

42 George Street, Edinburgh
21 April 1836

My Dear Roberts

The Provost is a poor silly
body who is frightened at straw.
The ground on our site would
not require to be purchased,
and the Act of Parliament would
not cost above £200 or £300.
as no opposition would be offered.
Do you know what Bryce has
done in the drawings of the Church
shown in Mills shop why he has
turned the Apse to the west to
sulk the Nations, thus reversing the
position of the Ancient Church and
rendering the pretended restoration
a bare face a lie. But come here

when you like. I feel quite
convinced that you would at
once see that the Church stand
on Burns' way would block
up entirely the whole of the beauti-
ful Seaward view as seen
from the heath, Mowat and
Preston. and that you would
be the first and the loudest
to denounce the barbarity.

So much for this, now for something
more agreeable. This Post will
bring you a volume of my selected
Poetry chiefly Lyrics. many of
which will I doubt not prove
agreeable to you and bring back
a kindly recollection to you.

Dear Auld Scotland. I have followed
the advice of our late dear
Friend Lord Cockburn and
have been unsparing in my selection
keeping out every thing that I thought
coarse or trivially.

When you have an hour
or two to glance over the contents,
I'll be glad to hear how you
like them. We had your notes
here the other week. Mrs B was
out when she called but very
kindly found out Mr McLoughlin
in the Exhibition whom they had
a long ~~two~~ handed crack. They
to be here when she returns to

Auld Reekie being over in the
Mist Kintae

They have been unwell but
is better. I have also been very
unwell for a fortnight past
with a low fever of cold which
deprived me of food and sleep
Thank God I'm now going on
the way to health

Thine ever
James Ballantine

David Roberts Esq