

Extract. from the "Contract" Journal of an
English Medical Officer. 1745. Published in 1746.

Dress Edinburgh p. 59.

Our women here wear the Scots Plaid - about their heads & shoulders. --- There are of different colours of worsted & worst --- There are very good cover-clothes & serve to hide the nastiness of their undress.

Houses at Dunkeld "very oddly built, and look most miserable & desolate, they being composed of clods of peat, stones and broom. As to chimneys they are little acquainted with them

In the introduction. - it says that in 1763 it was fashionable for gentlemen to mix in the society & conversation of the women. - In 1783 the drawing rooms were totally deserted, & the only opportunity they had of being in the ladies' co: was when they came for dunnies. ---

He describes the baking of oatcakes - which he says were laid on a gridle supported by 3 legs. --- The "These cakes are made & kept in quantities by the better sort, and for tea are had them warmed by the fire, which is soon done & then buttered - & so are agreeable enough

The Contract

Houses

They generally have two apartments in their houses by means of a slipper partition, one end they live in themselves, having a fire in the middle, & chaffed corn, or hualth is their bed, the other end is for their oxen calves etc - which are exceedingly small. A full grown ox is seldom bigger than one of our calves of a year old. The smell of cattle dung which is in general very thick about their houses & their heat fire, I believe keeps them in health but not free from the itch - which is as common as this scurvy, & their better sort of people are rarely free of this malady

He says the town of Blair consists of a few that-houses - --- & a poor old Kirk, but the houses are all broken down & the doors left open so consequently full of dirt.

He admires the man Almond & the Revolving Boys

Inaerness. "is but a small dirty poor place - He says English as well as "Erse" is spoken by the people as well as the

letter classes.

"They wash (household) seldom but a great deal at a time - & those who are not worn a high head in in the river. - - you will see on a warm morning the river lined with three sorts of women - he said this motion in beating put him in mind of 'my wife's dancing' "

The market is well supplied - with extremely good goats milk, cheeses, & fresh butter of several colors full of hairs, but the salt-butter is brought to market in wooden dishes that hold about 2 lbs. he quite admires the scenery

He says he was in their huts when asked to what they fed their children - "sometimes many in a hut, full of small boxes, they having at the same time been lying & walking about in the wet & dirt - the rain at the same time beating through the thatch - "

Children seem healthy drinking very & butter milk -

"They boil their flesh wrapped up in the paunch of a goat -" while they hunt they