

THE DEESIDE GUIDE: DESCRIPTIVE AND TRADITIONAL

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The Deeside Guide: Descriptive and Traditionary by Anonymous

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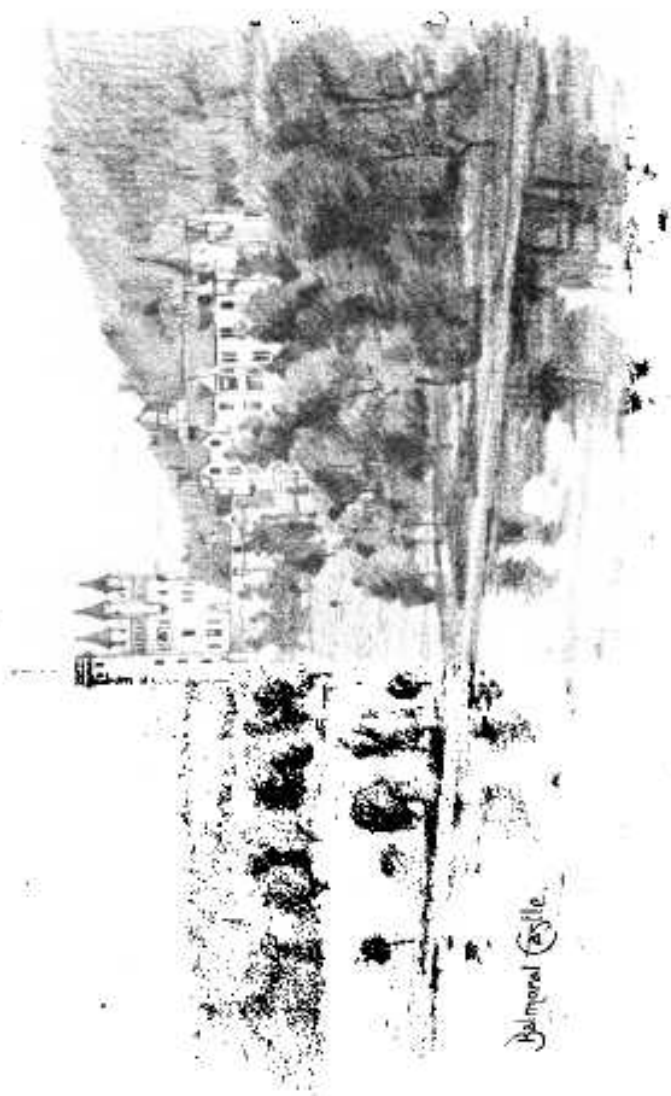
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ANONYMOUS

**THE DEESIDE GUIDE:
DESCRIPTIVE AND
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ABERDEEN:

PRINTED BY LEWIS SMITH & SON.

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THE DEESIDE GUIDE.

In tracing the beauty-clad course of the Dee
Through woodland and heath, by rock, linn, and cave,
The actors in scenes of the "dead past" we see
Like phantoms of Fate arise from the grave.

THE CITY OF ABERDEEN lies at the mouth of the Dee, on its north bank. It is the chief town of the county, and, with the exception of Dundee, the largest and most populous north of the Forth. It is unique in its beauty. The light-grey stone of which the houses are built is very pleasing to the eye, and has caused it to be called "The Granite City." So many descriptions of it, however, have already been given, that it would be out of place to enter into minute details in a work of this kind. It is doubtless a town of great antiquity, and was known to the Romans 1700 years ago by the name of *Devana*. Some antiquarian authorities place this *Devana* about eight miles up the river at a place called *Normandikes*. Here the Romans had a fortified camp, traces of which still remain; and what is more natural than that they should name their camp after the town? On, and near the site of the present town, trunks of trees have been dug up, whose

dimensions give evidence that in these old days there existed a grander forest of oak trees than is now to be seen in all Scotland. The trunk of an oak tree of immense size, that was found when the harbour was being made, can be seen in Duthie Park, close by the rockery. The Dee was called by the Romans Deva or Dioua (Latin and Greek names).

The population of the city is upwards of 120,000, and is governed by a Lord Provost, Baillies, and Town Councillors. There are besides a Sheriff with two Sheriffs-Substitute. It sends two Members to the House of Commons, the city being divided into two parliamentary districts, the north and south.

There are two Daily and two Weekly Newspapers published in Aberdeen, viz. :—The "Journal" and "Free Press," with their respective evening editions, the "Express" and "Gazette," besides a bi-weekly Advertiser. The "People's Journal" and "Weekly News" also publish Aberdeen editions.

In directing the stranger's notice to some of the most interesting objects and buildings of the city, we would take him by Bridge Street to the centre of Union Street. He is at once confronted by the Northern Assurance Office, a new erection, which for design and execution, has hardly its equal in the country. Turning his face eastward, he has the Palace Buildings on his right hand, and a bronze statue of the late Prince Consort on his left, and marking the western corners of Union Bridge—a magnificent arch of one hundred and thirty feet span, thrown across the valley of the Denburn, now covered in,

and converted into lines of railway. Passing down Belmont Street from Union Street, we find, on one side, the South Parish Church, on the other, the Belmont Congregational Church, with the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb adjoining it, and opposite these we have the Belmont United Presbyterian Church. In the Schoolhill, facing Union Street, across the whole Belmont Street roadway, runs the very handsome Art Gallery, a building erected by public subscription, at a cost of over £10,000, from the design of Messrs. Matthews and M'Kenzie, on ground acquired from the Governors of Robert Gordon's College. This ground was, 500 years ago, occupied by Alexander II., where he had a palace and a garden. These he gifted to the Dominicans or Black Friars, and there, for nearly 300 years, these pious men taught all that then the schoolmen could teach of Art, Architecture, and Music. A noble gateway joins the Art Gallery to the Art School of the city. This beautiful building was erected by Mr. John Gray at his own cost. Mr. Gray had long been a director of the Mechanics' Institute and Aberdeen Art School, and knew, as few knew, what was required in the way of an Art School. The generous gift represents an outlay of about £6000, and in recognition thereof it bears the honoured name of Gray. Passing through the archway, the grounds and buildings of Robert Gordon's College will be observed. The original founder of this institution was the only son of Arthur Gordon, advocate, who was the ninth son of Robert Gordon of Straloch