at [vacat] glen, and found a mountain torrent rushing over immense fragments of rock, fringed with wood, a winding footpath in the midst of a /190 narrow pass leading to the fall, which rushes over a ledge at least thirty feet.¹³⁴ This interesting subject I have endeavoured to show in my sketches,¹³⁵ and think it will make a pleasing variety in my collection. Returning to the Inn to tea, I was much disappointed to learn from the man I sent to Glasgow, that he had brought no letter from my son. I think if Owen had been seriously ill, that Mr Broster would have written. I felt quite worried, and wrote to Edinburgh immediately, in time to save the Post, desiring Owen to let me hear from him by return, so that I may get his letter at Glasgow the day after tomorrow. This makes quite a drawback to the satisfaction I should otherwise experience, and I cannot divine the reason why he has not written.

September 12 [illus 17–20]

As it was a long day's walk to Old Kirk Patrick, where was to be our station for the night,¹³⁶ I was an early riser and had breakfast over before eight o'clock, having dispatched my Portmanteau by the Coach to Glasgow, and paid a very moderate bill, I took leave of Kirkentulloch. The place evidently derives its name from having been the Caer of the el och, the stronghold te ul or ool of the water:¹³⁷ as it was one of the principal passes in the Country on the /191 frontier of the Highlands, it must have been a post of importance before the Romans



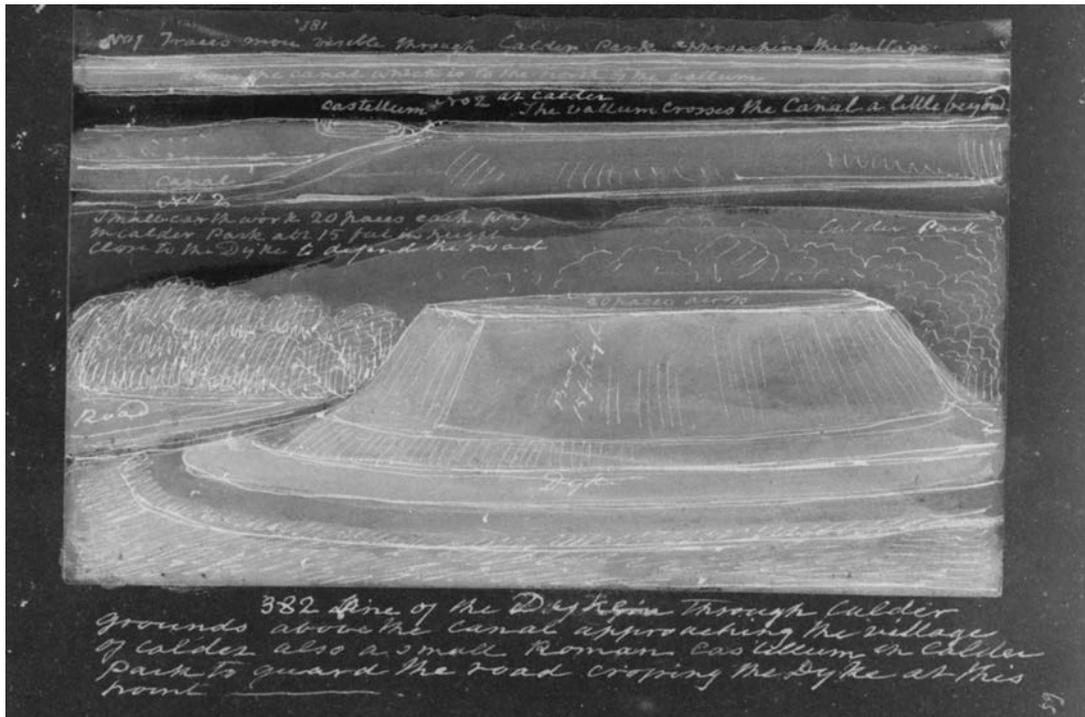
ILLUS 15 Skinner's Fig 375, 'Ground plan of the Roman Fortress at Kirkentulloch' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol / 56)



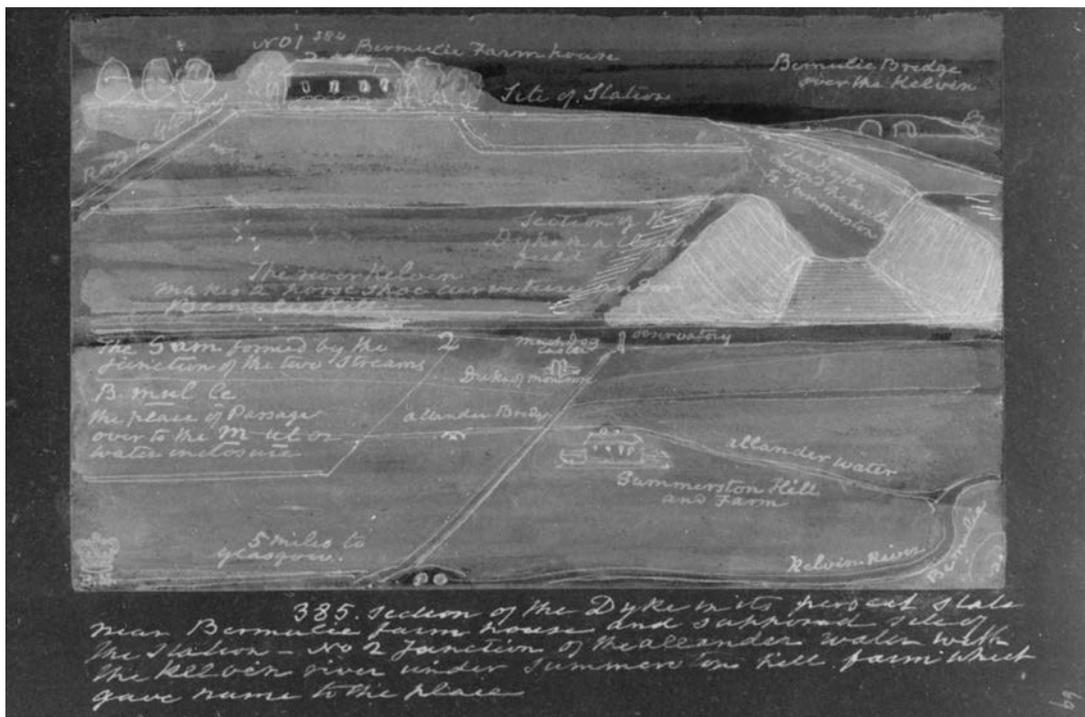
ILLUS 16 Skinner's illus 376, 'Birds eye view of the Fortress at Kirkentulloch' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 57)

occupied it, and was doubtless one of the positions Agricola took for the erection of a Fort, when proceeding in his operations against the Caledonians.¹³⁸ Independently of the Kilvin [sic] river which flows close to the town, the lower ground in the vicinity must have been in those days an impassable morass, excepting by the Causeways carried through the Country, which were properly guarded. The Kilvin derives its name from the wyn or water, elik of the stronghold:¹³⁹ As I have before observed that [sic] this was the usage in other instances to call rivers by the names of the places contiguous to them. I proceeded with alacrity along the Glasgow road;¹⁴⁰ the morning after the rain was delightful: the line of the Dyke is visible, keeping the rising ground, a little to the left of the turnpike: though the banks have been much injured by the progress of agriculture, and indeed will soon be lost where the vallum descends to the lower ground. Arriving at the draw bridge,¹⁴¹ which crosses the Canal, I made a sketch of a Treckscoit or passage boat.¹⁴² then on her way home from Falkirk to Glasgow; the vessel was drawn by three horses, and appeared /192 full of company, some of whom were sitting under an awning at the stern. The line of the Dyke is scarcely visible beyond this bridge; however I was able still to trace it for nearly a mile to the right of the road, when it enters Calder park, and points towards the village of Calder:¹⁴³ by climbing the park wall, we were enabled to follow its course on the high ground above the Canal; but soon met with a stoppage, as the Roman Vallum is intersected by this more modern Dyke near the point where a Roman tower or Castellum was erected on the line; this we saw, or rather the green bank on which it stood, rising high on the opposite side of the water:¹⁴⁴ but in order to visit the spot we were obliged to make a circuit along the banks of the canal till we reached the bridge, and afterwards found still greater difficulty in scaling a high wall contiguous to it.¹⁴⁵ This mound of earth, thrown up as a fortress, is, I should think, twenty feet perpendicular in height, measured from the bottom of the Dyke, and is twenty paces each way on the summit; a sufficient space for the erection of a tower to guard the vallum at this spot, and for the communication of signals along the line. The Dyke traverses the Park to the South of this stronghold,¹⁴⁶ is seen in very bold style on the high ground near Calder House, /193 the residence of Mr Sterling,¹⁴⁷ whose Bailiff conducted me along the line, and gave me

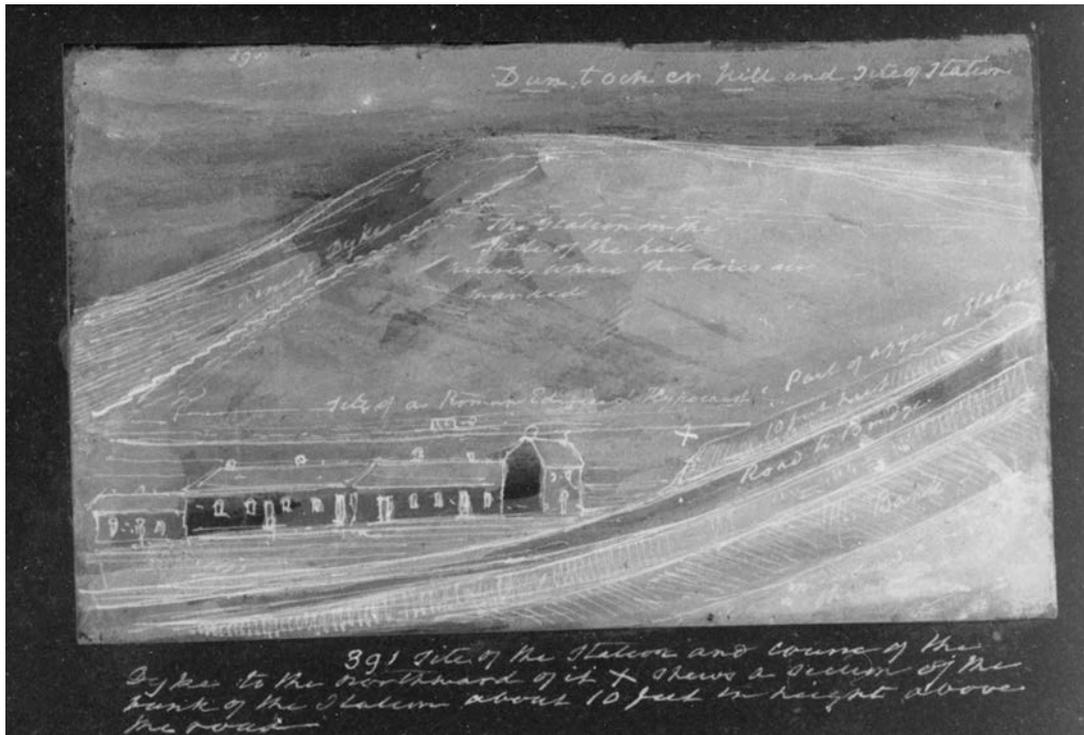
directions to the next station at Bemulie [sic] Farm. Continuing a five minutes walk through the woods, where the agger and fosse of the Roman work are in good preservation, we got into large inclosures. Here the plough has been very busy in the levelling system; however the line can still be traced to a Hamlet called Bockley, half a mile short of Bemulie. I thought I here noticed a small Fort on the South side of the Dyke; at any rate, the banks are higher here than one usually sees in the inclosure of a plantation, which is the purpose this inclosure is at present put to.¹⁴⁸ The dorsum of the military way, which all along has accompanied the vallum a little to the South of it, is here very visible, and where the road is cut through the stones which formed the causeway are seen as they were laid in strata.¹⁴⁹ The Fosse as we approached Bemulie Farm House is almost in a perfect state, being thirty feet across, and the bank twelve feet high; but it terminates abruptly, as it descends the hill, or in other words, it has been levelled, so that it is difficult to ascertain the precise spot where it crossed the Kelvin river to ascend the hill on which Summerston Farm is built. There cannot be a better proof of the locality of the object /194 being the origin of its name; than what is afforded in the present instance. Summerston Farm House is situate between the Allander water and the Kelvin; the former tributary stream uniting itself with the river a little to the Eastward of the house, forming the um or inclosure of the S or winding water, the Kelvin just at this point describing the characteristic of that letter.¹⁵⁰ Bermulie [sic] on the opposite bank, was so denominated from having been the Be or passage to the le or place of the mul or mool [sic], water inclosure.¹⁵¹ The annexed sketch¹⁵² will best explain the relative situation of the places, and the supposed line the Dyke took across the Kelvin Water below the bridge to Summerston. By the way, Somerston, which gave name to the County I inhabit,¹⁵³ is situate like this place on an inclosure formed by the water. If there not truth in the system I have adopted, why should we find the same names of places in England and Scotland; and why should the places going by the same names be ever found to accord to their situation. Bemulie Bridge is five miles to the North of Glasgow, and a road passes over it direct to the Highlands. A little to the left of the road, about a mile from Bemulie, I was shown *Much Dog* [sic] Castle,¹⁵⁴ the Seat of the Duke of Montrose, where the present Nobleman was born,



ILLUS 17 Skinner's Fig 382, 'Line of the Dyke through Calder grounds' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 65)



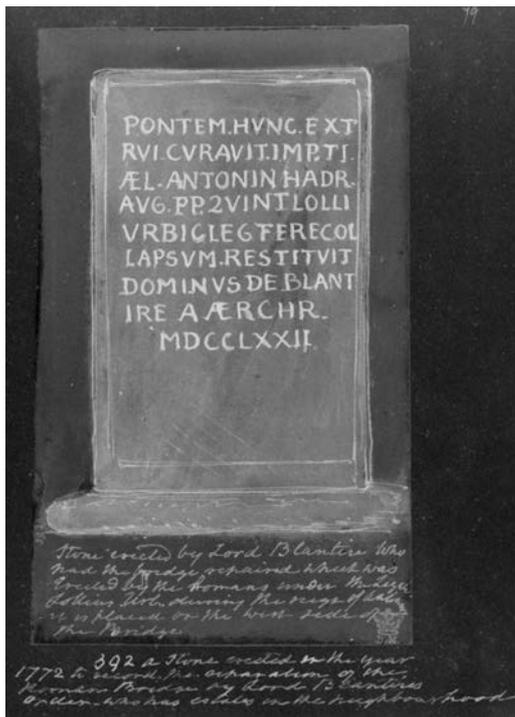
ILLUS 18 Skinner's Fig 385, 'Section of the Dyke in its present state near Bermulie farm house' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 69)



ILLUS 19 Skinner's Fig 391, 'Site of the Station' [at Duntocher] (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 78)

as /195 my director at Bemulie informed me, but he was not so well able to show me where the Roman station stood: it certainly was on the hill, near the Farm House; as quantities of squared building stones and foundations of houses have been dug up there, and are now visible in all the walls and edifices in the vicinity: but not a trace of the aggers is to be seen.¹⁵⁵ How General Roy could take an exact plan of the place I am quite at a loss to guess;¹⁵⁶ as a woman passed the middle age, who was born on the spot, and her parents before her, says, she never recollects any banks on the hill, besides Grimes Dyke, neither did she ever here [sic] talk of any. Proceeding from Bemulie across the bridge, and leaving Summerston a little to the left, we inquired the way to Melochan:¹⁵⁷ the traces of the Dyke are very imperfect near the Farm House: but the military road pointing strait from it up the hill, shews the line it took on the plain at the top of the hill, not a vestige is left;¹⁵⁸ but in Furgeston [sic] Wood about half a mile beyond, on the summit of another hill,¹⁵⁹ the Dyke is very perfect. On leaving the Wood, it descends gradually by the side of the

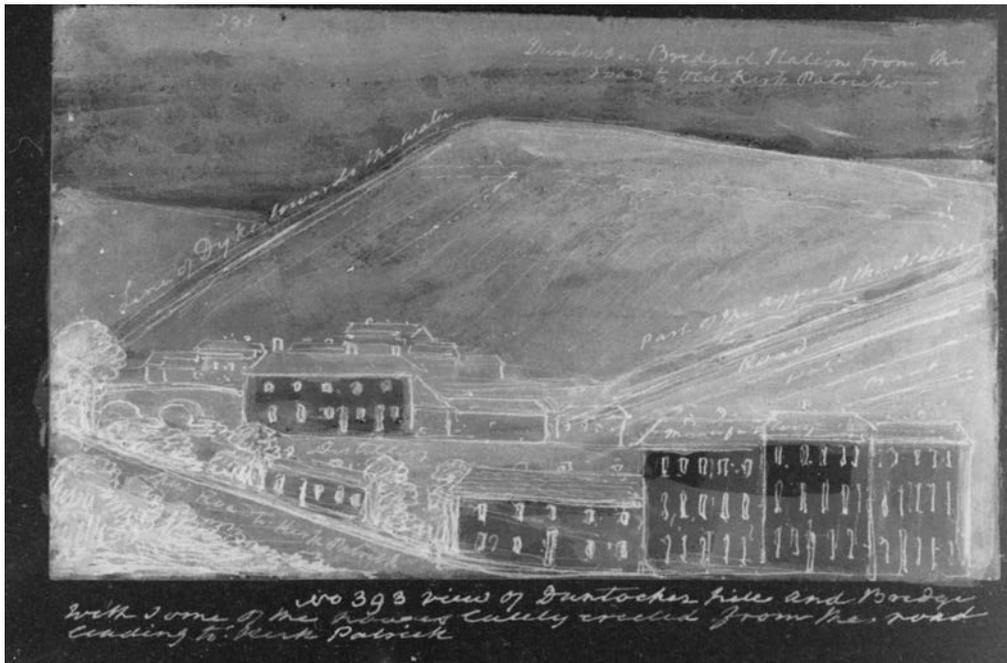
hill, under Furgeston Farm, where the Dyke falling into a natural ravine is very wide and deep;¹⁶⁰ it then passes /196 to New Kirk Patrick [sic], where there was a small fort on the line. By the way, I noticed a building facing Furgeston Farm, which they told me had been intended for a Kirk, for it never was finished.¹⁶¹ At Kirk Patrick I could get no more satisfactory information respecting the site of the Fort, than I did, respecting that at Bemulie, but am inclined to think it faced the church, which stands on the opposite bank of the stream,¹⁶² and as a road traverses the Vallum at this point, it is where we are to look for the defence. I saw large squared stones in the College walls,¹⁶³ some of them chisselled in lines after the Roman manner in order to make them adhere better to the cement: the earth also in the gardens was dark, but none of the people (one of whom appeared to be nearly seventy years of age) could give any information as to the inclosure: they told me a stone of letters had once been dug up there, but they could not say whatever was become of it.¹⁶⁴ Very little traces of the Dyke appeared across the arable land as I gradually



ILLUS 20 Skinner's Fig 392, 'A Stone erected in the year 1772' [at the Roman Bridge, Duntocher] (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 79)

ascended from New Kirk Patrick to Thorn Tree Hill. I have had occasion before to remark that Thorn implies the same as Toren, the place of the Tower, and this /197 spot was doubtless pitched upon by the Romans for the purpose of a Speculum,¹⁶⁵ as it commands a full view of the Clyde river, and the Country beyond Paisley, and formed an intermediate point of communication between Castle Hill and New Kirk Patrick, which lies low. This name Patrick had as much to do with the Irish Saint, as Padstow in Cornwall, although that is said to have been the stow or place where the Saint landed from Ireland in order to convert the Britons. Pad-er-ick, is literally the ic or ick, that is to say, the stronghold of the Pad or seat of the passage. I will not presume to deny that in allusion to the Saint, if any place bore an affinity to his name, that the Church established there might have been dedicated to him; but I do deny that the name of any place originated in the Saint. Peterborough, Petersfield, Petersham, etc, etc had all their names in Britain before St. Peter was heard of, and for the same

reason, as Patrick received their denominating *Pet*, being the et or seat of the P or passage, the same as *Pad*; and *er* is employed as the British demonstrative article, but this by the way: From Thorn Tree to Castle Hill, the Dyke crossing /198 the lower ground, is traced with difficulty; but it evidently ascended to the summit of Castle Hill, where was a very commanding situation on the line, and the Romans seem to have considered it of such importance; that not only the military road attached to the stations, but one passing into the interior of the Country led from this point. Indeed the Farmer residing here pointed out to me a piece of ground to the South East of the hill near the line of the other Causeway as he called it, which seem to have been occupied by buildings which makes it probable that there was a settlement here independently of the Fort which guarded the vallum.¹⁶⁶ The old man who was very intelligent for one in his line of life, said, that he had heard that the Romans communicated their signals from fort to fort by striking chains, or long iron rods with large mallets, which conveyed intelligence by sound.¹⁶⁷ I remember perfectly a tradition the people had along the line of the wall of Severus, that intelligence was communicated from fort to fort by the means of pipes placed in the Wall,¹⁶⁸ however erroneous, and we may add, impracticable, such /199 things might have been: we may derive this truth from long established tradition; that there was instantaneous communication by signal along the whole line which the Britons perhaps so often experienced to their cost, that it was not easily forgotten. The same appearance of hewn stone may be observed in the walls on Castle Hill, but the defences of the station are entirely levelled with the soil. On descending the hill we followed the course of the vallum to the westward through a Potatoe ground, where it passed Peel Glen, so named from its vicinity to the Peel, or epel, the stronghold to defend the place of passage.¹⁶⁹ General Roy mentions a Causeway over the brook,¹⁷⁰ but I could not find it. The Dyke having passed the glen, traverses some Corn fields, and of course its vestiges are much defaced; but on ascending the hill to Cledden farm, the Old road to Glasgow seems to have taken the northern agger, or slight appearance of the Fosse being seen within the ridge which bounds the road to the South beyond Cledden (ic ed ed en)¹⁷¹ it traverses some large corn fields, where the line is just visible to Duntocher Hill, on which there was a considerable



ILLUS 21 Skinner's Fig 393, 'View of Duntocher hill and Bridge' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 80)



ILLUS 22 Skinner's Fig 394, 'Course of the Dyke and Roman military way' (BL Add MSS 33686, fol 81)

station above the water, as the name implies (dun et och er, vide /200 also, Logher in Wales, Locharber, etc, etc).¹⁷² Although the slope of this hill is very steep, the plough has not been restrained from the work of demolition, and only one bank is to be seen of the original fortress. Towards the South West, now planted with Fir trees, a man past the middle of life pointed out to me the lines of the station towards the bottom of the hill above the bridge, which he remembered having been levelled.¹⁷³ he also showed me the spot where a vaulted passage he said, had been discovered twenty or thirty years ago, made of Roman bricks: in confirmation of his testimony I picked up several fragments at the spot; also some pieces of flue tiles; probably it was the hypocaut of a Roman residence:¹⁷⁴ he moreover said, some stones with inscriptions had been found, and sent to Glasgow.¹⁷⁵ On quitting the site of the station, I made a sketch of the bridge, and the hill beyond it:¹⁷⁶ one of the arches my Conductor showed me, had been made wider, in order to give greater security to the road which passes over it: the other part of the arch, he [sic] has ever been considered to have been erected by the Romans; and in support of this assertion showed me an inscription set up on a square stone 201/ near the bridge, which states that the original structure having nearly fallen to decay *ferè collapsum*, it was repaired in the year 1772, by Lord Blantire.¹⁷⁷ Having taken four sketches at Duntocher,¹⁷⁸ I was admonished by the ringing of the six o'clock bell of a neighbouring manufactory, to leave the village, now grown to a populous place by the introduction of Cloth Looms. Old Kirk Patrick lies two miles further to the Westward of Duntocher. It was a beautiful evening, and although somewhat fatigued with my long walk, I enjoyed it much. The Romans vallum took the side of the hill to the right on leaving Duntocher,¹⁷⁹ and the military way accompanying it, was used as a public road till within these last twenty years, as an intelligent man informed me, whom I met during my walk under his direction, I ascended the line of the Roman paved way about fifty paces from the road, previously taking a sketch of a small square fort.¹⁸⁰ On the side of the hill to the South of the Dyke, we followed this ancient Causeway through some inclosures to Sandybourne, where it crosses a small stream, near which stood within the recollection of my guide (he having been born near the spot) a 202/ stone pillar, perhaps a military stone which has

been removed into the garden of a gentleman, residing between Kirk Patrick and Glasgow.¹⁸¹ We arrived at the Inn just as the Evening closed; and I had flattered myself from its outward appearance, I should have spent a quiet Evening; but in this I was disappointed, since a set of drunken fellows, Masons I understood, engaged in building a new house for Lord Blantire, kept up the most Bachinalian [sic] uproar I ever heard, till two o'clock.¹⁸² The Scots certainly do not merit the character bestowed on them, as a sober people, I have never seen such [vacat] in England. Before I went to bed, I wrote a letter to the Post Master at Glasgow, and sent it by my man, with orders to bring back my portmanteau by the Steamboat, as I understood he might with ease return by one o'clock to this place, and if I had good accounts of Owen, I shall proceed directly to Dumbarton only four miles distant, and visit the Highlands, before I go to Glasgow.

September 13

I have finished my sketches and Journals to the present time: the clock has struck one,¹⁸³ and my messenger not returned: I shall be quite uneasy if he does not bring 203/ me a letter today, as Owen must have received mine on Sunday night. Castle Dunglass, the termination of the Vallum of Antonine,¹⁸⁴ is in sight from the Inn windows two miles distant on the banks of the Clyde; that is the point I shall proceed to directly the man returns: half past one, the man not returned!!! Wishing to occupy my thoughts in this interval of suspense, I walked to Dunglass Castle.¹⁸⁵ I find when digging into the Canal about thirty years since, they cut through the Roman road in this direction;¹⁸⁶ but not the least traces of the Dyke is [sic] visible. During my walk I made two sketches of the Kilpatrick braes,¹⁸⁷ as they are called, which formed the barrier to the Highlands: they seem to have been defended by trenches at different openings; indeed the strata of the rock, running almost parallel: ledges must have afforded a natural security in most parts for the Caledonians: at Bowness [sic] (eb ow el en)¹⁸⁸ there is a ness, or projection into the water; and locks for admission of vessels into the Canal; also a dock for the repair of ships: this Canal is certainly a great undertaking, forming an easy communication between the Clyde and Frith [sic] of Forth. The Roman line I have /204 just traversed, it is true is a vast work; yet we attach more value to it perhaps,

because it was executed so many hundred years ago. Compare it with the Canal which flows at the base, by which vessels are elevated with facility to the side of the hills, or sunk with as much ease to the level of the sea; and the mere digging of a Dyke by the Romans will appear vastly inferior. This skilful people, although excellent engineers, did not understand that water would find its level;¹⁸⁹ how astonished therefore would they be could we call any of them from the sleep of fifteen hundred years, to see large vessels brought close to the Dyke they constructed with so much labour by a channel thrice the width of their Fosse. To see how every obstacle of hill and valley has been surmounted to preserve the level of water: yet how much more astonished would they be to look towards their ancient station at Dunglass, and see the steam Vessels passing to and fro with the rapidity of an arrow sent from a bow, some making their way against wind and time; some stopping instantly in the midst of a full career to take in passengers: some towing up large vessels which could not possibly work by themselves; /205 the wind and tide being both adverse: in the midst of astonishment excited by these different objects; if about twenty pieces of cannon from Dumbarton Rock were to be brought to bear on the station at Dunglass, and they were to hear balls rattling like the thunderbolts of Jupiter against their strong cemented parapets; they would be constrained to confess, that the moderns surpass them in the Arts as well as Arms. In a degree too the wisest of their wise could never have anticipated; and who can say what may be the discoveries of future times: the mechanical powers, especially of steam may be applied to purposes we cannot now dream of; yet mankind are but as the grass of the field, or as Old Homer says, or [sic] like the Leaves of Autumn.¹⁹⁰ Where then is the place for Pride, when looking on the Ephemera of the Lake, man may say 'these are my family! behold my brothers!

Walk humbly then, on trembling pinions soar,

Wait the great teacher Death, and God adore.¹⁹¹

On the morning of 14 September, disdaining the use of the stagecoach from Dumbarton, on account of the fine scenery, Skinner reached Balloch on foot where he dismissed the guide who had been with him since Falkirk (the man had 'too great a predilection for whisky'); moreover Skinner needed one who

'spoke Gaelic more fluently and understood the Country better'.¹⁹² His subsequent route up the west coast included Inveraray, Oban, Staffa, Iona, Mull and Glencoe, the Caledonian Canal on a steamboat to Fort Augustus, and Inverness. Then he travelled eastwards along the south coast of the Moray Firth, passing Culloden and Elgin, sketching stone circles, forts and Norse monuments, to Aberdeen, of which there is a very considerable account,¹⁹³ including antiquities at Marischal College.¹⁹⁴ He then travelled southwards, passing the Roman camp at Stonehaven (ie Raedykes), continuing overnight by stagecoach to Edinburgh where on 4 October he was reunited with his son.¹⁹⁵ Dr Broster's bill amounted to £25 for Owen's food and accommodation, and £100 'for his entrance'.¹⁹⁶ While doing business at Sir W Forbes' bank in Parliament Square, he told one of the partners about his discovery of 'Severus and his sons', and found one of the Edinburgh professors interested.¹⁹⁷ He also visited the Museum at Edinburgh University.¹⁹⁸

Father and son then travelled together by boat to Stirling,¹⁹⁹ then 'drove' to Glasgow, halting at Cumbernauld to change horses.²⁰⁰ In Glasgow they lodged at the Black Bull in the High Street, close to their intended destination, Glasgow College. It is time to take up the account again in Skinner's words, under 8 October:²⁰¹

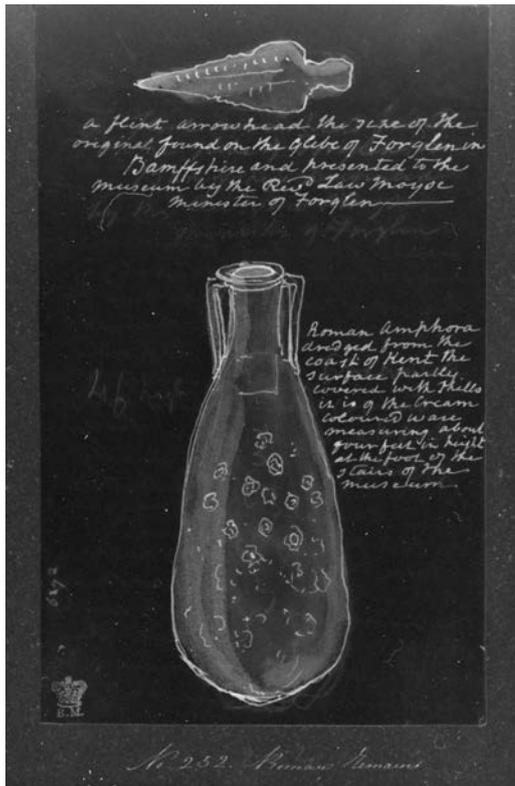
/407 Retracing our steps towards the City, we entered at twelve o'clock, the College gates,²⁰² in order to visit the Museum, containing Dr Hunter's valuable collection;²⁰³ it is not permitted to take an earlier hour;²⁰⁴ and as it was, twenty minutes elapsed before the door opened, after repeated ringing at the entrance of the said Museum. During the time I stood under the Portico, the rain still falling in heavy showers, I made a sketch of the New Building, on the opposite part of the College; it is free stone, and constructed on a good plan. The original quadrangle is dark and gloomy; small 408/ windows and projecting staircases, surmounted by turrets like candle extinguishers. I have frequently seen this on the old houses in Scotland, and it reminds me of the taste prevalent in Holland, about



ILLUS 23 Skinner's Fig 250, 'In the Glasgow Museum' (BL Add MSS 33689, fol 62)

the same period. On entering the Museum we paid a shilling each,²⁰⁵ and inserted our names in a book.²⁰⁶ At Edinburgh they exact half a crown from each visitor.²⁰⁷ Methinks the example shewn by Foreigners, and so properly adopted at the British Museum, might have its weight in other places: works of Science ought in all parts of the World to be open to the inspection of Men of Science, and well instructed Conductors should be in attendance to explain whatever is most interesting, and who might perhaps acquire as much knowledge themselves, as they were enabled to impart, from the conversations of various visitors. I have no reason to complain of the deficiency of the person who attended me during the time I was permitted to spend in this place; for I thought him a very intelligent, accommodating Ciceroni [sic].²⁰⁸ Having taken a cursory view of the anatomical preparations in Spirits, etc, etc, which I confess made my blood run cold, and of the animals, beasts and reptiles stuffed /409 and preserved, I inquired for the principal object of my search the Antiquities which I had understood had been brought from the stations on Antonine's Vallum, and deposited in the

collection; to my great disappointment, I learned that the room which contained them was undergoing repair,²⁰⁹ and that I could in no wise procure a sight of them. The man after hearing that I had so lately traversed the line of forts, and took so much interest in the discoveries made there, procured me a book with plates taken of the contents of the Room, and I was fain to secure my intelligence second hand, and copy the inscriptions as perfect as time would permit.²¹⁰ While he was gone for the book, I made sketches [illus 23] of a flint arrowhead and hatchet preserved in one of the cases; the former found in Bamffshire [sic] in a Barrow exactly resembling what Sir Richard Hoare has met with in Wiltshire, with barbs so as to inflict a more deadly wound.²¹¹ In the same Case, was a brazen Celt with a groove for the insertion of a wooden handle,²¹² and another instrument of the same kind, which instead of having /410 the wood let into the brass, was let into the wood, and fixed with a rivet.²¹³ As generally as these instruments are found over Europe, it is strange that no proper account has yet been given of the use to which they have been applied; my idea of late has been, they were



ILLUS 24 Skinner's Fig 252, 'Roman Remains' (BL Add MSS 33689, fol 64)

instruments of Sacrifice. The inscriptions I copied from the book amounted in the whole to seventeen:²¹⁴ they are principally brought from the Stations on the Wall of Antonine, and for the most part indicate the number of paces performed by the Cohorts and Vixillations [sic] of the sixth and twentieth Legions while digging the Vallum.²¹⁵

Two busts²¹⁶ and some very badly executed figures found at Kilpatrick,²¹⁷ completed the whole of my gleanings from the Glasgow Museum, of the Antiquities found on the line of the Vallum of Antonine; but at the foot of the Staircase, I met with a large Roman Amphora [illus 24], the surface covered with Shells; an inscription pasted on the neck, informs us it was dredged up on the coast of Kent; where it had probably remained since the Shipwreck of the Vessel which imported it full of wine or oil: it measures four feet in height, and contains nine gallons.²¹⁸ Hunter's collection of Coins is preserved in this Museum; but Antiquaries are considered such a thieving race, it is not possible

to gain admission to it, without a couple of standers by to prevent pocketing, or *swallowing* [sic], as some have been known /414 to do on occasion: for my own part, I think an antiquary thief, deserves hanging more than a highwayman; the one steals more frequently through necessity, the other through avarice, and the worst of covetousness, almost amounting to idolatry.²¹⁹ The morning had been pretty well occupied; however we continued to visit the quay and shipping before dinner. . .

On the following day (Sunday) Skinner went to hear the 'celebrated' Dr Thomas Chalmers preach at St John's Chapel.²²⁰ He was unimpressed, describing the speaker as 'a ranting quack, more pretending to an infallible nostrum', who 'had worked himself up like a Steam Engine'.²²¹ A sermon by a Glasgow professor in the Cathedral, later in the day, was more to his liking.²²²

Next morning he and his son were called at 5.30am to catch the 6am stage coach for Carlisle, via Kilmarnock and Dumfries. Thereafter they journeyed via Lancaster, Stafford, Birmingham, Warwick, Oxford, Cirencester and Bath, reaching their home at Camerton on 18 October.

Skinner's thoughts quickly turned to publication of his discoveries, especially the stones at Nether Croy farm, and other material he had observed on his travels on the northern frontier wall. He had already drafted an account, in Edinburgh,²²³ and on 22 November he despatched copies to the Society of Antiquaries in London,²²⁴ and to the 'Society of Scottish Antiquaries' in Edinburgh. His paper to the London society was read at the meeting on 19 January 1826, and published soon after (Skinner 1827). The copy sent to Edinburgh was read on 26 February 1827 but not published; however, the manuscript of it survives, in his brother's handwriting, but with sketches by Skinner himself.²²⁵ The Secretary of the Edinburgh society responded with some helpful suggestions on the interpretation of the stones. Skinner was made a Corresponding Member of the 'Society of Scottish Antiquaries' in April 1827.²²⁶ He gave a talk to the

Bristol Philosophical and Literary Society, which was reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.²²⁷ In March 1826 he settled down to complete his sketches, and to draw stones not seen in Glasgow, and others, to complete his coverage of the epigraphic material, and prepared a number of maps.²²⁸

DISCUSSION

Skinner was not a casual, uninformed visitor. He used his time in Edinburgh well, to buy two tour books and prepare notes on his coming visit to the Wall. He displayed a very commendable sense of topography, he fieldwalked many of the sites, as time permitted, enquired of local people as to traditions and recent finds, and was prepared to take an independent view. He does not seem to have had with him any maps, but hired guides, of varying usefulness as it turned out, to direct him. At times, the monument itself served as an indicator of the route he must take. He was not afraid of a long walk in the rain, and remained mindful of his ecclesiastical interests and spiritual needs.²²⁹

Skinner's account of the Hunterian Museum (and indeed of other museums on his route) is invaluable, showing which objects were on display, and copying out information from labels which have long since disappeared.

His assessment of the Antonine Wall and its surviving installations at a fixed date is particularly valuable, in the very long gap between (on the one hand) the informed accounts of General William Roy (completed in the 1770s though not published until 1793) and William Nimmo (for Stirlingshire, 1777), and (on the other hand) of Robert Stuart in 1845. The countryside was of course very much less built up in Skinner's day, and villages and towns small by comparison with their modern counterparts. Skinner relied principally on his own observations to detect the various elements of the frontier line. Skinner had a liking for the occasional classical or literary allusion and quotation, typical of his

time and calling. He regretted the ever-continuing deterioration of the field monuments, a complaint of all travellers along the Wall from Sir Robert Sibbald (1707, 27) to the present-day (Robertson 2001, 45ff).

Skinner's account provides new evidence for sites along the Wall, for contemporary discoveries, and for the state of the visible remains in his day. Particularly welcome is his sketch of what resembles a mile-fortlet west of Duntocher (above – Skinner of course knew nothing of such a class of installation; less certainly he drew another at Wilderness Plantation (above)). He shows double enclosures at Croy and Inveravon, and less certainly at Kinkintilloch, suggestive of fort and annexe; recent excavation has suggested the presence of an annexe at Inveravon (Dunwell & Ralston 1995). His drawings of sculptured material at Kinkintilloch, Gartshore and Auchendavy are especially useful, and sometimes constitute our only record of items now lost. He reports an otherwise unknown section across the Military Way east of Balmuildy, and the discovery of an amphora just outside the fort of Bar Hill.

His account provides a fascinating insight into travel in early 19th century Britain before the coming of the railways. There is no evidence that he chose, or indeed was able, to reserve any accommodation in advance; his tour-books presumably listed some recommended halting places. 'Having rivalled St Bartholemew in my sufferings and excoriations from fleas and bugs [at Stirling, 7 October], I was glad to start early from my bed room. I am inclined to think that the constant fleaisigs [sic] I have experienced has something to do with my unfortunate name, since I may say it is the excoriator excoriatus, or the Skinner skinned. Parce precoris [sic] my motto,²³⁰ and I should wish to leave it in all the Scottish bed rooms wherever I have had my domicile: *it is indeed too much to be fleeced* [sic] in pocket and on hide in those miserable Auberges, to which a Village Inn in our own Country is a palace'.²³⁹

Skinner endured in his life much personal tragedy, the ranks of his family grievously thinned by consumption. In 1839 he committed suicide by shooting himself, in the woods behind his vicarage. In general his journals reveal him as quarrelsome and sometimes insensitive,²³² and signs of instability have been detected in his much earlier journal of a visit to Hadrian's Wall (Coombs & Coombs 1978, 5ff) but his walk from Forth to Clyde reveals, for the most part, little more perhaps than the irritations to be suffered by a traveller at the time, many of which would still have to be endured today, compounded by anxiety over the health of his son.

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NOTES

- 1 The sketches were prepared on the spot in pencil, and then 'penned in' during the evenings. Skinner's caption to his Fig 363 mentions putting a completed sketch in his pocket as he moved on. Several sketches were sometimes drawn on a single sheet of paper.
- 2 Add MSS 33683–9. In these notes, references to the MSS are to page and folio number, thus 130/fol 53.
- 3 Information from Ms Gail Boyle, Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery.
- 4 Coombs & Coombs 1978, building on Painter 1973. Notice also Skinner 1908, publication of a tour through Anglesea.
- 5 His account of Hadrian's Wall (Add MSS 33638) does not include any continuous narrative of its surviving remains, and few sketches of its current appearance, although plans and maps were added later, from authorities such as Horsley. In his sketches Skinner concentrated on ecclesiastical and castellated monuments, and inscribed and sculptured stones. For Skinner as an antiquary and excavator in Somerset, see Wedlake 1958, 14ff; Coombs & Coombs 1971, 82ff, 146; Jackson 1990, 9ff. Skinner had originally planned to visit Scotland too in 1801 (Add MSS 33638, 1/fol 26).
- 6 Add MSS 33685, 130/fol 53.
- 7 Add MSS 33685, 131/fol 60. The Edinburgh Post Office Directory for 1825–6 lists only a John Broster FAS [Fellow of the Antiquarian Society, now the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland], resident at 3 Park Place (Anon 1825, 21).
- 8 Add MSS 33685, 149/fol 126. No bookseller of that name is listed in the Post Office Directory for 1825–6, but William & David Laing are

- listed at 49 South Bridge, near the University (Anon 1825, 101). Probably the surname was wrongly transcribed later. David Laing was the noted historian, antiquary and bibliophile.
- 9 cf Skinner 1827, 467f.
- 10 Add MSS 33685, 150/fol 126. Skinner later describes Ardoch, but lacked the opportunity actually to visit it (Add MSS 33689, 391/fol 42).
- 11 The account of the Antonine Wall constitutes the greater part of Add MSS 33686, which is vol 104 of his journals and vol 4 of the account of the Northern Tour, page numbers for the latter running consecutively, beginning here at page 157. I have retained, for convenience, the page numbers in Skinner's journals. I have also retained Skinner's spellings and punctuation, inserting [sic] as appropriate. I have restricted the end-notes to archaeological and topographic matters, declining (for example) to discuss Skinner's theories on place-names, or the picture he provides of stage-coaching, traffic on the Forth & Clyde Canal, postal services, class differences, social attitudes and other matters. For a scathing indictment of his place-name theories, see Anon 1840, 662.
- 12 A retired army sergeant; see Add MSS 33685, 151/fol 127. In his walk from Linlithgow, Skinner followed the line of the present-day A803 road, and then the A904.
- 13 For Borough Fields, see OS First edn, *Linlithgowshire*, Sheet 1 (surveyed 1854–5).
- 14 On the tradition of a Roman site at Walton, see Ellis 1791, 100; Salmon 1913, 9; Bailey and Devereux 1987. The OS First edn, *Linlithgowshire*, Sheet 1 shows a 'Roman camp or station' at Walton.
- 15 Walton in fact lies due south of Carriden Roman fort and SSE of Carriden village. Skinner appears to think that Carriden lay east of Blackness (cf his maps at Add MSS 33685, fol 150; 33686, fols 140, 146).
- 16 There were at this time two structures called Grange House, one of the 17th century, the other of the 18th century; see Salmon 1913, 148 with pl at 138; Macdonald 1934, 100 and n21 below.
- 17 It is unclear from the text whether Skinner means to indicate that the Wall approached Bridgeness from the south-east or south-west, but on his Fig 338 it is clearly arriving from the south-west.
- 18 The eastern terminus of the Wall has, despite many efforts to locate it precisely, proved elusive (Stuart 1852, 362). Sir George Macdonald (1934, 98ff) placed it at Bridgeness, but strong arguments have more recently been advanced that it extended to Carriden (Bailey and Devereux 1987; Dumville 1994). In Skinner's day, the earlier tradition that the Wall extended further eastwards to Blackness or Abercorn remained strong. Skinner himself seems at times undecided. A caption in Skinner's own hand added later to his Fig 337 states 'The dyke commenced at this station (Caer Ryddun) and proceeded to Walton and thence making a curviture so as to guard the coast, it proceeded to Bo'ness. . .' (but see n15). For the western terminus, see below.
- 19 Roy 1793, 153.
- 20 See MacKenzie 1845, 129; Salmon 1913, 9; Bailey & Devereux 1987, 100 with illus 4.
- 21 At first sight, we might suppose that Skinner means Grange House, but Grimes House is shown on his Fig 338, and both Grimes House and Grange House on his Fig 337; Mr G Bailey suggests that the older of the two Grange Houses (for which see n16 above), no longer the principal residence of the estate's owners, may have been renamed Grime's House.
- 22 ie Borrowstounness (Bo'ness).
- 23 Fig 339.
- 24 Culross may mean 'the Holly Road'.
- 25 Roy 1793, 162.
- 26 Carriden is 'the fort on the slope'.
- 27 For explanations of the name Graham's Dyke, see Nimmo 1777, 39ff; Stuart 1852, 284; Macdonald 1934, 33, 102. Most probably it means 'strong wall'.
- 28 Fig 339.
- 29 The Anonymous Traveller of 1697 describes the Wall as passing 'within a bowshoot' of the House (HMC 1893, 55); recent excavation has confirmed that it passes just to the south of the House.
- 30 For discussion on a likely fort at Kinneil, see Macdonald 1934, 191.
- 31 For mention of two piers or abutments, supporting an arch, and traditionally known as the Roman bridge, see *OS Name-Book (Linlithgow)* 13 (1856), 30.

- 32 Roy 1793, 162.
- 33 Glenmont farm seems otherwise unattested. On Skinner's Fig 341 the farm appears to overlie the Wall or ditch.
- 34 Skinner's measurements are generally from the top of the bank to the bottom of the ditch.
- 35 The slabbing, presumably part of the kerbing of the Wall's stone foundation course, is shown on Fig 341 no 2.
- 36 For the ford, see Bailey 1996, 84–5. Skinner's Fig 344 shows a double enclosure beside the River Avon, on its eastern side, with the caption 'foundations of buildings ploughed up here'. No such enclosures, which match the position of the small Roman fort at Inveravon with an annexe, are mentioned in the text.
- 37 Inveravon Tower, believed to date from the 15th century, was long deemed Roman by antiquaries and travellers; see Macdonald 1934, 112, 193; RCAHMS 1929, 190.
- 38 'As represented in the prints taken of it, for the building has been removed: Arthur implies the tower near the water' (footnote by Skinner).
- 39 Arthur's O'on (ie Oven), generally accepted as a Roman structure, but of uncertain purpose, was wantonly destroyed by the landowner in 1743; see Nimmo 1777, 64ff; Steer 1958; RCAHMS 1963, 118, no 126; Brown 1974.
- 40 Polmont is 'the stream on the moorland hill'.
- 41 Skinner stayed at the Market Tavern in Newmarket Street (see below, n53). The adverse weather meant that he did not see, or comment on, the fort at Mumrills.
- 42 The cut was made, on the instructions of the Third Earl of Callendar, before c 1680; see Livingstone 1682, stanzas 133 and 135; Bailey 1993. Notice too the report by the 'anonymous traveller of 1697', 'The visto to it [Callendar House] is cut thro the Roman Wall' (HMC 1893, 55).
- 43 Fig 345.
- 44 Presumably one of those he had purchased in Edinburgh.
- 45 Fig 347.
- 46 Built in 1816 at William Forbes's death.
- 47 The architectural style is clearly Doric rather than Corinthian.
- 48 Fig 348.
- 49 Macpherson 1777, vol 1, 81; cf Nimmo 1777, 68. For Skinner's interest in Ossian, cf Add MSS 33688, fols 169–271.
- 50 The Church was rebuilt in 1810. Skinner's two-page transcription of the memorials to Sir John Graham and of Colonel Sir Robert Munro and his brother Dr Duncan Munro omitted here: for details see RCAHMS 1963, 152ff.
- 51 Falkirk may mean 'the speckled church'.
- 52 Dug through Prospecthill, a ridge of high ground, 1818–21, the tunnel was a famous landmark of the time. For a description, see RCAHMS 1963, 438, no 553.
- 53 Alexander (Sandy) Mitchell was innkeeper of the Market Tavern in Newmarket Street, Falkirk, for 40 years (Love 1925, 88–94); a well-known local character, his connection with the Canal, if any, remains unknown.
- 54 Fig 351. Skinner sketched the west end of the tunnel.
- 55 Fig 352 no 1.
- 56 Bantaskin may mean 'croft of the gospel'
- 57 Fig 352 no 2.
- 58 For the (now) much reduced remains in this area, see Macdonald 1934, 126.
- 59 This is Skinner's first specific observation of the presence of the 'outer mound' north of the Ditch.
- 60 Presumably Blinkbonny Road at the east end of the Glenfuir Estate.
- 61 Fig 352 no 3. On the Forth & Clyde Canal, see Anon 1823, 24ff; Salmon 1913, 325ff; RCAHMS 1963, 436ff; Lindsay 1968, 15ff. The basin was called Port Downie (after Robert Downie, then chairman of the Canal Committee). The place where the two Canals once united, at Lock 16, is now built over but a new junction has been created further to the west at Tamfourhill. For the former arrangement of locks, see OS First edn *Stirlingshire*, Sheet 30 (surveyed 1860).
- 62 To be distinguished from New Camelon, for whose position see Roy 1793, plate XXIX.
- 63 The tradition of a Pictish town at Camelon goes back at least to Hector Boece (1522, lib iii, fols xlvi–xlvii, lib x, fols ccv–ccvi). For the Roman site, see Christison et al 1901, 329ff; RCAHMS 1963, 107ff; Scott 1994, 154ff. The OS First edn *Stirlingshire* Sheet 30 (surveyed 1860) designates Camelon as 'supposed site of ancient city'.
- 64 Camelon is 'the crooked pool'.
- 65 That Camelon could be equated with the Camulodunum of ancient authors (in fact,

- Colchester in Essex) was already current in the 16th century (Buchanan 1583, fol vi; cf Sibbald 1707, 33f; Walker 1770), if not earlier. Skinner elsewhere argued forcefully that Camulodunum should be equated with his own village, Camerton in Somerset (Wedlake 1958, 15 & pl 4).
- 66 Figs 353–4, where site is named Castle Dykes.
- 67 Roy 1793, pl XXX. On knowledge of the site at about this time, see Cruttwell 1801, 268f; Campbell 1807, 39; Anon 1823, 25.
- 68 At Watling Lodge. On the road, see RCAHMS 1963, 112, no 124.
- 69 Fig 355.
- 70 The name has not been explained. It is applied more correctly to a slight eminence east of the Roman site.
- 71 See Gordon 1726, 59; Roy 1793, 161 with Plate XXV (bottom right), showing a square installation; Nimmo 1817, 44 fn; Macdonald 1934, 351f. The site has never been excavated and is nowadays regarded as one of the small ‘expansions’ on the Antonine Wall, and currently named Tentfield West; see Steer 1957. The dimensions given by Skinner are more appropriate to a fortlet, but the site as now surviving seems the right size to be an expansion.
- 72 Presumably in Edinburgh (above); Roy 1793, pl XXXV.
- 73 ‘Rough or Ro for Roman; we have Rownan, Rowleys, Rowborough; Rown hill in Somersetshire: also a field called Rough ground, in Camerton Parish’ (put as footnote by the present editor from Skinner’s main text). On the meaning of the name ‘Rough Castle’, see Nimmo 1817, 10 fn; Waldie 1883, 42.
- 74 Still in use, at NS 824802. A noticeboard over the arch identifies it as ‘The Radical Pend, named to commemorate the battle of Bonnymuir 1820’.
- 75 Probably the Royal Hotel.
- 76 See Fig 357. The medieval Seabegs Motte, for which see Gordon 1726, 51; Horsley 1732, 171; Waldie 1883, 46; HMC 1893, 57; Smith 1934; Macdonald 1934, 348; RCAHMS 1963, no 180. The OS First edn, *Stirlingshire*, Sheet 30 (surveyed 1860) describes it as a ‘castellum’.
- 77 Seabegs Place (ie Palace) was the seat of the barons of Seabegs, from the 15th century. The building shown on Skinner’s Fig 358 was finally demolished in the 1980s, the datestone (of 1682, not 1681 as on Skinner’s Fig) being rescued by the then owner’s son, Mr James Walker, FSA Scot, and built up by him in a nearby garden wall where it remains.
- 78 Seabegs means ‘little seat’.
- 79 ‘To knock at doors’. See Terence, *Heauton* 275 (*pultare fores*); Plautus, *Captivi* 831 (*fores pultando*), *Menaechmi* 987 (*foris pultabo*).
- 80 ‘Here too the ruins have perished’ (Lucan, *Pharsalia* 9.969), referring to the site of Troy.
- 81 Castlecary means ‘the fort of the castle’. On the site at this time, see Anon 1823, 28.
- 82 Roy 1793, 161
- 83 Macdonald 1934, 241ff; *RIB* 2146–7, 2150, 2152–5.
- 84 Roy 1793, 161 with pl XXXIX.
- 85 ‘Now are fields of corn where Troy once stood’ (Ovid, *Heroides*, i.53).
- 86 Ironically perhaps, Lord Dundas was President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 1813–18.
- 87 ‘Devourer of all things’ (Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, 15.234).
- 88 Roy 1793, 106.
- 89 Fig. 360 no 1 shows the full profile of the bridge over the Red Burn; only a fragment now survives (Miller 1968, 41).
- 90 Garnhall, which means ‘enclosure on the slope’.
- 91 Roy 1793, 160.
- 92 Tollpark Farm. Fig 360 no 5 shows the road and ‘Old Toll’.
- 93 Dullatur, which means ‘dark hill slope’. ‘Castillon Dillator’ may be a mistranscription for ‘Eastern Dillator’, for which see Roy 1793, 160.
- 94 Skinner and his guide crossed the Canal at Craigmearloch. I have been unable to locate Longhouse, though the route followed by Skinner from the Canal to Kilsyth is fairly clear. Neither Longhouse nor Atwood (below) appear in the 19th century OS Name-Books.
- 95 Croy means ‘hard firm ground or hillside’. Fig 362 no 1 shows the view southwards from Longhouse to the Canal and Croy Hill.
- 96 Craigmearloch means ‘big crag at the water’. The otherwise unknown Atwood seems to match the location of the present-day Wester Dullatur Farm.
- 97 Fig 362 no 2.
- 98 Fig 362 no 1.
- 99 The ‘modern’ farmhouse which Skinner sketched – the caption to Fig 363 says that it was ‘built within these 40 years’ – is presumably

- the building in which John Buchanan saw the same sculptures in 1826 (Stuart 1852, 341 fn where the building is described as ‘the old farmhouse’). In conversation with the cottager at Upper Croy (ie the site of the Roman fort), Buchanan learned that the two sculptured slabs were initially found c 1802, to the north of the fort-site (Stuart 1852, 340 fn). Skinner in his report to the Society of Antiquaries of London states that the first slab [and presumably also the second] was walled up by the mason ‘at the time of its discovery’ (1827, 456).
- 100 Stuart 1852, 340–2, pl 13.4; Macdonald 1923; 1934, 446; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 90; Coulston 1988. Both stones are now in the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, to which they were donated by the Carron Company when Nethercroy House was demolished (Macdonald 1923, 177). Despite its modest dimensions, the relief is nowadays considered to have been part of a gravestone, of presumably Antonine date.
- 101 Fig 364.
- 102 *RIB* 2163; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 91.
- 103 It formed the left-hand part of a commemorative slab erected by the Legion VI *Victrix*. The figure is Venus, with a crouching Cupid below.
- 104 On the campaigns of Severus in Scotland (AD 209–11), see Birley 1971, 244ff.
- 105 See Skinner 1827, pl XXI.1. However, Skinner’s published account of these discoveries reports that the part of the first slab, that is, that of ‘Severus’ and his ‘sons’, bearing an inscription, was ‘broken off by the mason in order to make it fit to its present situation (1827, 456); he does not refer to any accidental damage to the second.
- 106 Fig 365. See *RIB* 2160. Now in National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh. See *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 45 (1910–11), 221.
- 107 In 1826 John Buchanan saw two antique heads built into the gable-end of one of the cottages; the latter had been demolished by 1852 (Stuart 1852, 340 fn). On the site at this time, see Anon 1823, 30.
- 108 Fig 367; Skinner 1827, 468. For the undug ditch, see Gordon 1726, 56; Maitland 1757, 176; Macdonald 1934, 141f.
- 109 Fig 369 nos 1–2.
- 110 ‘Bar indicates the place, or road of passage’ (footnote by Skinner). Rather, Bar Hill means ‘the high place’.
- 111 Bar Hill fort occupies 3.1 acres (1.29 ha) within the ramparts, and 3.38 acres (1.37 ha) over them.
- 112 He is presumably referring to medieval ‘rig and furrow’ cultivation which had largely disappeared in lowland areas by this date.
- 113 Seneca, *De Cons ad Helviam* vii.7: *ubicumque vicit Romanus, habitat* (‘Wherever the Roman has conquered, there he dwells’).
- 114 *RIB* 2166, 2171.
- 115 See Mackay 1924, 68.
- 116 Not otherwise recorded. It was perhaps recovered from a refuse pit, of the type described in Macdonald & Park 1906, 60ff. the findspot, outside the fort to the south-east, is marked on Skinner’s Fig 370.
- 117 It must be likely that in fact he walked to Gartshore House, residence of Mr John Gartshore, with the name mistranscribed later. Bar Hill lay on the Gartshore Estate.
- 118 The caption on Fig 371 implies one altar, in two fragments.
- 119 *RIB* 2168; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 85.
- 120 I have assumed here that Skinner returned from Gartshore House by the same route, to Twechar village below Bar Hill, then turned to the west; but he could have headed more directly towards Auchendavy (see below).
- 121 ‘Auchen’ is a field, but ‘davy’ is unexplained.
- 122 Fig 373. Now lost. See *RIB* 2179; Davies 1976; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 116; Keppie and Walker 1985, 34f.
- 123 Pencil note by Skinner here, ‘of the Augustan’.
- 124 Again Skinner is linking a sculptured relief to historical events, Severus’ campaigns in AD 209–11.
- 125 Fig 373 no 2; Skinner 1827, pl XXI.3. See Stuart 1852, 328, fn; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 120. Skinner’s drawing, which shows a standing male figure within a recess, naked but for a loincloth and carrying an unidentifiable object in his right hand, was then unknown to the last-named authors, who imagined the panel to be much larger. The caption, in Skinner’s hand, reads, ‘Stone about ten inches in length put in the wall of the barn reversed as here represented’. It resembles the statuette of Fortuna from Castlecary (Keppie & Arnold

- 1984, no 76). Dr M Henig (pers comm) suggests it could represent the god Mars, rather than a soldier as hitherto supposed (cf Stuart 1852, 328 fn). In the autumn of 2002, the farm steading, already rebuilt at least once since Skinner's visit, was taken down, and the stonework re-used as cladding for new houses built on the site; a search at that time for the slabs reported by Skinner proved unsuccessful.
- 126 There has hitherto been no mention of a servant; he perhaps means his current guide.
- 127 St Mary's Church, Cowgate, now the Auld Kirk Museum.
- 128 *John* 21; Emmaeus is named only in Luke's version (24.13).
- 129 A medieval motte, later replaced by a stone tower, which occupied the north-east quarter of the Roman fort; see Gordon 1726, 54 pl 20; Horsley 1732, 168f; Roy 1793, pl XXXV; Waldie 1883, 52f; Macdonald 1934, 290.
- 130 See Figs 375–6.
- 131 *RIB* II 2404.69. The lead pig was seen also by John Buchanan in 1826 (Stuart 1852, 323; Way 1859, 37; Macdonald 1934, 294 fn 1). Buchanan reports that the owner had sawn it in half in the hope of finding a core of gold (Way 1859, 37). See Skinner's Fig 374, where the reading is P CCLXX. The caption reads, 'A record on lead. Probably 280 [sic] paces cut by the soldiers. Part of a pig of lead weighing nearly 100 lbs cut in half'. Buchanan confirms the reading of the numerals as CCLXX rather than CCXX as in Skinner's main text.
- 132 See Stuart 1852, 324 fn; Macdonald 1934, 296; Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 95. For a summary of present-day knowledge about the layout of the Roman fort, see Robertson 2001, 96ff with fig. On Skinner's Fig 376, the Wall and Ditch turn very sharply southwards after leaving the fort's north-west corner.
- 133 After lunch, following his visit to Church.
- 134 Skinner presumably followed the line of the (present-day) B757 road to Milton of Campsie, then the A891 through Lennoxton ('New Campsie') to Clachan of Campsie ('Old Campsie'). For the waterfalls in Campsie Glen at NS 610795 see Mulholland 1988, 17.
- 135 Figs. 377–80. Skinner in captions to his sketches names the place as 'Clagen' (ie Clachan) Glen.
- 136 The distance from Kirkintilloch to Old Kilpatrick is 19km (c 11 miles).
- 137 The name Kirkintilloch derives from Caerpenalloch, 'the fort at the end of the ridge'.
- 138 No Agricolan material has been found in the limited excavations at the fort-site.
- 139 Kelvin means 'the narrow waters'.
- 140 The line of the present A803.
- 141 Now Glasgow Bridge.
- 142 A Treckschuit (or Trekschuit) was a common type of horse-drawn canal boat in Holland, which Skinner had visited in 1788–9. Fig 381 shows a single-masted boat drawn by three horses.
- 143 ie Cadder.
- 144 Skinner is referring here to the medieval Cadder Motte, long considered Roman, which is designated 'castellum' on OS First edn, *Lanarkshire*, Sheet 1 (surveyed 1858); see Horsley 1732, 168; Stuart 1845, 315; Waldie 1883, 55; Macdonald 1915, 108ff; Macdonald 1934, 297ff, 348f, pl lviii.2. Cadder Roman fort, lying to the east of the Canal turn, and first identified in the early 18th century, was quarried away in early 1940s, after excavation (Clarke 1933).
- 145 The modern pilgrim needs to follow much the same circuitous route.
- 146 Fig 382. The Motte lay well to the south of the Wall, though it is also shown north of the Wall on Skinner's map (Add MSS 33686, fol 144); cf Anon 1823, 33. At first sight Fig 382 appears to show the 'Roman fort', from the north, in its true position east of the Canal bend, but it must be more likely that the view is from the south near the bridge, with the motte on the left, and the Wall passing, as Skinner thought, to the south of it.
- 147 Fig 383. Home to the Stirlings of Keir and Cawder. Skinner was unaware of the Roman inscribed stone then as now walled up within it (*RIB* 2209); later he copied the inscription into his journal, from Horsley (1732) in March 1826 (below).
- 148 It is tempting to equate this small fort with the fortlet at Wilderness Plantation, identified from the air in 1951 and excavated in 1965–6 (Wilkes 1974).
- 149 An otherwise unrecorded section. See Fig 384 no 5.
- 150 Summerston is 'farm occupied in summer'.
- 151 'Bal' is a village, but 'muildy' is unexplained.

- 152 Fig 385.
- 153 Somerset.
- 154 Mugdock Castle, long a ruin even then, lay c 4 miles away.
- 155 For discoveries at Balmuildy over many centuries, see Miller 1922, 1; Macdonald 1934, 313f.
- 156 Roy 1793, pl XXXV.
- 157 Now Millochan.
- 158 Crow Hill. On Fig 386 the stretch from Millochan through 'Furgeston Wood' is called 'Grimes Carst', presumably information from a local informant.
- 159 This stretch is now covered by Douglas Park Golf Club, by Hillfoot Cemetery and by housing at Bocclair Road.
- 160 The site of Ferguston Farm at NS 549720 south of Roman Road, Bearsden, has long since been covered by housing; see Macdonald 1934, 166 fn.
- 161 No church is shown at this location on the OS First edn, *Dumbartonshire*, Sheet 23 (surveyed 1861).
- 162 Fig 388. Bearsden Parish Church, built 1807.
- 163 The site of the present-day Bearsden Primary School.
- 164 See Stuart 1852, 313; on the deterioration of the visible remains, see Feachem 1974; and for the excavations of 1973–82, see Breeze 1984.
- 165 For the advantages of the position, see Woollicroft 1996, 163.
- 166 See Macdonald 1934, 326ff; Keppie 1980 for a summary of our knowledge about the fort and associated civil settlement.
- 167 Nimmo 1777, 38.
- 168 Birley 1961, 3.
- 169 Peel derives from Latin *palus*, a stake, hence the meaning 'stockade', etc.
- 170 Roy 1793, 158.
- 171 Cleddans is 'a trench or a hurdle across boggy ground'.
- 172 Duntocher is 'the causewayed fort'.
- 173 Skinner's Figs 391 and 393 show a prominent bank at the lower end of the hill, perhaps enclosing an annexe.
- 174 Described on his Fig 391 as 'Site of a Roman Edifice and Hypocaust'. A bath-house had been found here by chance in 1775; it was left open to the elements and the stonework soon removed by villagers; see Knox 1785, 611; Gough 1789, 362; Stuart 1852, 285ff; Macdonald 1934, 330ff; Robertson 1957, 4ff; Keppie forthcoming.
- 175 A statuette of a water nymph, which had served as a garget in the hot bath, was removed to Glasgow in 1775 or soon after (Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 151; Keppie 1998, no 66). Two building stones, allegedly inscribed with Latin letters, were removed in 1775 by London bookseller John Knox to his house in Richmond, Surrey (Knox 1785, 612).
- 176 Fig 390.
- 177 For the bridge, see the splendid pl XXXVII in Roy 1793, where the commemorative slab is built into the parapet at the left (ie west of the Burn; cf caption to Skinner's Fig 392 and Waldie 1883, 60). Roy refutes a Roman date for the bridge (1793, 158); cf Stuart 1845, 300; Bruce 1893, 38; Macdonald 1934, 176f. The original inscription (Skinner's Fig 392) read PONTM. HVNC. EXT / RVI. CVRAVIT. IMP. TI. / AEL. ANTONIN. HADR. / AVG. P.P. QVINT. LOLLI. / VRBIC. LEG. FERRE. COL / LAPSVM. RESTITVIT. / DOMINVS. DE. BLANT / IRE. A. AER. CHR. / MDCCCXXII. The slab, with extra lines added to record repairs in 1943 following bomb damage in 1941, is now set centrally in the bridge parapet, facing the roadway.
- 178 Figs 390–3.
- 179 On the line now followed by Beeches Road. See OS First edn, *Dumbartonshire*, Sheet 23 (surveyed 1861).
- 180 Fig 394. This site is otherwise unknown. According to Skinner's Fig, it must have lain at NS 488728, now covered by housing. Within this enclosure on Fig 394 are the words 'small fort on side of hill'; a road leads away from it to the south.
- 181 Fig 395. The 'Mountblow Stone', of early medieval date, now at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove; cf Gough 1789, vol 3, 362f ('now in a gentleman's garden not far from its original site'); Davidson 1793, 238 ('now in the possession of Mr Donald of Mountblow'); Bruce 1893, 96, 253f, 259f; Romilly Allen 1903, 451 with fig 471; Batey 1994. On the link between St Patrick and Old Kilpatrick, see Bruce 1893, 51ff.
- 182 Presumably Erskine House, on the opposite (south) bank of the Clyde. RCAHMS records

- give the construction date as 1828. Skinner's Fig 398 no 1 shows it being built. Skinner's sleep had been disturbed on the previous night also.
- 183 1pm rather than 1am.
- 184 For the long-standing view of Dunglass as the western terminus of the Wall, see Horsley 1732, 159; Roy 1793, 157; Bruce 1893, 224; Macdonald 1934, 188. Later Skinner expressed a preference for Dumbarton as the western terminus (Add MSS 33690, 138/fol 98, 202/fol 174).
- 185 'I think I have satisfactorily proved it extended to Dumbarton' (footnote by Skinner).
- 186 In 1790 the builders of the Canal destroyed the fort bath-house (Soc Ant Scot MS 626, with Macdonald 1934, 333), but the cutting through of a road is not otherwise reported.
- 187 Fig 396.
- 188 He intends Bowling, which means 'ledge on the bend of the river'.
- 189 For a more upbeat assessment of Roman engineering skills, see Landels 1978, 42ff.
- 190 Homer, *Iliad* 6, 146ff with Alexander Pope's translation, Book 6, 181–4; see also *Isaiah*, 40, 6–8; *Psalms*, 103, 15–16.
- 191 Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Ep 1, 91–2. Skinner has misremembered the first line which should have read, 'Hope humbly then; with trembling pinions soar'. Late in the day, two letters from Owen arrived, so that Skinner could proceed to the Highlands relieved of anxiety.
- 192 Add MSS 33687, 231/fol 30.
- 193 Add MSS 33689, 369–82/fols 1–30.
- 194 Add MSS 33689, 380–2 with Figs 229–31 (= fols 26–30).
- 195 Add MSS 33689, 383–4/fol 34.
- 196 Add MSS 33689, 388/fol 36. In his journal for 10 November 1825, Skinner bemoans his considerable financial outlays in recent months (Add MSS 33689, 364–5/fols 212–13).
- 197 Add MSS 33689, 388/fol 36.
- 198 Add MSS 33689, 384/fol 34.
- 199 They stayed at 'The Saracen's Head' (Add MSS 33689, 393/fol 43, described as 'dirty and uncomfortable'. See also below.
- 200 Add MSS 33689, 403/fol 56.
- 201 Add MSS 33689, 407–14/fols 60–7.
- 202 The College buildings of Glasgow University on High Street, near the Cathedral, had been erected in the 17th century. They and the Museum were demolished in 1870, when the University moved to a 'green field' site at Gilmorehill, on what was then the western outskirts of the city, where it is still today.
- 203 The Hunterian Museum, based on collections bequeathed to the University in 1783 by the physician and medical teacher William Hunter, a former student, opened to the public in 1807. The Museum building had a classical facade, with a dome on top. The wide-ranging collections were on three floors. For details of its contents at this time, see Chapman 1812, 101; Laskey 1813.
- 204 The Museum was open daily from 12 noon till 2 pm at this date.
- 205 In 1810 the cost of admission had been established at two shillings (Glasgow University Library MR 48/1, fol 23; cf. Chapman 1812, 101); but in 1824 it was reduced to one shilling (Glasgow University Library MR 48/1, fol 51). The Museum regulations allowed free access to various categories of visitor including clergymen of the Church of Scotland and dissenting churches, but not the Church of England (*ibid*, fols 24, 46–7).
- 206 Skinner signed for both himself and his son; they are, unsurprisingly, the first visitors recorded for that day in the Visitors' Book, which survives (Glasgow University Library MR 31).
- 207 Presumably at Edinburgh University.
- 208 Presumably the Janitor (see Glasgow University Library MR 48/1, fol 51) rather than the Keeper or Under-Keeper.
- 209 'The Antique Room', in the basement.
- 210 The book he was given was the *Monumenta Romani Imperii* (University of Glasgow 1792), the enlarged version of a catalogue of the stones originally prepared in 1768; see Keppie 1998, 22ff, 30ff.
- 211 Add MSS 33689, Figs 250, 252/fols 62–4). He refers here to one or more arrowheads presented in 1812 by the Rev Lawrence Moyes (Inv no A.121), and to a stone axe presented in 1822 by Mr W Duncan, Georgia, USA (Inv no E.122/1).
- 212 Fig 247. To be identified with Inv no A.91, a palstave of Bronze Age date.
- 213 Fig 247. Described as 'bronze instrument abt 9 inches long from the parish of Glatford', it

- may be identifiable as Inv no A.78, presented in 1820 by James Frew.
- 214 The book (University of Glasgow 1792), comprised 32 Plates, showing 25 inscribed stones, six sculptures and two quernstones. It is clear that Skinner made a choice, presumably owing to the limited time available (omitting University of Glasgow 1792, pl III, X, XIIbis, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII. XVIII, XXV); he describes the stones in the order in which he had sketched them on a number of separate sheets (Add MSS 33686, fols 151ff), rather than the order of presentation in the catalogue (assuming of course that the copy he used had the full set of Plates in the standard order). Gaps in his coverage were filled on his return home (below), from Gordon 1726, Horsley 1732 and Roy 1793 (Add MSS 33686, fols 166ff).
- 215 I have here omitted Skinner's descriptions of the Roman inscribed stones in the Hunterian Museum, which were based not on autopsy but on drawings copied from the catalogue.
- 216 University of Glasgow 1792, pl XXXI = Keppie & Arnold 1984, no 119 = Keppie 1998, no 59, from Shirva. The Plate shows front and back views of a single sculpture, not two as Skinner thought.
- 217 He is referring here to the peculiar slab published as University of Glasgow 1792, pl XXXII; only one sculpture is shown. Cf Keppie and Arnold 1984, no 59 = Keppie 1998, no 74.
- 218 Add MSS 33689, Fig 252 where Skinner's caption reads: 'Roman amphora dredged from the coast of Kent the surface partly covered with shells is of the cream coloured ware measuring about four feet in height at the foot of the stairs of the Museum'. Laskey 1813, 75 gives a fuller account, presumably also from the label. This amphora, still in the Museum (Inv no F.54), presumably derived from the collection of William Hunter himself, and so was acquired in London before 1783.
- 219 The Medal Room was on the upper floor, with an inner and outer door, and three locks, with keys kept by different Trustees (Glasgow University Library MR 48/1, fols 30–1).
- 220 Add MSS 33689, 414/fol 67. St John's Chapel lay at the end of MacFarlane St., fronting on to the Gallowgate; see Chapman 1818, 129.
- On Dr Thomas Chalmers, the social reformer and theologian, who had been Minister of St John's 1819–23, currently Professor of Moral Philosophy at St Andrews University, and later (after the Disruption of 1843) first Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, see Blaikie 1887; Brown 1982.
- 221 Add MSS 33689, 423, 429/fols 72, 75.
- 222 Add MSS 33689, pp 425–6/fol 73. Probably the Principal, the Rev Duncan MacFarlan.
- 223 Add MSS 33686, fols 122–32.
- 224 Skinner had been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London on 23 January 1817.
- 225 See *Communications to the Society of Antiquaries* [of Scotland] 4 (1823–7).
- 226 Add MSS 33686, fols 133–4; cf *Archaeologia Scotica* 3 (1831), List of Fellows, 26.
- 227 Skinner 1826.
- 228 1 March 1826: 'I was occupied with tinting and finishing sketches on the Vallum of Antonine till one o'clock (Add MSS 33690, 138/fol 98. 22 March: 'I was in the Library [of Sir Richard Colt Hoare's house at Stourhead] a little after six this morning in order to make extracts from Gordon, Horseley [sic] and Roy. . .After breakfast I resumed my Studies, and copied several of the Roman Altars and Inscriptions from these authors, which I had not before noticed. . .After dinner I traced from General Roy's work, the line of Antonine's vallum on transparent paper'. 23 March: 'Having to finish my extracts in the Library, I left my dormitory as soon as it was light, and found it very cold till the fire was made, there having been a severe frost: however in spite of all difficulties I completed my task, and felt pleased with my perseverance, since I have no opportunity of consulting these books elsewhere, besides extracts: I put on paper my map of the Roman road which I had traced yesterday evening from General Roy's work' (Add MSS 33690, 201–3/fols 174–6).
- 229 The young John Buchanan, later Secretary of the Western Bank in Glasgow and President of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, traversed the Wall in 1826, but he and Skinner did not meet or correspond, so far as we know (Buchanan 1858; Anon 1886, 49–50).
- 230 I am grateful to Prof Roger Green for the necessary textual emendation of 'precoris' to

- 'precor is'. *Parce precor* means 'Be merciful, I beseech (you)'. See Horace, *Odes* 4.1.2.
- 231 Add MSS 33689, 392–3/fols 42–3. On the lot of the traveller in Scotland in the early 19th century, see also Southey 1929, pp xxxviiiiff, 254; Anderson 1850, 42ff.
- 232 Coombs & Coombs 1971, 4–9 with an invaluable essay on Skinner by Virginia Woolf written in 1925.
- 233 Coombs & Coombs 1978, 5f.
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