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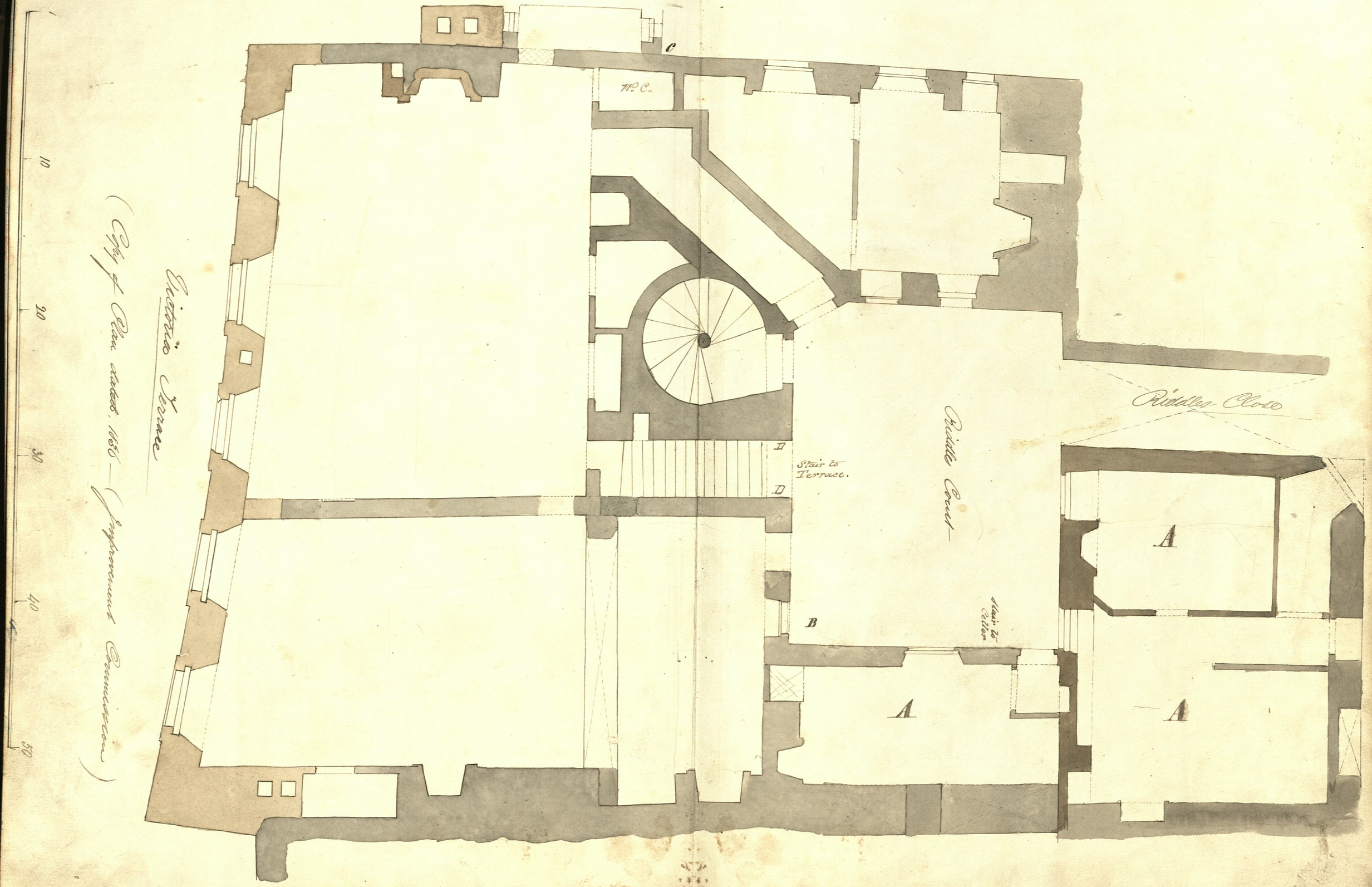


Victoria Terrace

(Copy of Plan dated 1856 — Improvement Commission)

# Record Book.

of

I. Proceedings relating to the Heritable Property of the Mechanic's Library in Riddle's Court

II. Proceedings relating to University Hall, Riddle's Court.

I

# Proceedings,

relating to the

# Heritable Property

of the

# Mechanics' Library.

DRAWN BY ROBT ANDERSON.


MECHANICS LIBRARY
WATCH & CLOCK MAKER




# Preface.

The following extracts from Wilson's "Edinburgh in the Olden Times" convey some interesting information regarding the property now occupied by the Mechanics Library—

"The inner court, of which we present an engraving, is a neat, open, paved square, that still looks as though it might afford a fitting residence for the old ~~countess~~ Countess of Holyrood. The building which faces the visitor on passing through the large archway has long been regarded with interest as the residence of Bailie Macmorran, one of the magistrates of Edinburgh in the reign of James VI. There can scarcely be any reasonable doubt but that the following from "Birrel's Diary" refers to this old mansion— shewing that both king James VI. and his queen, Anne of Denmark, had been entertained there by the magistrates of the city in the palmy days of old Edinburgh—

"1598, 2d Maii, the Duke of Holstein gat ane banquet in Macmorran's lodging, given by the toune of Edinburgh; the king's M. and the queine being both ys. Ther wes grate solemnitie and mirriness at said banquet". The unfortunate Bailie "was shot dead by one of the High School boys during a barring out or rebellion in the year 1593. The Bailie's initials "I. M." are visible over either end of the pediment that surmounts the building, and the close is styled in all the earlier titles of the property "Macmorran's Close"— Another feature in this property is worthy of special notice, viz— the antique carved oak shutters with which the lower half of one of the windows is closed, forming the finest specimen of this obsolete fashion now remaining in Edinburgh— After passing

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through several generations of Macmorrans the house was acquired by Sir John Clerk of Pennycuik. By him it was sold to Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Preston Hall, appointed a senator of the College of Justice in 1702, who resided in the upper part of the house at the same time that Sir James Mackenzie, Lord Royston, third son of the celebrated Earl of Cromarty, "one of the wittiest and most gifted men of his time", occupied the lower flat. Here, therefore, in all probability, his witty and eccentric daughter Anne was born and brought up - who carried her humorous pranks to an excess scarcely conceivable in our decorous days, sallying out occasionally in search of adventures, dressed in male attire, with her maid for a squire, exhibiting the possession of more wit than discretion. Some of the lampoons privately printed by C. K. Sharpe in a rare little volume entitled a "Ballad Book" furnish curious specimens of the notions of delicacy at this period.

Half a dozen more Provosts, Baronets and Lords of Session might be mentioned as the old occupants of this aristocratic quarter; but it will probably interest the reader more to learn that the "laigh tenement of land" was sometime "possessed by the relict of David Williamson, minister of the gospel at the West Kirk" - the well-known "Daintie Davie" of Scottish song, said to have led no less than six wives to the hymeneal altar.

2. The following extract from the Scots Magazine of 1805 would lead us to suppose that this "Land" was the first police-office in Edinburgh - "On Monday, July 15th at 12 o'clock, the Right Honble the Lord Provost and Magistrates in their robes, the sheriff of the county, the member for the city, and the commissioners of police, met in the Parliament House, when John Tait Esq: delivered his commission as Judge of Police, and was sworn in; after which they walked in procession to the police office, the military and city guard lining the streets. The Judge of Police was invested in the robe and insignia of office



supported on the right hand by the Revd Sir Harry Moncrieff Bart., and on his left by Sir Wm Forbes Bart. After they arrived at the court of Police, the Revd Sir H. Moncrieff, one of the commissioners, consecrated the Institution in a very eloquent, impressive and appropriate prayer. The Lord Provost then desired Mr Tait to take his seat as Judge of Police ..... The court of Police was accordingly opened the same day at the office of Police in Riddle's Close, Lawnmarket, where appropriate premises have been commodiously fitted up for the purpose" -

To the foregoing account may be added the fact that in various titles Riddle's Close was styled 1. Macmorran's. 2. Sir John Smith's. 3. Royston's. 4. Riddle's Close.

Sir John Smith lived in the Close not in "Macmorran's Land" Sir John Smith of Grothall Provost of Edinburgh was one of the commissioners chosen in 1650 to convey the loyal assurances of the realm to Charles II at Breda & to have the Covenant duly subscribed by him.

In 1751 David Hume was tenant of a house in Riddle's Close (on the land side) & there wrote the first pages of his History.

# Contents.

# History.

From the following extract-minute (20th July, 1846, page 65) it appears that, the idea had been long entertained of acquiring a building for a library; and during several previous years, various sums of money had been laid aside for that object — "We are informed (by the Treasurer) that some years ago various sums were lodged in the bank as the nucleus of a building fund for the erection of a suitable hall for the Library; the sums so deposited amounting in all to about £20 with interest from the respective dates of lodgment". As the Library had been removed to larger and better premises in the Bakers' Hall, nothing was done in the meantime. But from a consideration of the increase of rent paid to the incorporation of Bakers - the chance of a further increase at next arrangement - and the expense and trouble of removal - it was again suggested that it would be for the advantage of the Library to occupy premises of its own; and it was proposed to purchase the Bakers' Hall then occupied by the Library, and make the necessary alterations as they were required. Others objected to that place, and looked out for some other place, or for a stance on which to build a proper house, which was estimated to cost £400. Amongst these enquiries the President suggested a property situated on Victoria Terrace: to consider the suitableness of which a special meeting of Committee was convened.

Special meeting of Committee Feby 24th, 1853.

A special meeting was held on the 24th at the request of the Vice-President, to consider the propriety of asking power from the approaching general meeting to purchase or lease other premises in the event of its being thought expedient to remove from the present premises at the expiry of the lease in 1856. After consultation the Secretary was instructed to give notice to the above effect

in the circular. A sub-committee was appointed to examine a property on Victoria Terrace, which it was thought might be suitable, and to report; availing themselves of the professional assistance of Messrs. Black and Bell. At a subsequent meeting the name of Mr. R. D. Kerr was added – (Minutes, p. 152)

Committee Meeting April 7th 1853.

The remainder of the sederunt was occupied in discussion about the property in Victoria Terrace, regarding which the sub-committee had reported favourably. Mr. Kerr added that the Edinr. & Glasgow Bank would advance £600 (the whole price) on the property. (Minutes p. 153) –

A considerable amount of opposition was manifested at the above meeting against the purchase of that property, on the ground of its want of accommodation. To meet that objection the President produced a statement at the next meeting, shewing that the ground floor would contain 4,000 feet of shelving, and would afford space for thirty years; which was so startling that few of the members would credit its accuracy – upon which,

On April 14th

After some discussion the committee agreed to meet on Monday evening to come to a final vote as to the report of the sub-committee on the Victoria Terrace property. Meantime Messrs. Anderson, Henry and Ranken were requested to make minute measurement of the accommodation for shelving, and for the ingress & egress of members, from a plan which Mr. Jas. Smith had drawn out at the request of the Committee. (Min. p. 153)

April 18th

To this meeting Messrs. Anderson, Henry and Ranken reported that,



according to their instructions they had carefully examined the accommodation for shelving, first in the present library-room, and then in the premises in Victoria Terrace, and they found the accommodation in James' Court to amount to 1784 feet, in Victoria Terrace 3864 feet; difference in favour of the latter 2080 feet. After mature deliberation, Mr. Henry approved of the sub-committee's report; and his motion to that effect was seconded by Mr. Ranken, and unanimously agreed to. That report consequently comes before the general meeting recommended by the unanimous voice of the Committee. (Minutes p. 153) –

General Meeting, April 19th, 1853.

Mr. Anderson, the President, in the chair – The meeting proceeded to consider a recommendation from the committee to purchase premises in Victoria Terrace, which they considered well adapted for the accommodation of the Library. Mr. Henry, after stating the proceedings of the committee in the matter – the terms on which the property could be obtained – and the advantages it presented as a commodious and permanent situation for the Library, submitted the following motion – "That this meeting approve of purchasing the premises in Victoria Terrace, and empower the committee to take the necessary steps to complete the purchase in the name, and for the benefit of, the Library – which motion was seconded by Mr. Henry Ranken –

A long discussion ensued and various motions were proposed by Dr. Cochrane and Messrs. Morton and Robb – the latter gentleman holding that it was incompetent for the meeting to entertain the

question without three months previous notice, and protesting against proceeding in the matter – Mr Wm Hunter was also opposed to the purchase on the ground that the property was in all respects unsuitable, and moved as an amendment – "that the proposal to purchase the property in Riddle's Court be not entertained, and that the Committee be instructed to enquire whether the incorporation of Bakers are disposed to sell the premises in James' Court, at present occupied by the Library, and what price they would take for it – and also to ascertain from the architect of the Street proposed to be opened up between the High Street and Waverley Bridge, whether there is any likelihood of obtaining premises suitable for the Library in that street – and, that the Committee report at next meeting of members." In reply, Mr Black, Architect, stated that he had professionally examined the three flats of the property in Victoria Terrace, which he found to be more substantial than many new properties – and that as the ground flat can contain 2080 feet of shelving more than the Bakers' Hall, he thought it would be for the advantage of the Library to purchase the Victoria Terrace property – Ultimately a vote was taken on the motion to purchase (Mr Henry's) and the amendment proposed by Mr Hunter – when 96 voted for the latter, and 51 for the former. On the motion of Mr Henry, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Messrs Bell, Black, Anderson, Smith & Kerr for the trouble they had taken in connection with this motion – (ib. p. 154)

In reference to Mr Hunter's amendment, it appeared that the Bakers were unwilling to sell the Hall, but were willing to renew the lease, and to make such alterations to give increased accommodation as were



consistent with the safety of the building. But the fact was, they were desirous to secure £900 for the Hall. However, they overshot the mark, as the Hall was burned down in 1857, and was only insured for £200 – As to the new street, it was only begun in 1859 – some old houses being then taken down to form the roadway.

Immediately on the rejection of the purchase of the property in Victoria Terrace by the general meeting, Messrs Kerr, Henry, Ranken, Smart, Bell & Anderson resolved to purchase the property as private individuals; and executed a Trust Deed, wherein it was declared, that the six subscribers held the property for one year, to enable the members of the Library to reconsider their vote – and in the case of rejection a second time, the property was to devolve upon Mr Kerr as his, to the exclusion of all others – the rents for that year to pay expenses, and the balance, if any, to be at the disposal of the said six persons. The Disposition was accordingly drawn in their names, and they were infeft. They then granted a heritable bond to the Edinr & Glasgow Bank for £600 @ 4 per cent. on a cash credit – to be repaid in instalments of £30 per annum – At the general meeting in July following, Mr Anderson brought forward a motion to the following effect –

General Meeting, July 19th, 1853.

The President, Mr James Henry, in the chair – Mr Anderson read a long motion on the subject of premises for the Library, which led to some discussion and ultimately to an agreement that, the committee be instructed to make minute enquiry as to premises either in Victoria Terrace, the proposed new street, or any other eligible place; to advertise in the N.B. Advertiser for offers; and to print a summary of the informa-

-tion obtained, in the circular announcing the next meeting; and also a notice of motion to grant power to the committee to purchase the premises then agreed upon - (Minutes, p. 158)

Committee Meeting, 11th Augt., 1853.

According to the instructions of the last general meeting, the committee agreed to insert an advertisement in the N. B. Advertiser for suitable premises for the Library; and the form of advertisement was then agreed upon - offers to be given in to Mr Bell - (Minutes, p. 258) -

Adjourned Meeting, 8th Septr.

At this meeting the sub-committee submitted the following report - "Your committee have to report that, in obedience to your instructions, they visited the various properties offered for sale. With regard to two of them - viz. that in No 96 High Street, entering from Blackfriars' Wynd, and the other in No 227 High Street, occupied by Mr Smith, Umbrella Maker - Your committee found them so unsuitable, that they considered it unnecessary to take their measurement. They did not obtain access to the property in Writers' Court, the proprietor being from home. It consists of the Ball-room and Coffee-room of the late Mr Paton, and a wine cellar. From a plan sent in, the whole seems to measure about 1,600 feet - price £2,000. The property in Adam Square consists of the three-storey building in the north-west corner. The street flat has a saloon behind well lighted from the top. The area of this flat with the saloon is about 1,200 feet - average height of ceiling in saloon, 11 feet, 8 inches; in front room, 9 feet. The



proprietor would not name a price, but your committee believe they put a value (£1,500) upon it far beyond the means of the Library. It is at present unlet. - The property at No 86 South Bridge next the Cowgate arch, consists of the second and attic flats: the latter has one good room and various apartments, light and dark, which might accommodate the librarian. The area of the second flat is about 1,500 feet - height of ceiling 10 feet, 10 inches, and the rooms are well lighted. To render them available for the purposes of the Library, very considerable alterations would require to be made. - The property in Victoria Terrace consists of the three flats immediately above the shops, and a small wing of two rooms forming the west side of Riddle's Court. The second and attic flats are occupied by Mr Robt. Glass, Merchant, at a rent of £31 - 10/. - The first flat, on a level with the Lawnmarket and stair leading from the Terrace, occupied by Mr McInnes, Picture Dealer, would accommodate the Library. It consists of two large rooms well lighted by five windows to the south, and of a small room to the north; the latter would form a convenient entrance-hall for the service of the members. The area of the first or ground flat is upwards of 1,400 feet. There is no feu-duty or ground-rent on the property. By an arrangement with the Edinr & Glasgow Bank, the purchase money can be obtained @ 4 per cent, to be repaid by half yearly instalments - All which is humbly reported by John Cochrane, George Goldie, Allan M. Grainger, and James Smart. The committee after some discussion

approved of the report, and instructed the Secretary to insert the substance of it in the quarterly circular for the information of the members (Minutes, p. 160)

At a subsequent meeting of Committee, a letter was read from Mr. Chapman, Melbourne Place, about a new property which he was about to build in that street. The first flat might be built for the Library at the cost of £700, to contain about 1,600 feet, with a ceiling 16 feet high; the feu-duty, to be £6. This letter was ordered to be inserted in the minutes for the consideration of the members, along with the other proposals on the same subject. (Minutes, pp. 161, 162)

General Meeting, 18th Octr. 1853 –

The president, Mr. Henry, in the chair – The meeting took up the consideration of premises for the Library. The house in Victoria Terrace was the only one proposed to be purchased. A discussion ensued. The secretary read a deed of Trust, setting forth the terms & conditions on which that property could be acquired. Mr. Hunter moved for delay, and that the committee continue their enquiries. On a division the meeting decided by a majority in favour of Mr. Anderson's motion, "That the offer (date 15th June) of Mr. Kerr & others, now read to the meeting, to convey the property in Victoria Terrace to Trustees for the purposes of this Institution, be now accepted, & that power be granted to the Committee to complete the transaction." (Minutes, p. 162)

Committee Meeting, 1st Decr. 1853.

An amended copy of the trust-deed was considered and approved of, and Mr. Bell was empowered to carry it out. The trustees named in it are – Messrs. Henry, Rankin, Smart, Kerr, Bell, Anderson, Goldie, Hunter, Hall, Campbell, James and Keppie – (Minutes, p. 163) –



Committee Meeting, 5th Jany, 1854 –

The trust-deed anent the property in Victoria Terrace was produced, duly signed, and was ordered to be engrossed – thus concluding that important transaction – (Minutes, p. 164) –

Committee Meeting, 5th Octr, 1854 –

The accounts connected with the purchase and transfer of the property in Victoria Terrace were laid before the meeting, and referred to the President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Messrs. Hall, McEwan & Anderson to consider and report. The meeting then adjourned – (Minutes, p. 174)

At the adjourned meeting the subcommittee reported "that after the examination of the accounts, they had decided that the Library was due Mr. Bell the following sums paid by him, viz. To City Clerks for Sasine £4 " 7 " 11d, To Stamp for new disposition £3, To Insurance (1854-5) £1 " 16 – total, £9 " 3 " 11d – Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Usher, opposed the approval of this report, being of opinion that only £7 " 15 " 5 (the sum due on an ordinary transaction, the difference to be paid by the original lix) was due. On a division the approval of the report was carried by a majority – The committee thereafter agreed to record their grateful sense of the important services which Mr. Bell had gratuitously rendered to the Library, both on this & previous occasions – his professional advice being at all times freely accorded (Mt. p. 174)

Committee Meeting, 4th Jany, 1855 –

The committee adjourned for a week to meet then with the Trustees to consider what steps should be taken in reference to their property at Whitsunday term – (Minutes, p. 176) –

Adjourned Meeting, 11th Jany, 1855 —

A sub-committee was appointed to make enquiries at Mr. McInnes if he would remove before the usual time, and on what terms — The committee then adjourned. (Minutes p. 177) —

— Adjd. Meeting of Com: & Trustees, 25th Jany, 1855 —

To this meeting the sub-committee reported that they could come to no arrangement with their tenant Mr. McInnes for his removal previous to the term; that they had caused the Secretary to write to the incorporation of Bakers to enquire if they would be willing to relinquish a portion of the current lease, which runs up to Whitsunday 1856, from whom no answer had yet been received: and that they were in communication with Mr. Black regarding the necessary alterations on the new premises. The diligence of the Sub-committee was approved of: and they were instructed to go on maturing the plans under Mr. Black's guidance. Mr. Henry was added to their number. The meeting was of opinion that beyond maturing plans nothing could be effected till Whitsunday: and that Mr. McInnes should be served with a summons of removal. (Minutes p. 178)

Committee Meeting, 1st March 1855.

There were produced letters from the Bakers & from Mr. Greig, Printer, relieving the Library from the remainder of their lease; and granting a week beyond the term for removal. (Minutes p. 179) —

At the Committee Meeting, 10th May, 1855, Mr. Lind, Builder, and Sanderson & Muirhead were employed to execute the necessary alterations on the new premises — (Minutes p. 184) —



Committee Meeting, 26th June, 1855 —

Mr. Smart, on the part of the six original purchasers of the Premises, presented the Library with a handsome time-piece, bought with the balance of the first year's rents after paying all charges (M. p. 186)

Committee Meeting, 12th July, 1855. —

A letter was read from Mr. Bell respecting the purchase of the property of Robert More, adjoining the Library, and marked on the plan. Agreed to be delayed — (Minutes p. 187) —

The same further delayed on July 16th, 1855; but again taken up at a

Committee Meeting, 2d July, 1856 —

The property is marked A. A. in the plan, and lies north of the Library. Mr. Maxwell moved, and Mr. Bryce seconded, that the subject be dismissed. Mr. Corns moved, and Mr. Anderson seconded, that a sub-committee be appointed to enquire as to price, burdens and value, and to report on the 9th inst. The amendment was carried: and Messrs. Anderson, Bryce and Corns were appointed to obtain the advice of Mr. Alexr. Black. (Minutes p.p. 221, 222) —

Adjourned Meeting, 9th July, 1856 —

The sub-committee's report on the above was taken up. It appeared that it would be to the advantage of the library to become the proprietor. It was agreed to recommend the matter to the meeting of members on the 15th, and to ask power to complete the transaction — (Minutes p. 223) —

The reasons urged in support of purchasing were – to secure entire possession of the Court – to have command over the tenants – and to be able to provide accommodation when required for Books on the same level as the present shelving –

Quarterly Meeting, 15th July 1856 –

The meeting proceeded to take up the question of the purchase of the above property; and on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bisset, agreed to approve of the recommendation of the committee to purchase it, and granted powers to take the necessary steps for that purpose. (Minutes, p. 224) –

A sub-committee, with Mr. Black, was appointed on 3d Septr., 1856, to complete the repairs on said property; and to insure it in the name of the Trustees for £150. (Minutes p. 237) –

A few of the Committee and others presented Mr. Alexr. Black, Architect, with a signet ring in acknowledgment of the services gratuitously rendered by him in the purchase of the heritable property of the Library & during the Alterations; they also presented a testimonial to Mr. Wm. Bell S.S.C. for legal services in the same transactions; and a similar mark of respect to the Treasurer for general services –

Committee Meeting, 7th July, 1858 –

Owing to the amalgamation of the Edinr. & Glasgow Bank with the Clydesdale, an intimation was sent to the effect that the continuance of the loan (now £540) would require to be arranged with the



latter. The Clydesdale declined; it was therefore necessary to borrow elsewhere to pay the £540 due to the E. & G. Bank. Mr. Anderson waited on the secretary and informed him that Mr. Gardiner, York Place, was willing to advance the sum. Mr. Bell was instructed to make the necessary enquiries at Mr. Gardiner (Min. pp. 287, 289, 291)

Committee Meeting, 1st Septr., 1858 –

The correspondence between Messrs. Bell and Gardiner regarding the terms of the Loan was approved of. The terms were, that £600 should be advanced on an assignation to the Bond granted by the six original purchasers of the property to the Edinr. & Glasgow Bank in 1853 – interest 1/2 per cent, above the first landed securities – that the Library should enter & pay the back subscription on 24 shares in the Friendly Property Invest. Coy., amounting at that date to £90: these shares requiring an annual payment of £31 " 4/ – that the property should be insured for £600 – The above arrangement was unanimously approved of. (Minutes pp. 294, 295) –

Mr. Bell's account (£4 " 9 " 7) for outlay to City Clerks for Infeftment in 1858 of the Twelve Trustees in the large property (Min. 5th Jany. 1854) was ordered to be paid. (Min. pp. 164, 294).

Committee Meeting, 6th Octr. 1858 –

The Secretary reported that the Loan had been completed between the Clients of Mr. Gardiner S.S.C. and the Trustees of the Library (Minutes p. 296) –

The entire cost of the Properties acquired on behoof of the Library amounts to £850"8"6, and yields a yearly rental of £76. The cost of maintenance up to Nov.r 1858, including £100 of redemption of debt and expense of new loan, was £251"7/; receipts from Rents £318"5/; balance, £66"18/. By the arrangement adopted, and detailed above, the Property will be redeemed in 10 years at a cost of £676; the rents in the same period will amount to £760: balance from rents, £84;— which sum, with the former balance of £66·18; and the additional sum of £36 (v. arrangement with Secy in 1857); making in all £150"18/ to be deducted from the excess of outlay by Library: leaving the Library out of pocket only £63"10/6 for a property whose value is £1200—

Committee Meeting, 5th Jany, 1859—

Mr. Anderson & the Secretary were instructed to complete a statement of particulars respecting the Property, which might be serviceable to future managers of the Library (M. p. 302)—

In consideration of the small sum paid for the Property on the south and west side of the court, the Library became bound to keep the roof in repair, and gave up any interest that may arise from the mutual gables on the east & west of the house in Victoria Terrace. The extent of these gables is not defined— nor, till built upon, will it be known who are bound to keep them in repair. In the event of repairs being required, it will be necessary to ascertain the extent of these obligations—

II

Records of

University Hall
Riddle's Court

# University Hall 1889.

1 The building continued in the possession of the Mechanic's Library till ~~when it was~~ when it was purchased by Prof Patrick Geddes of University College Dundee for use as a 'University Hall'. By an arrangement with the Officials of the Library however the whole building did not at once come into the hands of Prof Geddes. The object of the purchase was to provide a means of extending the system of social residence among the students of Edinburgh University already ~~inag~~ inaugurated (1887) by Prof. Geddes at University Hall Mound Place.

2. The first step taken by Prof. Geddes ~~with this~~ object was to decorate & furnish the three rooms on the first floor: the Kitchen on the ground floor was also furnished.

3. In the Winter Session of 1889-90 three gentlemen entered as the first residents of University Hall Riddle's Court viz.

W. S. Bruce

Riccardo Stephens
W. G. Brown Murdoch

In the ~~Oct~~ a series of dramatic tableaux & other entertainments of a similar nature were held in the large common rooms on the first floor in aid of
They were under the management of Miss Jane Hay.

4 In the April Vacation of 1890 fresh alterations were made and the two large rooms on the ground floor occupied by the Mechanics Library were partitioned up into five rooms.

5 In the Summer Session of 1890. the following gentlemen were in residence

W. S. Bruce
Riccardo Stephens
Louis G. Irvine M.A.

At the close of the Summer Session a very successful Smoking Concert was held in the large common rooms ~~&~~ ~~and~~ by the residents of University Hall Monro Place. & Riddle's Court. Dr. A.P. Aitken Resident & Prof Sedds was present.



6 During the long vacation of 1890 the ~~rema~~ Hall was occupied as a Ladies' Settlement by a number of Ladies attending the Vacation Science Courses at Brantor.

7 ~~Oct~~ In the latter half of the vacation the remainder of the House was furnished & decorated and the whole building was open for residence by the commencement of the Winter Session Oct 1890.

On the 10th October a supper was held of the workmen concerned in the alterations at which Professor Sedds presided & several of the residents of University Hall were present.

8 On the 13th 14th & 15th Octobers ~~the residents~~ at University Hall Riddle's Court ~~entertained~~ Prof. & Mrs Sedds and the Resident of University Hall entertained a large number of ladies & gentlemen. and on the 15th October 1890. the building was formally declared open by Mr Stormonth-Darling, Solicitor General & M.P. for the Universities of Edinburgh & St. Andrews.

University Hall — 1890

(1) The following extract from the 'Scottish Leader' of Octbr 16th 1890 fully describes the proceedings :—

## EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY HALL.

On the invitation of Professor and Mrs Geddes and the residents of the University Hall, a large and fashionable gathering of ladies and gentlemen were present yesterday at the formal opening of the hall in Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket. It will be remembered that some time ago Professor Geddes acquired the premises formerly occupied by the Mechanics' Library, for the purpose of converting them into a University Hall or boarding house for students. The necessary structural alterations have just been completed, and on entering the Court either from the Lawnmarket or Victoria Terrace a perfect transformation is witnessed. The furnishings of the various apartments are of the most tasteful and aesthetic character, every attention having been paid to the comfort of the boarders. Each student is provided with a handsome bureau and a large cabinet, while there is a large dining room common to all the boarders. At the formal opening yesterday, the Solicitor-General, M.P., said he had great pleasure in taking part in the inaugural ceremony, imagining that he had been asked to do so because he represented the University in Parliament. He was quite sure that after the view they had had of the rooms, they were, most of them, astonished to find that there were such handsome old rooms still in existence, and, he dare say, unsuspected by most of them. They must also, he thought, admire the great pluck of Professor Geddes in entering upon a rather unfamiliar field like that, and doing it all himself, trusting to the success of his cause. (Applause.) Everything in Scotland which was new was of the nature of an experiment, because of the exceeding Conservatism of the people, but he apprehended that perhaps as the students of the University of Edinburgh were drawn from other nations as well as from Scotland, they might find a little boldness on the part of some of them sufficient at least to very shortly people this house of Professor Geddes, and to create a demand for more accommodation of the same kind. (Applause.) He looked back upon the old University times of Edinburgh, and although he was personally very comfortably situated, yet from what he knew of other students, he did not know anything more important to their physical comfort and moral wellbeing and intellectual advancement than that they should be brought together under healthful and comfortable circumstances, and should enjoy that union and intercourse of mind with mind which was, after all, the most valuable part of a University education. He was sure that in that house the boarders would be able to enjoy these great advantages, and he hoped they would all remember that they were indebted mainly to the enterprise and courage of their friend, Professor Geddes. (Applause.) Among the ladies and gentlemen who visited the house during the last three days were—The Solicitor-General, Sir Arthur Mitchell, Professor Sir Ludovic and Lady Grant, Lody Deas, Principal and Mrs Rainy, Professor Marcus Dods, Professor and Mrs Chiene, Professor and Mrs Crum Brown, Professor Goudie, Professor and Mrs Baldwin Brown, Professor and Mrs Simpson, Dr, Mrs, and Miss Hutchison Stirling, Professor Duns, Professor Laidlaw, Principal and Mrs Grant Ogilvie, Professor Walmsley, Dr and Mrs Traquair, Dr and Mrs Clouston, Dr and Mrs Argyll Robertson, Dr and Mrs Felkin, Dr and Mrs Gibson, Dr and Miss James, Professor Armstrong, Dr Blackie, Mr Crum, Mr and Miss Baildon, Mr and Mrs Oliphant, Mrs Cunningham, Mr and Mrs Macphail, Dr and Mrs Aitken, Mr Taylor Innes, Mrs W. B. Nutt, Dr and Mrs Sibbald, Mr and Mrs Duncan Maclaren, Mr and Mrs M'Candlish, Dr and Mrs H. B. Mill, Mrs D. Douglas Maclagan, Miss Scott Moncrieff, Mr Blackie, Dr Peel Ritchie, Dr Bulst, Miss Guthrie Wright, Mrs and Miss Hill Burton, Mr Morham, Mr and Mrs Fairbairn, Mr T. M'Kie, Mr Gibb, R.S.A., Mr W. D. M'Kay, R.S.A., Mr C M'Bride, Mr R. Miller, Mrs and Miss Nelson, Mrs Berry Hart, Mrs Drynan, and the Misses Aitken, Mr L. C. Douglas, Dr Melville, Rev. Mr Dawson, &c., &c., while apologies for absence were received from Professor Blackie, Professor Sir Henry Roscoe, and many others.

EXTENSION OF THE UNIVERSITY HALL MOVEMENT.—What is known as the "University Hall" scheme has for its object (1) to make a beginning of social residence among the students of the University, and (2) to associate with this the extension of University influence among the people. Professor Geddes, as is pretty well known, was the main founder of the movement, which, begun in 1887, has been a great success. The house No. 2 Mound Place, where the experiment was commenced, has never wanted its full complement of residents, and this being so, the founders have been led to extend the accommodation by the purchase of of Bailie Macmoran's house in Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket, and the conversion of it into a residence for students. The house has a very interesting history. Bailie Macmoran was one of the Magistrates of the city in the reign of James VI., and in the year 1598 his "ludgings" were selected by the Corporation of Edinburgh as the place in which they entertained the Duke of Holstein—the King and Queen being both present. The worthy Bailie was, it seems, shot in the same decade by one of the High School boys in a barring-out rebellion. The house was subsequently acquired by Sir John Clark of Penicuik, and sold in 1762 to Sir Roderick Mackenzie, one of the Lords of Session, who resided in the upper flats, while Lord Royston, third son of the Earl of Cromarty, occupied the lower flats. At a much later period the "laigh tenement" was occupied by Jean Straiton, the widow of "Mr David Williamson, minister of the gospel at the West Kirk"—the "Daintie Davie" of Scottish song. Latterly the house, which contains many of its external picturesque features, was occupied as the Mechanics' Library. Internally, while reconstruction was inevitable, several of the fine old rooms have been preserved in something like their original state; and a visitor to the High Street yesterday afternoon, seeing the lines of carriages drawn up at Riddle's Close might have imagined that its courtly residents had come to life again. A large party gathered to inspect the rooms, and nothing but praise was heard on all sides at the neatness and air of comfort which characterised them. Professor and Mrs Geddes received the visitors, who were entertained to tea in the dining-room. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, M.P., performed the opening ceremony. He said he had great pleasure in taking part in the inaugural ceremony, imagining that he had been asked to do so because he represented the University in Parliament. He was quite sure that after the view they had had of the premises, they were, most of them, astonished that there were such handsome old rooms still in existence, and, he dared say, unsuspected by most of them. They also, he thought, must admire the great pluck of Professor Geddes in entering upon a rather unfamiliar field like that, and doing it all himself, trusting to the success of his cause. (Hear, hear and applause.) Everything in Scotland which was new was of the nature of an experiment, because of the exceeding conservatism of the people—(hear, hear, and laughter)—but he apprehended that perhaps as the students of the University of Edinburgh were drawn from other nations as well as from Scotland, there might be found a little boldness on the part of some of them, sufficient at least to very shortly people these houses of Professor Geddes, and to create a demand for more accommodation of the same kind. (Applause.) He looked back upon his own time at the University of Edinburgh, and he could only say this, that though he personally was very comfortably circumstanced, from what he knew of the situation of many other students, he could not imagine any movement of greater importance to both the physical comfort, the moral wellbeing, and the intellectual advancement of the students, than that they should be brought together under healthful and comfortable circumstances, enjoying that union and intercourse of mind with mind which was, after all, the most valuable part of the University education. (Applause.) He was certain that in these houses students would, if circumstances were favourable, enjoy those great advantages; and for those advantages he hoped they would always remember that they were indebted mainly to the courage of Professor Geddes. (Applause.) He (the Solicitor-General) had great pleasure in declaring the rooms open. (Loud applause.) On the motion of Professor GEDDES, the Solicitor-General, M.P., was awarded a hearty vote of thanks.



## Winter Session 1890-91.

The available accommodation for the Winter Session consisted of

i. Common dining room & Drawing Room

ii Nine private rooms

iii. Kitchen & two servants' bedrooms.

The residents were :—

Wm. S. Bruce

Louis G. Irvine M.A

A. Sigismond. B. Powell.

Maurice Epps.

G S Harper

F. Bon. Frost.

Dr G. Lingme

Nov 21st 1890. On this day a very successful smoking concert was given in the Common Room, Riddle's Court by Mr Robinson one of the Residents of University Hall, Mound Place in honour of his coming of age. All the Residents were present & many guests.

L.G.G.

Decr. 31st 1890. First Meeting of the Bogie Club held by permission of the Residents at Riddle's Court. Present Messrs. Cuthbertson. Bruce Feast. Irvine. J.A. Thomson & Macdonald, with Messrs. Young. Passman. Ormiston. J.S. Walton. Lizard. Dott and Johnstone as guests.

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Winter Session 1890.

was concluded by the singing of the Hall Song and "Auld Lang Syne"

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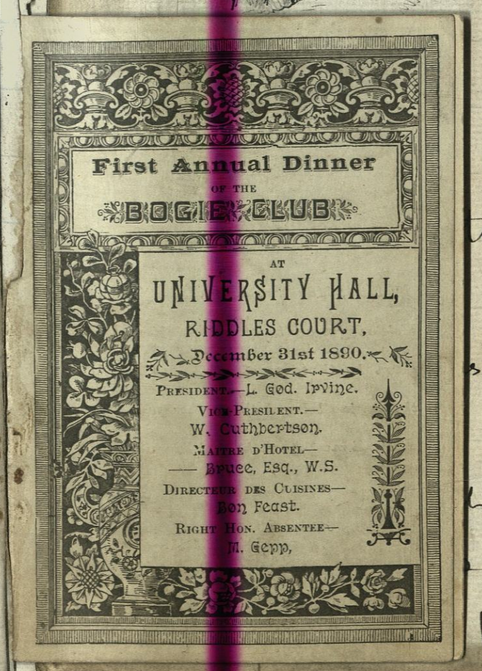
First Annual Dinner
OF THE
BOGIE CLUB
AT
UNIVERSITY HALL,
RIDDLES COURT,
December 31st 1890.
PRESIDENT—L. Geo. Irvine.
VICE-PRESIDENT.—
W. Cuthbertson.
MAITRE D'HOTEL—
— Bruce, Esq., W.S.
DIRECTEUR DES CUISINES—
Ron Feast.
RIGHT HON. ABSENTEE—
H. Gepp,

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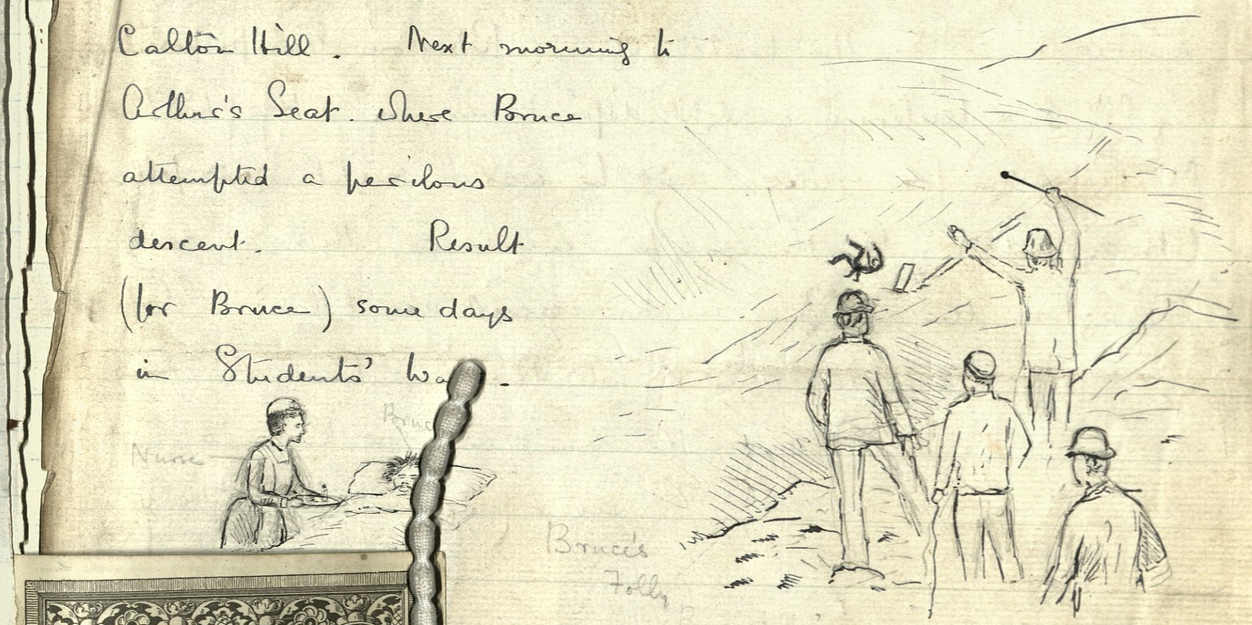


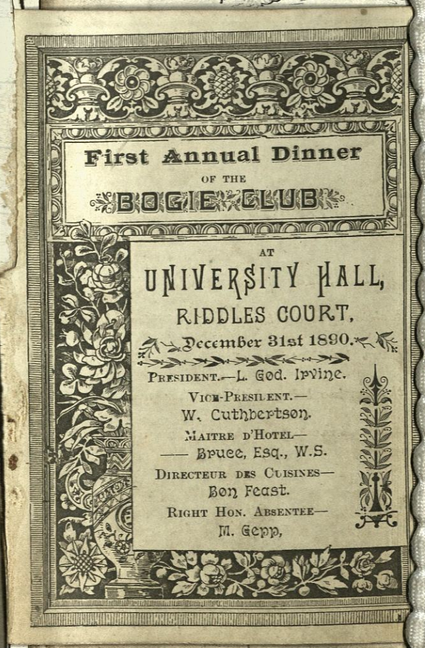
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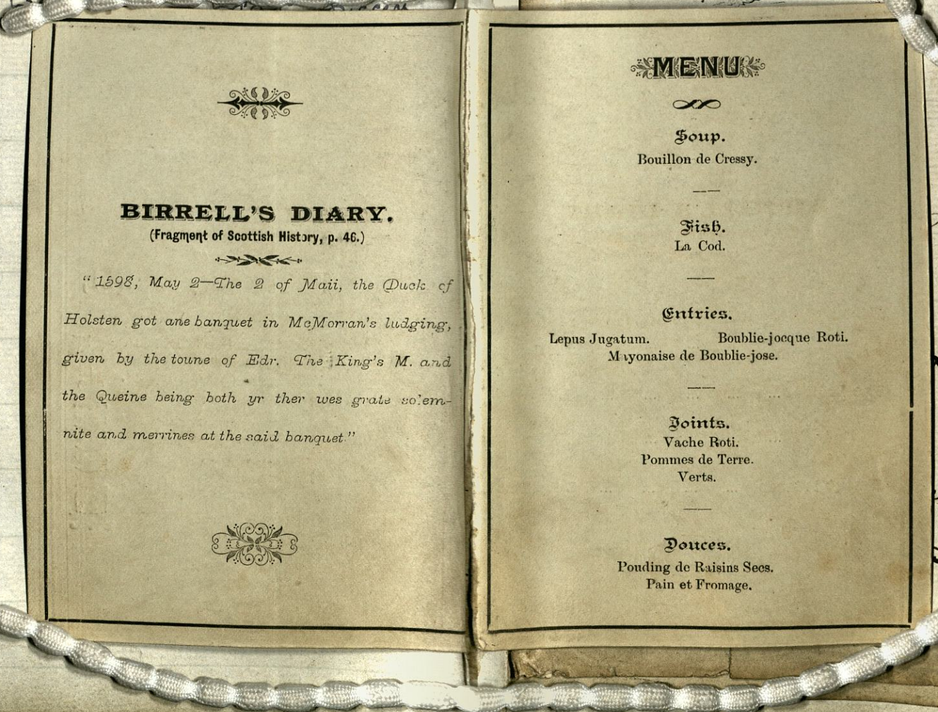

BIRRELL'S DIARY.
(Fragment of Scottish History, p. 46.)

"1598, May 2—The 2 of Maii, the Duck of Holsten got ane banquet in McMorran's ludging, given by the toune of Edr. The King's M. and the Queine being both yr ther wes grate solemnite and merrines at the said banquet"

MENU

Soup.
Bouillon de Cressy.

Fish.
La Cod.

Entries.
Lepus Jugatum. Boublie-jocque Roti.
Mayonaise de Boublie-jose.

Joints.
Vache Roti.
Pommes de Terre.
Verts.

Douces.
Pouding de Raisins Secs.
Pain et Fromage.



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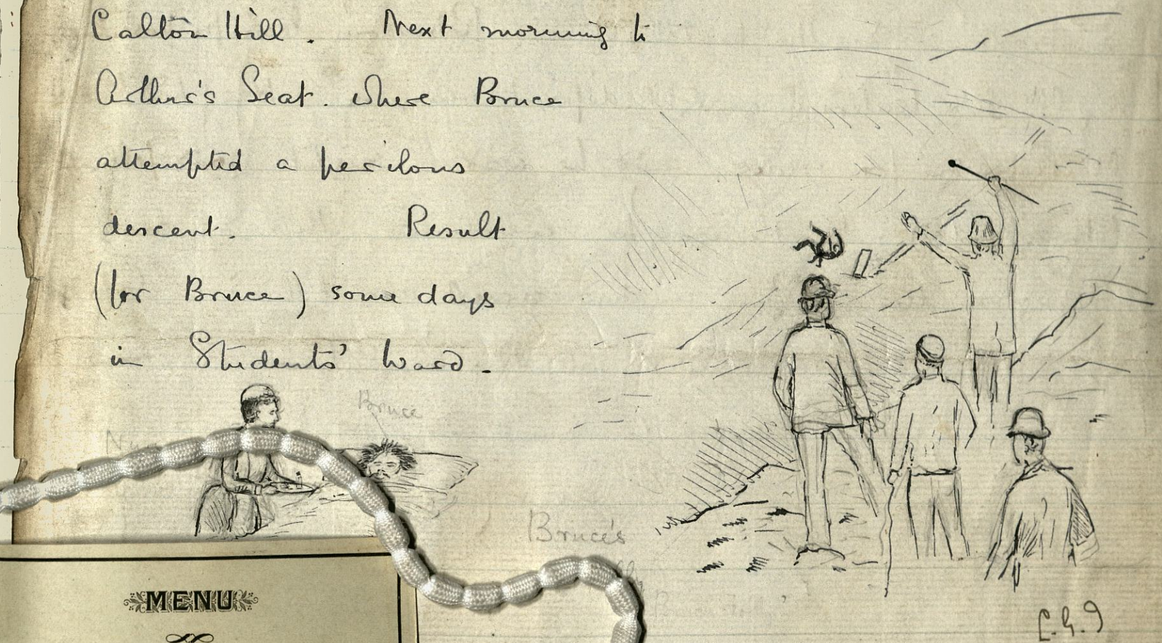


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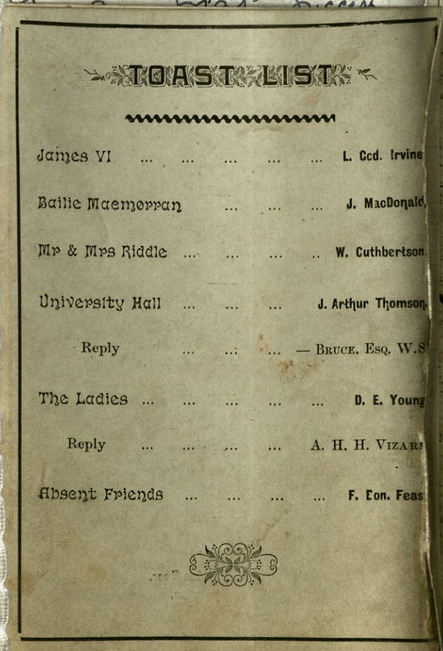

TOAST LIST

| | |
|---|---|
| James VI ... ... ... ... ... | L. Ccd. Irvine |
| Bailie Macmorran ... ... ... | J. MacDonald |
| Mr & Mrs Riddle ... ... ... .. | W. Cuthbertson |
| University Hall ... ... ... | J. Arthur Thomson |
| Reply ... ... ... | — Bruce, Esq. W.S. |
| The Ladies ... ... ... ... ... | D. E. Young |
| Reply ... ... ... ... | A. H. H. Vizard |
| Absent Friends ... ... ... ... | F. Con. Feas |



It was concluded by the singing of the Hall Song and "Auld Lang Syne" L.G.

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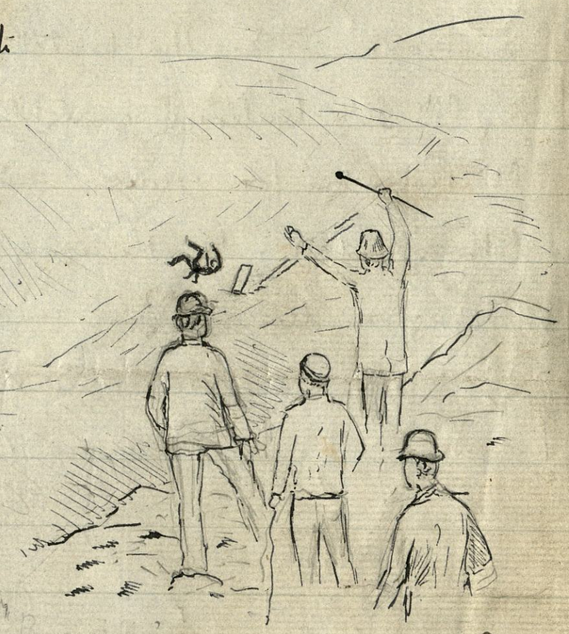



L.G.

Dec. 31st 1890. On this evening was held the first Annual Dinner of the "Bogie" Club. There were present Messrs Cuthbertson. Bruce. Frast Irvine J.A. Thomson & Macdonald as members and as guests Messrs Young Ormiston. Watson Wizard Parsman. Dott & Johnston. The dinner (which was an hour late) was voted excellent by all as indeed was everything which occurred on that evening: but especially excellent were

# Winter Session 1890

Nov 21st 1890.

On this day Mr Robinson one of the Residents of V. H. Mound Place came of age and celebrated the joyful occasion by one smoke in Macmoran's land at which were present all the Residents and many guests. "There was grate solemnitie and ~~[illegible]~~ mirriness at said smoke" The health of Mr Robinson was proposed by Mr J. S. Watson in a right defiant manner. He had known Mr Robinson 100 years and he was a right good fellow (Hear, hear). "Gentlemen", he concluded, "this is no joking matter. I am in dead earnest about this!" After which the toast was drunk with Highland honours ~~[illegible]~~ much enthusiasm and no heel-taps.


Mr Robinson replied in a few touching words & then sang his song, "A Fine Hunting-Day". N.B. He finished it.

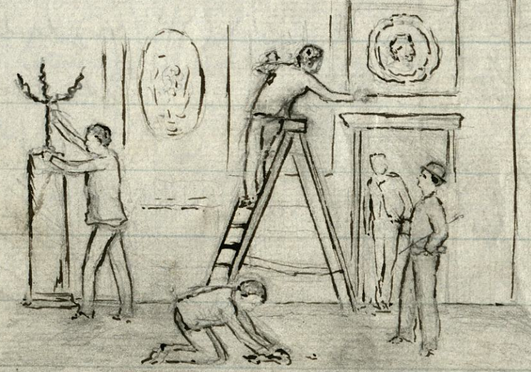
Mr Bole performed a solo on the piccolo & Mr Livesay on the ocarina: both of them interesting performances. Among the songs was Mr Harper's famous "Kissing". The gathering



the strings and the violin of Mr Ormiston. The company sat in the New Year and drank its health and their own with great cordiality. The last members separated at 4.40 A.M.

Sitting in the New Year 1891

Appended is the Menu.



The Residents Jan 8th.
C.G.J.

Jan 9th 1891. The fourth annual dance of University Hall was held at ~~Mac~~ V. H. Riddle's Court on this date; the "robs" being the Residents of both Halls. The guests numbered about ninety and the dance was a ~~triumphant~~ great success. The dance of the evening was

the eightsome reel which was danced with a zeal & vertve finish rarely equalled.
The guests all said they enjoyed themselves and there is no reason to doubt their assertion.


The Residents Jan 9th


Mr Gepp induces an ancient philosopher to go on the bust

March 16th The session closed on March 16th 1891. Of five residents of University Hall who entered for the Second Professional Examination four were completely or partially successful.

A special prize in Physiological Chemistry at the College of Surgeons was gained by Mr. Lishman (Mound Place) and a medal in Senior Practical Anatomy by Mr. Irvine (Riddle's Court).

L.G.I.



## Summer Session. 1891.

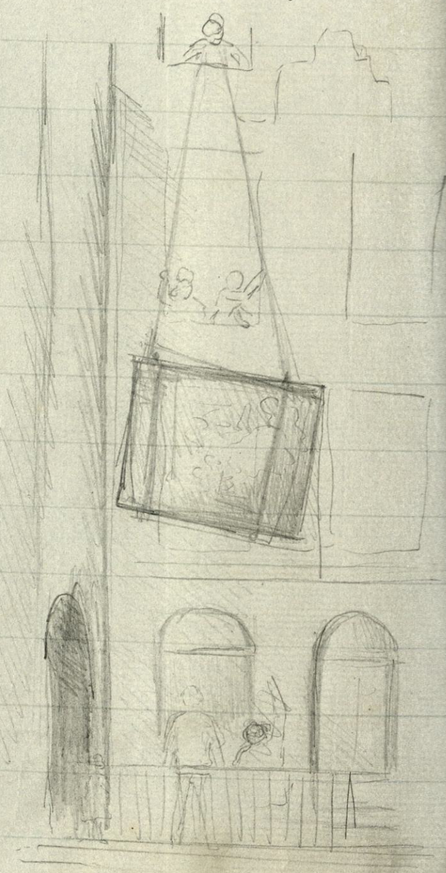
The Residents were: —

Wm. S. Bruce
Louis G. Irvine M.A.
~~Rudd~~ Sigismund Powell.
× M. Gepp.
~~F.S. Harper~~
F. Bonner Flash.
× Arthur W. Carter M.B etc.
× Richard Stephens
R.R.

July 27th Close of Session during which nothing of any note happened except that a Smoking Concert was held in June, and that M. Gepp Esq. attained the distinction of becoming L.R.C.S & P. Edin. L.R.C.P.&S. Glasgow.
& L. Irvine passed the Second Professional Examination with distinction.

L.G.I.

July 27th. Close of session in Greek nothing



# Winter Session 1891 – 92

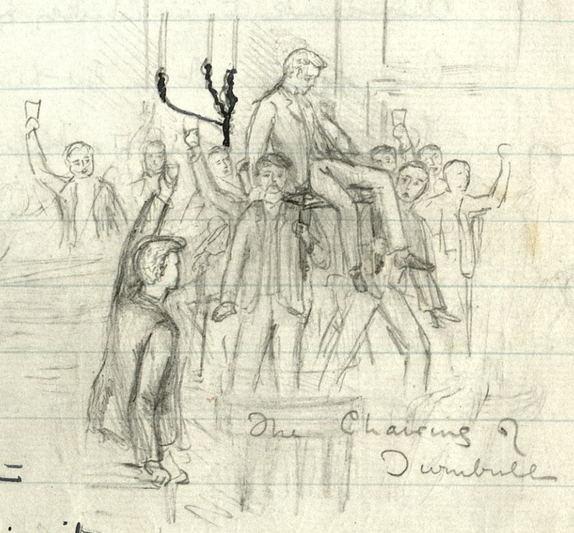
The Winter Session 1891 - 92 opened on the 13th Octbr & the Residents being the following following

Wm S. Bruce — W S B
Louis G. Irvine — L G I
(R.S.) Frank S. Sterper — F S H
F. Bonner Leach — F B L
Rhicardo Stephens — R S
S. N. D. Bruce — S B
A. H. Vigard — A H V
E. J. Nichols — N
J. Stoddart — S
A. Wyllie — W
Andrew J. Herbertson — A J H
William G. Smith B.Sc.
Ernest Farmer
Sigismond Lowell
Nelson Noble
Ch. Smith
J. Crystal Bell



Oct 23rd 1891.

On this night a Smoking Concert was held in the Old Common Room of Riddle's Court to do honour to Mr Robert Dumbrill on his appointment to a lectureship at Aberdeen and his consequent necessary departure from University Hall. Prof. Geddes and all the residents from both Houses were present, besides a few guests specially invited by Mr Dumbrill. The old traditions of a mingled 'solemnities and mirthes' were well kept up and the smoker was the most enjoyable one yet held. Mr J. S. Watson occupied the chair and in proposing Mr Dumbrill's health spoke warmly of the great & unselfish services which he had rendered to the Hall. Mr Dumbrill he said was a decent fellow and manifold and various was the different ideals of what a decent fellow should be yet held it to be Mr Dumbrill's peculiar virtue that he of all men most nearly realised them all. An enthusiastic ovation was then given to Mr ~~Dumbrill~~ Mr Dumbrill who was carried shoulder high round the room to the ringing sounds of the chorus of a song specially composed for the occasion by Mr Stephens & Mr Sell:–



3 Mr. Then pledge me a good fellow's health
And drink it in whiskey to a good fellow's health
And spice the mustard, let him even do so
To the sound of a rattling chair, him even do so
To the sound of a rattling chair.

Mr Trombulk in rose to the company very weird & called for the health of U H & P & S who was dressed in lead-colored farmer who made enthusiastic by his singing of his Hell Song. Prof Sudds replied, expressed his satisfaction at the progress of his Hell and its honorable record in the past. It was here he said he had the effrontery to the improvement in the science of the tension. The smoker which was throughout most enjoyable terminated with the universal handshake of Auld Lang Syne

Jan One 5 dance

farmer's Smoker

P hot off a apt.

Summer Session 1892.

The residents were the following

W. S. B.

E. G. J

J. S H

J B. J.

R. S

S. N D B.

E J. N

J. S.

W. G. S.

W. S.

W. S. B. Mus

D. M. H.

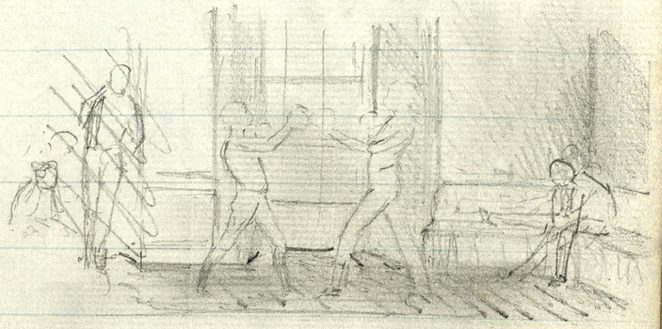
J B. W.

D. Sw.

Friday June 24th Smokes.



Greek athletic school



Sunday Afternoon W. H.

July 1st Results of Trial.

Appointment of Gymnastic Committee

W. G. Burn Murdoch Esq., University Hall

Bought of Thomson and Gillespie
7 North Saint Andrew Street,
Edinburgh

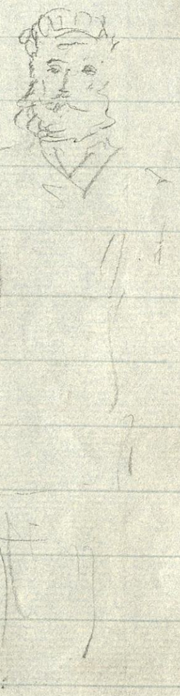
1892

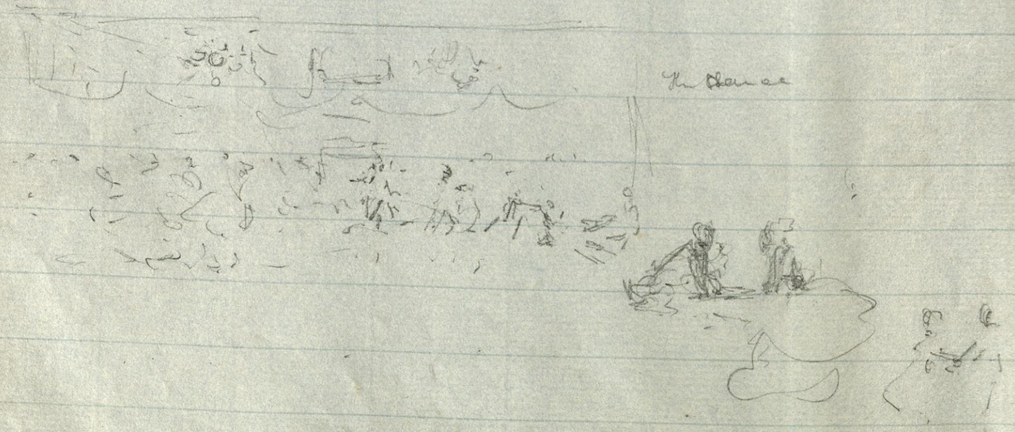
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 23 | 12 Syphons Potash | | 5 | - | |
| | 6 Lemonade | | 3 | - | |
| | 6 Bo. Whisky | | 19 | - | |
| | | £ | 1 | 7 | - |
| 24 | By 1 Bo. Whisky | | 3 | 2 | |
| | | £ | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| | | | 1 | 8 | |
| | | | 11 | 9½ | |
| | | £ | 1 | 16 | 3½ |
| | Cigarettes | | 6 | — | |
| | Stamps | | 1 | — | |
| | Matches | | — | 2½ | |
| | Tablecloth | | 3 | 6 | |
| | | 2 | 7 | — | |
| | Piano-tuning | | 4 | 6 | |
| | Hire of tumblers & cups | | 5 | | |
| | (14 men at 3/8½ | 2 | 12) | | |
| | Candles | | — | 11 | |
| | | 2 | 12 | 11 | |
| | | | mck | 11 | |
| | | 2 | 13 | 10 | |

Smoking Concert 3/9 each Smith



30th & 31st March Skeftin Bachelors



# Contents.

## Relations with other Proprietors

Committee Meeting, 26th June, 1855.

A letter was read from Mr Smith, Architect, on behalf of Mr Tytler, requesting a light to be admitted by a grating in the court, marked B in plan, to Miss Bonnar's cellar, when the question was remitted to the President to permit alterations, provided the level of the court was not altered, nor surface of wall sloped; and provided the Library retained the power to take away the grating, and close it up whenever it should be found to be inconvenient. (Min. p. 186)—

At an adjourned meeting on the 8th Novr, 1855, a letter was read from Mr McCraw, owner of a shop under the Terrace, immediately to the west of the Library, complaining that the water from the W. C. of the Library, marked C in plan, was damaging his property. The letter was remitted to the President at a meeting on 5th Decr, 1855, with full powers. Upon enquiry it was found that a similar complaint had been made against the Bank of Scotland, the former Proprietors, and that they had, at a cost of £50 to the satisfaction of Mr Black, caused a watertight iron pipe to be put in to convey the water from said W. C. to the common drain. It appeared further that the backwall of Mr McCraw's shop was considerably below the level of the street and therefore probable that the injury was caused by a spring or by the subsidence of surface water: at all events the Library was not responsible. Since these facts were explained to the present proprietor, no farther complaints

plaints have been made.

Committee Meeting, 2d July, 1856.

A letter was read from Mr Tytler, Law Agent to the Bank of Scotland, regarding the closing of the stair-door leading to the terrace. The Secy stated that he had acknowledged receipt of the letter, and with advice had intimated that the letter would be laid before the Committee; meantime the stairdoor would be closed & opened as he wished —

Adjourned meeting 9th July, 1856.

A conversation took place respecting the answer to Mr Tytler's letter of 24th June, when it was unanimously agreed to send the following,

James Tytler Esq.,

Sir,

In reply to yours of the 24th ult. respecting the right of your clients & the public to the stair leading to Victoria Terrace, the Committee instruct me to inform you that they are willing to agree to your request respecting the time the door is to be opened and shut during the time occupied by the work going on in the Terrace; at the same time they deny that your clients or the public have any right to the stair, which is the property of the Library — nothing having ever been heard to the contrary till the receipt of your letter — I am &c. (signed) Henry Rankeu Secy (M. p. 222)

Committee Meeting, 3d Septr 1856.

Mr Anderson reported on the case of the stair. It was agreed to remit the matter to Messrs Anderson & Goldie. (M. p. 227) —





In the course of enquiry regarding the right of way by the stair, the evidence of two witnesses was obtained — Joseph Beattie, Tailor, about eighty years of age, a resident from infancy in the neighbourhood of Riddle's Court — and William Wood, long in the employment of the late Mr Finnie, who for many years owned and occupied the property now in the possession of the Library. These two individuals stated in the presence of Mr J. Low, the Librarian, and of Mr Anderson, that they never knew that the public had a right of way farther south than Riddle's Court: that the stair in question, before being altered by the Improvement Commission, lead only to Mr Finnie's woodyard and no farther; that the door of the stair was invariably locked by him or his servants at night; that the hinges of the door [D, on plan] still exist at the top of the stair: that previous to Mr Finnie's occupancy the premises were used as the Police Office; and that the Police also closed the door in question.

An account of £3 · 9 · 5, the proportion of the expense incurred in repairing the small house on the east side of the court, was ordered to be recovered from the proprietor of the property above. (M. pp. 248, 252, 266) —

The above account was paid by the party referred to. The work or repairs done consisted of the half of new joisting — ceiling — flooring &c. immediately above the property of the Library, and included no part of the roof.

A complaint about the state of the roof of that small house on the east of the court was addressed to the factor: he was informed that he must repair it at his own expense or be liable to damages. The roof was repaired - no charge made against the Library - thus admitting his entire liability for its maintenance.

It is uncertain who repairs the roof of the north side of the court.

The roof of the south and west sides of the court is repaired at the sole cost of the Library.

The pavement of the court was repaired at the time that the small houses were altered at the sole cost of the Library; it being ~~their~~ their own property.

The factor of the property immediately under the Library having taken a supply of water from the pipe leading from the High St: to the cisterns of the Library property, Mr. Anderson was empowered to make enquiry and get the opinion of Mr. Bell as to the liability of the factor. Mr. Bell was of opinion that, seeing that the pipe was probably put in by the Improvement Commission for the use of the whole tenement, part of which was purchased by the Library, (the other part being still the property of the representatives of the Improvt. Comsn.) the Library was probably only entitled to recover the half of the expense recently incurred for repairs: but if the factor refused, the Library could cut off the supply.



The Secretary was instructed to make out an account of the expense, and to send it to the factor for payment. (Mn. Hy. 299, 302) - JWR. In Reference to the Foregoing subject the Secretary waited on Mr Lyther who referred him to the Architect who fitted up the Place Originally and whose Statement is "That the Pipe was taken in for the benefit of the whole Tenement and was the Property of The Library and the Bank of Scotland and of course is upheld by them both." JWR.

Was 14th 1860 - The account in connection with the above, amounting to eight Shillings was paid on this date by Mr Lyther to Mr Cameron Librarian (Delity. M. Cameron Cor. Mn.)

Delity. on the May - JWR.