

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE
INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH,
APPOINTED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INHABITANTS, HELD ON 2D DECEMBER
1817, UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE NORTH
BRIDGE BUILDINGS. FEBRUARY 28, 1818**

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Statement by the Committee of the Inhabitants of the City of Edinburgh, appointed at the general meeting of the inhabitants, held on 2d December 1817, upon the subject of the North Bridge Buildings. February 28, 1818 by Committee of Inhabitants of Edinburgh

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COMMITTEE OF INHABITANTS OF EDINBURGH

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE
INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH,
APPOINTED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INHABITANTS, HELD ON 2D DECEMBER
1817, UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE NORTH
BRIDGE BUILDINGS. FEBRUARY 28, 1818**

1/2 Dup. S.J.V.

STATEMENT

BY THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF
EDINBURGH, *Scotland*

APPOINTED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE IN-
HABITANTS, HELD ON 2D DECEMBER 1817,

UPON THE SUBJECT

OF THE

North Bridge Buildings.

Sir James Fergusson, chairman.

February 28, 1818.

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STATEMENT, &c.

At a MEETING of the COMMITTEE of INHABITANTS of Edinburgh, regarding the Buildings on the West Side of the North Bridge, held within the Royal Exchange Coffee-house, on Thursday, the 12th day of February 1818 years, in consequence of Notes of Intimation from the Convener, of yesterday's date,—

PRESENT,

Sir James Fergusson, Bart.

James Stuart, Esq.

Alexander Nasmyth, Esq.

David Cleghorn, Esq.

John Bradfute, Esq.

Joseph Gordon, Esq.

Professor Playfair.

James Moncrieff, Esq.

William Inglis, Esq.

Norman Hill, Esq.

William Trotter, Esq.

John Cuninghame, Esq.

Macvey Napier, Esq.

James Nairne, Esq.

Sir James Fergusson in the Chair,

Mr. STUART reported, that, agreeably to the directions of the last meeting of the Committee, held on the 4th instant, he had, on that day, transmitted to the Lord Provost a letter, in the following terms :—

“ 2, North Charlotte Street, 4th Feb. 1818.

“ MY LORD,

“ The communications which took place between your Lordship and the Committee appointed by the Meeting of Inhabitants, immediately after their appointment, on 2d December last, have, I trust, convinced you and the Town-Council, that our wish from the beginning has been to obtain our object, the reduction of the height of the Buildings on the west side of the North Bridge, with the least possible sacrifice to all parties concerned, and not to adhere pertinaciously to what we conceive to be our rights, if our waving them could contribute to prevent the permanent injury to the City, of which we complained. We at once agreed to take into consideration the terms of adjustment which your Lordship mentioned as being proposed by the Builders or Sub-feuars to you, although, in doing so, we exceeded our powers. But we were ready to incur some degree of responsibility to our Constituents, that we might be able to prove to them, and to the Public, that our measures

“ had been pursued with that regard to mode-
 “ ration which our Constituents had recom-
 “ mended to us. Our meetings with your
 “ Lordship and the Council, and all hopes of
 “ extrajudicial settlement, were put an end to,
 “ by your informing Mr. Nairne and me, early
 “ in January, that you were now resolved, in
 “ the first instance, to await the decision of the
 “ Court.

“ The opinion of the Court has accordingly
 “ been obtained; and, although two of the
 “ Judges saw grounds for refusing the Bills of
 “ Suspension, on account of the lateness of the
 “ period when our challenge was brought, the
 “ whole Court agreed in thinking, that the act
 “ of Parliament could not, by implication, take
 “ away the servitudes to which the charters
 “ granted after the decret-arbitral entitled us.

“ Immediately after the decision, yesterday,
 “ I thought it right to summon the Committee
 “ to meet to-day, to consider what our future
 “ proceedings should be. It is now my duty to
 “ inform your Lordship, generally, what their
 “ resolutions have been; and I trust you will
 “ find them to be dictated by the same spirit
 “ of conciliation which has hitherto marked
 “ our conduct.

“ We take it for granted, that, if the deci-
 “ sion of the Court in passing the Bills be ulti-
 “ mately confirmed, no buildings whatever can

“ be erected on any part of St. Anne’s Street,
 “ under the powers of the existing Act of Par-
 “ liament. But we are willing to withdraw all
 “ legal proceedings, on condition that the Town-
 “ Council and the Feuars agree that there shall
 “ be only a building not higher than fifteen
 “ feet above the causeway of the Bridge, with
 “ a flat roof; that the southmost tenement;
 “ only lately begun, and the most objectionable
 “ of the whole, shall not be erected; and that
 “ the building to remain, the south front of
 “ the presently erected southmost building, and
 “ building to be erected with a proper sweep
 “ or turn on the east side of Mackay’s Hotel;
 “ shall be finished agreeably to a plan, to be
 “ settled with a due regard to the interest of
 “ the Public and of the Builders, by the Lord
 “ President, the Lord Justice-Clerk, Sir Wil-
 “ liam Rae, Bart. Henry Mackenzie, Esq. one
 “ member of the Town-Council, to be named
 “ by them, and one member of the Committee,
 “ to be named by the Committee.

“ In case this arrangement be adopted, it
 “ will fall on us to be responsible that the Sus-
 “ penders withdraw the suits. The subject
 “ has, I may add, been fully discussed by us.
 “ We are aware of many inconveniences at-
 “ tending even the erection of a row of shops
 “ on the North Bridge; but we trust, that
 “ the preservation of the striking views from

“ the Calton-hill road and from Prince’s Street,
 “ and the removal of a considerable part of the
 “ unseemly pile of Buildings now visible from
 “ Prince’s Street, will induce the public to be-
 “ lieve, that, in the proposal we make, we have
 “ neither been inattentive to their interest, nor
 “ acted inconsiderately towards the other par-
 “ ties concerned.

“ We are happy to find, by Mr. Claud Rus-
 “ sell’s Report to the Court of Session, dated
 “ 12th November last, and which is now in
 “ our hands, that the Town are possessed of
 “ very large funds, at least of a sum amount-
 “ ing to between 9 and £12,000, applicable
 “ solely to the improvement of North Bridge
 “ Street. This sum, and the amount of the
 “ feu-duty, which, we formerly understood, th
 “ Town was willing to abate, we doub
 “ not, go far to indemnify the Town for th
 “ claims of the Feuars on them, supposing this
 “ agreement to be gone into.

“ I have the honour to be, with respect, my
 “ Lord, your Lordship’s most obedient and most
 “ humble servant,

(Signed) “ JA. STUART,

“ Convener of the Committee.”

Addressed to “ *The Right Honourable the Lord*
 “ *Provost of Edinburgh.*”

The above letter, Mr. Stuart farther report-
 ed, had remained unanswered until the evening