

# THE MAN'S FAX

*a special service brought to you by*



*'The Volunteer's Rest' c. 1860*

## ***The Volunteer Arms***

*now known as*

## **THE CANNY MAN'S MORNINGSIDE, EDINBURGH**

**ESTABLISHED 1871**

*in conjunction with*

JAMES W KERR LTD. Wholesale & Retail Wine and Spirit

**Saturday, 1st May 2004**

## INTRODUCTION.

Hello, I'm Tom, a retired proof reader, and Watson has asked me to tell you a bit about the pub. This is a short assessment of a family business that has stood firm for over 125 years. Over these years, time here has stood still. To such an extent, that events from the past may appear to be happening now!!

The commercial activity you see here is not about money, it is about longevity.

**The Boss** you will recognise as the fat guy, somewhere between 60 and death, holding Cuba in his mouth and drinking wine. Although he is what could be termed as a functional alcoholic he is still very capable of working and running a tight ship.

He says you have to lead from the front, and claims to be twice as quick as anyone else. When he turns round and says to his staff move your a\*\*e, they don't question it... they do it!! He says he has tried kindness and it doesn't work. If anyone answers him back, HE SACKS THEM INSTANTLY!!

He was born and bred to the trade. Apprenticed by his father James in the 50s to Mrs. Scott, Rose Street, Walter Stratford, Gorgie, and later to The O'Hare brothers, Three Tuns. There is apparently no question of him retiring. "*You only retire from a job you can't do, or don't like doing, neither applies to me.*"

## PECKING ORDER.

There is a strict pecking order here. It commences with the Boss giving an order to a manager.

**The Suits.** These are the Managers. Most have worked for The Canny Man for so

long they don't remember if they were hired or took a vow. They were not employed to pretend that nutters, drunks and tigers are invisible. They understand what the Boss wants. It is they who make sure that the atmosphere of the public house is maintained and give all orders. The bottom line here is anyone who doesn't like taking orders f\*cks off quick. They give the staff a hard time, but it's the only way to keep up standards.

**The Blazers.** They are possible Manager material and have been awarded this status on ability. Most have been with the firm for a few years and know how the Managers like things done. They take orders from the Managers and give orders too.

**The Aprons.** These are the nice ladies and gentlemen with black aprons, white shirts and bow ties. They are the ones who take orders, and do the real work. They have been carefully chosen and would have had to work for several months in their shirtsleeves before being offered the job.

**The Shirts.** They are trying to get a position with the firm. I understand that some actually offer cash to become an apron. Strange is it not!



## FINDING YOUR WAY ABOUT.

Almost every area in the Public House has a name. Positions for regular customers are very important, as a rough guide:

As you enter through **The Stage Door** on the left is **The Ben**, or **Boomerang Room**. Next on the left is the **Churchill Room** (closed June to August) During the Summer you pass through this room to **The Courtyard** which leads to the **Hacienda**, or **Stables** on the right (a small summer house.) Come out of the **Churchill Room**, walk on, and you are in the **Four Ale Bar**. At the far left you will see a little area known as the **Residents' Lounge**. Turn left and you enter the **Smoke Room**. The area to your right is referred to as **The Marbles** and the area left after the **Smoke Room Bar** is **The Sharp End**. Passing through **The Sharp End** you come to **The Intimate Table**, this is the table farthest away from both bars.

Now you think you know where everything is, walk round and look at this strange place in a little more detail:

### **The Stage Door.**

This is the only entrance and exit - all who enter must pass through it. The name Stage Door, well I'm not sure, but in the 1920s to 1950s the Inn was used as a base for artists performing in local theatres The Silver Slipper, The King's, etc. Some even lodged above the Inn and if you look around the lobby at eye level you will see sketches by artists, scribbled words by entertainers, some now famous and some not. One thing I do know, none were famous when they drew them. James Kerr, when asked by a reporter in the 70s about some of the now important people who had frequented and stayed above the shop, replied, "*They're only Banditos from the past, none of them were famous to me.*"

On the left wall are two watercolours circa 1870, the last to be painted before the original Inn was demolished to build this fine purpose-built Public House with letting rooms above and a cellar carved out of rock below. You will also see on this wall, a Valuation of the Public House in 1903. The surveyor after due consideration valued the lot at £3,270.

Look above the Grandfather clock facing you, and you will see a collection of over 150 miniature whisky bottles, do you have one they do not have?

### **The Ben.**

(Formerly **No.4 Room**).

This is the oldest room in the house, it was decorated in 1874 by Jouser O' Daley, and the original papering of Horse Harness and The London Illustrated News still adorn the walls. This has been untouched apart from the odd coat of varnish. Old John got value for his money from this wall covering. The room appears to have acquired its present name around 1880.

The Ben translated from the Scottish Doric means more or less the back room. The most prestigious table here is called The Round, this is in the alcove. It is actually an oblong mahogany table, so why it is called The Round I am not sure. No one really knows.

The room was referred to as the Ben in the diaries of 1900 where local worthies sat and discussed the now little-known Ashanter War. There is still a picture of this in the room to this day. Another artist Susan MacColl, captured the Inn as it was in 1989 magnificently in a watercolour, which hangs to the right of the fireplace. The MacColl family, all artists, have played an

important part in the present day Canny Man. Mr. MacCoil was responsible for the re-framing of all the original water colours and prints throughout the house.

During World War Two both windows in the room were blocked in to conform to The Black Out regulations. It was then used by regulars to sit during the long nights of World War Two, and when the sirens sounded some retreated to the cellars, others, including Old John Kerr sat it out with another dram. One of the blocked windows was opened in 1970 - this looks onto the courtyard. The other remains blocked, not a bad thing as it now faces a bookmaker's shop and a rather unpleasant Public Toilet thoughtfully provided by the City Planners after knocking down a perfectly good tenement. In the late 1950's the room appears to have got the nickname of The Boomerang Room, this is a long story involving Bill Goodall, The Salvation Army, and The Canberra Times. The coal fire is lit from October to May, and until quite recently peat and logs were the fuel used. This was stopped abruptly one morning by an Inspector from Environmental Health, who seeing the black smoke pouring from the chimney whilst passing on a bus on way to work jumped off, stormed in to the house and served us with every notice in the book. At a later hearing he likened the room to a Kipper Factory. Needless to say they now only burn smokeless fuel that gives of no smell, no smoke and no bloody heat.

I still like The Ben - even without the smell of peat, it's a nice room. When sitting in this room go to the side of the bar for service and drinks are brought to you.



### **The Churchill Room.**

Formerly No. 3 Room, later to have the nickname The Carter's Bar. In the 1900s Draymen would sit and rest here and have a refreshment after delivery of the barrels and hogsheads (56gls). During World War Two it was to take its present name - The Churchill Room.

Its walls are covered in mostly memorabilia given or left by Servicemen who frequented the room during the 2nd World War. These gentlemen either came from Redford Barracks or were convalescing at The Astley Ainslie Hospital. Some are still regular customers. The room was popular because they could gain entry unseen, often in uniform via the courtyard and if necessary make a quick exit the same way. They rang the bell for service and wrote their round on slips of paper which were later to be called **tabs**. This system is still used. The bell rung, the **tab** collected and taken to the bar, the waiter returning with the drinks or food. At the end of the session the **tabs** were paid or carried over to the next day. It is exactly the same now apart from the fact that I don't think you would be allowed to carry the **tab** over to the following day unless you were very well known by Mr. Kerr.

The practising of Sabrage was also performed in the room or just outside in the Courtyard during and after the 2nd. World War. Wild parties were held by recuperating officers behind the closed curtains. Sabrage was a popular sport with officers. It involved holding a bottle of Champagne in the left hand with cork in and cutting the top off with the sabre held in the right. It obviously became even more dangerous as the party wore on. The sport was banned by Mr. James Kerr in 1948 after an accident. Sabraged bottles of Champagne can still be seen in the room and the sabre that caused the loss of a second lieutenant's thumb still hangs above the fire. It does not seem to have stopped him drinking. I saw The Major in that very room at Christmas 95. Sadly, he has since died aged 92. The room, although to me it appears continually reserved, is used by regulars for meetings, lunch, drinks, cards, or to listen to the major sporting events on the radio. (Just recently replaced by a black and white TV. I didn't know you could still buy one. Things seem to move a bit more slowly here.) As I looked up recently above the collection of old corkscrews, my eye caught a large elk's head with a sign below reading "Shot by HLL 1884 Norway. Presented by LEOPOLD LOVENSKIOLD 1995". I don't know the connection but there will be one. Like everything else here, it will have a history, things don't just appear on these hallowed walls without a reason. The Churchill Room is not open during the summer (June to end August). During this time it forms the only access to...

### **The Courtyard.**

It catches as much sun as is going, and you can enjoy a pleasant drink or lunch, weather permitting. If you look at the Stables, now known as the Hacienda on the exterior walls you will see many tools and equipment from the past, including several dozen "Gin Traps". These were in use until recently, and I am told some are still to dissuade those who think of entering by the wall. You will also note the broken glass topping to the garden wall and the electric 240v security wire above. Can you imagine the horror of the unlucky thief who managed to climb over the glass and 240v electric wire just to drop down into the garden and get a Gin Trap clamped to his foot? The Stables ceased to exist in 1960. Prior to this, James Kerr stabled his horse, Prince, and several Gigs in the building. His son, John Cessford Kerr, was a keen horseman, winning many Pony Club Events, and later became the Master of The Edmonstone Hunt.



### **The Hacienda.**

Formerly the Stables until Mr. John Cessford Kerr left Scotland some years ago for Spain, to follow the bulls. The walls have been covered, over the years, by bits and pieces sent over the years from him. He is now recognised as a leading authority on bullfighting. He

lives in Biniali, Majorca and is a true aficionado of the sport. Several Spanish bullfighters have lunched in this room of past years, worth having a look in summer. Having said this I am anti-blood sport.

### **Gentlemen's Room.**

All I can say here is it is the most interesting loo I have ever had the pleasure to use, the Times front page religiously posted there each day, the wall covered in remarks by previous users. In the WC more graffiti and the luxury of hand towels, fresh flowers and an Eau de Cologne.

### **The Cellar.**

This extends to more or less the whole area of the House, and is possibly the largest public house cellar in Edinburgh. You must remember, this is a purpose-built Public House. It is naturally cool, keeping the beers and lagers at a most agreeable temperature. Tributaries to the Jordan Burn (a now extinct small river) are said to run under it, and in spate through it. The cellar also holds the so-called Spirit Press. This is where Old John blended and bottled The Golden Drop; the only people who have access are the Suits. I have never seen in it. It is here they hold the back-up stock and it is from here that the main buffet of over 250 malts is restocked. They don't run out of much here, but if they do, they automatically guarantee you the next up if there is one. Eg. you're drinking 10-year-old Macallan, you drink them out, you go on to next Macallan, 18-year-old at the same price. Not a bad offer, but few have drank them out of stock. This is not called the Canny Man ('cautious man') for nothing.



### **The Four Ale Bar.**

This is the main Public Bar. The very nerve centre of the business. Every inch of this room is steeped in history from the brass plaques screwed to the original benches, where father and son have sat for a hundred years and everyone of them you know.

Last week I talked to a chap from New York, a taxi driver, who has come here once a year for 20 years just to sit in the booth that his father and his grandfather sat before. The Gantries hold several hundred Malts. On the high centre buffet are the rare bottles of blended and malt whiskies, with prices up to several hundred pounds per bottle. Dozens and dozens of different Vodkas and Gins, all in use and many kept for particular customers. On the right side you will see dozens of bottles, wines and Champagnes in varying sizes from Nebuchadnezzars (20 bottles) to Salamazers (12 bottles) down to bottles. Follow your eye past the mirror and you will end on the notice board, worth a look now and again to see what the recent news is. The walls are covered in old postcards from customers dating back to the turn of the century. The original Inn sign, painted on oak by Sam Bough in 1871 and many small hand painted

watercolours by regulars from the 20's to current times are on the walls. If you look up you will see various musical instruments, this is a separate story and I will cover it later with the Plaza, VE day and the wildest party ever known in the village.

### **You will have noticed The Main Entrance Door.**

It is closed and has been now for as long as I can remember. Why? He says to "keep the Tigers OUT". The streets may now belong to them, this public house belongs to him.

*He serves who he wants.* If you hang around long enough you will see the now famous *CLACK* being used, this piece of technological genius dates back to the 1920s and is still in perfect working order, as far as I am aware it has not dropped a single bottle. To see it in action just ask for a nip of anything on a high shelf. The fan that hangs precariously from the ceiling wafting the cool air is referred to as "*Big Bertha*". It was presented to James Kerr by Bill Goodall, who brought it from the Officers' Club, Ranjanpur.

On the higher parts of the walls you will see various old muskets, swords etc. these are said to have been pledged for drinks, along with a multitude of other items by members of The Volunteer Riflemen at the turn of the century.

### **The Residents' Lounge.**

This little snug bar is strictly reserved for long established regular customers and those that live above the Inn, for some it's the only front room they have.

You cannot sit or stand in this area occupied or not, without the prior permission of the duty manager.

The newspapers and coffee

are kept in this area.

It is not unknown for a few of them to be in here as early as dawn in the summer chatting and having a Cubata (black coffee served with a dash of brandy, and a biscuit on the side). If you want one write '118' on a tab or ask for a Cubata.

The doors may be closed in the mornings, but the known regular merely needs the correct tap and a door will open.

### **The Smokeroom**

As you enter, look up and you will see the original brass illuminated "Smoke Room" sign, the light is still on. As you enter, look at the wall to your right and ahead and you will see the copy of the original Inn sign, commissioned by John Kerr, painted by his friend Sam Bough in 1872. It has hung in the Royal Scottish Academy; it is an oil on canvas; the one in the main bar is on oak panels.

Look up and you will see a lady who left the floor of the Plaza Ballroom amid the VE day celebrations with a Canadian Airman, who joined a giant conga and ended up in the Canny Man. She was still here the following morning. Mr.

Jones, the then proprietor of Jones Motor House and Plaza Ballroom, refused to have her back, saying she left with a Canadian and she can wait at The Canny Man's till he returns for her. She is still waiting. Do you know that Airman? Sadly, the magnificent Jones Motor House was brought to the ground in the 70s and the diabolical concrete block called Safeway was built on the site and packed with the world's most uninteresting food. It was some architect's

dream, and my nightmare. The tables to the right are referred to as the Marbles - these tables have been here since the refurbishment of 1894. My favourite table here in the afternoons is The Barrel Table - from this you get a good view of the action. The Boss usually hangs around here, smoking Cohibas, drinking and shouting orders to his Managers.

### The Smoke Room Bar.

This little bar opens normally only in the evenings. It is fine but not really anything like the Four Ale Bar. In the centre of the buffet you will see an early advert for Lemon Hart Rum, "*Have a Good Rum for your money*" this was presented on the



opening of this bar in 1950.

### The Sharp End.

Every table in this area has a name; only if you are well respected in the house will you be able to sit here for lunch. When trying to book The Sharp End, they always ask you which table - now if you don't know the name of the table you use, you should!! It's the only way into The Sharp End.

### The Intimate Table.

This is located by walking through the Sharp End, it is as already mentioned the most secluded table in the house.

## IT IS NOT TRUE...

The Canny Man is not the

best pub the world; actually I know it's not. The fact that we can sit here and say it is the best and defend it against the rapid progress of Irish Bars and other designer pubs, is only one more reason why I think it is worth keeping until people can understand it.

Most things here tell a story. The walls were not always admired as works of art. Many years have been very lean for the Kerr family with ignorant people trying to make The Canny Man conform and become the same as all others.

Although over the years the bitter criticism of the odd, dusty, dirty pub with the eccentric owners, only serving those who they would welcome in their own home, has changed.

How stupid could they be, surely you welcome all? Why turn business away? Why lock your front door? Surely we're all Jock Tamson's Bairns.

Strangely enough, it appears others are now trying to copy the old shop, at least in so much as most places now have a few old books lying about, possibly to be the same as all the others. But a few old books don't really mean much, unless they bear witness to the past and stand history. The difference is, here they do. The ledgers and diaries in this shop go back to November 1893 and all have been kept.

This is an entry from these diaries:

### Diary Entry 29th July 1989

*"On this Friday evening we suffered the grievous loss of Mr. James Kerr, the proprietor and grandson of the founder of this public house. He will be missed by all, not only by his family, but also his friends among who are numbered all of the staff. "We*

*are comforted by the knowledge that his sons intend to carry on the firm and we the staff shall attempt to keep up the standards he set."*

**F. Parry** - Asst. Manageress (n.b. Miss Parry is now Mrs. Kerr)

## THE VISITORS' BOOK.

Available should you wish to enter your name in it. The book is running from 1960. Mr. Kerr regrets that only between the hours of Noon to Three can this book be made available.

## S MØRREBRØD.

This is the only food served. Introduced many years ago, it has been tailor-made to suit customers' needs, and freshly prepared each day, it is ideal as a drinker's meal. The menu consists of around 90 main dishes, which are prepared to order, with salads or potatoes on the side.

This menu is about fresh food, expertly prepared and served by an all hands-on team, led by Mrs. Kerr. Like many of the things here, it is not based on making profit, it is based on the aim of perfection without being pretentious. Could I recommend my favourite lunch?

**(B)** Bread and olives, served with virgin olive oil.

**(87)** Rare fillet of beef, served with home made bernaise sauce followed by...

**(99)** Stilton and biscuits.

All washed down by a bottle of Rioja. For afters perhaps!

**(118)** Cubata. Black coffee served with a rough Spanish Brandy - you help yourself to this and if you take enough, you'll feel the better for it. Being a respected client, I am now offered The Silver Box - this contains his 'Own Little Ones' (small cigars and Sobranie cigarettes).



## **S**MOKING.

There is a sign here that says in bold letters "THANK YOU FOR SMOKING AND DRINKING" and that is what it is all about in The Canny Man's. This is not a tearoom, and there are NO "No Smoking" areas here. It may be out of fashion elsewhere. Here, they believe a good cigar and a drink taken in moderation calms pain, often people's loneliness and is one of the creature comforts of life. Mr. Kerr is fond of saying, "If smoking cigars is not permitted in heaven, I won't go."

Ask to see the Cigar and Cigarette List. It could educate you; some of the cigars are more expensive than drugs.



## **T**HE HOUSE.

Founded in 1871 by James Kerr. Before opening the Public House he was a drayman for Usher's Brewery. The original name was "The Volunteer's Rest". James died in 1901 and the business was continued by his son John Kerr who altered the name to "The Volunteer Arms". In later years he was to be nicknamed the "Canny Man" which means The Cautious Man and this he was. He was also a man of iron. He died working at the age of 87 years. His son Jimmy took over the business on his death - sadly Jimmy died on the 29th July 1989. As far as I can see, the business now appears to be run by the

whole family, with a couple of "Old Retainers" and Watson the younger of Jimmy's two sons. To fully understand this establishment you have to know and comprehend it. It is like a little cocoon. You are stepping back in time to when people had values. It is true possibly, that the business peaked around 1966 and there are no plans to make any further advances. Nobody as far as I know ever wanted to make any. Here are a few simple things that have not changed in the past 30 years. I've been drinking here over these years and that I think can be of assistance to you by explaining how the firm is run.

**No Cameras.** This means just that. They do not allow photographs to be taken without permission.

**Messages.** These are written on the Bell Board. The board is held high by a member of staff who walks round ringing the bell. Don't laugh it's not stupid!

**Lost Property.** Leave any item, no matter how trivial, and it will be kept and recorded in the lost property book. It is kept for 6 months and then a notice is posted on the Four Ale Notice Board of all items found.

**Television?** - Yes, but only on for major, and I mean major, news or sporting events, so don't ask. Newspapers are available in the Residents' Lounge - they also post the Times front page on the Gentlemen's wall. I am not sure about the Ladies' Bathroom.

**Snacks** are complimentary with all drinks until 7pm each day and even after sometimes.

**The Brass Bell** in the bar you will hear struck when a customer leaves a gratuity as a token of thanks and respect.

**Open every day** of the year, the House does not close. Mr. Kerr values his patrons and access is always here for them!

**Dogs** are much like people. If he doesn't like the dog you nor the dog get in. Keep the dog on the leash or you and it will be asked to leave.

**Kiddie Winkies.** Well, more or less the same as above.

**If barred** for any reason the sentence here is "Sin Die".

However I am pleased to say it is very rare! This House is part of our life. You get used to it, build up friendships, and for some of us it's the only front room we have.

When you've had too much to drink, you're told. He's not being a bore, but being protective and there is no problem, you can come back tomorrow. The first Bloody Mary will be on the house of course and with Mr. Kerr as it's his preferred 11.30am drink.

**On offer** is a service that is good. A well-run shop with respectable people to talk to. Those that you meet here will be those that Mr. Kerr would welcome to his own home and why not? This is his home.

**Mrs. Rachel Kerr** (his late mother) insisted on fresh flowers. Although she died in the 70s, the fresh flowers are still on the bar as if Rae was still with us today.

**Car Park** is at the rear - leave the car if you wish. It is here you will see the Champagne wall which is being built by the dead men. If you wish your bottle added to the wall, please ask any duty manager and the bottle will be kept with your name.

**Reserved** seats and tables, you'll always see a few. These are being kept for regular customers, most of whom frequent the house on a daily basis and without whom the business could not survive.

These people sit or stand in special places. They are very protective about their positions. I don't really know why. It could be a tribal thing. Anyway, please respect the signs; they are there for a reason. The dusty old items that lie around all hold history. None have been bought; all have been given by friends, or in the earlier years of the century pledged for refreshments. No item has ever been sold - so don't even ask! And to those who would consider helping themselves. *"THE LORD HELPS THEM THAT HELP THEMSELVES, BUT HE PROSECUTES"*.

**D**RINKING. Now that is something they really know about here, and how to serve it.

**The Measure.**

For a few hundred years the Imperial Measure of ¼ gill & ½ gill were used to dispense Spirits in this house. In 1995 they were forced to stop this in favour of the bastard EEC measure of 35ml (a wee bit less than the ¼ gill) for spirits and 175ml (a wee bit less than ¼ bottle) for wine by the glass. I preferred it the old way and agree with Mr. Kerr that I have never seen it measured this way in France or Spain. Could it be it only applies to the UK, like the duty?!

**Malt Whiskies.**

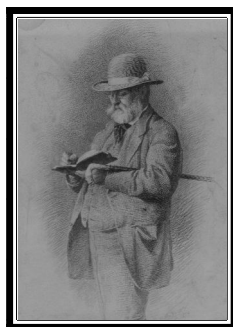
Several hundred stocked (35ml measure) all served with fresh Highland spring water. *Tap water here is used for washing.* Who the hell is going to buy a good malt and pour polluted tap water into it anyway!?!

**Old Stock Malts & Blends.**

These are kept on the highest shelves.

**Blended Whisky.**

Only their own and the best! **"THE GOLDEN DROP"** First blended and bottled here in 1871. Unchanged from father to son. Not normally sold by the bottle now other than by arrangement. The original Volunteer's Rest seal is used to authenticate each bottle. They are also numbered and signed personally by Mr. Kerr.



Sam Bough RSA

*The famous bohemian artist was a regular. He painted the much-admired Inn sign "The Volunteer Rifleman" on an oak panel for James Kerr c. 1860. Commissioned in 1871 by the Royal Scottish Academy to repaint it on canvas, the painting was purchased from the RSA by old John Kerr in 1905 and brought home. Both paintings are still here. Old John is no longer with us.*

**Gin.**

All that needs to be said here is 70° = 40%. Drink watered gin 37.5% only as a last resort. The best buy is London Hill, a full strength 40% London Dry Gin, I know I should not say it, but it beats Gordon's hands down, since they watered it down to 37.5% for the home market only.

**Vodka.**

More or less the same. A couple of dozen. The best - Stolichnaya. The base for a good Bloody Mary and, may I say, like him, my preferred morning drink.

**Wine.**

All the house wines are imported by Mr. Kerr direct from France and Spain and, as far as I am aware, are exclusive to the house.

**Champagne.**

The house Champagne is imported direct from Epernay by Mr. Kerr. All sizes from bottles to Nebuchadnezzars (20 bottles) available. Not only will it be ice cold, served on starched white linen, it will be beautifully served with strawberries. Why not have a glass now!? Champagne is a way of life here and can have a sudden effect on your standing in the house, not to mention your bank balance. Out of loyalty to La Champagne, he does not stock sparkling wine. Please ask for the Champagne List.

**PUBLIC HOUSE.**

That is what this is, and it has survived as such for over one hundred years. Please try to remember it, and the characters you see here are real. It is well loved and well hated. Loved by those that know it and hated by those who do not understand a place that will not change, will not alter, respecting the past and prepared at all cost to preserve the future.

**HOW DO YOU GET HERE?**

Well that's easy - the Canny Man's has been a landmark in Edinburgh for over a century and any fast black (taxi) will bring you here. *"The Canny Man's please"* is all that is required.

**HOW TO WRITE?**

All that is required is:

**The Canny Man's**  
Morningside, Edinburgh,  
Scotland.

*In the event of you not having been thanked for your patronage, please accept my sincere thanks*  
*John W Kerr.*

***your observation of the appropriate standard of dress is appreciated***