THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD STEEPLE.

A meeting of the Committee for the restoration of the Old Steeple was held in the Town Hallyesterday. Provost Yeaman occupied the chair. Those present were Bailie Cox, Councillors Maxwell, Fairweather, and Henderson, Sir David Baxter, Messrs Edward Baxter, J. B. Baxter, John Henderson, James Paterson, John Leng, Alexander Lyon, John Kirkland, George Rough, C. C. MAXWELL, P. G. Walker, James Christie, Thomas Cooper, C. Robertson, John Adam, Rev. Dr. Nicolson, Rev. Dr. Watson, Rev. Messrs Mackay and Lang.

The PROVOST said that this meeting had been called in consequence of a letter from Mr Matheson of Edinburgh, which the Town Clerk would read.

Mr Hay then read the letter, which is as follows:—

"Office, H.M. Works, Edinburgh-18th May, 1870.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 13th instant, enclosing a copy of minutes of meeting of the Town Council of Dundee. Also those of a meeting of the general public held for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes as to restoration of the ancient Steeple, and at which letter it was decided that I should be requested to examine the Steeple and report as to the necessary works, and the estimated cost thereof.

"And I have to express my thanks for the proposal of employment made to me, which I value very highly, and my gratification that such a proposal is now contemplated. At the same time, from my numerous present engagements, I feel embarrassed in regard to undertaking this duty, and I must therefore ask you to be so good as to intimate my position to the gentlemen interested in the restoration.

"I make a very careful survey and inspection in the year 1853, when I prepared plans and elevations of this Tower, which were approved by the Board of Majesty's Woods and Forests, and which I submitted officially, along with designs for the restoration, by a report dated 25th October, 1853. Probably a reference to these might now prove useful; and if thought so, I would suggest that the committee should apply for them to the Hon. Mr Ayrton, First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, &c., 12 Whitehall Place, London.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully, "ROBT. MATHESON.

"William Hay, Esq., Town Clerk, Dundee."

The PROVOST went on to say that since the last meeting they had received a communication from Mr Lucas, of Dalhousie; indeed, every letter which they had received was very encouraging, and he thought it would be well to place to cause division among them regarding the man they might employ in restoring the tower. From what had transpired, and what had been stated in the public prints, he thought that no difference would arise regarding the style of restoration. All agree that it should be as it formerly was. He thought that from purely a fair state of preservation connected with the buttresses, the minarets, and the battlems, there could be no difficulty in restoring the whole structure to its old order. They did not require an architect of genius to give them anything new. All they required was a man who could discover the ornamental architecture of the tower from the parts which remained. It was not necessary that the meeting should come to any definite arrangement as to appointing any architect, but they might remit the matter amongst themselves, and remit to a committee to report. The drawing by Billings, presented by Mr Ward Baxter, appeared to be almost perfect, and if they had the Old Steeple in the condition Mr Lucas represented, it would all would be highly satisfied. Applications to do the necessary work had been sent in from architects in London, Edinburgh, and elsewhere, but he hardly thought it was necessary to employ any eminent man, as it would be so easy to find out the style of architecture.

Mr FAIRWEATHER said they would require a man thoroughly conversant with the period in which the Steeple was built. A gentleman connected with Mr Street, who had a long time in the office of Mr Gilbert Scott in London, and was thoroughly acquainted with these matters, was expected to be in Dundee soon, as he was doing a small chapel in King Street for the Bishop. Mr Rough had spoken to him at last meeting that Mr Anderson, who assisted Mr Matheson at Holyrood, was a good hand. Mr Maxwell then went on to say that if this mandate was in existence in 1746, in all probability it would be it would be far better that an entirely new one might possibly be so easy to be conversant with the style of architecture as they are.

Mr C. C. MAXWELL referred to a paragraph which appeared in the papers the other day in reference to the original design being in the possession of the Vatican. He had in his hand a book that seemed to a considerable extent to confirm the statements. The work was entitled "Antiquities of Tore in Scotland, 1722," and showed a quaint and striking representation of the old Tower in a position quite isolated. He (a paragraph referring to the building of the Old Steeple, Perthshire, was quoted from Chambers's) (David Earl of Huntingdon) called in the aid of other ecclesiastical people, and the result was a mandate from the Pope, still to be seen in the Vatican, recommending the people to make a collection throughout Christendom;" and in a footnote he adds—"It was shown to Dr William Raits in 1746 by the Pope's Librarian."