

Many generations of Dunfermline men and women looked upon the Glen, in spite of the purchase moneys, already detailed, as by right public property. They resented the gradual enclosure of the Glen and their exclusion from it. For enclosed within the walls were possessions linking the story of the town with the national history, which patriotic citizens felt should be public property. A long litigation between the Crown and the owner of the estate regarding these public national rights kept alive the old faith and desire. The Crown officers did not show that zeal or push in asserting the national claims which a former generation of Dunfermline citizens thought they should have exhibited; and many evil reports regarding the supposed

Page 86

subserviency of the Government of that day to wealth and social influences had currency. During his long tenancy of the Lord Advocateship of Scotland the late Lord James Moncrieff found time and opportunity to bring the case repeatedly before the Law Courts, and during the long contest for political supremacy in Edinburgh between Parliament House and Independent Liberalism, Lord Advocate Moncrieff, as the champion of the lawyers, had some sympathisers even among the Radicals of Dunfermline, lest his defeat at the poll should lead to a suspension or abandonment of the litigation with Mr Hunt about the ownership of the Palace Ruins.

The sense of local grievance caused by the exclusion of the public from the Palace grounds and Glen, the centre and source of stories and legends that have for centuries formed no small part, of the life of the townsfolk and have moulded their character, doubtless accounted in some degree for the ready sympathy given in Dunfermline to the Chartist movement and to Radical political opinions. The family from which Mr Carnegie has sprung largely shared the popular feeling of resentment, and indeed did not a little to sustain and stimulate it. Two Thomas Morrisons, father and son, were the successive leaders of Radical opinion in Dunfermline. The second Thomas Morrison was Mr

Carnegie's uncle. A native of Dunfermline who knows the story well thus writes;—

Page 87

"What made Thomas Morrison a Chartist? What kept him the friend of the people, the advocate and defender of popular rights to the end of his days? He was an omnivorous reader. He was in touch with some of the best minds in Scotland. Russel, of the Scotsman, who often met Morrison on angling expeditions, had the highest opinion of his ability. But what moved Morrison, Chartist champion and the people's friend, more than all his reading was probably an object lesson which was constantly in his thoughts, and influenced him as it has influenced generations in Dunfermline. 'The Glen' he passed three times a day in going to and from his boot shop is one of Scotland's beauty spots, rich in romance and Royal story, but, was rigorously closed. Every boy and girl knew by heart the story of King Malcolm and his saintly Queen, they knew of the tower on the mount Malcolm built; they knew of the "rivulet that runs Below"; they could see the ruins of the Palace of the Scottish Kings, then claimed as part and parcel of the Pittencrieff Glen, but to one and all the sacred ground was prohibited. The boys and girls who were Andrew Carnegie's contemporaries never got more than a peep of the paradise within the high, forbidding, prison-like walls that shut out the view from the roadway, and yet not one of them but regarded "The Glen" as their property by right of citizenship.