

**CASTLECARY AND THE GREAT
ROMAN WALL: THEIR HISTORY,
REMAINS, AND TRADITIONS: A
NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY
OF SCOTLAND**

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Castleary and the great Roman wall: Their History, Remains, And Traditions: A New Chapter
In The History Of Scotland by Hugh Baird

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HUGH BAIRD

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CASTLECARY

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THE GREAT ROMAN WALL:

THEIR HISTORY, REMAINS, AND TRADITIONS:
A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

BY THE

REV. HUGH BAIRD,

CUMBERNAULD.

'Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.'—MOSES.

FALKIRK:

CHARLES JEFFREY.

1864.

P R E F A C E.

THE only reason the Author has to assign for investigating the Roman History and Traditions of Castlecary and the Great Wall of Antoninus, is his long residence in the immediate neighbourhood. All the circumstances from history, Roman remains, tradition, and the names of places in the neighbourhood, have been familiar to his own mind for some time; and he has done what he could to throw light on a once important locality, and on a subject still very interesting. He trusts that others will be stirred up to make farther investigations, and he has no doubt that they will meet with an abundant reward. The subject of Roman remains is far from being

exhausted, and is well worthy of the attention of antiquarians and others. The great interest excited in the locality by reading his investigations to large audiences, and the desire of many to have a small work on the subject, encourage the Author to venture this publication.

CUMBERNAULD, *September 1864*

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CASTLECARY.

INTRODUCTION.

SOME idea of the ancient history of every country may be derived from its battle-fields. Even in the absence of written records, the battle-fields of Scotland, viewed in the light of tradition, form an interesting and profitable study. They are great landmarks, not easily removed, and testify where our brave ancestors mustered and fought for kindred and country. They are heaps of witnesses, standing memorials, which arrest the eye of the traveller, and thrill the hearts of all true patriots. For example, five hundred and fifty years have passed away since the great battle of Bannockburn was fought and won, and the independence of Scotland firmly established; yet the posts held by the opposing armies, the bloody death-field, and all the great scenes and incidents, are fresh

in the minds of those who dwell in the locality, and fresh in the minds of all true Scotsmen. And we have no doubt, that when many more centuries have passed away, Bannockburn will still be a green spot and a memorable watchword, not only in the history, but in the mind of Scotland. Yes, the battle-fields of Scotland can never be forgotten. In many solitary districts, the dust of our remote ancestors lies sleeping, and the graves of the martyrs flower the land. They fought, they struggled, and they fell, fighting for freedom and religion, for home and for friends. Whenever we, their patriot sons, stand on such hallowed spots, let the fire of true patriotism burn within us, and let us linger and revisit them with deep reverence and unfading interest.

CASTLECARY FORT.

There is no place in Scotland possessing deeper interest than Castlecary. It is the first known battle-field of Scotland. It is the centre of interest in ancient Caledonia. It is the keystone of the old Roman conquests. *There* our remote ancestors fought many a battle with the Roman