“Before the North Bridge was built, you had a very steep hill to descend and to ascend, which was extremely inconvenient, but the new bridge is a most stupendous work.

As Edinburgh is situated on the borders of the sea, and surrounded by hills of an immense height, currents of air are carried down between them with a rapidity and a violence which nothing can resist. The New Bridge is the chief scene where these winds exert their influence…and you receive it with the same force you would were it conveyed to you through a pair of bellows.

In walking over it this morning I had the pleasure of adjusting a lady’s petticoats which had blown almost entirely over her head, and which prevented her disengaging herself from the situation she was in. But one poor gentleman, who was rather too much engaged with the novelty of the objects before him, unfortunately forgot his own hat and wig, which were listed up by an unpremeditated puff, and carried entirely away.

The New Town itself has been built upon one uniform plan, which is the only means of making a city beautiful. Great parts of this plan as yet remain to be executed, though they proceed as fast as supplies of money will allow, and the individual houses will remain unbuilt until the plots of land are purchased by the would be residents.

The greatest part of the New Town is built after the manner of the English, and the houses are what they call here, ‘houses to themselves’, yet such is the force of prejudice, that there are many people who prefer a little dark confined tenement on a sixth story, to the convenience of a whole house. In no town that I ever saw can such a contrast be found betwixt the modern and ancient architecture, or anything that better merits the observation of a stranger.”