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BROAD STREET, anciently named "Hiegait," and afterwards High Street, was once the market and chief place of business. Here were the Tolbooth, the "Mercat Cross" (recently restored to its original site), and the Tron. It was here also the weekly markets and annual fairs were held, stances being allotted to the various trades, whose wares were exposed on "staks" or stalls. During the sixteenth century, this spacious street contained the "ludgings," or mansions, of the noblemen and Church dignitaries attached to the Court during the Royal residence in the Castle. The principal municipal officials had also their residences in the High Street.

By an order of the Magistrates in 1671, many of the old and ruinous buildings were destroyed, but several worthy of notice still remain. The double-gabled crow-stepped building opposite the old Burgh Buildings was the property, in 1529, of Mr James Kirk, Commissioner to the Earl of Argyll, and is notable for the old English style of its windows in the back court. The immediately adjoining house on the east is a fine example of the classical Netherland architecture of the sixteenth century, is crow-gabled to the front, and has a colossal sphinx-like female head as its terminal stone. It was erected, as the date bears, in 1671, by James Norie, then Town Clerk, whose initials, along with those of his wife, and several Latin mottoes, may be seen inscribed over the windows.

In the court entered by the pend in the next house is a superior "ludging," with three dormer windows. The front tenement is a still older building, probably erected by Provost Robert Stevenson in 1656.

The immediately eastmost house, with its two elegant dormer windows, is a central attraction from its apparent antiquity of architecture and Latin inscriptions. It was the "ludging" of Lord Elphinstone in 1546, and was afterwards acquired by Sir John Paterson. Considerable alterations were made on the house in 1715. It bears the initials I. B., K. M., and a fine old sun-dial. It subsequently was owned and occupied by an eccentric individual, Sir John Dinely, one of the Poor Knights of Windsor, locally known as John Baronet.

The crow-stepped gabled house to the east of the last was originally the property of Sir William Alexander, "Chaplain and Servitor to the Earl of Argyll," and an ancestor of William, first Earl of Stirling. The large tenement adjoining was erected by the Town Council in 1719 as an hostelry, on the site of an ancient house acquired from Forrester of Garden, and appears in the Town Records as "The Town's New House."

The two very old tenements, partly in St. Mary's Wynd and partly in Broad Street, were the ancient lodgings of the Forresters of Logie, a most influential family, members of which held the office of Provost almost consecutively for above a century. The manorial ornamental character of the buildings is best seen from St. Mary's Wynd, and in the adjoining pend of the Town's New House. They give evidence of the former grandeur of their occupants and merit special attention.

The closes at the foot of Broad Street also contain some interesting houses. In the old mansion-house of Glassingall, the rooms are finely panelled, and a large painting of Stirling Castle, about 1750, forms a panel over the fireplace of the principal room.

One of the houses fronting the street has a tablet inserted bearing the following inscription:—"Darnley House, the Nursery of James VI. and of his son Prince Henry." There is, however, no evidence to support the statement here made. The house was the property of Alexander Erskine of Canglour, whose son Thomas, Earl of Kellie, sold it to Janet Kilbowie, who converted it into a tavern which became a noted rendezvous of the Magistrates and Town Council, as shown by the Burgh Treasurer's accounts.

On the south side of Broad Street is the Tolbooth, with steeple or campanile tower. The old Tolbooth was erected about 1473, on a site acquired by the Town Council from Malcolm, son of Robert, Lord le Fleming. It was partially rebuilt in 1563, and from its dangerous condition was taken down and again rebuilt, with the addition of the Council Chamber and steeple, in 1702. The old curfew bell, which has a fine tone, was recast in Holland in 1669.

The adjoining house may be noted for its old turret stair, and its two sculptured dormer windows in the roof, surmounted by a crescent and a fleur-de-lis respectively. On the pediments are the date 1601 and the inscriptions *Deo Gloria*—"Glory to God," and *Benedicam Dominum Omni Tempore*—"I will bless the Lord at all times."

In connection with this street may be included the "Old Coffee House" at the head of the first close entering Bow Street. It was at one time a hostelry of great importance, and still retains in its public room traces of its former grandeur. It has an historical interest as having been the lodging place of Prince Charles in January, 1746, during the few weeks his army was bombarding Stirling Castle. An old townsman, and a former owner of the place, has stated that he had it from the lips of a lady who died some fifty years ago at an advanced age, that she recollected, when a child, seeing two soldiers guarding the close mouth, and of being held up by her father to see the Prince himself coming out of the close attended by his bodyguard of two Highlanders.