

**RANDOM NOTES AND RAMBLING  
RECOLLECTIONS OF DRYDOCK,  
THE DOCK, OR KELVINDOCK, ALL  
NOW KNOWN BY THE MODERN  
NAME OF MARYHILL. 1750-1894**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649686483

Random Notes and Rambling Recollections of Drydock, the Dock, or Kelvindock, All Now  
Known by the Modern Name of Maryhill. 1750-1894 by Alexander Thomson

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**ALEXANDER THOMSON**

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MARYHILL FROM 1750 TILL 1894.



*W.B.*

RANDOM NOTES  
AND  
RAMBLING RECOLLECTIONS  
OF  
DRYDOCK, THE DOCK, OR KELVINDOCK,

D

ALL NOW KNOWN BY THE MORE MODERN NAME OF

MARYHILL:

1750-1894.

BY

ALEXANDER THOMSON.

"Aye free aff han' your story tell,  
When wi' a bosom crony;  
But still keep something tae yoursel'  
Ye scarcely tell tae aony."

*Burns.*

GLASGOW:  
KERR & RICHARDSON, LIMITED, 59, QUEEN STREET.

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*Revised July 1926*



## SECTION I.

### ORIGIN, PUBLIC WORKS AND INDUSTRIES.

1750-1850.

"Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."—*Gray.*

IN beginning to jot down the following notes on the origin, rise, and progress of Maryhill, with some stories and anecdotes of its public works and workmen, also sketches of a few of its more prominent inhabitants, institutions, societies, &c., in bygone days, I expected they would not exceed what could be read in a couple of hours or so. As I proceeded, the field opened up, and I soon found that they would extend to a much greater length than I had contemplated; for, while thinking over some of the incidents I was writing about, others, long forgotten, came crowding on my memory, and of course had also to be incorporated among the rest. I have throughout attempted, as far as possible, to avoid the difficulty of making any particular selection that might be interesting, amusing, or instructive to the general reader, and have preferred to write these reminiscences and folklore "free off hand" as if crackin' wi' a worthy crony.

I am afraid my production cannot justly be dignified by the name of a History or Lectures as some of my friends have been disposed to call them. I therefore rather name them as Random Notes and Rambling Recollections of Drydock, The Dock, or Kelvindock, all now known by the more modern name of Maryhill, from 1750 till 1894.

By all these names has the older-built portion of the Burgh been successively called for more than one hundred years. That gigantic undertaking, the Forth and Clyde Canal, was surveyed and planned in 1763 by the great civil engineer, John Smeaton, designer of the famous Eddystone Lighthouse. The construction of the Canal was commenced in 1768 at Grangemouth on the Forth,