the form of a solid square block of freestone, was erected over his grave. It was ordered to be defaced in 1662 by command of the Scottish Parliament, but after 1688 it was repaired. Certain bullet marks upon the stone are pointed out as those of the soldiery sent to execute the order. Be this as it may, the original chisel marks on the polished surface of the stone are still perfectly distinct, and the inscribed lettering remains quite sharp. Two hundred years have effected hardly any change upon the stone, save that on the west and north sides, which are those most exposed to wind and rain, the surface is somewhat roughened, and the internal fine parallel jointing begins to show itself.

Three obvious causes of decay in arenaceous rocks may be traced among our monuments. In the first place, the presence of a soluble or easily removable matrix in which the sand-grains are embedded. The most common kinds of matrix are clay, carbonates of lime and iron, and the anhydrous and hydrous peroxides of iron. The presence of the iron reveals itself by its yellow, brown, or red colour. So rapid is disintegration from removal of the matrix that the sharply-incised date of a monument erected in Greyfriars Churchyard to an officer who died only in 1863 is no longer legible. At least $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch of surface has here been removed from a portion of the slab in sixteen years, or at the rate of about three-quarters of an inch in a century.

In the second place, where a sandstone is marked by distinct laminæ of stratification, it is nearly certain to split up along these planes under the action of the weather, if the surface of the bedding-planes is directly exposed. This is well known to builders, who are quite aware of the importance of "laying a stone on its bed." Examples may be observed in our churchyards where sandstones of this