

In der Tafel VI (fehl)

ANNOCVLS

CORDINER, C. 1780, S. 6-8

ANTIQUITIES AND SCENERY,
OF
The North of SCOTLAND.

LETTER I.

Banff, May 15th, 1776.

THE antiquities and scenery of the North, which you mention as such excellent subjects for drawing, every day more and more attract my attention: the point of view in which you place them, as useful appendages to your Tours, makes the idea of delineating them yield me an interesting pleasure.

I LOOK on it as a fortunate event, that the few of my drawings which made their way to you, should have gained so much of your notice, as to occasion a correspondence which is so flattering and agreeable to me. It is of much importance to those who may command their time, to have their thoughts directed into some useful channel; and I am very sensible how greatly your favours have in this way enlivened my leisure hours.

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INTRODUCTORY

I BEG to add the account of this journey, as a Supplement to your Tours; and thus to attempt fulfilling your wish, of drawing out of its obscurity the remotest parts of our country. Should I be fortunate enough to execute your commands with approbation, it will doubtless be to me a spring of much entertainment and pleasure.

By this declaration you will easily discover, that I gladly accept your invitation, and am fond to embrace so favourable an opportunity, of paying a general visit to the more unfrequented parts of the *North*: but at the same time must add, that I do so with the greatest diffidence of being at all qualified, for executing your orders with any tolerable perspicuity. I have not however spared any pains that could possibly give me a chance for enjoying the ramble in a more rational and satisfactory manner: and to become acquainted with the *Caledonian* annals, has been an object of my best attention.

THE path which you have more particularly prescribed to me, in that ample field which you have been pervading, appears altogether a romantic, and far from an unpleasant one. You may depend upon it, that neither resolution nor perseverance shall be wanting in my endeavours to penetrate into the deepest recesses of the northern mountains: and I trust to send, from the wild environs of *Dornadilla*, some authentic representations of the majestic scenery and singular buildings of that remote corner.

THE idea of having an opportunity of examining those specimens of architecture, which are of such high antiquity, gives additional importance to the attempt of making a journey through these wilds. And the existence of any carved monu-

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LETTER.

mental stones set up in the early ages of *christianity*, is likewise what I shall think myself seriously concerned to investigate, though it lead me ever so far from the ordinary path of travellers.

THOSE ruins on the way, to which you particularly bend my attention, shall be faithfully copied in some of their most expressive views. The necessity I shall thus be under, of being much conversant with the remains of deserted temples, and palaces renowned of old, promises a fund of solemn meditation: and it will greatly dignify my labours, to reflect, that in these drawings I shall deliver over to you as their preserver, the most venerable and ancient monuments of the nation's former grandeur.

WHATEVER memorable occurs, with respect to the subjects of any of the drawings, shall be communicated with freedom. I propose to myself no small pleasure from doing so: for I am convinced, that my indulgence in that, will greatly heighten every other entertainment which the jaunt can afford: nor do I expect to find any path so desolate and barren, but what this privilege will enliven and embellish.

CONSIDERING myself as always in your presence, holding converse on the occurrences of the day, I shall be inspired with closer observation, and more steady attention to all the subjects of enquiry enjoined me; by which I shall endeavour to evince how sincerely I am

Your's.

DUFF HOUSE.

LETTER II.

Banff, May 17th.

PERMIT me, before I set out on this ramble, to present you with a view of *Duff House*, the seat of the earl of *Fife*. It certainly has much grandeur in it, and is a piece of very fine architecture; but the general effect will be much more magnificent and pleasant, when the colonnades and wings are added. A complete plan of the whole may be seen in *Wolf's Vitruvius*, according to the original design of the late celebrated Mr. *Adams*.

THE inclosed drawing will serve to give an idea of the building in its present state; but it is hardly possible, on so small a scale, to express the sumptuous style of the various enrichments.

FLUTED columns of the *Corinthian* and composite orders, support cornices that are adorned with the most elaborate and beautiful carvings, and embellished above by statues and vases highly ornamented. These on a near view give peculiar elegance to the edifice. The excellence of the workmanship becomes the more conspicuous, the more attentively it is surveyed; and the eminent hands employed, contributed not a little to the expence of forty thousand pounds, which *Duff House* has already cost.

SINCE you were in this corner, a very large and elegant apartment is opened for a library; a well-proportioned room, of betwixt sixty and seventy feet in length. It is already stored with some thousands of choice volumes; amongst these are vast collec-
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DUFF HOUSE.

tions of portraits of eminent persons, which prove a suitable accompaniment to a cabinet containing an extensive collection of *Roman* and *British* coins, medals, &c.

THE library extending through the whole breadth of the building, commands from the windows of the one end, a charming prospect of the ocean, sea-coast, town of *Banff*, and new bridge of seven arches thrown over the *Devron*; from the other, a fine extensive view into the country, and of the pleasure-grounds along the banks of the river.

IT may not be improper to mention, that on a rising ground on the west side of the river, a large and massy urn, containing bones dug up on the spot, with singular propriety distinguishes the consecrated ground, where formerly were a chapel and burying-place belonging to a monastery of *Carmelite* friars. The cells and other buildings belonging to a convent of that order, dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*, enclosed a delicious spot of garden-ground, which now forms an excellent orchard.

NOT far from the urn, there is a considerable mount, of a circular form, which has much the appearance of having been artificially raised, and is said to be the effect of penances. It was formerly called *Colenard* (*Collus Leonardi*) from a superior of the convent, who thence delighted to contemplate the surrounding landscape.

On a hill opposite, are several large stone pillars, tending to form a semi-circle, and are doubtless the remains of a *Druid* temple. The adjacent part of the river is for some hundred yards separated into two branches, by an island covered with tall trees; in the middle there is an ornamental summer-house,
shaded

KIPPER SALMON.

shaded with their boughs, which makes a most agreeable retirement.

A MILE or two up the river, the banks of the *Devron* become lofty, precipitous, and rocky. The hills cloathed with wood, project their very craggy brows perpendicular into the channel. Several paths are effected along the cliffs, amidst the overhanging trees, which yield from their several windings variety of romantic scenery. These walks terminate at the rocks of *Ava*, immense picturesque precipices, that confine the river into a very narrow channel; betwixt these is thrown a very lofty and majestic arch, which has a peculiar good effect in so wild a situation.

I HERE beg leave to introduce a memoir, relative to an insect attendant on the salmon which come up this river, communicated to me by an ingenious friend.

“ THE foul salmon, of which a drawing has been already sent to Mr. Pennant, was caught February the 10th, 1776. When brought into the house, the colours upon this fish were remarkably lively. The general appearance was that of a reddish brown; but the spots of red and black upon particular parts, were exceedingly bright and beautiful. When one compared the whole appearance to that of a clean fish, it was wretched and disagreeable: it was lank; the belly empty, flabby, and of a dirty yellow; the jaws at a considerable distance in the middle; the under jaw with a large protuberance standing perpendicular upon the extremity; the upper jaw with a hole almost quite through (and I am told in some quite through) in which, when the jaws were shut, the protuberance lodged. Not one fin entire; the scales and skin being in many places destroyed,

“ presented

LERNÆA SALMONEA.

“ presented the appearance of foul ulcers. The gills were full of the *Lernæa salmoneæ*. Such salmon are called *Kipper*, or foul fish.

“ The cruves in the river *Devron* are (following the windings of the river) about a mile and a half from the sea. In the sandy places below the cruves, where there is a sufficient depth of water, a great many salmon spawn. In those places they are seen raising considerable hills of sand, probably to cover and protect the spawn*. They are likewise seen frequently pushing and striking one another; and the fishermen assert that they have many battles: their conjecture is, that the battles are occasioned by the males endeavouring to get at the spawn in order to devour it, and the females endeavouring to defend it. About these hills they remain during the winter, and until the young fry appear, unless forced off by a torrent; probably in order to keep the hills in repair, and to defend the spawn from the many enemies ready to attack it.—*Quere*, Are not the form of the jaws, the foul ulcers in the skin, and the destruction of the fins, owing to the above-mentioned operations? *Quere*, If salmon spawned in the sea, would they not be found more or less in the condition of kipper? But in this condition they are never found out of the rivers.”

“ LINNÆUS says of the *LERNÆA Salmonea*, *Habitat in branchiis Salmonum; ergo etiam marina*: this latter is certainly a mistake; for these *Lernææ* are never found with us out of the rivers; and several sensible fishermen have assured me, that salt water proves absolute destruction to these animals.

* *Br. Zool.* III. 4to. ed. p. 252.

“ SALMON,

M O N O C U L I.

“ SALMON at a certain time during their stay in the sea, are
“ infested by another animal of that genus, called by *Linnaeus*
“ MONOCULUS, which is as really a marine, as the other is a fresh-
“ water animal. This species * seems to me to be undescribed
“ by authors, and very distinct from the *M. piscinus* of *Linnaeus*,
“ which it in some measure resembles. In a few hours after a
“ salmon has entered the river, not one of these MONOCULI are
“ to be found upon it. *Quære*, Have we not in these *vermes* a
“ provision made by the Author of nature, for forcing the salmon
“ from the sea into our rivers; and from the rivers back again
“ into the sea?

* See plate VI. fig. 1. Should this species be admitted new, it may not im-
properly be called *MONOCULUS macrourus*. The figure 2. is *LERNÆA Sal-*
monæa; each above thrice the size of life.

LETTER

HUNTLY CASTLE.

L E T T E R III.

Hamlet, near Kildrumy, May 20th.

AS you mentioned that a drawing of *Kildrumy-castle*, would
be particularly acceptable; it became a principal object
of my care: and the other morning, when I set out from *Banff*,
I fixed on this as my first field of enterprize.

THE road through *Strath-ava*, along the banks of the *Devron*,
is extremely pleafant. It runs through fields in a high state of
cultivation; the prospect all the way enriched with seats amidst
extensive plantings. That luxuriancy of country is but little
diminished when one advances into *Strath-bogie*. In that long
and winding valley, *Huntly* claims chief notice. It is a large
and flourishing village. The banks of the *Bogie*, on which it
stands, are enlivened by a linen manufacture, which creates an
agreeable stir about the place, and tends to encrease the number
and opulence of the inhabitants.

NEAR the town are the ruins of *Huntly* castle. On the avenue
that leads to it, are two large square towers, which had defended
the gateway. Great part of the castle seems to be very old,
and is nearly demolished; but there is a massy building of a
more modern date, in which some of the apartments, and in
particular their curious ceilings, are still preserved pretty entire.
They are painted with a great variety of subjects, in small divi-
sions: a few lines of poetry underneath each, describe the sub-
ject of the piece. In these, the virtues, vices, trades, and pur-
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