

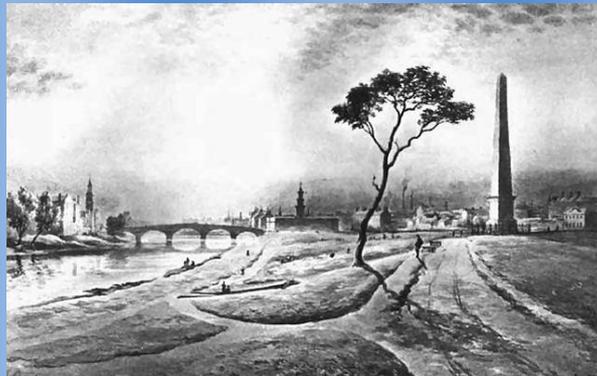
TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 57



The following is taken from newspaper reports or GHS minutes



Map of Glasgow 1825 showing Glasgow Humane Society House



During 1795 the Albert Bridge was washed away by a flood and two Gaberts moored at the Broomielaw, one of which was loaded with coals, were sunk by the ice. Later that year, 18th November to be exact, the River Clyde rose to a greater height than the oldest inhabitant in the city could remember (except for the memorable flood in March 1782). “This remarkable inundation was occasioned by a very severe storm of wind, rain and snow, which commenced on Tuesday night, and continued till Wednesday afternoon. About noon on Wednesday, two arches of the newly erected stone bridge opposite to the foot of the Saltmarket gave way with a tremendous crash into the river, and about five o’clock in the afternoon, the remaining three arches shared the same fate. The Molendinar burn, by the overflowing of the Canal, was swelled to such a

height that it laid part of the Gallowgate under a great depth of water. At this time the Bridgegate, the lower parts of the Saltmarket, Stockwell, Jamaica Street, and the village of Gorbals, were all under water to the depth of several feet”.



Interesting things were also happening at the Forth and Clyde Canal.

“Whereas, much damage has for some time been sustained by idle and malicious persons throwing stones and rubbish into the Canal, breaking down fences, both of the Canal, and road from the basin. The Proprietors, do hereby intimate, that, in virtue of powers granted them by Act of Parliament, they are resolved to sue for and levy the penalty of Five Pounds Sterling for each offence that should be incurred; and for that purpose do hereby offer a reward of THREE GUINEAS, to be paid on conviction of the offender or offenders, to any person who shall give information”.

On Tuesday July 19th 1796 it was reported that some days ago, a shark, nearly six feet long, had been caught by some gentlemen, in the Clyde.

In 1808 an even greater flood than the flood of 1795 which washed the Saltmarket (Albert) Bridge away was reported

Glasgow news even reached Edinburgh at that time and on Friday October 11th 1822, the Edinburgh Advertiser reported, "On Sunday the Clyde was much swollen and there was an endless succession of roots branches of trees, apples, plums and other produce carried down by the stream. The Humane Society boats were forced from their fastenings and carried to the old Bridge."

There have been several occasions over the years when Society boats and barges were washed away by floods and broken up.

The level of the Green was raised in 1834 and the Camlachie and the Molendinar Burns put into tunnels. It is my belief that the placing of the Molendinar and Camlachie Burns into culverts causes the flooding, at times of high tides and heavy rains, along the north carriageway of Glasgow Green and in the basement of the Old Glasgow Museum that still occurs to the present day.

An area of the river just upstream of the Society wharfage was known as the Dominies Hole. It was a deep pool in the river, and legend has it that it lies directly in the line of an ancient subterranean passage between Glasgow Cathedral and Rutherglen.

Around 1850 the Glasgow Humane Society placed nine lifebuoys along the river, but even in those days there was "reckless and inconsistent conduct of evilly disposed persons resulting in loss and damage to the buoys and attached lines". Some things don't change.

