



(A PLAN)
of
City of Glasgow
from a Survey
1797.

Scale of 2000 feet.

REFERENCES.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a The High Church | n The Lough Church |
| b The Royal Infirmary | o The Barracks |
| c The New Bridewell | p St. Andrew's Church |
| d The University | q The Washing house |
| e The College Church | r The Slaughter house |
| f The North-west Church | s The Flesh Markets |
| g The Weigh house | t The Merchants hall |
| h The Grammar School | u The Towns hospital |
| i The New Assembly rooms | v The Wind Church & Markets |
| k The Trades hall | w The Play house |
| l The Guard house & Green market | x St. Finbar's Church |
| m The Tolbooth & Prison | y The Circus |

NB. The public buildings are darker in the shade than the other houses.

**AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
CITY OF GLASGOW
AND SUBURBS:**

CONTAINING

**A HISTORY OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE CITY,
A DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**

AND AN ACCOUNT OF

**THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION,
THE UNIVERSITY, AND CORPORATE BODIES,**

COMPILED FROM

AUTHENTIC RECORDS AND RESPECTABLE AUTHORITIES.

—
CALCULATED ALSO TO SERVE AS A

Complete Guide

FOR THE USE OF STRANGERS.

—
BY **JAMES DENHOLM**, WRITER.

—
EMBELLISHED WITH TWELVE ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

—
GLASGOW:

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—
1797.



skilfully done ; the several folds, the ermine, and the reflected light which the scarlet produces upon its snowy whiteness in particular situations, are productive of the happiest effect.

THE Assembly Room is likewise a fine apartment, richly ornamented with Corinthian columns, fluted, and three large crystal lustres to enlighten the hall. Its length is 47 feet,—breadth 24,—and of the same height with the Town Hall. It is now, however, too small to accommodate the citizens, and another, afterwards to be described, has been erected in Ingram-street, which will completely obviate this defect.

THE TONTINE COFFEE ROOM AND HOTEL.

IN the year 1781 a number of the most respectable citizens opened a subscription, by way of tontine, for erecting these buildings, the produce or rent whereof was to be distributed amongst the subscribers, according to the endurance of any life they should propose at the time of subscription ; and thus annually, till such time as only one of the original nominees was in existence ; when, upon such an event taking place, the whole buildings became the property of the original subscriber or his heirs, and which he or they could sell or dispose of at pleasure*.

* This Tontine was divided into 107 shares at 50*l.* each.—Twelve of these shares now belong to the common fund, from the death of an equal number of the persons nominated at the time of subscription.—It is impossible to say exactly how these shares sell at present, as that depends entirely upon the age, constitution, and mode of life of the nominee. At an average, however, L.100 is thought a good price for a share, provided

The subscription upon these terms, was in a short time filled up; and a proper place being fixed upon for the buildings, they were accordingly erected in an area immediately adjoining the Town House, upon the north.

The Coffee Room is 72 feet in length, and of a proportional breadth, and is universally allowed to be the most elegant in Britain, and most probably in Europe. Its main entry is from under the piazza of the Town House or Exchange. Upon each side of the door are placed two very large windows from the floor to the roof, which communicate the light to the room from the street. About half way down the Coffee Room, is a very large Venetian window upon the east, and upon the other side, exactly opposite is another, looking into the bar, upon the north side of which is a door communicating with the Hôtel. The extremity of the room northward is in the form of a bow, divided by pillars, making one complete magnificent window from side to side. Near to the main entry, the roof, which is very high, is supported by columns of the Doric order, with correspondent pilasters upon the walls, and in this place, a dome of glass enlightens, with the other end windows, the south side of the room. From the roof also, are hung several magnificent lustres finely gilt, which when lighted give an air of grandeur to the place, pleasantly demonstrative of the riches and taste of the city of Glasgow.

AROUND the inside of the bow, as well as the four fire places, are placed the seats for the subscribers. Betwixt the nominee is not engaged in a hazardous employment, or resides out of the country.

The Tentative Coffee Room and Hotel draw at present of rent to the subscribers about L. 700 per annum.

the door and the large windows upon each side is a space upon the wall for advertisements, and immediately below, a small desk with a book, wherein the arrivals and departures of the several vessels, connected with the city are daily marked down. Subscribers† of a guinea per annum, are entitled to the use of the room, newspapers and magazines; of which no Coffee Room in Britain can boast a greater variety. For here are not only the whole Scotch papers, but also the greatest part of those published in London, as well as some from Ireland, France, &c. besides reviews, magazines, and other periodical publications. At the daily arrival of the mail, a more stirring, lively, and anxious scene can hardly be imagined. Indeed, no part of the day passes without some concourse of subscribers, or of strangers at the hôtel, whom their liberality permits freely to partake the benefit of the room. At those hours when the news of the morning may be said to have grown cold, the monthly publications claim attention in their turn, or people meet for the sake of looking out their acquaintance, or of engaging in casual parties of conversation.

HERE you are not offended as in London, and several other towns, upon entering places of this description, with clouds of smoke and fumes of tobacco, or with that brutal noise proceeding from the too free use of liquor; neither of which are allowed to be used in the room.

THE HOTEL

consists of a suite of apartments handsomely fitted up,

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† The subscribers amount in number, *communibus annis*, to between 7 and 800.—This year, there is 803 upon the roll.

immediately adjoining the Coffee Room and Exchange, and to which the main entry leads from the south by a fine hanging stair. Under the piazzas of the Exchange are placed several other distinct rooms occupied by underwriters, insurance-brokers, &c.

THE TOLBOOTH, OR PRISON

is a very handsome lofty building of five stories, situated immediately to the east of the Town House and Exchange. At each corner towards the top, it is flanked with square turrets, ornamented with ogèe roofs and balls. Above the windows are circular or triangular pediments, caped with the rose and thistle alternately, which add very considerably to the appearance of this edifice †. The main gate to the south is covered by a square portico, projecting the breadth of a stair-case from the wall, which rises on each side towards the door. Upon the east of the prison is situated a square spire 135 feet in height, having its roof something in the form of an imperial crown, with open arches. Here is placed a fine clock, which regulates the others in the town, also a bell, and a well toned set of musical chimes that have been long

† Upon the front is placed his Majesty's arms finely cut, and a little below, this apt inscription:—

Hæc domus odit, amat, punit, conservat, honorat, nequitiam,
pacem, crimina, jurz, probos.

Which is translated thus:

This house doth hate all wickedness,
Loves peace, but faults corrects,
Observes all laws of righteousness,
And good men it erects.