

Another robbery,¹ bearing some resemblances to the one just narrated, occurred seventeen years later. In this case, too, the operators were London burglars, whose *modus operandi* shows a scientific finish contrasting strikingly with the criminal manners of the natives as exemplified by the Dundee Bank robbery already described. Indeed, it must be admitted that in all departments of the light-fingered arts, the Scotch could not hold a candle to their metropolitan *confrères*; and, seemingly, the latter do not appear ever to have considered it worth their while to seek their assistance.

This crime was the robbery of the Greenock Bank on Sunday, 9th March 1828. The office consisted of two apartments on the street floor of the Assembly Rooms, entering by the first door on the right hand of the hall of the building. Further in, on the left, was a newsroom, which, even at that early period of the century, was open on the Sabbath day—a circumstance which facilitated the depredation; for, had the outer door of the building been shut, the scheme would have required even bolder and more precarious efforts than the policy of the “open door” necessitated.

The enterprise was very carefully arranged. Having paid Greenock the compliment of selection for their attentions, the thieves, in the preceding June, deputed one of their number—Henry Sanders, or Saunders (which, it must be confessed, has a somewhat Scottish sound)—to reconnoitre. For the occasion, however, he assumed the name of Eldin, perhaps out of regard for a facetious Edinburgh judge of the time. His practised eye readily saw that the weak points of the Greenock Bank’s position rendered it the most suitable for their attentions. Having satisfied himself as to the object of attack, he departed from the scene, probably to consult with his colleagues; but doubtless also because the early and late sunlight of

¹ See *Historical Sketches of the Town and Harbours of Greenock*, D. Campbell, Greenock, 1879, vol. i.