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Letter From Edinburgh

Holyrood and Its Environs--Points About The Picturesque City--Rosslyn Castle and Chapel.

(BY W. L. COTTON)

From St. Giles the way to Holyrood is through Lower High Street by way of the Cow Gate and the Cannon Gate, of which many readers of The Guardian have heard. This part of the town is not now the aristocratic section--the resort of the elegant and distinguished. It is evidently the home of the rougher elements of Edinburgh's society. The high houses remain as proof of a former grandeur. But the family washings flaunting from poles extending from the higher windows, the dirty-faced boys who fight on the side walk, and the slatternly women in the doorways, show that this part of Edinburgh has fallen from its high estate. Only the house of John Knox preserves the dignity of age; and part of its ground floor has been converted into a bookstore. This picturesque old dwelling with its projecting gables and outer stairs, ornamental carvings and small and quaintly placed windows still seems to bear the impress of the strong man who lived in it in the stirring days of old. But the neighboring breweries and slums that we have to pass before reaching Holyrood, accentuate the degradation of this one Royal Road to the Scottish Court.

Holyrood Palace is pre-eminently beautiful for situation. It was a grand house in the olden times and it is still in a good state of preservation. The splendid rooms in it are hung with old portraits and tapestries. Visitors pass through Lord Darnley's rooms and Queen Mary's rooms, see where Rizzio was stabbed and where the royalties of old held court, ate and



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point of which is a large clock covered with growing plants and flowers--showing correctly the time of day. Naturally it attracts the attention of all the passers-by, and the people wonder how the minute hand is made to move as the minutes pass.

Before leaving Edinburgh we went by characac to Rosslyn Castle about seven miles distant. The country outside Edinburgh through which we passed is cultivated as Scotch farmers everywhere cultivate their land; and with hedges in bloom and trees, ornamental and fruitful, adorning the landscape is exceedingly beautiful. Rosslyn Castle we found to be a well preserved old ruin. It is stated that this Castle was built about the year 1440. At the present moment there is near its center a new tree said to be over seven hundred years old--and yet in a flourishing condition! Out of its limbs, in the olden time, men made the bows for the archers who defended the place. The culinary department of the Castle remains antique and quaint. An old oven measuring eight feet in diameter and is five feet high in the center. In those days the method of baking was to light a great fire in the oven and after the oven was well heated to place the dough over the hot stones. From the great open fireplace in which an ox could be roasted, and from the kitchen below, the food for the people in the Castle, including the soldiers, was raised to the banqueting halls and dining rooms by means of a rude lift.

Rosslyn Castle was a strong place in the olden time; and there was many a struggle to gain possession of it. But for ages it remained in the family of St. Clair. Of one of the St. Clairs the following story is told: "King Robert the Bruce had been repeatedly baulked by a fleet white deer which he had started in his hunts among the Pinlands; and having asked an assemblage body of his nobles whether any dogs in their possession could seize the game which had escaped the royal hounds, Sir William St. Clair promptly offered to 'pledge his head that two favorite dogs of his, called 'Hold' and 'Hold' would kill the deer before he reached the Barchburn. The King instantly accepted the offer and pledged himself to give the forest of Pinland moor in guerdon of success a few slow hounds having been let loose to beat up the deer, the King stationed himself on the best vantage ground for commanding a view of the chase. Sir William on his part, after slipping his dogs, prayed earnestly to St. Catherine to give the deer up to them, and on a fleet footed steed went in full chase after the deer. Arriving at the Marchburn, he threw himself from his horse in despair, 'Hold,'

Central Guardian

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KENTUCKY MARQUE AND LACOPAI in their great duel of speed at the Scottish Catholic celebration in Charlottetown, July 20th.

OFF TO U. S. A.--Conductor Stanley and wife leave this morning on an extended visit to Boston, Allantown and other American cities. Conductor Stanley, now retired, was for a number of years an employee of the P. E. Railway and is well known in this city. He has three sons in the United States, two of whom are employees of the Boston-Maine Railway, while the third holds the position of express agent in Pennsylvania.

ON MARITIME TOUR--Mr. W. A. Adams, postmaster of Saulte Ste Marie, Ont., arrived in North Sydney Wednesday, and is the guest at the Belmont. Mr. Adams is spending his three weeks vacation on a tour of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, having never been in this part of the country before. He will go to Newfoundland by the Kyle tonight visiting St. John's while here, and on his return will visit Prince Edward Island before returning home.--North Sydney Herald.

Just in the crisis of fate stopped the deer in the brook, and the next instant "Hold" came up, drove her back, and killed her on the winding side of the stream. The King who had witnessed the result, came speedily down from his vantage ground, embraced Sir William, and granted him in free forestry the lands of Logan-house once the favorite hunting-seat of the Scottish Kings, Kirtan and Earn-crag.

Out of gratitude for the fancied interference of St. Catherine in his favor, St. Clair built Rosslyn Chapel, in his "Lay of the Last Minstrel," Sir Walter Scott states that "There are twenty of Roslin's barons bold, 'Tis buried within that proud chappelle, 'But each St. Clair was buried there, 'With candle, with book and with knell.'"

Rosslyn Chapel is particularly remarkable for its artistic decoration. It is indeed a very beautiful relic of an age that is past. W. L. C.

INFLUENCE OF MUSIC IN CANADA INCREASES

The influence of music in our Canadian communities is growing and music's importance is being raised in the eyes of the public. Greater interest in music leads to more calls for the services of good musicians.

The growing familiarity with music which people are getting through the phonograph and play-records in their homes gives rise to a keener desire to hear the musician in the flesh. And an increasing attention to music and the realization of the large part it plays in the life of the people leads to a desire on the part of parents to prepare their children to take their share in this development.

Our duty as citizens of this Dominion should be to see that the rising generation absorbs a real love for good music. We should urge our children to hear it whenever possible, and still more to take part in it, for in the making of music lies its greatest joy.

The world war taught us many of what we did not realize music could do. It certainly woke up its power to stimulate and to comfort; to steady the nerves and to maintain morale both at the front and at home was a revelation.

Music is just as much needed today--possibly more needed than during the war. These times of peace and reconstruction have

their acute and nerve-racking problems. One of these is the unrest abroad in the land. The maintenance of social harmony is the great need today. It is the morale of peace-time, and music is just as powerful an aid in securing it as it was in war-time.

Since music has a great public function to perform, besides its aid to the individual, its use should be promoted in the community. The time is coming when city governments throughout the land will lose no opportunity to show a friendly interest in the musical activities of their cities, for they will realize that beyond the tremendous vote-getting possibilities, municipal authorities owe a great debt to the men and women who are making and enjoying the music of the day.

The Boston Comic Opera which comes to the Prince Edward Theatre Wednesday evening, July 19th for four nights, and one matinee--presenting five different operas, the cream of the world's light and comic opera classics presents an unusual opportunity of acquiring a pleasant and enjoyable acquaintance with these masterpieces of music.

Three operas by their light tuneful music will do much to prove it is not necessary to be a musician to enjoy good music.

as it is very not in South Carolina and had just given two picnics there. He goes via Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. He expects to be in New Brunswick about the end of July, and after giving his annual picnic there will go to Halifax and then to Charlottetown, where he will hold his usual picnics for the orphans and perhaps all the children.

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Mr. L. McKay and Mr. Allan McKay, and Mrs. McKay, Campbellton, N.S., accompanied by Rev. Wm. McGowan, Dundas motored to town on Friday on business and had a pleasant trip.

Mr. John W. Brant, of the Canadian National Records Office, Ottawa, who has been spending the last two or three days in the city, leaves for Ottawa this morning. Mr. Brant has met quite a number of Islanders during his stay here, and his popular personality has made him a very welcome visitor. His friends hope to see him make a return trip in the very near future.

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