



Arms of Viscount Belhaven, carved on the wall of Gorbals
Chapel, and erroneously called the Arms of Gorbals.

(See page 21)

Frontispiece.

THE STORY
OF THE
BARONY OF GORBALS

BY
JOHN ORD

Illustrations



PAISLEY: ALEXANDER GARDNER

Publisher by Appointment to the late Queen Victoria

1919

LONDON
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO., LMD.

PRINTED BY ALEXANDER GARDNER, PAISLEY.

THE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

PREFACE.

FEW words are required to introduce this little work to the public of Glasgow. Suffice it to say that on several occasions during the past four years I was invited and did deliver lectures on "Old Gorbals" to a number of public bodies, among others being the Gorbals Ward Committee, the Old Glasgow Club, and Educational Guilds in connection with the Kinningpark Co-operative Society. The principal matter contained in these lectures I have arranged, edited, and now issue in book form. While engaged collecting materials for the lectures, I discovered that a number of errors had crept into previous publications relating to Old Gorbals. For example, some writers seemed to have entertained the idea that there was only one George Elphinston rented or possessed the lands of Gorbals, whereas there were three of the name, all in direct succession. M'Ure and other historians, failing to distinguish the difference between a Barony and a Burgh of Barony, state that Gorbals was erected into a Burgh of Barony in 1595. As a matter of fact, Gorbals was never erected into a Burgh, and the Magistrates of Gorbals, whether principal or resident, were simply Baron Bailies appointed by the Magistrates and Town

Council of Glasgow, as Superior of the Barony, whose ancient powers remained entire to the year 1846, when the Barony was annexed to the City of Glasgow.

My grateful thanks are due to Sir John Lindsay, Town Clerk of Glasgow, for allowing me free access to the records of the Gorbals Police Commissioners; to Mr. J. V. Stevenson, M.V.O., C.B.E., Chief Constable, for granting me leave to examine and take excerpts from the Police records of Old Gorbals; and to Mr. J. Clark, M.A., Clerk to the Glasgow Board of Education, for information relating to the schools situated within the old Barony prior to the passing of the Education Act of 1872.

Very specially I acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Renwick, Town Clerk Depute, for permitting me to take excerpts from his valuable paper entitled "The Barony of Gorbals" in the *Transactions of the Regality Club*, and for his kindly help in comparing and verifying my notes with the charters and documents under his charge.

JOHN ORD.

2 MONTEITH ROW,
GLASGOW, 1919.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I., - - - - - -	9
<p>Gorbals : probable origin of name—First Glasgow bridge— Bishop Rae's Bridge—Victoria or Stockwell Bridge—The Regent Murray and the Battle of Langside—Glasgow students and the Highland Host—Leper Hospital— St. Ninian's Chapel.</p>	
CHAPTER II., - - - - - -	17
<p>Elphinston family and Gorbals—Elphinston mansions— Archbishop Boyd's charter—Viscount Belhaven—Tower of Gorbals—Sir George Douglas of Blakerston—Glasgow becomes superior of Gorbals—Herezelds, Bludewites, and Merchets of women—Hutcheson's Hospital—Trades' House—Division of the lands of Gorbals, Laurieston, etc.</p>	
CHAPTER III., - - - - - -	29
<p>Gorbals streets—Old buildings—Tower—"Town's Great Ludgings"—Marquis of Montrose—Sir James Turner— Prison—First Police Act and office—New Barony Buildings in South Portland Street—Puddock Raw—Wyndmillcroft —Gushet Faulds—Tollbars—Dixon's Ironworks—Com- munity Land—Gorbals burying-ground—Liabilities of Gorbals feuars—Theatres.</p>	
CHAPTER IV., - - - - - -	45
<p>Feuing the lands of Gorbals—Canal—Cavalry Barracks— Poorhouse—James Nicholson, poet—Tradeston Gasworks —Glasgow dynamitards—Explosion at flourmills—Baronial mills—Harbour extension—Queen Victoria's visit—Public works—Kinning Park, Govan, Hutchesontown, Laurieston, Kirkcroft—Carlton Place—Laurieston streets—Suspension Bridge—Robert Pollok—Bailie Mitchell.</p>	

	PAGE
CHAPTER V., - - - - -	60
Law Courts—Heritable Bailie of Gorbals—Gorbals never a burgh—Baron Bailies—Dempster, birleymen, constables, resident bailies—Immoral and drunken characters—Barony Court cases—Division of Barony into districts—First Police Force—Fire Brigade.	
CHAPTER VI., - - - - -	81
Old Gorbals industries—Weavers, skimmers, wrights, coal hewers—Notable Gorbals men : William Glen, Dr. George Mathieson, Thomas Piggot, Fred Locke, Sir John Lindsay, etc.	
CHAPTER VII., - - - - -	92
Churches, schools, and synagogues in Gorbals.	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Arms of Viscount Belhaven, - - -	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Gorbals Tower and St. Ninian's Chapel, -	15
Main Street, Gorbals, looking south, 1868, -	29
Main Street, Gorbals, looking north, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, -	32
Main Street, Gorbals, west side, - - -	35
Sir John Lindsay, - - - - -	90
Main Street, Gorbals, looking south, showing tower, etc., - - - - -	92

The Story of the Barony of Gorbals.

CHAPTER I.

“Whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.”

—DR. JOHNSON.

Gorbals: probable origin of name—First Glasgow bridge—Bishop Rae’s Bridge—Victoria or Stockwell Bridge—The Regent Murray and the Battle of Langside—Glasgow students and the Highland Host—Leper Hospital—St. Ninian’s Chapel.

SOME considerable doubt exists as to the derivation of the word “Gorbals.” Alexander Whitelaw, a well known Glasgow author and editor, tells us that it is perhaps derived from corbeil or corbel, terms used in fortification and architecture, but as there was little in the way of either fortification or architecture in Gorbals in the olden time, this suggestion seems to be somewhat far fetched. Andrew Brown in his history of Glasgow, conjectures that Gorbals got its name from being the place where the bishops

10 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

received their teind sheaves, or, as rendered in Latin, *decimæ garbales*. Other authorities support this view on the grounds that there were teinds barns on the lands of Gorbals, in which were deposited the teinds of the richest part of the Diocese of Glasgow, viz.:—those from the Counties of Ayr and Renfrew. This conjecture, Dr. Renwick says, is founded on a fallacy, because, the Bishops drew the rents of the lands, and the teinds went to the parson of Govan, of which parish the lands of Gorbals formed a part. Besides, teind barns were common wherever teind sheaves were gathered, and there was no specialty in Gorbals having one. Dr. Renwick points out in his *Barony of Gorbals*, that there are several place-names in the vicinity of Glasgow having the prefix “gar,” which seems to signify a piece of land or territory, and that it is an easy transition from “gar” to “gor.” In Celtic, “Baile” signifies a village or town; and accordingly “Gorbaile” may have meant the town’s land. This derivation seems to be the most feasible of the three.

The Barony and Regality of Glasgow was divided into four wards, one of which was named Govan Ward. It in turn was divided into ten sections, five of which were on the south side of the River

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 11

Clyde, and were known as the lands of Little Govan, Gorbals, Titwood and Shiells, West Shiells, and Meikle Govan. These sections were in the most cases subdivided into separate holdings, each possessed by a rentaller or feuar. From the time Gorbals came into possession of the Elphinston family, till it was sold to the City of Glasgow, it consisted of one holding.

While much has been written regarding Old Gorbals, the first authentic information relating thereto is contained in a charter, dated 1285, in which it is stated that there was a wooden bridge across the river, opposite what is now Stockwell Street, connecting Fishertown, or Fishergate, now Stockwell Street, with Brigend on the south side. It would thus appear that while the lands were known as Gorbals, the original village was named Brigend from its proximity to the south end of the bridge. At this period the village probably consisted of a few cottages or huts; the walls being built of clay or mud, and the roofs thatched with straw or heather. Down to the middle of the last century, cottages built on the edge of a moor in Scotland, were generally thatched with heather, and part of the lands of Gorbals are referred to in the Burgh Records, for a couple of centuries, as the

12 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

“Muir of Gorbals.” The timber bridge having fallen into decay about the year 1340, there seems to have been no connecting link between the north and south side of the Clyde for some years, but about 1345, we are informed by M‘Ure, and others, that a stone bridge* was erected by Bishop Rae. At the particular request of the pious Lady Lochow, whose maiden name was Marjory Stewart, one of the arches was erected at her expense. The structure was originally twelve feet wide, had eight arches, and as repaired and widened served the citizens for the long period of five hundred years. On 7th July, 1671, the south arch fell, owing to its being undermined by the river, but it was immediately rebuilt by the Magistrates and Town Council, Mr. William Anderson being Provost. In 1777 an addition of ten feet was made to the width, and two of the northern arches were built up, to confine the river. In 1820-21 footpaths, suspended upon iron framings were added, and in 1832 it was thirty-four feet wide between the parapets. The bridge presently in use, called the Victoria Bridge, but better known to the citizens as the “Stockwell Bridge,” was opened in 1854. I have gone out of my way to give a short

* See article by Sir James Marwick, “Glasgow Bridge,” in *Scots Lore*.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 13

account of this bridge, as much of the history of Gorbals centres round it, and it is interesting to note that Dr. Marwick doubts the Bishop Rae story, and places the date of the erection of the first stone bridge as sometime in the first quarter of the fifteenth century. It was across the old Stockwell Bridge, and up the Main Street of Gorbals, that the Regent Murray and his troops marched on 13th May, 1568, to the battle of Langside, where they defeated Queen Mary, and changed the history of Scotland.

One hundred and ten years later, the old bridge witnessed another historic scene. To goad the people of the West of Scotland into rebellion, the Earl of Lauderdale in January, 1678, ordered about 8,000 Highlanders to march to Ayrshire, and quarter themselves upon the inhabitants; but the people did not rise, and no fighting took place. After having lived upon and pillaged the people for a month, the Highland Host made off with everything that was not too heavy to carry, such as plate, wool, linen, clothes, and furniture, together with horses to carry the plunder. They separated into two divisions, and one half returned by way of Stirling, and reached the Highlands with their spoil. The other half came by way of Glasgow, marching through the

14 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

village of Gorbals loaded with plunder. The magistrates of Glasgow were either too loyal to the Government of King Charles II., or too much afraid of the Highlanders to interfere with them, but the students of Glasgow University (many of whose homes in Ayrshire and in the neighbouring counties had been pillaged) armed themselves, and mustered in the quadrangle of the College, in the High Street. They then marched to Stockwell Bridge, which they held against the Highland Host; compelled them to disgorge their spoil, lay down their arms, and only allowed parties of forty to pass over the bridge.

The next important event recorded in the history of Gorbals is the building of a Leper Hospital on a piece of ground on the east side of what is now Main Street, and at or near a point situated in the west-end of Govan Street. The date of the foundation of this Hospital is unknown, but was probably about the beginning of the fourteenth century. M'Ure, and other local historians, have stated that it was founded in 1350 by Lady Lochow, before mentioned, but no extant records support that statement, and it is doubted by Dr. Erskine, author of *Old Glasgow Hospitals*, and Dr. Renwick, our most reliable local historian. This hospital was



Gorbals Tower and St. Ninian's Chapel. (Page 15)

dedicated to St. Ninian, and there was a graveyard, and a piece of land, extending north as far as what is now Adelphi Street, attached to it. The statement, however, made by M'Ure that Lady Lochow endowed the Hospital with the rents of certain properties in Bridgegate, and of St. Ninian's Croft on the east side of the Hospital and grounds, also appears to be without foundation. Dr. Renwick states that St. Ninian's Croft was possessed continuously by the Church rentallers and feuars, along with the remaining lands of Gorbals, and that the Bridgegate properties, as far back as can be traced in the records, belonged either to the community or to individual burgesses. A chapel in connection with the Hospital, situated at what is now the north-west corner of Rutherglen Road and Main Street, was founded and endowed in 1494 with a tenement on the south side of the Bridgegate and various annual rents payable from other properties in Glasgow, by William Steward, prebendary of Killearn, rector of Glassford, and a canon of Glasgow Cathedral. The founder provided that yearly, on the anniversary of his death, twenty-four poor scholars should assemble in the Chapel and celebrate services for the weal of his soul, and the souls of all the faithful dead. Each of the poor scholars was to

16 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

receive a penny, and twelve pennies were to be given to the lepers. The lepers dwelling in the Hospital were likewise directed to ring the chapel bell every night, and to pray in the chapel for their benefactors. In the year 1636, King Charles I. granted a charter to the city, which amongst other things conveyed to the magistrates, council, and community "the house called the Lipper Hous, or Sanct Ninianis Hospital, with yards, and pertinents thereof, founded on the south side of the water of Clyde, near the bridge of Glasgow, with all rents, teinds, and duties belonging thereto; with power to them, and their successors, to intromit with, and uplift the mails, teinds, and duties of said Hospital for the maintenance of the sick, and poor therein." From the above extract, it would appear that by this time the Institution had become a sort of general hospital, but it was some-time later before leprosy finally disappeared from Glasgow. The hospital buildings stood till about 1730, when they were finally demolished. The last part of the lands belonging to the hospital was sold by the Town Council in 1798.

CHAPTER II.

“ Historical records prove at all times interesting, as they are links which bind the present to the past, and prevent matters of importance from becoming altogether lost to other generations as time rolls on.”

—JAMES MORE.

Elphinston family and Gorbals—Elphinston mansions—Archbishop Boyd’s charter—Viscount Belhaven—Tower of Gorbals—Sir George Douglas of Blakerston—Glasgow becomes superior of Gorbals—Herezelds, Bludewites, and Merchets of women—Hutcheson’s Hospital—Trades’ House—Division of the lands of Gorbals, Laurieston, etc.

It cannot now be ascertained when the first member of the family of Elphinston settled in Gorbals. M^cUre and other Glasgow historians tell us that the first promoter and propagator of trade in Glasgow was William Elphinston, a younger brother of the noble family of Elphinston. He came to the city during the reign of King James I. (1424 to 1437); became a merchant of the town, and exported cured salmon and herrings to the French market, for which brandy and salt were brought back in return; and it was he who acquired the estates of Gorbals and Blythswood. There is no documentary evidence

18 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

extant to support the first part of this statement, and the part relating to the purchase of Gorbals is incorrect. It is nearly three quarters of a century later before one finds traces of persons of the name of Elphinston in Glasgow.

In 1506, a John Elphinstone complained of being designated "a defamed person, perpetual, a heretic, and a Jew." This man is supposed by the editors of the Diocesan Register to have been of the Blythswood family. There was a John Elphinston, a bailie of Glasgow in 1512, and he may be the person before referred to. About the same time we first find a person named John Elphinston, a rentaller of Gorbals. He was succeeded by Beatrice Wardlaw, his widow, who on re-marriage without license from the Bishop forfeited her rights, but on 14th June, 1520, the lands were restored to her. On 22nd March of the following year, she transferred the rental rights to her son, George Elphinston, and his wife, Elizabeth Colquhoun. George did not survive his mother, but his son, also named George, became rentaller on 17th May, 1554, on the death of his grandmother, the aforesaid Beatrice Wardlaw. He married one called Marion Scott, and in 1583 he and his spouse were proprietors of a tenement in High Street, Glasgow. It was this George

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 19

Elphinston who got his rental right in Gorbals converted into a feu holding by a charter from Archbishop Boyd, dated 13th November, 1579, which, being translated, proceeds in these terms:—

“To all who shall see or hear this charter: James, by divine mercy archbishop of Glasgow, greeting in the Lord everlasting: Whereas by the sanction of both laws, and the statutes of the sovereign princes of Scotland, proclaimed for the advantages of the common weal and kingdom, the lands and possessions, as well as of churchmen as of the laity, should be granted, and set in feu-farm or fee, heritably, so that by the care, diligence, and labour of prudent men, they may be cultivated, improved, and brought to rich fertility: We, therefore, surely knowing such statutes and laws to be exceedingly advantageous to the whole realm, and inhabitants thereof; and also that the sacred canons allow the perpetual feuing of church lands; and understanding that nearly all and sundry church lands of this kingdom have been set, and granted in feu-farm, we, induced by all these premises, have resolved to set in feu certain of our lands underwritten: Know ye, therefore, that we with express consents, and assents of venerable and worthy men, the dean and chapter, of our metropolitan church of Glasgow, for that purpose chapterly assembled, diligent discussion and mature deliberation being first had,—for the

20 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

evident advantage of us, and our successors archbishops of Glasgow, for the time being, and in augmentation of our old rental; also for sundry favours, benefits, and services performed, done, and many times rendered to us by our lovite George Elphinstoun of Blithiswode . . . give, grant, let, rental, and in feu farm dispone . . . and confirm to the said George Elphinstoun, his heirs, and assignees, all and whole our £6 land, of extent, of Gorbellis and Brigend, with the pertinents; (also the 33s. and 4d. land of Wodesyde); and which several lands lie in our regality, and barony of Glasgu; and which lands the said George now holds of us in rental as his predecessors formerly held, and possessed them in rental."

The feu-duty payable for Gorbals and Brigend was six pounds sterling yearly, with eight bolls of meal to the bishop's mill of Partick, being the duties formerly in use to be paid, and there was an augmentation of twelvepence yearly payable for the combined lands.

It should be noted here that this charter was a renewal, and not a grant, and the lands of Blythwood were not held of the archbishop, and consequently were not included in the charter. They were acquired by George Elphinston from the parson of Erskine in 1563.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 21

It was probably this George Elphinston who erected the turreted buildings in Main Street, at the corner of what is now Rutherglen Road. The property was occupied by the proprietor, and was subsequently known as the Elphinston Mansion. It is supposed that the buildings south of the tower were built by Viscount Belhaven in 1634 or 1635, and his arms, well cut in stone, remained on the front of the buildings until the latter were demolished about 1867.

Archbishop Boyd's charter was confirmed by King James VI. on 10th December, 1579. Elphinston was succeeded by his son, also named George (the third of the name in direct succession), who married Agnes Boyd, a niece of Archbishop Boyd. He was knighted by King James VI. in 1594, on the occasion of Prince Henry's baptism. On 27th August, 1595, King James confirmed to Sir George the lands of Blythswood, Gorbals and Woodside, and erected the whole into a free barony, to be called the barony of Blythswood. The right thus constituted was renewed on 25th November, 1607, by a charter from Archbishop Spottiswood, and by that deed Sir George and his successors were constituted and appointed heritable bailies and justiciars of Blythswood, Gorbals and Woodside, with power to hold

22 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

courts in all causes, both criminal and civil, and to appoint clerks, sergeants, dempsters, and other officers of court. This charter was confirmed by King James on 23rd July, 1611.

Sir George was made a freeman of Glasgow on 2nd September, 1600, and on the 30th of the same month he was, on the nomination of the Duke of Lennox, appointed provost, and he subsequently represented the city in the Scottish Parliament. He afterwards became a Lord of Session, and a gentleman of the bedchamber, and in the reign of King Charles I. was made Lord Justice Clerk, which office he held till his death in the summer of 1634. Shortly before his death he seems to have fallen into financial difficulties, and on the 18th of January, 1634, he sold the lands of Gorbals, with the office of heritable bailie and justiciar, to Robert, Viscount Belhaven, and the deed was confirmed by Archbishop Lindsay on 2nd August, 1635. On 23rd September, 1636, Viscount Belhaven settled the lands and office of bailiary and justiciary on Sir Robert Douglas of Blakerston, and Susannah Douglas, his spouse; the latter being a daughter of Lord Belhaven. The conveyance was ratified on 15th February, 1645, by the commissioner of the Duke of Lennox, who was then Lord of the Regality of Glasgow. At this

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 23

time there were one hundred and twenty-one feuars, sub-feuars and tenants on the lands of Gorbals, and the rental, payable to Sir Robert Douglas, amounted to about £2,000 Scots, or £166 13s. 4d. sterling. In 1648, the Town Council of Glasgow commenced negotiations with Sir Robert with a view to the purchase of Gorbals, and on 23rd February and 28th May, 1650, with the consent of his spouse, he sold the lands of Gorbals, with the heritable office of bailiary and justiciary, to the magistrates and council of Glasgow; to be held by them—one-fourth for behoof of the city, two-fourths for behoof of Hutcheson's Hospital, and one-fourth for behoof of the Trades' Hospital. The price paid was 120,000 merks to Sir Robert, and 2000 merks to his wife, a total of £6,777 15s. 6d. sterling. This conveyance was confirmed by the Duke of Lennox on 8th September, 1655, and by Archbishop Burnett on 20th June, 1665. The title deeds were ratified by the Scottish Parliament on 20th May, 1661, and it was then declared that the lands of Gorbals and Brigend, with the wheatmill on the Kelvin, were dissolved from the shire of Clydesdale, regality of Glasgow, and the parish of Govan, and united to the city to the effect and for the purposes therein specified.

24 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

The charter granted in 1650 by Douglas of Blakerston, conveying the lands of Gorbals to the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow, contains the following words or terms, which are relics of feudal times, viz.:—Herezelds, Bludwites, and Merchets of Women. The term “Herezeld” means that the best ox or horse of a feudal vassal, at his death becomes the property of his superior or overlord; “Bludwite” was a fine payable to the lord of the manor by a vassal who had committed an assault to the effusion of blood upon another vassal; and from a very early period in the history of our country, down to the reign of King Malcolm III., the words * “Merchets of women” or “Mercheta Mulierum,” conferred the right of the superior or lord of the manor to the first night of concubinage with the wife of the villain or serf on the occasion of her marriage. King Malcolm abrogated this law, and instead substituted the payment of a merk which was equal to a sum of about thirteen shillings and four pence Scots. It would be interesting to know whether the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow ever attempted to exact the rights and

* Mercheta Mulierum, the tax paid by tenants and vassals when they gave their daughters in marriage and thus deprived the lord of their services. Cosmo Innes, *Legal Antiquities*, p. 53.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 25

privileges conferred on them by this charter from their vassals in the Gorbals.

Owing to the civil war, the English invasion, and bad crops, the first two years' experience in the management of the new estate was not very encouraging. There is an entry in the Burgh Records to the effect that on 1st November, 1651, the Town Council appointed some of their number "to conveye upon the compt of the Gorballis rents, and to consider their losses, and report, in regaird it is notour that thair last yeiris croppe was destroyed, and als mucche of thair victuall the croppe of 1650 was taken from theme." In consequence of the disastrous condition of Gorbals lands, Hutcheson's Hospital was in straits for money and had to reduce its charitable allowances. The poor boys who were being educated, and boarded in the "House" belonging to the Hospital, had to be sent back to their parents' homes, and the schoolmaster discharged for the time being. The Trades' House also found itself in difficulties, and in order to raise the necessary funds for its poor brethren, the entry-money for strangers joining the several incorporations was increased. In October, 1653, an arrangement was arrived at by the various parties concerned for a better management of the lands of Gorbals and for a

26 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

proper division of the income derived therefrom. In 1790 a commencement was made in the division of the lands amongst the various parties concerned, and by 1794 they had all been conveyed to their respective owners. The Barony was bounded on the east by the Blindburn, which separated it from the lands of Little Govan; on the south by the road to Strathbungo, now called Allison Street; on the west by the Kinninghouse burn, which separated it from the County of Renfrew; and on the north by the river Clyde.

At the final division, the City retained the Superiority of the old village of Gorbals with the feu-duties payable therefrom, part of the lands of of Butterbiggins and Coplawhill, and that part of Kingston situated between West Street and the Kinninghouse burn. The latter flowed in almost a direct line from Strathbungo till it reached what is now the head of West Street. From thence it inclined in a westerly direction, passed across the middle of Crookston Street, and underneath Paisley Road at the old Rosneath Inn where it turned sharply to the west and entered the Clyde, where the Caledonian Railway Company terminus is presently situated. The Trades House got that part of the lands now known as Tradeston. They were bounded

on the east by Bridge Street and Eglinton Street ; on the south by the Glasgow, Paisley and Johnstone Canal, now the Glasgow and South-Western Railway ; on the west by West Street, and on the north by the river Clyde. To the managers of Hutcheson's Hospital were awarded all the lands bounded on the north by the river Clyde ; on the east by the lands of little Govan ; on the west by the east side of Muirhead Street, and then southward including St. Ninian's Croft, Dockany Fauld, part of the lands of Butterbiggins, Sandy Acres, and other feus. They were also awarded the lands situated between Nicholson Street and Warrick Street on the east, and Bridge Street and Eglinton Street on the west, which lands the managers of the Hospital soon thereafter sold to Mr. James Laurie, son of Mr. David Laurie, Timber Merchant, Jamaica Street. It was from the latter the lands got the name of Laurieston. They were previously known by the name of Kirkcroft.

When the first Glasgow Bridge connecting Jamaica Street with Gorbals was opened in 1772, the whole population of the parish of Govan, including Partick and Gorbals, was only about 4,300 persons. Twenty-three years later, according to Dr. Colvile, Govan was a village of two hundred and twenty-four families.

28 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

The Doctor further states that in 1794 there was no butcher, baker, or public market in Govan, and that loaf bread was supplied from Glasgow. At this stage it may be interesting to state that in 1810 a public market for Gorbals was projected and proposed to be erected at a cost of £6,000, on the ground bounded by Buchan Street on the east, Nicholson Street on the west, and what is now Oxford Street on the south. The western part of Oxford Street was already made, but it did not come further east than Nicholson Street. The writer has seen and examined the plans of the proposed market. Nothing came of the proposal, which is believed to have emanated from Mr. David Laurie, brother of the proprietor of the ground, who no doubt thought the erection of such a market would increase the value of his property.



Main Street, Gorbals, looking south, 1868.

(Page, 29)

CHAPTER III.

"I have said nothing new, but it is better to say a good thing that is not new than a new thing which is not good."

—E. J. PHILLIPS.

Gorbals streets—Old buildings—Tower—"Town's Great Ludgings"—Marquis of Montrose—Sir James Turner—Prison—First Police Act and office—New Barony Buildings in South Portland Street—Puddock Row—Wyndmillcroft—Gushet Faulds—Tollbars—Dixon's Ironworks—Community Land—Gorbals burying-ground—Liabilities of Gorbals feuars—Theatres.

IN the *Glasgow Directory* for 1821 there are only seven streets mentioned as in Gorbals proper, viz.:—Buchan Street, Clyde Terrace, Kirk Street, Main Street, Malta Street, Moncrief Street, and Rutherglen Loan. The principal thoroughfare was Main Street. According to M'Arthur's map of 1778, Gorbals extended from Muirhead Street on the east, to Buchan Street on the west, and from the Clyde on the north to Shields Loan (now Cumberland Street) on the south. Consequently the east end of Cumberland Street falls to be included within the old village of Gorbals. Clyde Terrace was originally

30 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

called Pelham Street, and it was in this street that John Anderson, of Polytechnic fame, first commenced business. In the old records "Main Street" is often referred to as the "High Street," and sometimes as the "King's High Street." The first opening on the west side of Main Street was called "Kirk Street." It is also referred to in the Burgh Records as the "Kirk Vennel." It was the road from the village of Gorbals to the old Chapel of Ease, which was built in 1730, on the west side of Buchan Street and in the centre of what is now Oxford Street. The first licensed distillery in Glasgow, and the fourth in Scotland, was opened in Kirk Street, by William Menzies, in 1786. The old property was acquired by the Improvement Trustees of 1867, who widened Oxford Street and extended it to Main Street, and Kirk Street became a thing of the past.

Norfolk Street appears from the old maps to have been originally called "Paisley Loan." The east end of Norfolk Street, extending from Main Street to Nicholson Street, was for a time called "Malt Street," from the fact that it was at one time chiefly inhabited by maltmen, who brewed ale and made malt. By the beginning of the last century "Malt" had become "Malta," and within memory of living men the street was known by the latter

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 31

name. In this street, at the head of Buchan Street, stood the Gorbals Iron Foundry.

On the north-east corner of Main Street, facing Adelphi Street, a tenement of dwelling-houses was built by Andrew Park in 1723. Almost opposite Kirk Street, and adjoining the old Leper Hospital, stood a tenement of dwelling-houses built by John Smith about 1694. South of the Hospital there was a lane leading to the Lepers' Yard and buildings in connection with the said Hospital, which was known by the name of "Cathkin's Entry." On both sides of this entry were lands belonging to the Laird of Cathkin, hence the name. South of the Cathkin lands was a mansion-house and other buildings erected in 1687 by George Swan, a Quaker, and locally known as "Swan's Lodgings." Between Swan's property and Rutherglen Loan stood the mansion house, tower and fortalice, and the chapel of Gorbals, with stables and other buildings at the back, fronting Rutherglen Loan. These buildings, with the exception of the chapel, which was founded in connection with the Lepers' Hospital in 1494, were chiefly built about the end of the 16th century, by the second George Elphinston, father of Sir George Elphinston. Everything, however, points to additions having been made to them, and altera-

32 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

tions made upon them, while they were occupied by Viscount Belhaven and Sir Robert Douglas of Blakerston between 1634 and 1650. On 27th July, 1639, the Town Council "granted a licence to Sir Robert Douglas to take one hundred cartloads of stones from the town's quarries to build out the dikes of his yard nearest the Clyde, beyond the bridge."

After the purchase of the lands of Gorbals by the City in 1650, the mansion and tower of Gorbals became known as the "Town's Great Lodgings," and the gardens and orchard attached to them as the "Town's Orchard." The gardens and orchard extended from Rutherglen Loan (now Rutherglen Road) to the Clyde, and occupied the space between the properties on the east side of Main Street, before referred to, and St. Ninian's Croft. In 1743 the orchard was fued to Andrew Donaldson by the Town Council, and the garden and upper part of the grounds north of Rutherglen Loan were feued to John Muirhead the same year. Both of these feus came into possession of Muirhead's successors, and through them Muirhead Street was subsequently formed. For a considerable period Muirhead Street was better known locally as "Warm Water Street," from a flow of hot water



Main Street, Gorbals, looking north, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, showing mansion-house, tower, and fortalice, and the Chapel of Gorbals.

(Page 32)

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 33

which came from a mill and ran down the side of the street into the river.

After the purchase of the lands of Gorbals, in 1650, the mansion-house and tower appear to have been unoccupied for several years, but in 1655 the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow let them to Robert Marshall, writer in the city. In 1677 they were let to the Marquis of Montrose, but he does not seem to have occupied them very long, as eighteen months later they were let to James Bell of Little Govan. In 1670, the Magistrates and Council let the whole buildings at a nominal rent to Sir James Turner. Sir James, one of the many Scottish soldiers of fortune, served under the great Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. Subsequently he returned home to sell his sword to the highest bidder. He at first took service with the Covenanters, but soon joined the King's forces, became a keen Royalist, was appointed Commander-in-Chief, but was much disliked by a considerable section of the people of Scotland owing to the part he took in the persecution of the Covenanters. After Sir James's death, his wife retained possession of the property for a time, but we learn from the Burgh Records that on 14th December, 1695, the "Town's Great Lodgings" in Gorbals were that day let to

34 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

William Barclay, master of works, for eleven years, with the exception of the chapel, the old prison house, and a straw loft, which were retained by the city authorities. Barclay got a renewal of his lease in 1707, and after his decease, John Craig, wright, became tenant. During the period of Craig's first lease, the Town Council resolved that the second storey of the tower be set apart, and used as a prison. After occupying the premises for eleven years, Craig got another lease for a similar period. During his second tack another room in the tower was added to the prison, and Craig got another abatement in his rent. After Craig's second lease expired, the buildings do not again appear to have been let to a private tenant.

The tower continued to be used as the Barony Prison, and the chapel as a Court House, and also as the Parish School. When the first Gorbals Police Act came into force in October, 1808, the police took possession of the chapel as their headquarters, and the schoolmaster had to find accommodation for his pupils elsewhere. After the new Police Buildings and Court House were opened in South Portland Street and Norfolk Street, in 1826, the Magistrates and Town Council decided to sell the Main Street buildings, and on 19th June, 1827, they were sold



Main Street, Gorbals, west side and south of Bedford Lane.

to John Lawson, portioner in Gorbals, for the sum of £900, and were subsequently occupied as shops and dwelling-houses; part of the chapel and tower being licensed as a public-house. After the buildings came into Lawson's possession, the tower was dismantled and the four turrets removed. In 1869, the Glasgow Improvement Trustees, under the powers of the Act of 1867, acquired the buildings, and they were subsequently demolished.

Bedford Lane was originally called "Puddock Raw," from the fact that there was a pool of water in the centre of the lane, where, at certain seasons of the year, young frogs abounded.

Clelland Street was originally called Greenside Street. It was in this street, in 1836, that the Gorbals Youths' School was erected. South of Clelland Street there were thatched houses on both sides of Main Street until about thirty years ago.

M'Arthur's map of 1778 shews the southmost house in Gorbals as standing at the corner of Main Street and Shields Loan (now Cumberland Street), and the timber tramway from Little Govan Colliery to the Coal Quay at Windmillcroft is shewn passing through the fields. At the top of Main Street the Gushet Faulds are shewn as occupying the space between the road leading to Ayr, by Cathcart, and

36 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

the road leading to Ayr, by Pollokshaws, respectively. In Simpson's sketch of Gushet Faulds, made in 1848, the embankment of what was then known as the Barrhead Railway is shewn in the act of being constructed. Regarding the roads above referred to, I find an Act of Parliament was passed in 1753 (26 Geo. II. c. 26) providing for (first), a road from Gorbals to Floak Bridge, by way of Corsehill and Cathcart, to the Kirk of Carmunnock; (second), to Easter Grange, by way of Marchtown (Strathbungo), Pollokshaws, and Snypes, and from Pollokshaws to the Kirk of Eastwood; and (third), from Gorbals to Kirkbridge, by Three Mile House, Paisley, and Quarrelton, and the road therefrom to Johnstone Bridge. This Act, which prescribed the tolls for twenty-one years, from and after 22nd August, 1753, was explained and amended by another Act passed the following year (27 Geo. II. c. 27). These Acts were again re-enacted in 1796-7. There were at least three Toll Bars, not including those at the bridges, in old Gorbals, viz.:—Gorbals, at top of Main Street, Eglinton Toll, and Paisley Road Toll. Tolls were abolished on 11th November, 1874, under powers conferred by the Glasgow Bridges Consolidation Act of 1866. Owing to the Gorbals tollbar keeper insisting in making the driver of His Majesty's

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 37

mail gig pay toll in the years 1775-6, a great lawsuit took place between the Postmaster of Glasgow and the tollbar keeper. It commenced in the Glasgow Sheriff Court, and ended in the House of Lords, the tollbar keeper being triumphant in all the courts.

Before passing from the subject of tollbars, I will relate a story in connection with the resurrectionist times, in which the Gorbals tollbar keeper figured. During the period between the year 1800 and the coming into force of the Anatomy Act of 1832, there was a difficulty in procuring "subjects" for the Medical Classes in the College, and when a person died of some disease which puzzled the doctors, attempts were often made to get possession of the body. Such a case happened in the Mearns early in the nineteenth century, and two Glasgow students procured a gig, proceeded to the Mearns graveyard at night, and dug up the body, dressed it up in a most appropriate fashion, and propped it up between them in the gig. On their way home they had to pass the Gorbals tollbar, the keeper of which had a horrid aversion to all resurrectionists, and the eye of a hawk for their detection. Their boldness, cunning, and dexterity baffled even this lynx-eyed official. They halted at the bar, and while one paid the toll,

38 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

the other pretended to hold up the head of his sick friend (the dead man), and told him to be of good cheer, as they would soon be at breakfast in the High Street. The tollkeeper, lantern in hand, looked up at the supposed sick passenger, and exclaimed, "Oh, puir auld bodie, he looks unco ill ; drive cannily hame, lads, drive cannily."

One of the best known landmarks in the Old Barony is the works of William Dixon, Limited, in Crown Street, at the top of Cathcart Road. William Dixon, the founder of these works, was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1753, and received his first practical training there. In 1771, when he was only eighteen years of age, he was appointed manager of a colliery near Ayr, and a few years afterwards he undertook the management of Little Govan Colliery, where he remained for a considerable time. While in this position he gradually made speculative ventures with partners in various collieries, ironworks, and limestone quarries in different parts of Scotland; and he ultimately became the largest mine owner in the country. He soon had possession of Little Govan Colliery and Calder Ironworks, and established the works in Cathcart Road, which was only rivalled by the Clyde Ironworks belonging to Colin Dunlop. Mr. Dixon died in 1822, and the operations of the

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 39

firm have been vastly extended since that time. It was Mr. Dixon who conceived the idea of constructing a tramway from Little Govan Colliery through the lands of Laurieston and Tradeston, and along the centre of West Street, to the Coal Quay at Wyndmillcroft, for the purpose of conveying coal to his ships. He was therefore the pioneer of street tramways in Glasgow.

On the west side of Main Street, at the corner of Kirk Street, stood a tenement of dwelling-houses known as the "Community Land" of Gorbals, regarding which Dr. Renwick supplied me with the following information:—Prior to 1679 the inhabitants of Gorbals had established a small public fund by the voluntary imposition of a tax called "reek money," and another small tax upon malt. The fund was administered by a preses and eight managers, and the revenue thus raised was expended in making and repairing public sewers and wells, cleaning the streets, and other purposes. From funds partly raised in this way, and partly by voluntary contributions, the inhabitants, in 1715, bought a piece of ground in the village of Little Govan, to be used as a public burying-ground. An additional piece of ground was bought and added to the burying-ground in 1807. In 1727, a chapel

40 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

was built in Buchan Street at the west end of the Vennel (afterwards called Kirk Street, now the east end of Oxford Street) from the said public fund. In 1748, the managers of Gorbals acquired the property above referred to, and built the tenement known as the Community Land. The deed of sale consists of a

“Disposition by John Picken of Ibrox, to James Hamilton of Aitkenhead, preses, and Robert Rae of Little Govan, Andrew Donaldson, weaver, in Gorbals, John Muir, Maltman, there, and John Muirhead, wright in Gorbals, assessors of the Community of Gorbals for behoof of the community, of two tenements of land on the east side of the village of Gorbals, bounded by Kirk Street or the Vennel on the north, and the King’s High Street on the east.” The date of the deed was 16th February, 1748.

In 1846, when Gorbals was annexed to Glasgow, the liabilities of the associated feuars exceeded their assets, and their heritable creditors tried to hold the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow responsible, on the ground that the feuars’ property had been transferred to the city in a similar manner as that of the Burghs of Anderston and Calton, but the Law Courts decided that such transfer had not

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 41

taken place. Any one interested in this case, and in other matters relating to Old Gorbals, will find a great deal of information in the record of the proceedings in the case of George Walker Muir and others against the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow, tried in the First Division of the Court of Session on 18th March, 1854. The present Gorbals Cross and Fountain were not erected till 1878. The Royal Princess Theatre was erected in 1877, and the Palace Theatre, next door, was opened on 14th March, 1904.

In the year 1715, as previously stated, the inhabitants of Gorbals bought a piece of ground in the village of Little Govan, to be used as a burying-ground. Amongst the many notable men whose remains lie buried in this graveyard may be mentioned John Wilson, the prototype of "Dr. Hornbook" of Burns' famous poem, "Death and Dr. Hornbook." Wilson was parish schoolmaster at Tarbolton, and to eke out the scanty subsistence allowed to that useful class of men he set up a grocery shop. Having accidentally fallen in with some medical works, he took up the study of medicines as a hobby, and added the sale of a few medicines to his little trade. He got a shop bill printed, at the bottom of which—overlooking his

42 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

own incapacity—he advertised that advice would be given in “common disorders at the shop gratis.” Burns met Wilson at a masonic meeting at Tarbolton, where the dominie made too ostentatious a display of his medical skill. This inspired Burns to write his well known poem, entitled “Death and Dr. Hornbook.” The mirth and amusement caused by the publication of the poem drove Wilson out of Tarbolton. He removed to Glasgow, where authorities inform us he continued his old profession of schoolmaster. He at first taught a school in High Street. Afterwards, somewhere about the year 1807, he was appointed Session Clerk to the Gorbals, which office he held till his death which took place in his house at 64 South Portland Street on 13th January, 1839. The number of his lair in Gorbals Churchyard is five hundred and twenty-one. In connection with his Session Clerkship, Wilson conducted a school in Buchan Street, Gorbals. He is said to have been a good teacher. In arithmetic, decimals were his strong point. He took snuff largely and wore a look of great complacency.

When Gorbals was formed into a separate parish in 1771, it was the only parish in Scotland which had a detached part, its old graveyard being surrounded by the parish of Govan. In 1882, the

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 43

Corporation of Glasgow promoted a Bill in Parliament which amongst other things empowered the Police Authorities to take a strip of ground off the north end of the graveyard for the purpose of widening Rutherglen Road. By Section 24 of the Bill the Corporation were entitled to maintain and repair the paths and walks in the burial-ground, and also to repair the tombstones, railings, etc. George Walker Muir and four other lairholders opposed the passing of the Act, but a Committee of the House of Lords, before whom the Bill came, decided that the objectors had no *locus standi* in the matter, and the Act was passed, and the street widened accordingly. In appropriating the strip of ground thrown into Rutherglen Road, the purchase of lairs cost £680, the expenses of removing remains to Craigton and Cathcart Cemeteries amounted to £204, and the expenses of re-interring to £181. On 25th September, 1885, the Parks Committee reported that they had an expenditure of £140 3s.; thoroughly cleaned the ground of noxious weeds, levelled it, and sown it with grass; planted a number of trees, and put the walks in order. They at the same time recommended that the grounds should be opened from 10 A.M. till dusk; that a few seats should be placed in the grounds for the convenience of visitors,

44 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

and that the powers of the Act should be put in force for the removal of such of the iron cages as are in disrepair.

There are numerous good stories told of old Gorbals and its graveyard, and the following two are, I think, worthy of being recorded:—

Gorbals had its quota of handloom weavers, pawky carls many of them. The wife of one of these worthies was lying dying, and being concerned about her burial, remarked to her husband: “John, whan I’m deid ye maunna bury me in Gorbals, for ye ken fu’ weel I winna rest in peace there. Ye maun tak’ me hame to Stra’veen and lay me in the moul’s amang my ain folk.” To this John, douce man, replied: “Dinna fash yoursel, Janet woman, aboot that, we’ll just try ye first in Gorbals, and gin ye winna lie quate there, we’ll syne tak’ ye to Straven.”

The next is culled from the *Glasgow Argus* newspaper of February 4, 1836, and reads as follows:—

“A Gorbals widow the other day gave to herself a fifth husband. Her husband number four went to his rest four months ago. On that occasion her lamentation was that sic a trashy set o’ men had never fa’en to the lot of a puir woman afore.”

CHAPTER IV.

*“Go, walk through the land, and describe it,
and come again to me, that I may here cast
lots for you.”*

—JOSHUA, xix. 8.

Feuing the lands of Gorbals—Canal—Cavalry Barracks—Poor-house—James Nicholson, poet—Tradeston Gasworks—Glasgow dynamitards—Explosion at flourmills—Baronial mills—Harbour extension—Queen Victoria’s visit—Public works—Kinning Park, Govan, Hutchesontown, Laurieston, Kirkcraigh—Carlton Place—Laurieston streets—Suspension Bridge—Robert Pollok—Bailie Mitchell.

UPON the division of the lands of Gorbals, great activity was at once displayed by the various proprietors in planning and making new streets and disposing of feus. Tradeston was laid off for feuing by John Gardner, optician, a friend of James Watt, and the first house in Centre Street was built by one Thomas Craigie, in 1790. The names of a number of the streets have been changed since the plan was made. Bridge Street, which forms part of the dividing line between Tradeston and Laurieston, was originally called Bloomsbury Street, but from its proximity to Glasgow Bridge, it subsequently got the name of Bridge Street. In 1813, a Methodist

46 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Church, having 1,200 sittings, was built on the west side of this street, and when the railway between Glasgow and Paisley was opened in 1840, the church was purchased by the railway company, and became part of Bridge Street Railway Station. The front part of the building is still standing. Eglinton Street was originally called Marlborough Street, but in 1814, at the opening of the Glasgow, Paisley, and Johnstone Canal, of which concern the Earl of Eglinton was chairman, the name was changed in honour of the Earl. The canal was commenced in 1807, and finished as far as Johnstone in 1811, when the work had to be discontinued for want of funds. The Glasgow terminus, which adjoined Eglinton Street, was named Port Eglinton. When the canal was opened in 1814, boats left Glasgow for Paisley and Johnstone at 6 and 10 A.M., and at 4 and 6 P.M. The fares being 8d. and 1s. to Paisley, and 1s. and 1s. 6d. to Johnstone. In 1881, the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company, proprietors of the canal, got Parliamentary powers to fill up the waterway, and to construct a railway on the site, which they subsequently did.

In 1821 Cavalry Barracks were erected on the present site of Eglinton Street Railway Station, and were occupied by the military for upwards of thirty

years. Soon after the Poor Law Act of 1845 came into force, the Govan Parochial Board rented an old mill in Dale Street, and fitted it up as a temporary poorhouse and hospital. It was occupied as such for about five years. In 1853, they removed to the Cavalry Barracks in Eglinton Street, occupying the same as poorhouse, hospital, and asylum, till 1872, when their new buildings were erected at Merryflats. It was while in the employment of the Govan Parochial Board in Eglinton Street, as master tailor, that James Nicholson, one of our best known Glasgow poets, wrote some of his best songs and poems. The old poorhouse in Eglinton Street was sold by the Govan Parochial Board to the Glasgow Tramway Company, who only occupied it a few months, when it was bought by the Caledonian Railway Company for the extension of their lines and the erection of a station. The first tramway line constructed in Glasgow under the Tramway Act of 1870, extended from St. George's Cross to Eglinton Street, and was opened in 1872. The retort-house of Tradeston Gasworks was erected in 1872, and in 1888 an Act was passed authorising considerable additions to be made to these works. On 20th January, 1883, the gasometer in connection with these works and a building at Buchanan Street Rail-

48 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

way Station were blown up by a gang of Irishmen, known as the Glasgow Dynamitards. An attempt was also made the same night to blow up the canal bridge across Possil Road, with a view to flooding part of the city and destroying property. On 21st September of the same year, ten men were convicted of committing these crimes, and five were sentenced to penal servitude for life, and five to seven years. Through the Tradeston mills explosion considerable damage was done to property in the neighbourhood, but no lives were lost. It is a remarkable fact that in the spring of 1916 a number of persons who took a leading part in the rebellion in the Easter week of that year, in Dublin, met in a house in Eglinton Street, and one of the men residing in the house was killed while fighting with the rebels against the soldiers.

Cook Street got its name from William Cook, who in 1806, built in this street what was then the largest engineering works in the Glasgow district, and was known as "Cook's Folly."

Commerce Street was at first called Union Street. In 1843, the Rev. Dr. Gibson and a number of his congregation left Kingston Parish Church—then a *quoad sacra* parish—and built a small church in this street. Subsequently this Church became a mission

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 49

in connection with the Scottish Episcopal Church, and it is now occupied as a warehouse. On 9th July, 1872, an explosion and fire took place in Tradeston Flour Mills in Commerce Street, occupied by Matthew Muir & Sons, when 14 persons were killed, a number were injured, and the damage to property amounted to £70,000. On 10th November, 1911, a similar explosion took place in the flour mills of William Primrose & Sons, Limited, in Centre Street, when one man and three boys were killed and nine persons injured, one of whom died a few days afterwards. At the beginning of last century part of Centre Street, south of Nelson Street, was called Pitt Street, after Sir William Pitt. In 1829 the Trades House Incorporations received £10,000 from the Clyde Trustees, for the part of Windmillcroft lying between Clyde Place on the south, the river Clyde on the north, Bridge Street on the east, and West Street on the west. This ground is now occupied by the south wharf of Glasgow Harbour. Windmillcroft, which of old extended from the old village of Gorbals along the south bank of the river to the Kinninghouse Burn, took its name from a windmill which was erected by Sir George Elphinston, for the use of his tenants, near the foot of what is now West Street. It was sold to the city at the beginning of

50 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

the seventeenth century, when the town acquired a monopoly of the mills. It stood till the year 1780. Amongst the pertinents and privileges granted under a baronial charter in the feudal times, perhaps one of the oldest adjuncts of a barony was a mill. One mill at least was erected in each barony or lairdship, and all the tenants and feuars were thirled thereto, forming what was known as the mill "sucken." Each person in the sucken had to pay mill multures, and to perform certain services, such as, assist to bring home a new millstone when required, whether he took his corn to that particular mill or not. Dr. James Anderson, speaking to the state of affairs between the miller and the suckeners in Aberdeenshire at the end of the eighteenth century, says:—"The tenants sometimes paid the 17th peck in thirlage. Then they paid multure, or the price of grinding, which was often the 32nd peck. To this was added the lick of goodwill. When these and other items were added together the poor feuar or tenant had often to give the miller about a 12th part of his whole grain." No wonder then though the miller was often the best hated man in the whole barony. In Glasgow, the Town Council appear to have farmed out or let the "Multures," just as was done at a later date with the Tollbars. We learn from

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 51

the Burgh Records that for two years prior to 1780—the last year that the Gorbals windmill was in use—no tacksman had been secured for the multures, and with a view to restoring this item of revenue to its proper value, the Magistrates and Council resolved that all malt manufactured in or brought to the City of Glasgow, or village of Gorbals, should be ground at the watermills belonging to the city, and that the owner of the malt should pay to the city authorities, or their tacksman, the multures and other dues formerly exacted. In 1760 the multures were let for £338; in 1768, on a three years' lease, for £347 yearly. In 1797 they were let for £494, and in 1799 they produced £561. As has already been stated, when the lands of Gorbals were divided in 1790, Kingston, which consists of that part of the Old Barony lying between West Street on the east, the Kinninghouse burn on the west, the river Clyde on the north, and the lands of Shields on the south, was retained by the City. In 1840 the Glasgow Harbour Extension Act was passed, which authorised the extension of the quay on both sides of the river and the construction of a wet dock on the south side. For the purpose of extending their quay and erecting said dock the Clyde Trustees purchased, for £40,000, the western part of Windmillcroft and

52 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

part of the lands of Springfield. Operations were commenced about 1847, and Kingston Dock which, including the price of the ground, cost about £155,000, was opened on 10th October, 1867. It was almost totally destroyed by fire on 18th June, 1914, and was rebuilt in 1915-16-17, at an estimated cost of about £70,000. During the greater part of last century there was a wooden tramway, or railway, extending westward from the Govan Colliery to the head of West Street, to what was known as the Coal Quay. Windmillcroft Quay was built upon the site of this quay. When Queen Victoria visited Glasgow on 14th August, 1849, the Royal Party sailed up the Clyde on the steam yacht *Fairy* and landed on a specially prepared platform at the foot of West Street, where they were met by Lord Provost James Anderson and the Magistrates. The Queen having conferred the honour of knighthood on the Lord Provost, a line of carriages was drawn up and the Royal Party entered and drove along Clyde Place, entering the city by way of Glasgow Bridge.

Owing to extension of the harbour on the south side of the river, a number of well known business firms had to remove to other parts of the city. Todd's Mills, which stood on the west side of Park-

holm Street, were demolished in 1846-47, and were subsequently erected in M'Neil Street, when the name of the firm was changed to Todd & Higginbotham. Between these mills and the east bank of the Kinninghouse burn stood Wingate's Engine Works, which were also demolished. Across the burn on a narrow strip of land, situated in the County of Renfrew, separating the Old Barony of Gorbals from the north-east corner of the lands which subsequently formed part of the Police Burgh of Govan, stood the Parkholm Printfield Works, which had also to be removed. That part of the lands of Shields, bounded on the east by Kinninghouse burn, on the north by the Clyde, on the south by Scotland Street, and on the west by what was subsequently the Police Burghs of Kinning Park and Govan, was annexed to Glasgow along with Anderston, Calton, and Gorbals, in 1846, but they remained part of the County of Renfrew till 1892, when they were transferred to the Sheriffdom of Lanark by the Boundary Commissioners under powers conferred by the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1889, and although policed by the City of Glasgow, offenders charged with committing serious crimes in this part of the south side had to be tried by the Sheriff at Paisley up till 1892.

54 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Govan was constituted a Burgh for Police purposes in June, 1864, and was annexed to Glasgow on 5th November, 1912. Kinning Park was constituted a Police Burgh on 20th September, 1871, and was annexed to Glasgow on 7th November, 1905.

It may be opportune to mention here that large sums of money were spent by the Proprietors of Gorbals Barony on Hutchesontown Bridge, streets, and highways in general. This expenditure was incurred between 1790 and 1813, and in December, 1793, the patrons of Hutcheson's Hospital advertised that they **“had laid out much money to develop their portion of the lands of Gorbals in draining the ground, and defending it from the river, of that level tract of land called St. Ninian's Croft, etc.”*: that they meant to *“procure water and form a convenient approach to the old bridge, and that a number of streets, one to be called Hospital Street, had been already laid out in the new town of Hutcheson.”*

The following expenditure as set forth in *A Narrative of Grievances in the Gorbals Barony*, published in 1813, by David Laurie, brother of the proprietor of Laurieston, may be of interest to the readers :—

* See Muir's *Glasgow Streets and Places*.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 55

The expense of procuring the breastwork before Hutchesontown, the incumbent street and Broad Street, essential parts of the public highway, - - -	£8,000
Hutchesontown Wooden Bridge, - -	2,000
Other Streets in Hutchesontown and the old Gorbals, - - - - -	6,000
Main Street of Tradeston, - - -	3,000
Other Streets of that Village, - - -	7,000
Carlton Place Street from Bridge to Bridge and other Streets in Laurieston and the east side of Eglinton Street, - -	9,000
The Trades and Hutcheson's Hospital, their part thereof, - - - -	5,000
	<hr/>
	£40,000

In January, 1794, contractors were advertised for to build a new bridge across the Clyde to connect Saltmarket with Hutchesontown. A stone bridge of five arches was decided upon, to be completed by Martinmas of 1796. It was carried away by the spate of 1795 before completion. A wooden bridge for foot passengers only was built in its place in 1805. A stone bridge of five arches was built in 1831-32. The foundation stone of the Albert Bridge was laid by the Earl of Dalhousie on 3rd June, 1870, and the bridge was opened for traffic on 21st June, 1871. The cost of building was

56 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

£56,000. The first house in Hutchesontown was built in St. Ninian Street, in 1794, by the Rev. John M'Leod, minister of Albion Street Chapel. This street took its name from St. Ninian's Leper Hospital and croft. Muir, in his book on Glasgow Streets, tells us that the Clyde frontage, now known as Adelphi Street, was so called in honour of the brothers Hutcheson. Govan Street, which takes its name from the village of Little Govan, passes through Hutchesontown. The Blindburn Spinning and Weaving Factories were built in Govan Street, in 1806, at a cost of £40,000. They were afterwards occupied as a Confectionery and Biscuit Factory by the late Bailie Lamberton.

It is not my intention in this book to deal with Hutcheson's Hospital. Suffice it is to say that the funds of this Institution are derived from the interest of money, rents, and feus of Hutchesonton, being the product of lands and monies mortified in the years 1639-40-41 by George and Thomas Hutcheson of Lambhill, and by other persons, particularly by James Blair, one of the partners of the west sugar house, in 1713, and Daniel Baxter, bookseller in the city, in 1784.

In 1803. the only streets in Hutchesontown were Rose Street, Crown Street, Thistle Street, Hospital

Street, and St. Ninian Street. For a short period the north end of Hospital Street was called "Broad Street," and in some of the older maps of the city Crown Street is marked as the road to Ayr by way of Kilmarnock. It was in a house, at what is now 75 Crown Street, where Robert Pollok lodged when completing his studies at Glasgow University, and where he wrote part of his great poem, "The Course of Time," for which he received £2,500. It was on 26th October, 1826, that Pollok removed from his humble lodgings in Crown Street and in less than a year afterwards he died. Laurieston, originally called Kirkcroft, was feued from the Trustees of Hutcheson's Hospital in 1801 by James Laurie, son of David Laurie, Timber Merchant, Jamaica Street. It is bounded on the east by Buchan Street and Portugal Street, on the west by Bridge Street and Eglinton Street, on the south by Cavendish Street, and on the north by the river Clyde. Carlton Place, which was named after the mansion of the Prince of Wales, was laid off by Mr. Laurie in 1802, and the foundation stone of the first building was laid on 4th June of that year. The buildings must have proceeded rapidly as two buildings were advertised for sale the following year. The internal decoration, particularly the plaster work, in some of the houses

58 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

in Carlton Place, which was executed by artificers from Italy, has never been equalled by local tradesmen. The buildings at number 7, occupied as Chambers by the Govan Parish Council, are a very good example of the excellent work performed by the Italian workmen. At the beginning of the 19th century Mr. Laurie attempted, by putting up gates, to close up the public right of way along Carlton Place, between the bridges, but the attempt failed. He also attempted, by interdict in the Sheriff Court, to prevent the proprietors of the Govan Colliery from laying their railroad across Eglinton Street for the purpose of conveying their coals to the Coal Quay at the foot of West Street. The Colliery proprietors, however, prevailed upon the Sheriff to remove the interdict on a Saturday afternoon, before shutting up his chambers, and by getting their workmen to work on Saturday night, Sunday, and Sunday night, they had their railway complete and working before Mr. Laurie could raise fresh proceedings on Monday. Mr. Laurie had a penchant for high-sounding English names, and in laying out his land gave us Bedford, Cavendish, Cumberland, Norfolk, Oxford, Portland, Salisbury, Surrey, and Warwick Streets, after the Dukes and Earls of those names. In M'Arthur's map of Glasgow, made from actual survey in 1778, Cumberland Street is called Shields

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 59

Loan, and in 1808, Portland Street above Norfolk Street, and what is now Abbotsford Place, were called Laurie Street, after the proprietor.

The suspension bridge at the foot of South Portland Street was opened in 1852. Regarding this bridge, a good story is related in Alexander Hislop's *Book of Scottish Anecdote*, which is as follows:—

“At a meeting of the inhabitants of Gorbals, Bailie Mitchell in the chair, it was resolved and unanimously agreed, that a new bridge be erected on the site of the present wooden one at the foot of Portland Street, and that the bridge trustees be requested to repair the said wooden bridge till the new one is built.”

Bailie Mitchell, who lived in the Laurieston Mansion, Carlton Place—now the Govan Parish Council Chambers—seems to have been a bit of a character, and numerous good stories are told about him. On one occasion, when being examined before a Parliamentary Committee in London, he was asked by counsel what his business was. “I am a cork merchant,” he replied, but as he thought that would convey but a poor idea of his business, he added, “but on a large scale.” “Oh, then,” said the learned counsel, “you will be a bung merchant?” and the roar of laughter which followed this query rather disconcerted the worthy magistrate.

CHAPTER V.

“History has been hitherto a conspiracy against truth.”

—DE MAISTRE.

Law Courts—Heritable Bailie of Gorbals—Gorbals never a burgh—Baron Bailies—Dempster, birleymen, constables, resident bailies—Immoral and drunken characters—Barony Court cases—Division of Barony into districts—First Police Force—Fire Brigade.

PREVIOUS to the year 1595, the inhabitants of Gorbals were subject to the jurisdiction of the regality bailie of Glasgow, and had their pleas settled and delinquencies answered for in the courts held in the Bishop's Castle, which stood in what is now known as Infirmary Square. On 27th August of the last-mentioned year, King James VI. granted a charter to Sir George Elphinston erecting the lands of Blythswood, Gorbals, Brigend, and Woodside into a free barony, to be called the Barony of Blythswood. In virtue of this charter, Sir George became heritable bailie of Gorbals, and he and his tenants dwelling on the lands were freed from the jurisdiction of the regality bailie. On 25th November, 1607, Archbishop Spottiswood granted

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 61

a charter of confirmation, which constituted Sir George and his successors heritable bailies and justiciars of Blythwood, Gorbals, and Woodside, and conferred full powers to hold bailie courts in all causes, criminal and civil, and to appoint clerks, dempsters, and other members of court. Here it may be mentioned that the dempster, or doomster, was an officer attached to the Scottish courts in the olden time who proclaimed the sentence passed upon criminals, and, in the case of capital offences, finishing with the words, "This is pronounced for doom."

By the purchase of the lands of Gorbals in 1650, the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow became the superiors of the barony, and in virtue of their powers, they, on 26th October of that year, elected Peter Johnston, Deacon-Convener of the Trades House, as their baron bailie. They likewise appointed commissioners "to go over, and receive the lite of the feuars of Gorbals for electing the bailie to be presented by them conform to the old ordour betwixt heritouris of these landis and the feuars thereof." Referring to the above quotation, Dr. Renwick, in his *Barony of Gorbals*, says: "It would thus appear that under the former management the feuars had to some extent a voice in the

62 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

constitution of the bailie court, and that the new proprietors at first continued the system.”

In 1661, the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow abolished the Gorbals's Bailie's Court, and ordained that all cases, both criminal and civil, should be heard before the Glasgow courts. The inhabitants of Gorbals were dissatisfied with this arrangement, and appealed to the Privy Council. The matter was settled by arbitration, when the Town Council practically got their own way. On 8th March, 1662, John Barnes, who was designated the last bailie of Gorbals, was elected. The Council subsequently thought better of the matter, as the records show that courts were held in Gorbals, and that bailies of Gorbals were annually elected down to 1846, when the barony was annexed to Glasgow.

Notwithstanding the statements made by M'Ure, Gibson, and other Glasgow historians, Gorbals was never erected into a Burgh of Barony. The magistrates of Gorbals, whether principal or resident bailies, were neither more nor less than baron bailies appointed by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow, as superior of the barony, whose ancient powers remained entire, notwithstanding the Act of 1748 abolishing heritable jurisdiction, in consequence of the exception in the statute in

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 63

favour of the rights of jurisdiction at the time vested in Royal Burghs. It will thus be seen that although the above-mentioned Act limited the powers of a baron bailie to that of inflicting a fine of twenty shillings, and, in default of payment, to thirty days' imprisonment in the baron's prison, or to ordaining the delinquent to be set in the stocks for a period of three hours during the daytime, the bailies of Gorbals retained their full magisterial powers. The Town Council of Glasgow appointed the Gorbals bailie, and he in turn, at his first and second court, appointed a dempster, birleymen, constables, and a collector from the feuars of the barony. In Gorbals the birleymen performed duties similar to those of "liners" in the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. The position of constable in cities, towns, and parishes in Scotland was not an honorary one, as it is generally supposed to have been, prior to the establishment of a regular police force. There are numerous entries in the Burgh Records showing the sums paid to them annually. Thus, in a minute of the Glasgow Town Council of 14th May, 1742, the city treasurer is ordained to pay Andrew Donaldson and James Mackie, constables in Gorbals, £15 each. The dempster was also paid an annual salary. All persons coming to reside in

64 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Gorbals came under an obligation to obey the Magistrates and observe the laws. The following is a copy of the obligation transcribed into modern English :—

“ John McKewan, coal hewer, and John McClae, weaver, hereby enacts obliges themselves to live peaceably with their neighbours, and obey the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow, and the Bailie and Constables of Gorbals, in time coming, under the pain of Five Pounds Scots, toties quoties, and William Ross, merchant in Gorbals, is become cautioner for the said John McKewan, and John Fleming, skinner in Gorbals, is become cautioner for the said John McClae, whom the said John McKewan and John McClae obliges themselves to relieve them thereof.”

On 10th November, 1701, the bailie and constables issued a proclamation warning the people of Gorbals against the gross immoralities and abominable vices then prevailing, also against swearing, blaspheming, excessive drinking, and profaning the Sabbath. Persons guilty of these offences were to be penalised in a sum of £10 Scots. Keepers of taverns and ale-houses were ordered not to entertain any person by supplying such person with liquor after 10 P.M. on week nights, or at any time on the Sabbath, under a penalty of £3. The same proclamation prohibited

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 65

the inhabitants generally from offering violence to the minister, elders or deacons “who shall be searching houses for persons committing or guilty of any of the aforesaid offences.” Landlords and heritors were prohibited from letting houses or lodgings to persons of bad character, under a penalty of £20 Scots.

The following cases are a few examples of the manner in which the bailie and constables enforced the law at the close of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century in the Old Barony:—

On 30th December, 1700, Charles Stewart, a native of Inverness, was convicted of theft and other offences, and ordained to be burned upon the face and scourged through the Gorbals, and banished out of the town of Glasgow and barony of Gorbals in all time coming.

On 22nd May, 1701, two women, named Anna Ramsay and Margaret Barclay, for stealing money from a blind man, named John Graham, were to be scourged and banished out of the Regality of Gorbals.

On 18th June, 1703, before the bailie, in the Chapel of Gorbals, Archibald Murdoch and Andrew Watson were ordained to find surety for their good behaviour for beating, striking, and abusing one another with their fists, staffs, batons, swords, and bagnets.

66 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Liberation from prison on voluntary banishment occasionally took place. For example, on 25th March, 1703, Margaret Straven, indweller in Gorbals, who had been imprisoned for resetting stolen goods, was liberated by the bailie on her enacting and obliging herself to remove and flit from Gorbals, and the bounds thereof, and never to be seen within the same again in all time coming, under the pain of being publicly scourged and marked on the forehead with a hot iron.

Again, on 9th May, 1713, Thomas Thomson, a weaver, who had been committed to Gorbals prison for making a disturbance in the chapel and interrupting the minister when he was examining his flock, was liberated on his expressing sorrow for his offence, and obliging himself "that for the future he will noways be guilty of like carriage, nor offer any injury to, or commit any abuse on the minister, elders, members of the society, or anyone in the neighbourhood."

In 1749, the Town Council at their annual election, after choosing the principal bailie, appointed Andrew Donaldson, feuar and resider in Gorbals, to be "cojunct bailie," with power to officiate along with the principal bailie, or, during his absence, to act by himself with full powers. The practice of electing a principal and adjunct bailie continued till 1808, when the first Police Act was passed.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 67

Head Courts, presided over by the provost and bailies of Glasgow, were also held in Gorbals, but as none of the records of these courts are extant very little is now known of what their powers and duties were. The Burgh Records shew that the Glasgow Head Court sat four times a year, viz., at Whitsunday, when the Magistrates and Council perambulated the boundaries of the burgh, let the common good to tacksmen, appointed officials, such as treasurer, clerk and minstrels, and made or altered the regulations as to the admission of burgesses. The other three Head Courts were held at Michaelmas, Yule, and Pasche or Easter respectively. The burgesses were all summoned to attend these courts, and had to act as jurors if required. The work of the Head Court of Gorbals was probably analogous to that of Glasgow.

There were two Commissary Courts in the West of Scotland: one the "Commissariat of Glasgow," and the other that of "Hamilton and Campsie." Gorbals was included within the jurisdiction of the latter court. Both these courts originally sat in the Consistorial or Bishop's Court House, at the Glasgow Cathedral, and subsequently in the Justiciary Buildings facing the Green. These courts had jurisdiction in all matters of Testaments, Executry

68 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

and Scandal. In 1826 the courts were abolished, and the work passed on to the Sheriff Court.

The first Gorbals Police Act was passed on 27th May, 1808. By this Act the barony was divided into twelve wards, in each of which a Commissioner with the powers of a constable had to be chosen by the householders. A senior bailie and two resident bailies, all appointed by the Glasgow Town Council, were to be commissioners *ex officiis*, and nothing in the Act was to be held as taking away the baronial powers of the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow, who should in addition to the bailies appoint the Clerk, Procurator Fiscal, and other officers of Court. On the Commissioners was conferred the power of regulating the police of the barony, paving, lighting, cleansing the streets, erecting a bridewell and work-house. On 30th May, 1823, the Act of 1808 was repealed and a new Act was passed, which, besides re-enacting all the principal provisions of the original Act, empowered the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow to appoint two additional resident bailies. There were then one principal and four resident bailies. The principal bailie was elected from the Glasgow Town Council, and the resident bailies from the feuars of Gorbals. This Act also divided the barony into five districts, Hutchesontown,

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 69

the parish of Gorbals proper with contiguous lands, Laurieston, Tradeston, and Kingston. On 10th January, 1825, an Act of Parliament was passed to regulate the conversion of the statute labour in the barony, and that Act was amended on 30th July, 1831. The territory of the barony included the parish of Gorbals, with part of the parish of Govan, and extended over 466 acres, one rood, and thirty poles. The Police Act of 1823 was, on 8th June, 1837, continued with certain alterations and amendments for five years. By this Act the barony was extended for Police purposes over the whole district within the Parliamentary boundaries of Glasgow south of the Clyde as fixed by the Reform Act of 1832, but these boundaries did not include a portion of the barony south of Butterbiggins Road. Both the Acts of 1823 and 1837 were repealed, and a new Act was passed on 10th August, 1843, to regulate the Police of the district for twenty-one years, but it in turn was repealed in 1846 by the Municipality Extension Act of that year, which annexed the town and district of Gorbals, the Burghs of Anderston and Calton to the City.

The remainder of the barony was annexed to the City by the Municipal Extension Act of 1878.

The first Police Force appears to have consisted of

70 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

a master, two sergeants, and a number of watchmen, but, as the minute books of the Gorbals Police Commissioners from the inception of the force in 1808 till October, 1815, have been lost, very little can now be learned regarding Gorbals' first regular police force.

A Mr. Robert M'Hendry was master prior to 1815 when Mr. Donald M'Kenzie was appointed at a salary of £65 a year. The strength of the force then consisted of one Superintendent at the above salary, three sergeants at a wage each of 14s. per week, and eight watchmen commencing at 10s. and rising to 11s. per week.

In 1825, Mr. John Clark was appointed Superintendent at a salary commencing at £65 per annum and rising to £110 per annum, and the force under his command consisted of four sergeants, four patrolmen, thirteen watchmen, and three lamp-lighters. In 1826, during Mr. Clark's term of office, the police removed from their first headquarters in the old chapel in Main Street to their chambers in the new Baronial Buildings in South Portland Street and Norfolk Street. In January, 1833, as the result of a report on the efficiency of the police force made by a committee appointed by the Commissioners to enquire into certain complaints which had been

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 71

made by various individuals, and particularly by a Dr. Reid, Mr. Clark was asked to resign as being too old for his position. This he did, and on the 15th of the following month Mr. George Jaffray was appointed Superintendent at a salary of £80 per annum, with a free house and coals. Mr. Jaffray also held the office of joint Procurator Fiscal in the Police Court.

When Mr. Jaffray took office the force consisted of one superintendent, three sergeants, nine patrolmen, seventeen watchmen, and four lamplighters. The night watchmen's hours of duty were from 9.30 P.M. to 5 A.M., from April to September, and from 9.30 P.M. to 6 A.M., from October to March. When Mr. Clark demitted office he made an inventory of the furniture, books and other articles in the Baronial Buildings, including the Magistrates' and Commissioners' rooms and the police chambers. A copy of this inventory is still extant and the following amongst other articles are mentioned in it as the property of the Commissioners, viz.:—

Five Magistrates' chairs.

Five bottles of wine.

A corkscrew.

Twenty-six wine glasses.

Seventeen tumblers.

72 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Two water jugs.

A silver mounted snuff-horn.

A table cover.

Three dozen knives and three dozen forks.

Nine bibles.

Nine psalm books.

Five red coats for the five day-patrolmen.

Five white rods of office, for the Magistrates.

&c., &c.

It would appear that on special occasions the day patrolmen wore red coats and marched in front of the bailies who carried long white rods of office in their hands.

The Police Commissioners annually appointed two of their number to take duty in the police office on Hogmanay night and New Year's day and assist the officers on duty in preserving the peace.

Special allowances were granted to the sergeants and watchmen for extra duties performed at the New Year and on Glasgow Fair holidays, ranging from 10s. 6d. to two guineas in the case of sergeants and from 1s. 6d. to 2s. in the case of the watchmen. Extra patrolmen were also engaged to assist the regular police during these holidays.

Owing to some friction arising between the Commissioners and himself, Superintendent Jaffray

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 73

resigned office in November, 1839, and on the 13th of the following month Mr. Andrew M'Kerrow was appointed Superintendent at a salary of £110 per annum. Mr. M'Kerrow only got a bare majority of the votes of those Commissioners present, and, immediately it was known that he had been appointed, a Commissioner, named Stephens, announced his intention of moving at the next meeting of Commissioners that Superintendent M'Kerrow's services be dispensed with on the ground that he had written a letter to the Lord Advocate commenting on the conduct of his predecessor, Superintendent Jaffray. Mr. M'Kerrow was then called into the meeting and asked to produce the letter but he stated that he had kept no copy of it. He was then asked for the Lord Advocate's reply. This, he said, he had mislaid. At the next meeting of the Commissioners Mr. M'Kerrow forstalled Mr. Stephens' motion by handing in his resignation.

On 3rd February, 1840, Mr. James Richardson was appointed Superintendent. He held office till the Barony was annexed to Glasgow in 1846, when he was appointed Superintendent of the Southern or "D" Division of the Glasgow Police Force.

Simultaneously with the establishment of a regular Police Force a Police Court was instituted, and the

74 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

trial of offenders at the Barony Court ceased; and although the Police Act created a number of new offences and consequently an increase in the number of prosecutions, punishments by whipping, placing persons in the stocks, and banishing offenders from the Barony were abolished and monetary penalties or short periods of imprisonment substituted. As will be seen from the following paragraph from the *Glasgow Thistle* newspaper of 13th August, 1831, there was a good deal of disorder in Gorbals arising from the consumption of intoxicating liquor:—

“There were a great number of disorderlies in the Gorbals Police Office during the week. On Monday (8th August, 1831) there were upwards of twenty-six cases disposed of by the Magistrate, each case comprising two or more individuals. Those whom we have not mentioned were fined from 2s. 6d. to 5s.”

The following is a list of the Superintendents of the Southern Division of the Glasgow Police Force since the annexation of Gorbals to Glasgow in 1846:—

James Richardson, - - -	1846 to 1847.
Archibald Wilson, - - -	1847 to 1852.
John Stirling, - - - -	1852 to 1854.
James M'Dougall, - - -	1854 to 1856.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 75

Thomas Robb, - - - -	1856 to 1877.
James Donald, - - - -	1877 to 1898.
Thomas Muir, - - - -	1898 to 1900.
James Strachan, - - - -	1900 to 1905.
Andrew Gow Lindsay, -	1905 to 1911.
John Ord, - - - - -	1911 to —

As previously stated, Mr. Richardson was Superintendent of the Gorbals Police when the Annexation Act of 1846 came into force, and Mr. Wilson was at the same time Chief of the Glasgow Police. On the appointment of Mr. William Henry Pearce, a County Inspector in the Royal Irish Constabulary, to be Chief Superintendent of the Glasgow Police, in the spring of 1847, Mr. Wilson was transferred to the Southern District. It was during Mr. Wilson's term of office as Superintendent of the Southern Division that the riots of 1848 took place. Gorbals did not escape the attention of the mob.

On Monday, 5th March, after taking part in pillaging shops in the city, a party of rioters crossed to the South Side by way of Glasgow Bridge and looted watchmakers' and chandlers' shops in Clyde Place, and a number of provision shops in Main Street. Another party crossed by Hutchesontown Bridge and plundered a number of shops in Crown Street and neighbourhood.

76 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

In the absence of the Lord Provost in London, Bailie Robert Stewart, acting Chief Magistrate, accompanied by Sheriff Bell, proceeded to the Cavalry Barracks in Eglinton Street and called out the military. Each, heading a troop of cavalry, galloped down Eglinton Street into the city. The Riot Act was then read, and the soldiers charged and cleared the streets.

Mr. John Stirling, who succeeded Superintendent Wilson, was a bit of a character, and was known to a certain class of the citizens as "Jock Stirling." When the writer came to Glasgow in 1880, an itinerant fiddler used to attend at the "Old Central" in Albion Street on pay-days and play to the constables when going off duty. One of his favourite tunes was a composition of his own, which he called "Jock Stirling's March."

Mr. Donald, who was for the long period of 21 years Superintendent of the Southern Division, was a very popular officer, and was familiarly known as "big Jamie Donald." He was upwards of six feet in height and built in proportion. He was a native of Laurencekirk and was born in 1837.

The present Police Chambers in Oxford Street and Nicholson Street were opened on 27th August, 1895. There is an oil painting, depicting the opening of

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 77

the new Police Court, in the Superintendent's room, which was gifted to the Division by Mr. D. M. Alexander, one of the Assessors in the Glasgow Police Courts.

The strength of the Gorbals Police Force at annexation to the City in 1846 was 48. The present authorised strength of the Division is 199.

Owing to the kind of material the houses in Gorbals were built with, fires appear to have been frequent, and during the 18th century three conflagrations of considerable magnitude occurred. The first of these took place on 9th September, 1725, but very few particulars can now be got regarding it. The following is a contemporary account of the second one which occurred in the beginning of June, 1749:—

“On Saturday night last a fire broke out in Gorbals which burned with great violence till four o'clock on Sunday morning, notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of the watermen who played upon it incessantly. It is reckoned that upwards of one hundred families have been burned out, most of their furniture and a great deal of their manufactures being likewise consumed. The fire began on the back houses on the east side of Main Street, burned to the front lands and communicated itself to the west side of the street, and

78 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

burned from New Street to Paisley Loan on both sides. There has not a fire happened these sixty years, in or about this place, attended with so much devastation.”

On the 10th of August following, the bailie, constables and birleymen of Gorbals were asked by the Glasgow Town Council to report to them as to the recent fire. No copy of their report appears to be now extant.

The next fire of importance happened about the beginning of the year 1768. On 19th January of that year the Town Council “ordained the sum of £7 7s. sterling to be distributed amongst the sufferers by the late fire that happened in Gorbals, by Mr. Scott, Bailie of Gorbals.”

There would appear to have been a kind of voluntary Fire Brigade who were known as “watermen” in Gorbals for a long time prior to the passing of the first Police Act in 1808. For a number of years after that date the Fire Station was in Rutherglen Loan, behind the old chapel. In 1826 it was transferred to the new Barony Buildings in Norfolk Street. The Superintendent of Police was the firemaster, and the firemen all lived outside the station, working at their trades. When an alarm of fire was received, the turnkey at the Police

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 79

Office took out a drum and hurried round the district, beating the drum all the time. On hearing this signal the firemen dropped their work and hurried to the station. Sometimes two drums were used. The minutes of the Police Commission of 11th February, 1833, mention that the drummers were to be allowed 2s. 6d. each for beating the alarm drums on the occasion of a fire. The same minutes shew that the masters of engines received 4s. each, and that branchmen received 1s. 6d. each. The men in charge of the first engine to arrive at a fire received a gratuity of 10s., while those in charge of the second engine received 5s. The carter who arrived with the first water-butt received 7s. 6d., the second 5s., the third 3s. 6d., the fourth 2s. 6d., and those with every other butt got 1s. each.

About 1877 a new Fire Station was built in Warwick Street. At first it was used partly as a Fire Station and partly as dwelling-houses for policemen. The Fire Brigade at that time consisted of three permanent firemen residing at the station, and eight auxiliary firemen who lived and worked at their trades outside the station. About six months after the opening of this station, that is about May, 1878, the auxiliary firemen were dispensed with, and the Fire Brigade then consisted of eight permanent

80 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

firemen and two constables under the charge of Superintendent Robertson. The fire alarms which hitherto had been under the charge of the police, were at the time transferred from the Police Office in Norfolk Street to Warwick Street Fire Station, and taken over by the Fire Brigade. Superintendent Robertson remained in charge of Warwick Street Fire Station till the end of 1882.

In addition to the District Station in Warwick Street there were two sub-stations, one at South Wellington Street and one at Paisley Road, each having one auxiliary fireman and two constables, who were also auxiliary firemen in addition to their other duties, and for which they received 2s. per week.

About 1884 all the police constables were removed from Warwick Street Station, and permanent firemen put into their houses instead. In all, about twenty firemen were located there, and the Station was wholly taken over by the Fire Brigade.

On 27th October, 1916, a new Fire Station, to take the place of the one in Warwick Street, was opened in Centre Street by Lord Provost Dunlop. It is the most up-to-date station in the country. There is accomodation for thirty-five men and four fire-engines, under the charge of Superintendent Ritchie.

CHAPTER VI.

“A trade is a property that does not belong to one individual, but to all who have, by time and industry, acquired a knowledge of it.”

—TRIAL OF GLASGOW COTTON-SPINNERS, 1837.

Old Gorbals industries—Weavers, skinners, wrights, coal hewers—Notable Gorbals men : William Glen, Dr. George Mathieson, Thomas Piggot, Fred Locke, Sir John Lindsay, etc.

By the Act 156 of King James VI., Parliament 12, the exercise of crafts within suburbs adjacent to Burghs was forbidden. This Act, however, did not interfere with the privileges of the inhabitants of Gorbals, who, under the Crown charter of 1595 as narrated in the charter granted by Archbishop Spottiswood to Sir George Elphinston in 1607, were authorised to exercise for their maintenance all manners of lawful mechanical labour, industries, or crafts; but they were apparently not entitled to trade or set up as merchants. An infringement of the rights of Glasgow burgesses by some of the inhabitants of Gorbals is thus referred to in a resolution of the Town Council of Glasgow, dated

82 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

23rd October, 1652, which, being transcribed into modern English, reads as follows :—

“For many weighty reasons and considerations moving the whole Magistrates and Council of this burgh, they, by the tenor hereof, inhibits and discharges any merchant booth whatsoever to be kept or made use of in the Gorbals, either by the burgesses and neighbours of this burgh or any other person whatsoever, and recommends this to John Bell and Robert Stirling, bailies there, to see the same fulfilled and performed.”

Acting upon this order, James Pollock, one of the bailies of Gorbals, in September, 1656, seized the whole stock of a widow, named Love, who had started business as a salt merchant in Gorbals.

Dr. Renwick, in his *Barony of Gorbals*, remarks that, “all purchases by the feuars (of Gorbals) required to be made at the other end of the bridge, for crossing which with merchandise custom seems to have been exacted till relief was obtained in 1655.”

The Town Council of Glasgow exacted a ladleful out of each load of corn brought into the city. The feuars of Gorbals started to make a similar exaction, but on 27th September, 1656, the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow ordered a discontinuance of the exaction in Gorbals. This repressive treat-

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 83

ment occasioned remonstrances and appeals from the inhabitants of Gorbals to their superior, from time to time, and there was continuous bickering between the craftsmen of Glasgow and their brethren in Gorbals.

As early as 1605, an agreement was made by the Weavers' Incorporation of Glasgow and the Weavers of Gorbals, in virtue of which the latter were permitted to carry on their trade on the payment of certain sums of money to the collector of the weavers' craft of Glasgow to be divided between the poor brethren of the crafts in each place. This agreement, with slight alterations, was confirmed by the Town Council in April, 1657. In October, 1692, the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow enacted that the Weavers of Gorbals pay to the Weavers of Glasgow the sum of twenty shillings Scots for each loom in use in Gorbals, and three pounds, ten shillings, and eightpence Scots, booking money for each journeyman admitted by them, and the provision in the agreement of 1657 to the effect that they only be allowed to take one apprentice in four years was confirmed. The money so collected to be equally divided between the weavers of each place for the relief of the poor of their craft respectively. This enactment, however, did not put an end to the

84 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

squabbling between the weavers of Glasgow and Gorbals, which appears to have continued far into the next century.

On 20th February, 1674, the skinners of Glasgow and the skinners of Gorbals came to an arrangement whereby it was agreed that in future the same amount of dues and fines as was paid by the Gorbals entrants to the skinners in Glasgow would be paid to their own society in Gorbals.

On 14th December, 1683, a contract was entered into between the wrights of Glasgow and their brethren in Gorbals whereby the latter were authorised, in consideration of an annual payment, to do occasional work in Glasgow.

On 24th March, 1655, the Town Council agreed to advance to Patrick Bryce and James Anderson, both residing in Gorbals, for the good of the inhabitants of the city, the sum of two thousand merks (£111 2s. 2d. sterling) for the working of their coalpits in Gorbals for thirteen years. The first year they were to have the full liberty of the mines, which, of course, were under the superiority of the city, but every year thereafter they were to pay a rent of six hundred merks (£33 6s. 8d. sterling). There were, however, the restrictions that in supplying coals to the community they were at no time to

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 85

exceed four shillings (fourpence) per hutch, nor were they to employ more than eight hewers.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Gorbals was celebrated for its sword manufactory, the swords being little inferior in temper and edge to those made by the famous Andrew Ferrara; and its harquebusses, or handguns, were considered equal to those of Ghent, Milan and Paris. Alexander Whitelaw informs us that dim shadows of this ancient renown could be traced to the beginning of the last century, and that families then existed who, through a long line ancestry, had figured as gunsmiths, cutlers, or turners. He also states that during the first quarter of the 19th century, the only individuals in the West of Scotland who manufactured guns were to be found in Gorbals.

It will be readily understood that during the wars between England and Scotland few places were busier than Gorbals.

At the beginning of the 19th century cotton spinning was one of the principal industries of Gorbals. Writing in 1816, with reference to the number of cotton mills in Glasgow, Dr. Cleland says:—"Two of these mills lately completed in Hutchesontown are fireproof, and the cost of each, including machinery, is upwards of £40,000."

86 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

There were also weaving factories in the Tradeston and Kingston districts.

Cotton spinning, like weaving, is now a thing of the past, but in its place numerous ironfounding, engineering, and other works have been erected within the old Barony, particularly in Tradeston district, which is simply a hive of industry.

SOME NOTABLE MEN.

Amongst the notable men who lived for a time in Gorbals at the beginning of the last century, was William Glen, a poet of considerable merit, whose ancestors, we are informed, were citizens of Glasgow from the middle of the 15th century, and whose great-great grandfather fought for Queen Mary at the battle of Langside. Glen was a merchant in Glasgow, but he seems to have been more attached to literature than business. Latterly he became unfortunate in business and, suffering from bad health, he was induced by his wife to retire for a time to Aberfoyle. Finding his end was approaching, he one day said to his wife, "Kate, I would like to go back to Glasgow." "Why, Willie," she said, "are you not as well here?" To this query he replied, "Its not myself I'm thinking of; its you, Kate, for you know its easier to take a living man

there than a dead one." He accordingly returned to Glasgow and took up his abode at Edwin Place, now number 56 Surrey Street, where he died in December, 1826, and was buried in the Ramshorn kirkyard, Ingram Street, where the remains of many other notable Glasgow men lie. Glen was the Poet Laureate of the Anderston Social Club, whose members are described as having been "great patriots and hard drinkers," and it was in this club where many of his songs were sung for the first time. Many of Glen's songs are already forgotten, but his "Wae's me for Prince Charlie" will probably never be forgotten while the Scottish race exists, or the English language is spoken.

Dr. George Mathieson, theologian, author and poet, was born at 39 Abbotsford Place on 27th March, 1842. As a boy, he attended a private school in Carlton Place, kept by a Miss Hutcheson, and subsequently Mr. Buchanan's well known school in St. George's Place. His father, a native of Dornoch, was a member of the firm of Wilson & Mathieson, in Glassford Place. While attending Glasgow University, Mathieson's sight began to fail him, and by the time he reached his nineteenth year he was almost completely blind. He was licensed to preach by the presbytery of Glasgow on 13th June,

88 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

1866, and appointed assistant to Dr. Macduff, Sandyford Parish Church, on 8th January, 1867. On 8th April, 1868, he was ordained Parish minister of Innellan, and for many years was familiarly known as "the blind minister of Innellan." In the spring of 1879, the University of Edinburgh conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Dr. Mathieson, and in 1902, the University of Aberdeen conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon him. Prior to that he had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was inducted minister of St. Bernard's Parish Church, Edinburgh, on 12th May, 1886, and resigned that charge on 26th July, 1899. He died in that city on 28th August, 1906. Much of his literary work was accomplished in Edinburgh, but his Hymn, "O love that wilt not let me go," which made him famous, was written in the manse of Innellan in the evening of 6th June, 1882. Speaking of the hymn, he stated that "something had happened that had caused him the most severe mental suffering, and the hymn was the fruit of that suffering. The crowning glory of his life came when, at the Sunday School Convention held at Jerusalem in the spring of 1904, where the representatives of fifty-five different Christian Communion, to the number of 1,809, gathered from twenty-six different

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 89

nations of the world, united in singing Dr. Mathieson's famous hymn.

Dr. Mathieson was not the only poet who lived in Abbotsford Place. In 1876, James Paul Crawford, the author of "The Drunkard's Raggit Wean," was also a resident in this street. Number 21 is given as his residence.

Thomas Piggot, better known by his stage name of "Percy Milton," spent his boyhood days in Gorbals. His parents lived at 138 South Portland Street. Another Gorbals man, well known to theatre goers in the latter half of the last century, was Fred Scobie, better known by his stage name of Fred Locke, "the King of Pantomime." He lived with his parents in the same street, a short distance further north, viz., at number 128. He was long connected with the Royal Princess Theatre in Main Street.

A striking example of a notable Gorbals man who has risen to an honourable position is noticeable in the career of our esteemed Town Clerk, Sir John Lindsay, who was born at 39 Portugal Street, in December, 1860. How unlikely it seemed that the fatherless boy, working seventy-four hours a week for half-a-crown as a grocer's messenger, would one day fill the highest official position in the city, and

90 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

be knighted by the King at Buckingham Palace. But so it has come to pass.

Leaving the grocer's employment, John Lindsay became an office boy at a wage of four shillings per week, devoting his spare time to improving his education. He entered a lawyer's office a year later, receiving the remuneration of five shillings per week, and served a legal apprenticeship for five years. Afterwards he joined the staff of the Sheriff Clerk of Lanarkshire, attended Glasgow University, distinguished himself in Law classes, and won renown as a prize essayist of the Glasgow Judicial Society. In 1887, he was admitted by the Court of Session as a duly qualified lawyer. After successfully filling various appointments, including that of Interim Police Clerk and Town Clerk Depute, he was, in 1912, chosen Town Clerk. Sir John Lindsay is a recognised authority on Burgh and Police Law, and is one of the most respected and popular officials of the Glasgow Corporation. He is a member of Council and an ex-Chairman of the Old Glasgow Club. He is also a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of the City of Glasgow, an Honorary Sheriff-Substitute, and a Justice of the Peace.

The site of the building in which Sir John was



Sir John Lindsay.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 91

born is now occupied by a Glasgow Corporation Model Lodging House.

The late Lord Trayner was also born in a house in Portugal Street, but the writer has been unable to locate the property in which his parents resided.

Many successful Glasgow business men were born in the same locality and can say with the poet:—

“In the Gorbals o’ Glasgow I first saw the licht,
Its no that I’ve min’ but I’m tauld it was nicht,
How blest was my minnie, how blythe was my daddie,
When first to their bosom they clasped their wee laddie.”

Ex-Deacon Convener Macdonald was born in a house in Surrey Street, near to Bedford Street. Another Ex-Deacon Convener, Sir Thomas Mason, was born in a property in Norfolk Court, whilst Ex-Deacon Convener Goldie was born in one in Rutherglen Road. Sir Thomas Lipton and Kennedy Jones, the Australian newspaper editor and multi-millionaire, were born in the same close in Crown Street.

CHAPTER VII.

“There are differences of administration, but the same Lord.”

—ST. PAUL.

Churches, schools, and synagogues in Gorbals.

As previously stated, the first place of worship in Gorbals was a chapel in connection with St. Ninian's Hospital, which was founded and endowed by William Steward, prebendary of Killearn and rector of Glassford, about the year 1494. It stood in Main Street, at the corner of what is now Rutherglen Road. After the Reformation it passed into the hands of the Elphinston family, and was no doubt used by them as a place of worship. M'Ure states that Sir George Elphinston was buried in his own chapel in Gorbals, but that is a very unlikely story, as the chapel and tower of Gorbals at the time of Sir George's death were the property of Viscount Belhaven. After it became the property of the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow in 1650, the chapel was used for various purposes, such as a prison, a school, a court-house, and latterly as a



Main Street, Gorbals, looking south, showing the tower and other buildings used as a school, court-house, police office, and latterly as a public-house.

(Page 92)

police office. It was sold by the Corporation of Glasgow in 1827, and was immediately afterwards licensed as a public house, and occupied as such till it was demolished about 1867.

The village of Gorbals was in the parish of Govan, and for two hundred and seventy years subsequent to the Reformation there appears to have been no public place of worship in the village or barony, but in 1728-29 the feuars raised money, partly by public subscription, and having obtained the gift of a site they erected thereon a Chapel of Ease which was opened for worship on 16th January, 1730. The preachers were simply probationers till 20th February, 1771, when a disjunction took place, and part of the barony, including the village, was erected into a separate parish with the right of patronage in favour of the College of Glasgow. It was stipulated that the heritors should be bound to provide an annual money stipend of not less than £67, and other £23 in lieu of a manse or glebe. The College, the same year, presented Mr. William Anderson, the then preacher, to be the first minister of Gorbals Parish, and soon thereafter they sold the right of patronage to the heritors and elders of Gorbals, reserving the whole teinds of the parish of Govan of which they were owners. A dispute arose

94 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

in 1778 regarding the payment of Mr. Anderson's stipend, and he obtained a decret of the Court of Session settling his stipend. An attempt was subsequently made to provide funds for the payment of the minister's stipend and other church matters by levying a general assessment on the inhabitants, but after much litigation that high handed proceeding was stopped by the Court of Session. Mr. Anderson died in 1792, and his successor, Dr. James M'Lean, finding the revenue from the seat rents increasing, proposed that a new church should be erected. A feu was obtained in Carlton Place from Mr. Laurie of Laurieston at a heavy annual rent, and the church was built in 1810-11. It was opened for worship on 29th September, 1811, and declared to be the parish church in all time coming. The number of the sittings was 1,600, and the minister's stipend was £250. Owing to the legal proceedings before referred to, and other disputes, many adherents left the church, but notwithstanding these secessions it was said that during Dr. M'Lean's incumbency, from 1793 to 1833, he married more couples and administered baptism to more children than any other minister in the Church of Scotland. At the disruption the greater part of the congregation left the Established Church.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 95

During the ministry of the Rev. Robert Houston, 1844 to 1854, the feu-duty was allowed to fall into arrears, and the congregation were ejected by the superior on 29th January, 1852, and the building was put up for public sale. With the assistance of Messrs. John Blackie, Nathaniel Stevenson, Richard Kidston of Ferniegair, and William Campbell of Tulliechewan, the property was bought for £2,850, and handed over to be the home of the new (Free) East Gorbals Territorial Congregation. Under the name of East Gorbals Free Church it was opened for service on the first Sabbath of January, 1853. Ten years later the Church of Scotland claimed the right to buy back the church, and although the claim was resisted the decision of the Court of Session was in their favour. In 1864, it was re-opened as the Parish Church of Gorbals, the Rev. Andrew Leiper being minister.

In 1771, when Gorbals was erected a parish, the inhabitants of the village numbered but 3,000. In 1811, they numbered about 5,200, and in 1854 they had increased to 60,000.

In 1854, George Walker Muir and others, representing the creditors of the feuars of Gorbals, brought an action in the Court of Session against the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of

96 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Glasgow, upon whom it was alleged had devolved the upkeep of the Parish Church and also the meeting of the liabilities of the associated feuars as a result of the annexation of the barony in 1846, but the action was unsuccessful. The minister subsequently raised a similar action, but was also unsuccessful.

In 1813, the Chapel of Ease in Buchan Street, formerly occupied by the Gorbals congregation, was purchased by the Presbytery of Glasgow and erected into a Gaelic Chapel with sittings for 1,050 persons, the minister's stipend being £200. In 1842, this congregation removed to the newly built John Knox Church at the east end of Bedford Street, now known as John Knox and Tradeston U.F. Church; the Tradeston congregation having amalgamated with the John Knox congregation a few years ago. Mr. Buchan, the father of Colonel John Buchan, LL.D., the famous war correspondent and author, was for a number of years pastor of John Knox Church.

Aird, in his *Glimpses of Old Glasgow*, mentions that one of the pastors of John Knox Church, the Rev. Jonathan Anderson, became celebrated for depicting the horrors of hell to his congregation, and he sometimes gave such vivid word-pictures of

that place of woe that the timorous, or it may be conscience-stricken persons fainted at the appalling description. It is recorded that on one occasion the captain of a vessel loaded with sulphur, when enquiring for a possible customer for his cargo, was sent to Mr. Anderson. He told the reverend gentleman that he had been informed that Mr. Anderson dealt largely in sulphur. Mr. Anderson replied that he did, but just now he had more of that commodity on hand than he required for present use. In later years Mr. Anderson, with a number of his congregation, left the Free Church. They erected a little church in Margaret Street, but remained unconnected with any denomination. The Margaret Street building is now used as a meeting place by Plymouth, or Christian Brethren.

After having to surrender the church in Carlton Place the Free East Gorbals congregation worshipped for a time in John Knox Church, the two congregations using the buildings alternately, but on 22nd July, 1864, the trustees of the East Gorbals congregation purchased at a yearly feu-duty of £40, from the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow, 1,272 square yards of ground on the lands of Bryceland, situated at the junction of Pollokshaws Road and Victoria Road, on which they built a

98 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

handsome new church. It was opened for public worship on the first Sabbath of October, 1864, and is now known as Victoria United Free Church. The buildings cost about £8,000.

Victoria U.F. congregation has an interesting history. In 1851, the Glasgow Free Church Presbytery overtured the General Assembly to make special provision for the needs of the city in the way of providing churches. The result of the overture was a resolution to establish four territorial churches in Glasgow, it being agreed that one of them should be in Gorbals district. As previously stated, Gorbals Parish Church was purchased and the new congregation housed therein. The first minister was the Rev. Alexander Cumming, and at the first communion there were 299 communicants. In October of the same year there were 524 communicants, and in April, 1854, they had increased to 700. Mr. Cumming retired in 1874, and he was succeeded by the Rev. James Cameron, M.A., of Pathhead, Kirkcaldy, and he officiated for the long period of 32 years. He was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. F. J. Maclachlan, M.A. The congregation celebrated its jubilee on Sunday, 4th October, 1914.

Free Gorbals Church, now Gorbals United Free Church, was formed in 1843, a majority of the Kirk

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 99

Session of Gorbals Parish forming the new Kirk Session. The congregation called the Rev. Robert Bremner, M.A., then a young probationer, to be their first minister, their meeting-place being the Baronial Halls, South Portland Street. In the Autumn of 1844 they entered their fine new church in King Street, and continued to worship there under the pastorate of Mr. Bremner till, in 1891, they made choice of the Rev. John Robertson to be his colleague and successor. The church proved too small for the crowds who wished to hear the popular preacher, and an adjournment was made to the National Halls, in Main Street, Gorbals, where there was accommodation for some two thousand five hundred people. These halls continuing crowded during Mr. Robertson's ministry, the congregation sold their church in King Street, intending to build a large evangelizing centre on the banks of the Clyde. This enterprise, however, was checked by the termination of Mr. Robertson's ministry. In 1895, the congregation called the Rev. D. C. Macnicol, B.D., who soon bestirred himself to have them comfortably housed in their old district. This task took three and a half years, the present handsome and commodious buildings being opened at the close of the year 1898. Mr. Macnicol having accepted a

100 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

call to Stockbridge, Edinburgh, in 1904, the congregation the following year made choice of the Rev. W. B. Hutton, M.A., the present pastor.*

One of the most interesting churches in the barony of Gorbals is Hutchesontown United Free Church, 51 Hospital Street, originally Hutchesontown Relief Church. The congregation was formed in 1799, and the church was built and opened for worship in 1800. The buildings cost £1,380 13s. 1d. and the sittings numbered 1,700. These sittings were originally farmed out to a number of persons who bought them and then let them to the members and adherents. This arrangement caused considerable trouble between the church managers and the proprietors, but the system continued for a period of forty-two years. In September, 1840, it was agreed to purchase the sittings on behalf of the congregation from the proprietors, and this was subsequently accomplished at a cost of £1,100. It would be interesting to know whether the practice of farming out the sittings of Secession Churches was a common one at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. In 1847, the union of the Relief and the Secession Churches

* Since this paragraph was written, the Rev. W. B. Hutton, M.A., has accepted a call to Saltcoats.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 101

took place, and this congregation now became Hutchesontown United Presbyterian Church, and on the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in 1900, it became Hutchesontown United Free Church. In 1854, a split occurred in the congregation, and seventy members left the church and formed a new congregation, now the Caledonia Road United Free Church. The following is a list of the ministers of Hutchesontown Church since its inception :—

Rev. William Thomson, inducted on 14th August, 1800.

Rev. J. S. Taylor, inducted on 19th November, 1839.

Rev. William Nairn, inducted on 23rd June, 1873.

Rev. J. B. Nicholson, inducted on 19th February, 1889.

Four pastors in one hundred and seventeen years, which is surely a good record.

About the middle of the last century an old member of the church, a Mrs. Boyle, bequeathed to the congregation an old property in Main Street, the rents of which were to be husbanded by the session and managers until a fund was raised

102 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

sufficient to build and endow a school where the poor children of the congregation were to be educated free of charge. The City Improvement Trust bought up the property, and this transaction brought £1,700 into the fund, but the Education Act of 1870 rendered it unnecessary for the Trustees to build a school, as from that date onward education was to be free. To utilise the money, the Trustees bought a building in Thistle Street, behind the church, took it down and erected a hall for Sabbath Schools, Missionary, and other meetings connected with the church, at a cost of £2,000, which they named the Boyle Memorial.

Hutchesontown Parish Church originally occupied a site in Hospital Street. The foundation stone was laid on 12th March, 1838, by Mr John Mitchell, principal bailie of Gorbals, and it was opened for worship in March of the following year. For a number of years it was wrought as an unendowed church or chapel under the Kirk Session of Govan. It was subsequently, by means of local efforts, endowed at a cost of £4,000, and a grant from the General Assembly Committee to the extent of £120 yearly. In 1871 it became a Parish Church. The first minister was the Rev. Alexander S. Patterson, who seceded along with a number of the congrega-

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 103

tion in 1843, and became minister of Hutchesontown Free Church in Hospital Street. The second pastor was the Rev. Robert Monteath, B.A., the present senior minister. Owing to the site of the church being required by the G. & S.-W. Railway Company new ground was acquired in Rutherglen Road. The foundation stone of the present church was laid by Sir John Neilson Cuthbertson in December, 1898, and the church was opened for worship on 4th March, 1900.

- The congregation of Elgin Street United Free Church had its inception in a very humble way, in a back property in Main Street. It appears that, in 1850, a few individuals formed themselves into a Christian Visiting Association in the old village of Gorbals. They found intemperance the greatest evil with which they had to contend, and accordingly formed a Total Abstinence Society, which soon had a large membership. The mission was at first non-sectarian, but it was afterwards agreed that the United Presbyterian Church should take charge of the work. In October, 1852, Mr. David Macrae, of Oban, was called to the charge, which was constituted a church in 1853, the membership amounting to only 64 persons. A new church was opened in Main Street in June, 1854, by which time

104 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

the membership had increased to one hundred and forty-one. In 1858, it had risen to three hundred and thirty-four, and in 1860, it reached a total of four hundred and sixty-three. The church was situated at a distance back from the street, the entrance being through a wide close, which on Sundays was the rendezvous of a number of persons who caused the worshippers considerable annoyance, but on the front tenement coming into the market it was bought by the church, and a suitable entrance erected. The church and other buildings were, in the late "sixties," acquired by the City Improvement Trust and demolished. The present church in Elgin Street, which is seated for 1,100 people, was opened on 12th October, 1873. Mr. Macrae, the first pastor, was the father of the Rev. David Macrae, author of *George Harrington, Americans at Home*, and other books, but he is best remembered by his remarkable fight for religious liberty at Gourock. I am informed that the Royal Princess Theatre, built in 1877, now occupies part of the site of the Main Street Church.

St. John's Roman Catholic Chapel in Portugal Street is one of the oldest Roman Catholic Missions in Glasgow, and one that has been prominently associated with the development of Roman

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 105

Catholicism in and around Glasgow. Situated in the heart of Gorbals, it is the parent mission of all the Roman Catholic Missions in the south side of the Clyde.

In this district, in 1810, the once well known Quaker educationist, Joseph Lancaster, established one of his schools. These Lancastrian Schools, as they were called at that time, spread to a considerable extent throughout the country. They had three characteristics which had much in common with what marked the later education movement. These were the monitor or pupil teacher system, the schools were free to those whose means did not allow a payment, and they aimed at being undenominational while not secularist. Besides the one in Portugal Street, there was one erected at the same time in Calton and Anderston. They did not pay, and were closed in 1816.

In 1823, what is now known as the Eglinton Street United Free Church Congregation was formed, and occupied the school buildings in Portugal Street as a church till January, 1825, when their present church in Eglinton Street was opened. Shortly afterwards the Gorbals School was put up for sale, and was purchased by Father Scott—a few years afterwards Bishop Scott. In the month of

106 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

September, 1826, it was re-opened as a school-chapel, where service was held every Sunday at 9 and 11·30 o'clock forenoon by priests from St. Andrew's in Great Clyde Street, and where during the week the Roman Catholic children of the district were taught by Roman Catholic teachers.

In the Roman Catholic Directory for 1831, it is said there were but two Roman Catholic Chapels in Glasgow—St. Andrew's and St. John's—and hence, though not erected into a separate mission with residence for the clergy until some years later, St. John's, dating back from 1826, is thus, with the exception of St. Andrew's, the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Glasgow. In 1845, when a separate building was provided for school purposes, the old Lancastrian building was greatly altered and enlarged, and exclusively devoted to church purposes, with accommodation for 1,000 persons. Thus it continued to serve until it was replaced by the present handsome building erected by the Very Rev. John B. Canon Macluský in 1897.

Dr. Cleland, in his *Annals of Glasgow*, tells us that "A meeting house in Gorbals, in connection with the Scottish Independents, was built in 1814." That "it was seated for 900, and that a Mr. Campbell was the first minister." Notwith-

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 107

standing this curt notice this church had an interesting history. The origin of its first congregation was as follows:—In or about the year 1798 Mr. Haldane, one of the founders of the Scottish Independent Church, acquired a circus building in Jamaica Street, transformed it into a church, named it the Tabernacle, and founded a congregation there. The Rev. Greville Ewing was the first minister. In 1810, the congregation built a new church in West Nile Street, but on this church being opened a number of the members remained behind, constituted themselves apart and subsequently procured ground in Nicholson Street, Gorbals, built a meeting-house at a cost of £1,605, and formed a new congregation there. The minister and the whole of the congregation left the Independent Church in 1821, and were admitted into the United Secession Church. Owing to a large increase in the membership during the first year of the pastorate of the Rev. John M'Farlane, LL.D., 1840 to 1861, the building in Nicholson Street became too small for the congregation. The managers accordingly sold it in 1841 for £1,700 to the managers of what is now the Eglinton Congregational Church, purchased ground in South Portland Street adjoining the old Baronial Buildings, and

108 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

built a new church, which they named the Erskine Church, in memory of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine, the founders of the Secession Church. The site was bought from the Gorbals Police Board at the price of thirty-five shillings per square yard, and the total was converted into a ground annual of £78 8s., with a duplicand every 19 years. The extent of the ground was 896 yards, the cost £1,568, and the estimated cost of the church buildings was £3,400. The foundation stone was laid on 3rd September, 1841, and the church was opened for public worship on Sabbath, 15th May, 1842. About seven years ago the Erskine congregation purchased ground in Carmichael Place, Cathcart, with the object of erecting a new church there. They built church halls, which were opened for public worship in January, 1913, and the old church in South Portland Street was closed. After standing unoccupied for nearly three years it was re-opened on 10th October, 1915, as a Christian Union Church, the Rev. Mr. Brisby being pastor.

The Nicholson Street Church was occupied by the members of what is now the Eglinton Street Congregational Church from 1841 to 1863, when they removed to their new church at number 339 Eglinton Street.

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 109

In 1863, a division took place in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the minority constituted themselves into a congregation, and after meeting for a time in the Trades' Hall, Glassford Street, and afterwards in the old Athenæum in Ingram Street, they bought the Church in Nicholson Street and occupied it till 1910, when it was demolished and the present church, which was opened the following year, erected on its site.

The Nicholson Street congregation is the only one connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Glasgow. They are one of the most interesting religious sects in Scotland and are sometimes known as "the Covenanters" from their strict adherence to the tenets of the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant; and "Cameronians"—the followers of Richard Cameron, who was killed at Airs Moss; and also "M'Millanites," after their first minister, the Rev. John M'Millan. In conducting worship they use no instrumental music, nor do they sing hymns or paraphrases. Their doctrine is that of the Confession of Faith and strictly Calvinistic. The government of the church is Presbyterian, and members must abstain from taking the usual oaths of allegiance to the Sovereign and from taking part in all Parliamentary elections.

110 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

Notwithstanding this they are perhaps the most law-abiding presbyterian sect in Scotland, and there does not appear to have been any conscientious objectors amongst them.

Renwick United Free Church, Cumberland Street, had its beginning in a small way. In 1853, sixty-seven members of Great Hamilton Street Reformed Presbyterian Church living on the south side of the Clyde obtained a disjunction, and formed the Southern Reformed Presbyterian Congregation. After meeting for a time in a hall in Bedford Street, also a church in Commerce Street, and in the Gorbals Youths' School in Greenside Street (now Cleland Street), the congregation, which had largely increased, purchased ground in Salisbury Street, where they erected a small church for themselves, which was opened on 18th March, 1855. The first pastor was the Rev. John M'Dermid, who ministered to them from 1855 till his death in 1882. About 1867, the church in Salisbury Street was sold to the City Union Railway Company for £4,957. A new site in Cumberland Street was bought and the present church erected. It was opened on 5th September, 1869, when three services were conducted, and the total collections amounted to £74 10s. 6d. In 1876, the majority of the Reformed Presbyterian

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 111

Congregations united with the Free Church of Scotland, Cumberland Street congregation becoming the Renwick Free Church. At the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in 1900 the name was changed to the Renwick United Free Church.

Laurieston Parish Church in Norfolk Street has an interesting history. In Dr. M'Millan's *Life of Dr. Flint* we are informed that "It had its origin in a movement started by Mr. Collins, father of the late Sir William Collins, and head of the well known publishing firm. Mr. Collins made an appeal in 1834 to the public of Glasgow to supply him with funds for the purpose of building twenty new churches in the city. Each church with its site was to cost £2,000, and it was to have an endowment of £80 a year. The district assigned to it was not to contain a population of more than 3,000, to whom the energy of the minister was to be entirely devoted." Mr. Collins' efforts were successful. Within five months subscriptions amounting to £22,000 were collected in Glasgow, and within eight years the last of the twenty churches was erected. Laurieston Church was one of the last to be built by the Glasgow Church Building Society, the latter being the name by which Mr. Collins' association

112 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

was known. Its constitution was approved by the General Assembly of 1837, but the building was not completed till 1841. At the Disruption, in 1843, the minister (Rev. Mr. M'Beth) and his congregation left the Church of Scotland and cast in their lot with the Free Church, and they retained possession of the church in Norfolk Street till 1849, when, by a decision of the House of Lords, all the churches built under the auspices of Mr. Collins were declared to belong to the Church of Scotland, and the Laurieston congregation had to seek a new home. They found a site at the south-east corner of Paterson Street, at its junction with Morrison Street, where they erected what is now known as the Union United Free Church.

Laurieston was erected into a Parish Church on 13th July, 1853.

Shortly after the purchase of Gorbals in 1650 by the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow, we learn from the Burgh Records that Thomas Campbell, the collector of rents, was ordained to pay the schoolmaster in Gorbals his house rent. On 22nd April, 1665, in compliance with a supplication of the feuars of Gorbals, an old house near the town's barn was given "to be ane schoole for the instructing and training of their bairns." Denholm,

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 113

in his *History of Glasgow*, published in 1798, mentions that the lower part of the Chapel of Gorbals was occupied as a parish school, and we know that when the first regular police force took possession of the chapel as their headquarters, in 1808, the schoolmaster was ejected and accommodation had to be found for the children elsewhere. It would thus appear that the Glasgow Town Council supplied the buildings used as a public school, and contributed something towards the support of the schoolmaster for upwards of a century and a half. There was a school in connection with the Parish Church, in Carlton Place, at the beginning of the last century. In 1810, a school on the principle of Mr. Lancaster's Institution in London was opened in Portugal Street, but it did not pay, and was closed six years later. The Gorbals Youths' School, in Greenside Street (now Cleland Street), was opened in 1836. There was an institution for the education of girls in Surrey Street, known as Miss M'Farlane's school. Hutchesontown and Laurieston Parish Churches each had schools, which were managed by the ministers and kirk sessions. The managers of Hutchesontown Relief, now Hutchesontown U.F. Church, rented a building in Thistle Street, which they used as a school for the

114 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

children of the congregation, one penny a week per head being charged as fees. East Gorbals, now Victoria U.F. Church, had a school in Buchan Street.

The patrons of Hutcheson's Hospital acquired ground in Crown Street, on which they erected their school for boys, which was opened in 1841. In 1876, they built a similar school for girls, in Elgin Street, and it was closed in the spring of 1912, when the new girls' school in Kingarth Street was opened. The building in Elgin Street is now used by members of the Jewish community as a school in which Hebrew is taught.

There were several private adventure schools in Laurieston and Tradeston. One situated at 32 South Portland Street, is now occupied as a bake-house by Mr. Robert Stirling, baker and confectioner. Another occupied the site of the new Fire Station at corner of Centre Street and Waddell Street. The master, a notable character, was locally known as "Cripple Dunkie."

Kingston Sessional School, alongside Kingston Parish Church at the corner of Paterson Street and Morrison Street, was erected in 1842, and the managers received from the Educational Department a grant of £200 in aid of the building fund.

There is no record of the teachers employed until

Story of the Barony of Gorbals 115

1862, when Mr. Robert Ruthven was appointed teacher. He resigned in April, 1870, on being licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Glasgow. Mr. Archibald M'Neil, for some years the master of the Trades' School in Glassford Street, was appointed his successor, but he died in December of the same year. The Glasgow Presbytery then appointed Mr. T. L. Anderson, who continued as headmaster until April, 1875, when the teachers and scholars were transferred to the School Board. Mr. Anderson, who only retired recently, was subsequently appointed headmaster of Abbotsford Public School. Kingston School now forms part of the hall and session-house of Kingston Parish Church.

The accommodation in Kingston district prior to the Education Act of 1872 was very inadequate and most unsatisfactory. Kingston Sessional School was the only school in Tradeston or Kingston districts under Government inspection. There were three or four adventure schools with attendances of about 100 pupils in each, in some of which lavatory convenience was totally unknown. The playground was generally the street.

The following extracts from H.M. Inspector's Reports gives an idea of the condition of the accommodation :—

116 Story of the Barony of Gorbals

“The supply of books is not sufficient, and some improvement of the offices is desirable.”

“The school is quite overcrowded.”

“The school is suffocatingly overcrowded.”

“The school floor was unduly overcrowded on the day of the inspection, even after many had been temporarily dismissed.”

The members of the first Glasgow School Board, which included some of Glasgow's leading citizens, as the Right Hon. J. A. Campbell, Alexander Whitelaw, Esq., M.P., Sir Michael Connal, W. Kidston, Esq., of Ferniegair; and later, Sir John Neilson Cuthbertson, displayed remarkable energy and ability in providing this district with large, airy, and comfortable class-rooms, where work could be carried on more efficiently, and the health of the children could be safe-guarded.

Although the old Barony had ceased to have a separate existence long before the first Jew settled in Gorbals, no history of Gorbals would be complete without referring to the Jewish community. It is estimated that there are about nine thousand Jews resident in Glasgow, and of that number about six thousand reside within the bounds of the ancient Barony. They have three Synagogues, situated at 93 South Portland Street; 33 Buchan Street; and

42 Govan Street respectively ; besides a number of smaller meeting-houses where religious services are held. In 1880, the Gorbals Hebrew congregation met for worship in a private dwelling-house at 9 Park Place. Twelve months later they removed to premises in Commerce Street, where they worshipped for six years. They then removed to premises in Rutherglen Road, where the congregation split in two, the larger portion renting premises for themselves at 45 Main Street, Gorbals. After worshipping in Main Street premises for three years, they rented the Standard Halls, where they met for ten years. In 1889 they purchased for £2,450 ground in South Portland Street, where they built a large Synagogue at a cost of £14,000. It was opened for worship in 1901. The annual income amounts to about £1,400.

The other half of the congregation which remained behind in Rutherglen Road, about 1898, purchased for £2,500 the old Baptist Church in Buchan Street, and converted it into a Synagogue. Several years later the community formed a third congregation, which rented the old Free Church in Govan Street, and they meet for worship there.

