

# **SKETCH OF ST. BERNARD'S**

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Sketch of St. Bernard's by John Turnbull Smith

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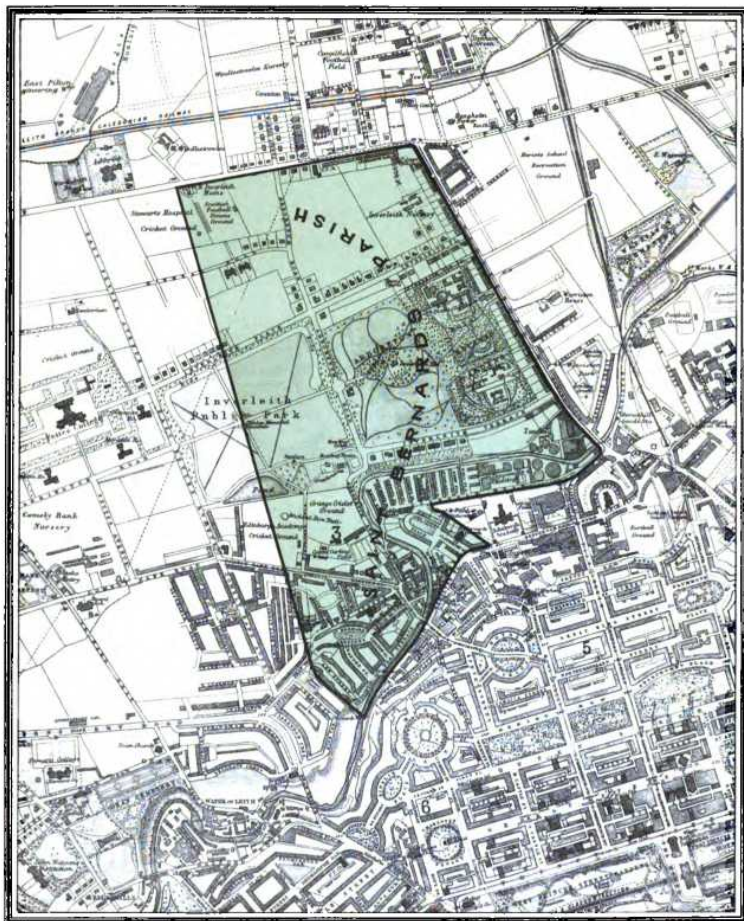
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**JOHN TURNBULL SMITH**

**SKETCH OF  
ST. BERNARD'S**





ST. BERNARD'S PARISH IN 1907

# SKETCH OF ST BERNARD'S

COMPILED BY

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## Sketch of St Bernard's.



WHEN we were arranging for the monthly meetings of our Sunday School Teachers for the Session 1906-1907, it occurred to me that it would be of interest to the teachers to have some reminiscences of St Bernard's, as known to me, and that it would be a pleasure to myself to recall the days that are gone. It was accordingly decided that, at our meeting in April 1907, I should give an address which should be called a "Sketch of St Bernard's."

My personal knowledge of St Bernard's dates from the beginning of 1861, no less than forty-six years ago. I have still in my possession the receipt card for the sitting I then



### Sketch of St Bernard's.

took in Pew No. 22; it is for the period beginning Candlemas 1861; it bears the initials of the then Treasurer, Mr John Gibson, W.S., whose interest in St Bernard's began in the early days of the Church, and continued unabated till the close of a long life of honour and usefulness. Beside this pew card lies my



JOHN GIBSON, Esq., W.S.  
Died 1st February 1875, aged 90.

"Young Communicant's" card, in the well-known handwriting of Dr Boyd, who was then minister of St Bernard's, and whose kindness to me when I went to see him with the view of becoming a young communicant — I was only between seventeen and eighteen years of age — I shall never forget. My first communion took place in April 1861.

As I have indicated, my original intention was to speak out of personal knowledge only, but it afterwards occurred to me that I might be able to glean interesting information about St Bernard's from 1822, when the Church was

#### Sketch of St Bernard's.

built, by consulting the Minute Books of the Trustees and Kirk Session, and a volume of old Reports presented lately to the Session by Dr M'Murtrie.

Having got so far back as 1822, I not unnaturally found my appetite whetted for further investigation, and I resolved to refresh my memory of former readings in regard to Edinburgh in general, for a period of thirty to forty years before 1822. The subject was so interesting to myself personally, that I decided to give to the teachers a few extracts from Lord Cockburn's "Memorials of His Time," which graphically depict the Edinburgh of about a hundred years ago; these extracts form the first part of the "Sketch," and are in Lord Cockburn's own words.

As St Bernard's parish embraces so much of Stockbridge, and as our Congregational work is so closely identified with that locality, I felt that it would add to our interest in the district were I to give some information in regard to places and people connected with it, now rapidly being forgotten. I am mainly indebted

### Sketch of St Bernard's.

for that information to Mr Cumberland Hill's book of "Historic Memorials and Reminiscences of Stockbridge," in which he has gathered together almost everything that has been written about Stockbridge, or which his own memory could recall. The second part of the "Sketch" thus deals with the locality of Stockbridge.

I have already spoken of the sources of my information in regard to St Bernard's from 1822 to 1861. A reasonably retentive memory, refreshed by references to the Minute Books of the Trustees and Kirk Session subsequent to 1861, and to the Parish Magazine, which has been carried on uninterruptedly since January 1879, has enabled me to record incidents which will be remembered by old members of St Bernard's, and which should be known by those who are younger, and who are closely identified with a Congregation which has always been distinguished by a spirit of hearty co-operation and warm, mutual sympathy.

The third part of the "Sketch" is confined to St Bernard's.