

PR Box 1/K3
Nis Small 9th Sept: 1885.

Dear Sir

Although not coming within the Scope of the Bill in the interests for which you lately visited this Town I think it well to forward you one of the dumpy local papers containing a letter from me.

That such havoc has been wrought within one week of your departure (or who seemed so intimated in the preservation of old Buildings) causes me much sorrow. I myself did not know till yesterday or I certainly should have

tried to have them legally interdicted. Can nothing be done to preserve this building or at least prevent local men in their wisdom jobbing at it?

The Town Council has now been asked for permission altho' I believe the heritors in their simplicity consented "to a heating apparatus being put in" - doubtless without knowing what that meant or having a plan or specification before them

Yours sincerely
W. Currier

7th September 1885.

PA Box 1 / K 3
ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor of the "Orkney Herald."

SIR,—During the past week, in the course of erecting heating apparatus in the Cathedral, the entire floor of the chapel in the north transept has been excavated to a depth of about five feet, and the "bones of the bishop" again resurrected, together with a great quantity of human remains. The excavation at present is more than two feet below the foundation of the church at this point, and may prove dangerous. Apart, however, from the question of safety, there is a question of power and authority for such acts, upon which I should be glad of any information. The Cathedral is doubtless the property of the heritors, and is under the custody of the Town Council as their representatives, and the kirk-session have no power over the structure.

Has the sanction of the Town Council or heritors been obtained for these excavations? Has the opinion of any eminent architect or authority been taken in regard to them? What is to become of the bishop's and other remains? Who is responsible for these things?

There seems to have been no regard paid to taking care of the structure at all. The only machine inside the building is carefully placed on the top of one of the best preserved stones on the floor, with *marked results*, while several of the others are being damaged by the unusual traffic.

I shall be glad to have the matter ventilated in your columns, in the hope of awakening an interest in the preservation of the building and preventing such acts of vandalism in the future.—Yours, &c.,

J. W. CURSITER.