John Taylor, Esq., M.D.

BLACKHOUSE, AYRSHIRE (1805-42).

By Alexander Wilson.

"In looking over the whole field (of Chartist agitators) one cannot but be struck by the number of really clever men who came to the front; but the number of mere noisy talkers was just as remarkable. To this army of what the world has decided to call 'agitators,' every district sent its contingent. Many Scotsmen belonged to it, the most notable of these... being John Taylor. I believe he was a man of good family and some property, who was sincerely devoted to popular liberty. I had the opportunity of meeting him some half-dozen times, and he impressed me very favourably by his manner. He had an extremely pleasing countenance with fine black eyes of the liveliest and most kindly sort. Altogether this was a face to be trusted at first sight, and I believe at his death he left a character behind him fully confirming this. I never heard him speak in public, but those who have say he was eloquent and persuasive; but I doubt very much whether he was a fit man to stand at the head of turbulent masses of discontented reformers. For this requires a strong will and a power of instant decision and head-forward daring, and these I think I may say Dr. John Taylor did not possess; at least he did not possess them in a sufficient degree to control and direct the men most active and violent in the Chartist Movement."

John Taylor (the subject of these comments of Lloyd Jones, pioneer of the Co-operative Movement), was born at Newark Castle, Ayrshire, on 16th September, 1805. His family had considerable property in Ayrshire and were connected with the Ayr Coal Company. In his own words, Taylor was "born to immense affluence, and educated in the most splendid manner, with every opportunity thrown at his feet that could ever be offered to man." As a young man, he spent several years in France, where he became intimate with the most ardent republicans and democrats, and where he is said to have celebrated his twenty-first birthday in gaol. Some time was spent in Greece, and he served for several years as a naval surgeon. According to one authority, Taylor received a legacy of £30,000, which he spent almost entirely on fitting out a ship to assist the Greeks in their war of liberation against the Turks.

In December, 1832, he contested the Ayr Burghs constituency as a Radical in a three-cornered fight with Thomas F. Kennedy of Dunure and James Cruikshanks of Langley Park. Kennedy won fairly easily with 375 Whig votes, but Taylor polled 131 votes more than his Tory opponent. In 1833 he became an Editor, and founded the short-lived "Ayrshire Reformer and Kilmarnock Gazette." A libel action by Kennedy of Dunure, however, led to bankruptcy for Taylor; and a challenge to a duel, issued to Kennedy, was followed by two month's imprisonment. In a further contest in the same constituency in 1834, Taylor was defeated by 92 votes.

On nomination day, 22nd February, an immense crowd at the hustings in front of the County Buildings, Ayr, included parties of non-electors who had come from many parts of Ayrshire, particularly from Irvine, to support Taylor. Lord James Crighton, in whose paper, "The Liberator," Taylor found his own principles strongly advocated. After several months as an assistant to Tait, "an all-wise Providence" threw Taylor on his own resources, for in October, 1836 Tait died and Taylor was appointed editor. In November, the bi-weekly "Liberator" became the "New Liberator," with Taylor as sole proprietor. As formerly, however, it remained the organ of the working-class with a policy of strong support for Radicalism and trades-unionism.

As chairman of the West of Scotland Radical Association, Taylor invited Feargus O'Connor to radical rallies in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Taylor organised a tremendous reception for O'Connor in Glasgow, where he was elected President of the National Association of Scotland; Radical Associations in Glasgow, Paisley and Kilmarnock were strengthened by the efforts of Taylor and O'Connor, and organised branches in the neighbourhood, which demanded "universal suffrage," "annual parliaments," and sometimes "vote by ballot."
For several months Taylor's partnership with O'Connor continued, with O'Connor helping to edit the "New Liberator." However, the collapse of the finances of the Operative Cotton Spinners Association, under the expenses of a protracted strike and two costly trials, proved fatal also for the finances of the "New Liberator." In 1837, with the onset of stagnation in the cotton trade, there was a serious difference of opinion between Taylor and O'Connor. The Glasgow Operative Cotton Spinners were faced with an ultimatum for a 15% reduction in wages. O'Connor favoured strike action, while Taylor, whose newspaper had been receiving substantial financial assistance from the Spinners Association, was convinced that a strike would only weaken the Cotton Spinners Union. A decision to strike was followed within a few days by capitulation to the employers' proposed terms. These were no longer available, and after their initial victory the employers' new proposals involved a reduction of 30-40%. During the ensuing strike, a cotton-spinner of ill-repute and notorious immorality was murdered on a Saturday night in Glasgow.

The Glasgow press immediately connected the murder with the strike, and when the authorities were unable to find the murderer, they arrested the Committee of the Cotton Spinners Association. This "uncalled-for, partial, cruel and unjust" action of the authorities, infuriated Taylor, who had meanwhile been once again unsuccessful in the Parliamentary Elections. Taylor's next few months were spent organising the defence of the Cotton Spinners, in attempting to rouse the British working classes to protest in indignation against any repetition of the Dorchester labourers' trial in the case of the eighteen Glasgow men—and in becoming well-known and exceedingly popular in the North of England.

Despite Taylor's efforts, the Cotton Spinners were sentenced to seven years' transportation—having been convicted not on the murder charge, but on that of "conspiracy to keep up wages" and of transacting their Union business secretly. This sentence, accompanied by denunciations of trades-unionism by Daniel O'Connell, convinced Taylor that a ruthless government intended to destroy trades-unionism and that little support for the people could be expected from the Parliamentary Reformers. In the North of England and at Dumfries, "our eccentric contemporary," as he was called by the most sympathetic of his fellow Glasgow editors, started to preach sedition. Nothing short of a revolution, he thought, would secure justice for the working classes from a legislature motivated solely by class interest.

Despite the "unexpected kindness" of the men of Cumnock and Ayr in calling upon him to emerge from his peaceful retirement, Taylor was not elected M.C. for Ayrshire. This honour fell upon Hugh Craig, a prospering Kilmarnock draper and bailie, who had recently become proprietor of the Kilmarnock Chartist newspaper, "The Ayrshire Examiner." Craig had been strongly supported in the North of England and at Dumfries, "our eccentric contemporary," as he was called by the most sympathetic of his fellow Glasgow editors, started to preach sedition. Nothing short of a revolution, he thought, would secure justice for the working classes from a legislature motivated solely by class interest.

Amongst the Chartists of Ayrshire, Taylor seems to have found his more violent political opinions inappropriate. The atmosphere was much more congenial to the policy of achieving reform by purely constitutional means. Nevertheless it was quite permissible to maintain that the "physical force" party was unjustifiable only so long as it had not tried every milder method in vain. Taylor echoed this opinion, but at the same time he was convinced that the advocates of "moral force" had put forward no plan which offered...
any prospect of success. Such a position would surely destroy the movement for "hope deferred maketh the heart sick."[23]

Taylor, however, had found a remedy. It was simple and it could not fail. It had been successfully employed against the Government, on one occasion in India and twice, without recourse to arms, by the American colonists. Simply by refusing to use heavily taxed articles of luxury, the working classes had both the power to become richer themselves, and at the same time reduce their rulers to obedience.[24] This object would be accomplished through the establishment of "Dhurna" Societies in all localities. All members would pledge not to purchase, accept, offer or use intoxicating liquors, tea and tobacco for a period of six months, and generally to abstain from the use of such articles as paid a high duty to the Government, and which supplied the extravagance of their rulers.

At a "great public-meeting" of the inhabitants of Ayr, Newton and Wallacetown, held in the Wallace Tower Hall on December 17th, 1838, the Ayr "Dhurna" Society became the first of its kind in Britain, and Dr. Taylor was elected President.[25] His faithful admirers in Cumnock made haste to follow suit, but little more was heard of the "Dhurna" campaign. Much more exciting events elsewhere were distracting Taylor's attention.

In Edinburgh a Conference of Scottish Chartist Association delegates met on 5th December, and adopted a series of resolutions discussing unconstitutional means of agitation, and denouncing the language of O'Connor and the Rev. J. R. Stephens. This attitude was in turn denounced by the leaders of the "physical force" party as a gross insult to the men of England.[26] Feargus O'Connor decided to come to Scotland to revenge himself on the Rev. Patrick Brewster of Paisley Abbey, the main Scottish protagonist of the "moral-force" doctrine. Meanwhile Stephens was arrested, and Dr. Taylor was deciding to vindicate the honour of Scotland, by shocking the "moral-force" party in its chief stronghold.[27] For this task, an opportunity was at hand for, on 4th December, he had been nominated by the Sandholes district of the Renfrewshire Political Union as a candidate in the Renfrewshire election of its Member of Convention.[28]

Taylor had already been elected M.C. for Newcastle. A victory for him in Paisley, therefore, would be a most significant triumph for the "physical force" party. At first, however, Taylor's chances of success seemed slender. In a poll taken of the preference of the local associations belonging to the Renfrewshire Political Union, Taylor received only six votes out of twenty-four. Bailie "Jock" Henderson (later Provost of Paisley), chairman of the R.P.U. and editor of the Radical newspaper, the "Glasgow Saturday Evening Post and Renfrewshire Reformer", received the votes of sixteen districts.[29]

On the eve of the election, "Parson" Brewster gained the approval of the Renfrewshire Political Union for his ubiquitous moral-force resolutions,[30] and Brewster had now become Taylor's rival candidate in place of Bailie Henderson. Then for the next few days everything went wrong for Brewster. At the election, a storm raged over Thornhill, where the demonstration was held. The candidates could not be heard. Brewster failed to carry his moral-force resolution and withdrew, in indignation, with his supporters.[31] Taylor was left in full possession of the hill and the votes of the meeting. Brewster's eclipse was completed when O'Connor came roaring through Scotland, with packed meetings of his admirers in Edinburgh, Glasgow and even Paisley, denouncing the Calton Hill resolutions.[32]

Meanwhile, Dr. Taylor's new constituents were beginning to feel very anxious about his opinions. The leading principle of the Renfrewshire Political Union—"Peace, Law and Order"—was being daily violated by Dr. Taylor, who was alleged to be stating his determination to enforce the object of the Union by physical power. In his opinion it could not be attained otherwise. Some interest was shown in his "Dhurna" societies, but considerable scepticism was expressed—for he did not seem to observe their principles in Paisley. The defence offered by his friends, that the Doctor required "a little toddy" for the sake of his health, did not help.[33]

The Council of the R.P.U. immediately resolved "that this Council, in consideration of the public statements and professions of Dr. Taylor, withdraw from all connection with him," and recommended that a meeting of the members of the Union should be held on the 14th January to adopt this resolution. An amendment to approve the Thornhill decision was lost by 3 to 1.[34]

At the members' meeting, Taylor claimed that John Henderson and the "Reformer" had treated him most unfairly, and only after considerable confusion, could he be persuaded to accept the
latter as chairman. Brewster declared that he had thought Taylor a "moral-force" man in his attempt to establish Dhurna Societies. Now he found the tobacco pipe and teapot were to be replaced by the sabre. Such foolish action was only playing into the hands of the Government, who were employing spies and traitors against them. If the people would be united, there would be no need to prate about guns and sabres. John Parkhill begged the meeting to disregard the empty professions of Dr. Taylor. He seemed to have a sabre always hanging before him, like a ghost, but he was a harmless man after all. He knew the Doctor well, and would easily undertake to eat all the Doctor would ever kill.\(^{35}\)

In reply, Taylor denied holding opinions of resistance to the Government. He was no advocate of physical force till all other power had failed. He was determined to try his Dhurna Societies plan before resorting to physical force. The statement of Thomas Eaglesin, Secretary of the Union, which alleged that Taylor had declared he would shoot any man who tried to arrest him as a member of the Convention was low slander, which could be expected of a man who would publicly detail conversation.

Taylor claimed that his opponents were prejudging him, and that he had been most unfairly treated and defamed by a report in Henderson's "Reformer," which had been copied in the "Northern Liberator," and had harmed his reputation in his Newcastle constituency. He readily admitted that he was now a poor man. Even so, he would rather remain poor than draw an income from a State Church. This attack upon Brewster met with general disapprobation, but a motion in favour of Taylor was eventually carried at 3 a.m. by a considerable majority.\(^{35}\)

Most of the leading members of the Council of the Renfrewshire Political Union resigned, and thereafter Taylor received little support from Paisley itself. However, most of the other districts of Renfrewshire accepted him as their representative, and for several months provided him with a salary of £25 per month.\(^{37}\) Support was also forthcoming from the Dumbartonshire Associations and from Alva and Tillicoultry, which dissociated themselves from the rest of Stirlingshire to give their allegiance to the "Illustrious" Dr. Taylor. When Dr. Taylor took his seat in the General Convention on February 4th, 1839, he was the representative of Renfrewshire, Dumbartonshire, Alva, Tillicoultry, Newcastle, Carlisle and Wigton.

To the surprise of his colleagues, the middle-class Scottish representatives, Taylor's conduct during the early months of the

\[\text{(35) "True Scotsman." 19/1/1839.}\]
\[\text{(36) ibid.}\]
\[\text{(37) After June it became £150 per annum. "True Scotsman." 6/7/1839.}\]
On July 5th, Dr. Taylor was arrested, charged with responsibility for the riot on the previous night in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, which had resulted when a force of the Metropolitan Police interfered with an excited public meeting. To Taylor's constituents—and many others—the arrest was deliberate and unwarranted persecution from a nervous Government. The arrest of Lovett and Collins, greatly admired in Scotland for their caution and high moral character, for their spirited protest against the "summary and despotic arrest of Dr. Taylor, our respected colleague," afforded in the eyes of Scottish Chartists proof of a sinister Government plot against the liberties of the people.

There was great indignation in Campsie at the arrest. Barrhead pledged full moral and financial support for Taylor. The Chartists of the Vale of Leven were seriously perturbed by such unconstitutional measures and the Alva Female Union sent Taylor an address of confidence and support. Throughout the country numerous Chartist meetings protested against the arrests. Many divisions were healed within associations, between those who were becoming more nervous about the possible reversion to physical violence and those who were beginning more openly to suggest once again that violence might be required in the last resort.

This anger was intensified by the reports of the humiliating treatment, which had been meted out to Taylor in Warwick Jail, where the Chartist Samson had his glorious locks shaved off and was bathed in a tub along with common felons. In the House of Lords, Lord Brougham presented a petition from Mr. Taylor, a surgeon of Ayr, in Scotland, who had been arrested at Birmingham, by mistake, for a Chartist, while he was in the act of assisting a policeman; his explanation was not regarded, and he was sent to Warwick jail to be bathed, have his hair cut, etc. Lord Melbourne promised to call the attention of Lord J. Russell to these, he thought, well-founded complaints.

On Wednesday, August 7th, 1839, "John Taylor, commonly called Dr. Taylor, the Scottish delegate, was ... placed at the bar, charged with a riot on the 4th July. He was habited in a pink shirt, green neckerchief and a blue sailor's jacket. His countenance was deadly pale and he appeared anything but pleased with his situation." Mr. Balguy, for the Attorney-General, rose and said, that in the exercise of the discretion vested in him, he should offer no evidence against Dr. Taylor. The Jury then returned a verdict of acquitted. "The prisoner ... looked extremely angry and was discharged."

His arrest, the treatment in jail and the numerous arrests of Chartists throughout the summer of 1839, seem to have thoroughly convinced Taylor that his original attitude was correct, and that the people would have to defend themselves against violent physical attacks by a ruthless government. Even before his arrest, he had been advising Chartists to exercise their constitutional right to possess arms, and to be ready to defend their towns against the lawless tyranny of the Government. "Be ready," he advised the Glasgow Chartists, "Be ready, cautious and determined till the 16th (July), when the day for the Sacred Month will be fixed."

He was infuriated even more, however, by the failure of his fellow members of Convention to give a determined lead to the people after the rejection of the National Petition by the House of Commons on July 12th. To have adopted the Sacred Month proposal, then to have retracted, and finally to have left it for each Chartist district to decide for itself was, he felt, the surrender of their mandate and sheer cowardice.

Thereafter Taylor's words and actions became shrouded with an air of mystery. At Carlisle, on the 24th August, he delivered a most remarkable speech. Before he was discharged from Warwick jail, he claimed, he had been able to have 48 hours communication with Lovett and Collins. They had arranged a plan for working out the great cause. He did not mean to say that this plan was not dangerous—nor that it did not involve both life and property, but the danger would fall on few, and no one was more ready to incur it than he was. The success of the plan was certain, and, in order that he might be prepared for it, he wished to be free and unshackled, and leave the Convention. Seeing how the people had recently been betrayed, and their energies dissipated, he thought it would be better not to continue the struggle in its present form, and would wish to retire from the Convention—but only to take a more dangerous post. Shortly he would come to ask for the confidence of the men of Cumberland. It was his determination to carry out the promise he had made to his Scottish brethren, that he would never return till he could rejoice with them on their freedom gained, or to lead them on in the attempt to win it. The time for talking was nearly over. The time for action was nearly come. The men of Cumberland must be ready when called upon.

(41) "Scottish Patriot." 13/8/1839, 20/7/1839.
(42) "Scottish Patriot." 13/7/1839, 20/7/1839, 27/7/1839.
(43) "Scottish Patriot." 17/8/1839.
(44) "Scottish Patriot." 17/8/1839.
(45) "Leeds Times." 10/8/1839.
(48) "Scottish Patriot." 15/7/1839.
(49) "True Scotsman." 21/8/1839.
Reported originally in the "Carlisle Patriot."
It is not clear how much of his new revolutionary plans existed merely in the fertile imagination of mad Dr. Taylor. Various accounts of the sequel tend to confirm the impression that behind all this melodrama, there was being hatched some plan of insurrection. Revolutionary Committees are believed to have existed in Dewsbury, in Birmingham and in South Wales. The co-ordinating committee consisted of a revolutionary quintet, Dr. Taylor, John Frost, ex-mayor of Newport, Peter Bussey of Yorkshire, Major Beniowski a Polish refugee, and a mysterious fifth man, who was probably Robert Lowery of Newcastle, later organising secretary of the Scottish Chartists.

Meanwhile the Carlisle magistrates had issued a warrant for Taylor's arrest on a charge of sedition, founded on the speech made in the Carlisle theatre on August 24th. Taylor was arrested on 23rd November and was committed to trial at the next assizes. He was admitted to bail—himself for £200 and two sureties of £100 each. Mr. Coulthard and Mr. Hunt stood sureties for him, and Taylor was released amidst tremendous cheering from thousands of Carlisle people who had assembled for his liberation.

If the revolutionary plans did exist, it soon became clear that the leaders were neither able to co-ordinate their efforts nor control their "followers." In several districts the pressure for immediate action was tremendous, and partial outbreaks took place in November, 1839, in Newport, and in January, 1840, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. John Frost and hundreds of Chartists were Taylor then returned to London and joined the Rump of the "People's Parliament." On September 4th he moved that the Convention should immediately dissolve—and at the same time issue a self-denying ordinance to the people, that none of the present Convention should be eligible to sit in any future one. Such a dissolution would help, he believed, to cement the union of Chartists and put an end to the rumour that they were sitting there for their own purposes. His colleagues could not agree.

On September 6th, Taylor joined the ranks of the long list of heretics excommunicated by Feargus O'Connor. The news of Taylor's speech at Carlisle had now filtered through, and it was considered most insolent to the Convention to be denounced as containing traitors, spies and cowards. If anything could tend to destroy the Convention, it was making such charges without bringing forward any facts in substantiation.

Taylor retorted that the people of Durham had been prepared for and would have carried out the Sacred Month had not the Convention nullified itself by altering its resolution at the eleventh hour. The people of Carlisle had passed resolutions condemning the Convention a fortnight before he went there. O'Connor had taunted him with running away to a place of safety. He considered a place of safety to be at the head of a body of well-organised armed men, who were determined to work out their freedom. He would do all in his power to place himself in such a position at the earliest possible moment—and left the Convention with the cryptic farewell, that "they were all very brave until they were tried; but perhaps before they met again events might have proved it for them, who deserved the name and who did not."

(50) "True Scotsman." 21/9/1839.
(51) ibid.
(52) ibid.
(53) "Chartist Movement." Chapter XI. pp. 74-7 et seq.
(54) ibid.
(55) "Northern Star." 3/5/1845.
Complete restoration to health was not, however, in store for John Taylor. On 4th December, 1842, he died in Larne, after a long illness, at the house of his brother-in-law, the Rev. James Smith, Rector of Island Magee. For some time he had been studying theology, and had been enjoying "that tranquility to which he had long been a stranger," devoting himself "to profitable study and reflection. Nothing, says an eye-witness, could exceed the calmness and serenity of his mind in his latter moments, while claiming that forgiveness he freely extended to all mankind."^60

Taylor's old adversary, the "Ayr Advertiser" thought "it would seem singular in us to pass unnoticed" the death of John Taylor, Esq., eldest son of the late John Taylor, Esq., of Black-house, Ayrshire—"the individual, who, under the professional designation of Dr. Taylor, occupied, for many years, a large space in the public eye. Gifted with talents of a very high order, to which study and travel had imparted great polish and versatility, and with an eloquence that made him the idol of the people and the admiration of many an audience, he relinquished his profession for the strife of politics. We think we see him yet on the platform, to Newcastle and he wanted to know if Robert Lowery could be sufficiently trusted to be put in possession of the town and barracks. Then he would hand over Carlisle to James Arthur, who would be able to recommend a man who could be trusted with the possession of Durham Castle. At Edinburgh, he would put John Duncan in command of the town and castle. At Ayr, he had purchased a ship, "The Black Joke," and had selected a crew of men who had been with him in Greece, and who were staunch Republicans. They would put to sea, intercept the ship carrying John Frost and his friends to transportation, and bring her into Ayr.

According to the 1845 version, O'Connor replied "Taylor, I always thought you mad, but I'm sure of it now," and loaned Taylor £10 to take him home. Even if the flagship of the Chartist navy had actually existed, however, it would have been doubtful if Taylor could have embarked on his modest mission—for he was rapidly becoming a physical wreck.

In February, 1840, the "Carlisle Journal" reported, "We have authority for stating that no bill will be preferred against this individual (Dr. Taylor) at the ensuing assizes for this county, for the speech delivered in our theatre on the 24th August last, and for which he was some time ago committed to our jail and afterwards admitted to bail."^57

Taylor's Chartist days were over. Even the authorities no longer seemed to take him seriously. His health was almost ruined and he was making plans to leave the country. At the end of March, 1840, it was reported from Hull that "we are glad to perceive that the health of this stern Republican has much improved by his residence amongst us, and we hope this will be an inducement for him to make it his home for a longer period, when he returns from Germany, to which he proceeds in a few days, and previous to his ultimate settlement among his old Republican companions of France, the climate of which has been declared necessary to his complete restoration to permanent health."^58 (Five month previously Taylor had been adopted by the Hull Chartists as their candidate for the representation of Hull at the next election.)^59

(57) "True Scotsman," 15/2/1840.
(59) "The (Perthshire) Constitutional," 23/10/1839.
(60) "Ayr Advertiser," 8/12/1842.
(61) "Ayr Advertiser," 8/12/1842.
oppressors does not exceed in intensiveness the love and respect we cherish for those who have proved themselves patriots and lovers of their kind."

This declaration formed part of the report of the Commemoration Dinner held in honour of Dr. Taylor—in the Ayr Arms Inn, on the 10th October, 1844 by the Chartists of Ayr, Cumnock and Prestwick. Mr. William Smith was in the chair, and the guest of honour was George Taylor, a "much respected" uncle of the "philanthropic and patriotic Dr. John Taylor," who replied to the toast to his nephew's memory. Two "fine pieces of poetry," composed for the occasion were read by the chairman, and Mr. Millar of Ayr sang "John Taylor, o my Jo."

Gammage describes Taylor as above medium height, proportionately stout, with a handsome intellectual face, large brilliant dark eyes, and a head of black flowing hair, parted in the centre, hanging in long curls below his broad-set shoulders, and wearing sometimes a sailor's dress. He was not a windy orator—twenty to thirty minutes of a clear flowing stream of words sufficed. "If ever orator possessed happiest combination of nature and art in giving utterance to words—that orator was Dr. Taylor."*6

Gammage's inventory of the virtues of Taylor is exceedingly long. Taylor was free from the arts of the demagogue. He "never sought to win popular applause by clap-trap." With him, the glory of the cause was far before any glory with which he sought to invest himself. "Without a doubt, one of the most frank, honest, fearless, single-minded and disinterested democrats of that day was John Taylor."*7

An imposing statue of Dr. Taylor was erected, by Public subscription in Ayr and Kilmarnock, and still stands in the little cemetery, on the north side of Ayr, which is known locally as "Taylor's Cemetery." The inscription commemorates Taylor's "virtues as a man, and his services as a Reformer. Professionally, he was alike the Poor Man's generous friend and physician. Politically he was the eloquent and unflinching advocate of the People's Cause, freely sacrificing health, means, social status and even personal liberty to the advancement of measures, then considered extreme, but now considered to be essential to the well-being of the State."

*6 "Northern Star." 19/10/1844.
*7 Gammage, op. cit. pp. 35-6.
*8 ibid.

On the reverse side of the pedestal, below the names of the Committees of Management in Ayr and Kilmarnock, is inscribed one of Taylor's own religious verses:—

"The dead are here, the blessed faithful dead
Whose earthly graves your bitter tears are steeping
Whose souls by us through the dark valley led,
Their Saviour holds in His eternal keeping.

Too much ye mourn that yonder heavy sod
Doth hide the lovely form from your aching sight.
Too little do ye feel that sown by God,
They yet shall blossom in His bowers of light."

John Taylor, M.D.