

GEMS OF THE SILVER CITY

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Gems of the silver city by James Valentine

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JAMES VALENTINE

**GEMS OF THE
SILVER CITY**

GEMS
OF
THE SILVER CITY.

BY
JAMES VALENTINE, M.A.

With a Coloured Plan.



ABERDEEN :
PRINTED AT THE "FREE PRESS" OFFICE.
1885.

*Lough vidd Aberdeen
8^o 2.*



[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

NOTE.

On the suggestion of some friends the following articles, which originally appeared in the *Evening Gazette*, have been slightly expanded and collected together in their present shape. A limited edition (a hundred copies only) of this pamphlet has accordingly been printed.

Those who are acquainted with the small measure of time which the author's ordinary avocation leaves at his disposal for writing, and other distracting circumstances which need not be here specified, will, doubtless, excuse any inequality in the merit of the sketches; and any others into whose hands this little brochure may fall will, the author hopes, do the same, more especially as the idea of producing a series of articles did not occur to him at the outset.

The title, "Gems of the Silver City," may seem rather an ambitious one for such a booklet, but has been devised with a view to secure the copyright for future service.

J. V.

AMERSON, December 5th, 1885.

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SUMMER RAMBLES

IN

DUTHIE PARK.

BY


JAMES VALENTINE, M.A.

When the garden no longer is leafless and chilly,
But warm with the sunshine, and bright with the sheen
Of rich flowers, the moss-rose, and the bright tiger lily,
Barbaric in pomp as an Ethiop queen.

— Moore.

SUMMER RAMBLES IN DUTHIE PARK.

I.

 TEMPERATURE of 88° Fahr. in the shade, such as was actually indicated during a stroll on Saturday, 25th July, as the curious old sundial near the ornamental fountain chronicled the hour of one afternoon, was a sufficient novelty in Duthie Park to make any visitor—at least a Scotsman—rejoice that nature has compensations, and that, in common with the rest of the country, the trees in the Park were then, as they still are, clothed in exuberant foliage. The dry autumn and late spring have projected leafy June into July, as it were, and July, in its turn, into August. This is a practical age, and, as Dr Harvey in his letters on trees states, any sound theory ought to be able to supply a reasonable answer to the query—*quis bono?* Without discussing with that learned author the commercial importance of due attention to forestry, we can see at once the force, as applied to city park arboriculture, of his advice gathered from Sir Walter Scott—“Be aye stickin’ in a tree, Jock; it’ll grow whaun ye’re sleepin’.” Let us derive comfort from this reflection, which will lead us to feel that the foreseeing efforts at providing shelter by the numerous trees and shrubs planted on the west side of the park will bear fruition some day. Art is long, we are told, and so is Nature in this matter—but it is sure; and the park is, for the most part, one might say, but a recent creation. The exposed situation of the park not unfrequently leads one to think, as a chilly breeze sweeps across the open lawn or parade-ground in its centre, how cold a place it is generally. But this same exposure enables it to luxuriate in every transient period of sunshine accorded to this unfavoured