

**BELL** (JOHN ZEPHANIAH).

B. 1794. D. 1883.

John Zephaniah Bell was born at Dundee in 1794 ; his father was a tanner. He studied at Edinburgh University, and also under private tuition. Although he had chosen Law as his profession, it soon became evident that his talents lay mainly in the direction of Art. He therefore came to London, bringing with him letters of introduction to Sir David Wilkie and others, and entered the Schools of the Royal Academy, where he studied under M. A. Shee, the future President. He next visited Paris and worked in the studio of the Baron Gros. In that city Bell found a generous patron in the Earl of Airlie, who commissioned him to decorate the dining room in Cortachy Castle with incidents from the lives of his ancestors.

In 1825 he went to Rome, and after working there for fifteen months returned to Scotland, where, in 1831, he married Miss Jane G. Hay Campbell, an Argyllshire lady.

In 1833 Bell went to Lisbon to paint a full length portrait of the Queen Maria for the Town Hall of Oporto.

On the pressing recommendation of Sir D. Wilkie, in 1837, he undertook the direction of the School of Design in Manchester, an office which he held for five years. He then returned to London and chiefly occupied himself in producing designs on a large scale

Edinburgh Warrand Street No. 7.

Sir

I sent in July, <sup>last</sup> a picture  
to your Exhibition entitled "A Game  
at Chess &c" and have not yet heard  
any thing of it though I expected  
the Exhibition would be closed long  
before this. I will be much obliged  
by your letting me know by return  
of post what has become of this little  
picture.

Sir

Your most obedt Servt.  
Jas. Zephaniah Bell.

March 2<sup>d</sup>  
1830.

PAID

1830  
MAR 3  
10 3

44  
Chas. Barber Esq.  
Royal Institution  
Colquhoun Street  
Liverpool

1.1.3 1/2  
9/12