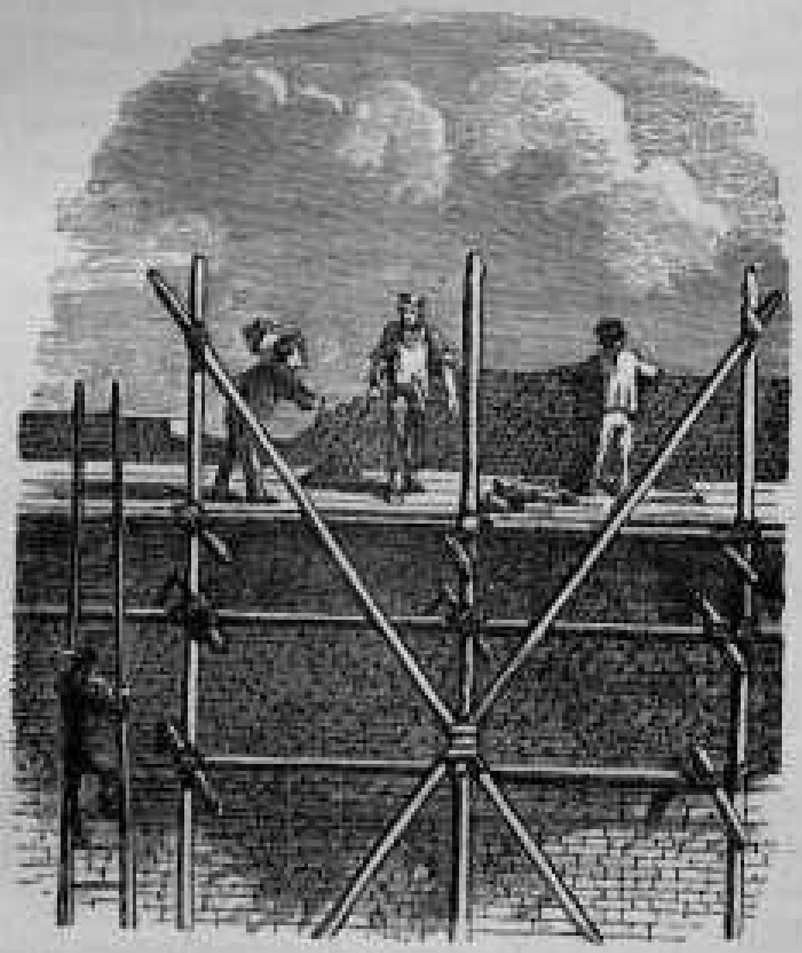
his trade. He then quitted Edinburgh and proceeded to London. "I made my way direct to London," he says, "as the great mart for talent and ingenuity, and I was fortunate in getting employed at the quadrangle of Somerset-place-buildings, where I acquired much practical information, both in the useful and ornamental branches of architecture, and in the course of two years' residence



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in London I had an opportunity of examining the numerous public buildings of the metropolis of Great Britain, and became known to Sir W. Chambers and Mr. Robert Adam, the two most distinguished architects of that day: the former haughty and reserved, the latter affable and communicative; and a similar distinction of character pervaded their works; Sir William's being stiff and formal,

those of Mr. Adam playful and gay. And although from neither did I derive any direct advantage, yet so powerful is manner, that the latter left the most favourable impression, while the interviews with both convinced me that my safest plan was to endeavour to advance, if by slow degrees, yet by independent conduct."

It must not, however, be supposed that Telford came to London totally friendless: he was under the patronage of Sir William Pultney, and the family of Pasley, who were also natives of the parish of Westerkirk. Through the influence of Admiral Pasley, the brother of Mr. Pasley, Telford was indebted for the next step in his professional

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career; that is, the superintendence of the building of a house in Portsmouth Dockyard. "During the three years," he says, "that I attended the building of the commission-house, and of a new chapel for the dockyard, I had an opportunity of observing the various operations necessary in the foundation and construction of graving docks, wharves, walls, and similar works, which afterwards became my chief occupation."

On the completion of the works at Portsmouth, Telford was invited to superintend some alterations in the Castle of Shrewsbury. These were executed in so able a manner that he was appointed Surveyor of Public Works in the county a situation which he retained till his death.

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