

Y.M.C.A. ANNUAL SOCIAL MEETING, THURSDAY

7.30 P.M.

N.I.O.F.
TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY.
LECTURE—
"BEHIND THE SCENES OF POPULAR JOURNALISM."
ILLUSTRATED BY LAMB-LIGHT VIEWS.
Admission 6d and 1s.
Tickets at CORNER & SO'S, 21 Lombard Street.

COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

THE FATAL ACCIDENTS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1855.

INTIMATION IS HEREBY MADE that the Sheriff will hold a PUBLIC INQUIRY within the County of Sutherland, on THURSDAY, the second February next, at 12 o'clock noon, in regard to the DEATH OF WILLIAM MAGNAN, DECEASED, SUTHERLAND, OF THE BURN OF DONALD MACDONALD, "CHARLIE," all Fishermen at Broca.

JOHN LESLIE,
Sheriff-Clerk.

Dornoch, 12th January, 1897.

BURGH OF INVERNESS.

SPECIAL WATER RATES FOR 1897-98.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BURGH OF INVERNESS, acting under the Inverness Water and Gas Act, 1876, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the SPECIAL WATER RATE (except for water supplied for the year ending Whitsunday, 1897, as advertised prior to the term of Whitsunday, 1897.) The Town Council reserve right in every case to supply water for other than Domestic Purposes by Meter only, and at the Rates charged for water supplied by Meter.

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN, that the Rates charged by the Water Commissioners of Inverness for water supplied by Meter for other than Domestic Purposes are as follows, namely—2d per 1000 Gallons for the first 10,000 Gallons; 3d per 1000 Gallons for the second 10,000 Gallons; and 4d per 1000 Gallons for the third 10,000 Gallons in one year.

Copies of the Schedule of the Rates referred to in the first paragraph of this Advertisement may be obtained on application to the Town Clerk's Office.

KENNETH MACDONALD, Town Clerk
Inverness, 18th January, 1897.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF INVERNESS.

PIERS IN HARRIS, N.B.

TENDERS are required for the SUPPLY OF MATERIALS AND ERECTION OF TWO PIERS IN HARRIS (near the Highlands and Islands Act, 1876) at WEST LOTH, Tarbet, and the other at SCALPA' YEAH, Loch Tarbet. Specifications can be seen at the Office of the Engineer, G. WOOLY BERNAN, C.E., Oban, and also at the Office of the undersigned, from the 21st inst. until, who will also receive tenders for the supply of the said materials on or before February 20th.

Schedules of Quantities can be had from the Engineer in payment of a deposit of two guineas, which will be returned to depositors on receipt of a bond *à tunc*.

ANDREW G. SHAW,
County Clerks, Inverness.

TO BUILDERS—TENDERS

Wanted for the construction of a new house at Hill Street, Inverness. Plans and specifications can be seen at the Office of the Architect, W. L. CARBONELL, 41 Academy Street, Inverness, 21st January, 1897.

THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

STROME FERRY AND KYLE EXTENSION.

TO HOUSE BUILDERS

The Directors intend to erect ALL THE WORKS, except Planning and Painting, of the following BUILDINGS—
1. STROME STATION—AGENTS HOUSE; BLOCK OF THREE DWELLINGS for Porters and Surfactmen.
2. AT DUNDEE STATION—BLOCK OF THREE DWELLINGS for Agents and other workmen.
3. AT KILMARNOCK—BLOCK OF TWO DWELLINGS for Surfactmen.
4. AT KYLE TERMINAL STATION—AGENTS HOUSE; BLOCK OF FOUR DWELLINGS for Engineers and other workmen.

All these Buildings are to be of STONE and SLATE; and only Sole Offers for the works in each of them will be considered.

Drawings and Specifications will be seen on and after Monday, the 18th inst., with Mr. PATERSON, Inverness, the Company's Engineer, and Mr. ALAN WATSON, Resident Engineer, Pitlochry, who will furnish intending Officers with Schedules of Measurement.

Tenders, addressed to the SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY, marked on the outside "House on Kyle Line," must be lodged at his office not later than SATURDAY, the 30th current.

WM. GOWENLOCK, Secretary.
Company's Offices, Inverness, January 18th, 1897.

WANTED, by Young Man SITUATION

in Draught or other office. Apply to J. MACLEOD, Post Office.

BLACKSMITH—JOURNEYMAN

Wanted. Good Wages to Suitable Man. Apply to Alex. Macdonald, Castle Street, Inverness.

WANTED, CLERK for a Week to assist

in the office of the Secretary of the Highland News Office. Apply No. 42 Highland News Office.

WANTED, BOY to assist in shop and

deliver papers. Must be over 12 years, smart, and intelligent. Apprenticeship Wages will be given. Apply, Mrs. Macdonald, 15 Grand Street.

WANTED, Strong Intelligent LADS

(Country preferred), for Cabinetmaking and Upholstery Trades. Apply, A. FRASER & CO., Inverness.

PEARL ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Wanted, CANNASSING AGENT for Elgin. Fixed Salary. Apply, P. J. O'BRIEN, District Manager, Braemar Cottage, Inverness.

150 BOY CLERKS for Government

Service. Age 15 to 18. Commencing Salary about £40. Open Competition in Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee, and other ports. For full particulars and forms, apply to the Secretaries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Subscriber is anxious to improve his Collection, and will gladly give good prices for any quantity of either Stamped or Unstamped, and in original envelopes; two or three collections would also be purchased; shall be glad to hear from any one possessing above, but no communication from dealers will be answered. Address: Superintendent, Brush & Co., Ltd., 6 York Place, Edinburgh.

LOST, on TUESDAY LAST, between LOCH- GORM and KESOCK, SILVER Hunting Lever WATCH. Reward. No. 22 Highland News Office.

BOOK LOST—"Tour Through Ireland"

Reward on returning same to FERGUSON.

ANNIE S. SWAN'S Grand New Scottish Serial Novel "THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND," begins in "THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND" on Monday, February 1st, and will appear nowhere else.

CORNET & SON,

STATIONERS,
21 LOMBARD STREET, INVERNESS
(Adjoining Macdonald & Co's)

HARRIS' FAMED WILTSHIRE BACON, Extra Choice Danish Butter, Fresh Country Eggs, twice weekly, at Macdonald & Co's, 2 Southside Road.

JACK'S Seven Blends Highland Whisky,

See Prices on Pages 1 and 2. Long John 10 years
old 5s 6d Jack, Exchange.

FURNITURE FOR SALE.

Including Dining-Room Suites, Drawing and Bedroom
Suites, Side-boards, Cheffoniers, Couch and Easy
Chairs. Parlor Chairs of every pattern.
All kinds of Chests of Drawers, &c.

DEPOSIT INTEREST.

THE UNDERSIGNED BANKS
herewith intimate that, from and after this date, and until further notice, the RATE OF INTEREST to be allowed by them on MONEY LODGED ON DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, at their HEAD OFFICES AND BRANCHES IN SCOTLAND, will be TWO per Cent; no interest to be allowed unless the Money has been lodged not less than Thirty Days.

For THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, JAMES WILKINSON, Treasurer.
For THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, D. R. W. HULL, Cashier.
For THE BRITISH LLOYD COMPANY BANK, H. A. TROTTER, Manager.
For THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, AND AIRMAN, General Manager.
For THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, T. H. SMITH, General Manager.
For THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, ROBERT BLYTH, General Manager.
For THE CLYDESDALE BANK, Limited, DAVID WILSON, General Manager.
For THE TOWN AND COUNTY BANK, Limited, THOMAS COCHRANE, Manager.
For THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK, Limited, GEORGE ANDERSON, Manager.
For THE CALEDONIAN BANKING COMPANY, Limited, E. H. MACMILLAN, Manager.
21st January, 1897.

NORTHERN COUNTIES FAT SHOW CLUB.

BULL SALE.

The TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE will take place in Messrs MACDONALD, FRASER, & CO.'S YARD, INVERNESS.

On FRIDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1897.
Judging at 8.30. Sale at 11 o'clock A.M.

TEBES—CASH

The following Herds will be represented:—

SHORTHORN BULLS.			
BALNAKYLE	3	IBRAHIM	8
CLUNIS	9	DUNGLASS	8
DRUMMIEPAT	7	FINDON	4
GORDON CASTLE	9	HOLME	8
KILLEN	8	LENTREAN	7
ROSEHAUGH	8		
POLLED BULLS.			
BALLINDALLOCH	9	PHONEAS	16
ROSEHAUGH	9	PHOENIX	9
TOBBRECK	6	LEDS under 3.	9

Catalogues from the SECRETARY.

11 Union Street, Inverness. F. URQUHART.

HOUSE-TABLE MAID, Experienced,

Wanted in February. Good Wages. Apply to Mrs. Ross, 23 Francis Street.

FEMALE ASSISTANT TEACHER

(Examined with Certificate) Wanted, end of March, for Back Public School, Leisic, Salary, £40, to assist in the Infant Department, and Music of whole school. Apply with two copies of certificates of Character, and practical skill, to CLERK, School Board of Stornoway.

FOR SALE, by Private Bargain, the MEAL MILL at GARRABUR, near STORNOWAY, with its Machinery and whole other apparatus. There is a commodious dwelling-house and also outbuildings attached to the Mill; there is also a croft, as an adjunct of the Mill, extending to over 14 acres. The machinery is in good working order, and the croft is capable of yielding a substantial return. Offers to be lodged with the Undersigned, within a week from this date, from whom further information may be obtained, and with whom the title can be seen. **C. G. MACRAE, Solicitor.** Stornoway, 23rd January, 1897.

LEWIS DISTRICT COMMITTEE— TENDERS FOR BRIDGES.

OFFERS are Wanted by the LEWIS DISTRICT COMMITTEE or CONSTRUCTING BRIDGES over (1) The Angus River near Colf; (2) The Green River; (3) Re-building a bridge on the burn near the Port of Ness; and (4) on the Shular River. The Bridges to be constructed of Iron.

Specifications of the work can be seen in the hands of the Undersigned, and sealed Tenders, marked "Tender for Bridges," must be lodged with him not later than THURSDAY, 25th current.

The lowest of any offer need not necessarily be accepted.

C. G. MACKENZIE, District Clerk.
Stornoway, 7th January, 1897.

WILLIAM GRANT,

ADVERTISING AGENT,
receives ADVERTISEMENTS for all Newspapers throughout the world at same rates as charged by the newspapers themselves.

NO CHARGE FOR FORWARDING.

Authorised Agent for
"THE HIGHLAND NEWS,"
or which orders for Advertisements or Printing of any kind will be received at

**3 CHURCH STREET,
STORNOWAY.**

BLANKETS.	BLANKETS.
BLANKETS.	BLANKETS.

JOHN FRASER

Would Beg to draw the Attention of his numerous Customers to the Quality, Cheapsness and Durability. No letter can be had in Town.

LADIES' JACKETS

in Great Variety,
CHILDREN'S BLOUSES,
From 1s 11d Upwards.

FLANNELS.	FLANNELLETTES.
LADIES' SKIRTS,	1s Upwards.
LADIES' CORSETS,	1s 6d to 4s 6d
MOB CAPS,	6d to 1s 6d
MUSLIN APRONS,	6d to 1s 6d

INSPECTION CORDIALLY INVITED.

NOTE ADDRESS—
JOHN FRASER,
5-CHURCH STREET—5
INVERNESS.

HAVE YOU SEEN DICK'S

INTIMATION OF
— GREAT SPECIAL SALE —
On Page 3?

WATCHES.—Gent's Silver Levers

from 25 upwards; Gent's Silver Watches, highly recommended for timekeeping, from £12 12s 6d. Warranted five years. Money returned after a Month's Trial if not approved of. This Railway Watch Company, Inverness.

ORANGES, Apples, Muscat Raisins, and Fruits of all kinds, very cheap at MACDONALD & CO'S, 2 Southside Road.

THEATRE ROYAL, INVERNESS.

FOR SIX NIGHTS, COMMENCING MONDAY, 25th January, 1897.

Mr GORDON BLAIR and his Powerful Company in the Grand Pantomime,
"ROBINSON CRUSOE,"
Recast and reworked. Specialties by RAE and WESTON, Trick Cyclists, Aromatic Skirt, and Speciality Dancers. Time and Prices as usual.

TO-DAY'S SHINTY MATCH.

PORT-AUGUSTUS V. INVERNESS
POSTPONED.

PLEASANT SATURDAY EVENINGS.

MUSIC HALL,
TO-NIGHT, 23rd January, at Eight o'clock.
Popular Programme arranged by "Concord Lodge" I.O.G.T.
Songs, Instrumental Music, Dialogues, Recitations, &c.
Bar, G. S. STRAYAN, will preside.
Admission Programme, One Penny. No Collection.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ALEXANDER M'IVER, BUTCHER, QUEEN'S GATE BUILDINGS, 41 ACADEMY STREET, INVERNESS.

BEGS to Intimate that he has Purchased a Large Quantity of Prime SHEEP AND CATTLE, and is prepared to Sell the same at Lowest Possible Cash Prices at above Address. A. M.I. intends to give the benefit of these favourable purchases to the People of Inverness and surrounding districts in preference to sending his Meat to the London Markets and selling it there at a sacrifice, and therefore hopes to be favoured with a fair share of Public Support.

ALEXANDER M'IVER, BUTCHER, QUEEN'S GATE BUILDINGS, 41 ACADEMY STREET, INVERNESS.

JACK'S White Canadian Cheddar Cheese,

very fine, in cuts at 6d per lb. JACK, Exchange.

SUTHERLAND & MACKENZIE, TAILORS & CLOTHIERS, 1 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

BEG respectfully to intimate to their friends and the public generally that they have OPENED THE CORNER SHOP, 1 UNION STREET, INVERNESS, with an entirely fresh STOCK, and are showing the Newest Materials and Colourings in Gentlemen's Utensils; Overcoatings, Suitings, Vestings, Trousers, &c.

INSPECTION INVITED.

DO YOU USE THE PASTURE CREAM BUTTER? If not, why not?

WATCH YOUR EYES.

— THE —
"OPSIUS"
CRYSTAL AND TINTED
PERISCOPE SPECTACLES
AND EYE GLASSES

THESE SPECTACLES and EYE GLASSES are manufactured on scientific principles, ground with the most precise scientific accuracy, and are admirably adapted to the eye.

See each Spectacle is Stamped "OPSIUS."

**W. R. CHRISTIE,
JEWELLER & OPTICIAN,
QUEENSGATE BUILDINGS, INVERNESS.**

GRASP THESE FACTS.

The leading Opticists and gentlemen of the Medical Profession use and recommend for all defects of Vision

HENRY LAURANCE'S IMPROVED SPECTACLES AND EYE-GLASSES.

That they Assist, Strengthen, and Preserve the Sight is guaranteed by the many
Hundreds of Unsolicited Testimonials
received from grateful wearers whose sight has been
restored by their use when all others had failed. A
lengthened list gratis on application to

MAYOR'S DRUG COMPANY, LTD.,
31 HIGH STREET,
INVERNESS.

By whom these Celebrated GLASSES are sold.

**OCULIST'S PRESCRIPTION
A SPECIALITY.**
N.B.—None are genuine unless H.L. stamped

FOOTBALLS, FOOTBALLS, SHINTY CLUBS AND BALLS, BOXING GLOVES, SPORTING REQUISITES.

First-Class Qualities. Moderate Prices.

**D. MACPHERSON'S,
DRUMMOND STREET, INVERNESS.**

MARRIAGE PRESENTS.

Choice Selection of Useful and Inexpensive Articles, suitable for above.

**GILBERT ROSS,
IRONMONGER,
ACADEMY STREET.**

30s SPECIAL OFFER 30s

MEN'S TWEED SUITS,
VICUNA JACKET, VEST, and STRIPE TROUSERS.
LOVAT TWEED SUITS,
CURLSERGE JACKET, VEST, and TWEED TROUSERS.
Good Material. Well Made and finished.
— ALL ONE PRICE. —

KELLY BROTHERS, HATTERS AND OUTFITTERS, ACADEMY BUILDINGS, INVERNESS.

MACKAY'S, CROWN RESTAURANT, EASTGATE, INVERNESS

Spirits of the Finest Quality only supplied.
Country Orders promptly and carefully attended to.

NOTE.—The Goods offered are all our own High-Class Stock, and not Bought for Cheap Sale Purposes.

SPECIAL PUBLIC INTIMATION.

Important Clearing Sale

AT
Batches & Cameron's.
SALE TO-DAY AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

In accordance with our usual custom at this Season we have now commenced an

UNRESERVED CLEARING SALE

of our
ENTIRE STOCK

AT
GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

In all our Departments, to effect a Clearance.
NUMEROUS BARGAIN LOTS
Will be laid out in every Department from time to time.
Early visits will be much esteemed, and will be to mutual advantage.

TERMS—CASH.

9 CASTLE STREET, INVERNESS.

OLD PORT WINES.

FINE ODD TAWNY PORTS,
2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per Bot.
RED WINES (Galician),
1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 9d per Bot.

VERY SPECIAL.
JACK'S HALF-CROWN INVALID, 2s.
JACK'S 2s PORT.
JACK'S BARCELONA PORT, 1s 6d.
Doz. Cases (except the 1s and 1s 3d) Carriage Paid.

Port Wines are often to a large extent adulterated and inferior, and most difficult to judge. It is therefore most important that consumers, especially invalids, should see that they use only a Pure, Sound Article, as Adulterated Wines are very injurious.

We guarantee the above Wines Pure and of Fine Quality, and recommend them as especially suitable for invalids.

**JACK,
EXCHANGE, INVERNESS.**

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN'S FIRST ANNUAL CLEARING SALE.

(Previous to Alteration),
will begin on
MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1897.

The same GENUINE REDUCTIONS which characterised their OPENING SALE, will be everywhere apparent.

The Entire Stock is now being carefully gone over, and all GOODS OF PASSING FASHION will be put aside to be Cleared regardless of cost. Full particulars in Future Advertisements.

NOTE THE OPENING DAY,
MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1897.

**25-29 CHURCH STREET,
INVERNESS.**
12th January, 1897.

JOHN SWAN & SONS, LIMITED, SALES AND MARKET ENGAGEMENTS, NORTHERN CENTRAL MART, PERTH.

SALE OF FAT STOCK...EVERY MONDAY.
STOCK STOCK...FRIDAY.

PETRIE & CO., SALESMEN. AUCTION MARTS, INVERGORDON AND PORTHOSE.

INVERGORDON Every THURSDAY at 1:15 P.M.
PORTHOSE Every SECOND FRIDAY.

DINGWALL AUCTION MARKET.

MACCALLUM BROTHERS,
AUCTIONEERS AND LIVE STOCK SALESMEN.
Special attention given to FURNITURE and
FARM STOCK SALES.
Valuations of all kinds undertaken.
Ample Keep and Accommodation for Stock sitting previous to Day of Sale.

**WEEKLY SALES OF FAT AND STORE CATTLE, SHEEP
AND PIGS, on WEDNESDAYS at Twelve Noon prompt.**

**JACK'S Half-Crown Invalid Port, guaranteed
Pure and Mellowed, strongly recommended as a
Nourishing and Laxative Wine. JACK, Exchange.**

STEAMER NOTICES.

ADDITIONAL STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEITH, ABERDEEN, AND INVERNESS AND MORAY FIFTH PORTS TWICE-A-WEEK SERVICE

The Swift Screw Steamers "EARN-HOLM" will sail as under, weather, &c., permitting—
FROM LEITH TO INVERNESS.
MONDAY, 25th January, at 6 o'clock.
TUESDAY, 26th January, at 10 P.M.
And every Monday and Thursday thereafter
FROM ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS.
TUESDAY, 26th January, at 5 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, 27th January, at 11 P.M.
And every Tuesday and Friday, calling at Cromarty and Invergordon (and at Buckie, Lossiemouth, and Burghead alternately).
FROM INVERNESS TO ABERDEEN AND LEITH (CALLING AT CROMARTY AND INVERGORDON).
MONDAY, 25th January, at 2 P.M.
TUESDAY, 26th January, at 12 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, 27th January, at 2 P.M.
THURSDAY, 28th January, at 11 P.M.
FRIDAY, 29th January, at 9 A.M.

INVERNESS, THE WESTERN ISLES AND GLASGOW Via CALDERONIAN CANAL.

LOCH-NESS SERVICE.

INVERNESS FOR PORT-AUGUSTUS.
"Lochness," Daily (ex. Sun.) at 3 P.M., arriving at Port-Augustus about 6:45 P.M.
"Lochness," Daily (ex. Sun.) at 6 A.M., arriving at Inverness about 9:30 A.M.

CARGO STEAMERS.

INVERNESS TO GLASGOW—"CLAREMONT" or "EVELYN," Monday and Thursday, at 6 A.M., Fort-William and Oban same evening.
GLASGOW TO INVERNESS—Every Monday and Thursday, at 11 A.M. Train to Greenock 3:40 P.M., from Bantry, Wednesday and Saturday 6 A.M., For-Augustus about 11:30 A.M., arriving Inverness same evening.
GLASGOW TO OBAN, TOBERMORY, PORTREE AND STORNOWAY—"CLAREMONT," every Tuesday, at 12 noon. Train 5:21 P.M., calling at Craignure, Lochaline, Salen, Armadale, Iosmorach, Gairloch, Eilimeacra, Rylas, Broadford, and any other place agreed upon.
RETURNING TO STORNOWAY.—From STORNOWAY every Monday Morning; from Portree, Tuesday 3 A.M.; from Oban same evening.

GLASGOW TO ABERDEEN—Every Thursday, calling out in (weather, &c., permitting) To Erig, every Thursday, out and in. To Inver (Loch Nevis) Thursdays, 25th January, and 15th and 29th February, calling out to TORRIG (Loch Duich), every Thursday, calling in To GARROCH, every Thursday, out. To ABERDEEN, and PORTREE, Thursdays, 22nd January, and 11th and 25th February, outward. To TARBET (HARRIS) and LOCHMADDY every Thursday, out. To ULLAPORT, and PORTREE, Thursdays, 4th and 18th February, calling in. To LOCH-TORRIG on Thursday, 23rd January, calling Monday after.

OBAN AND PORT-ULLAM MAIL SERVICE.—From Oban Daily (ex. Sun.), 12:30 P.M.; and from Port-William, 8 A.M.

OBAN AND MULL MAIL SERVICE.—Mail Steamer leaves Tobermory daily, at 8 A.M., and Oban Daily, at 12:30 P.M., proceeds to Salen (except on Tuesday and Friday, returns Wednesday and Saturday mornings).

OBAN (RAILWAY PIER) TO CASTLEBAR, LOCHBOISDALE, LOCHMADDY, AND DUNVEGAN.—Mail Steamer leaves Oban Daily (ex. Sun.) at 6 A.M. (For particulars see Sailing Bills).

OBAN AND BUNESSAN.—Mail Steamer leaves Oban Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9 A.M., for Tobermory, Kilaheon, Coll, Tiree, and Bunessan; leaving Bunessan Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 4 A.M.

OBAN TO SKYE, STORNOWAY, &c.—"CLAREMONT" or "CLAREMANT." Every Friday, about 8 A.M.

PORTREE AND STORMO FERRY.—Mail Steamer leaves Portree daily, at 8 A.M., and Saturday at 6 A.M., calling as above; returning from Dunvegan every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning for Stein, Uig, Lochmaddy Road, Tarbet, and Portree.

STORNOWAY AND STROME.—Mail Steamer leaves Stornoway Daily at 1 A.M. (Sunday excepted); returning from Strome Ferry Daily not before 2 P.M.

For Train connections at Strome see Railway Notices. Time-bills sent free; and for further information apply to the Owner.

DAVID MACBRAYNE,
110 Hope Street, Glasgow.
JOHN MACKENZIE, Agent,
Queen's Gate.

INVERNESS, 22nd January, 1897

PERPETUAL INVESTMENT BUILDING SOCIETY.

16 NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Shares £10, £25, £50, £100 (Sunday excepted); 2s per cent.
Deposits received at One Month's Notice,
Interest 3 per cent.
Advances on freeholds or leaseholds.
W. WALLACE COWDY, Secretary.

ESTABLISHED 1851. BIRKBECK BANK

out Hampton Bldg., London, W.C.

TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. INTEREST
allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand.
TWO PER CENT. ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS,
on the minimum monthly balances, when not
drawn below £10.
Stocks and SHARES purchased and sold.
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.
Small deposits received, and interest allowed
monthly on each completed £1.
THE BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with particu-
lars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND HERITABLE INVESTMENT COMPANY.

Office—No. 39 BRIDGE STREET, INVERNESS.

LOANS GRANTED ON HERITABLE PROPERTY and
FOR BUILDING PURPOSES, repayable by Instalments or
otherwise, as may be arranged.
INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS up to 3 per cent.
A PAYMENT OF ONE SHILLING WEEKLY will entitle
Investors to receive 250 at the expiry of Fourteen and
a Half Years.
THE FUNDS OF THE COMPANY are Invested on First-
Class Heritable Securities.
For further particulars apply to
WILLIAM CORNER, Manager.

THE ECONOMIC BANK, LIMITED.

34 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Accounts opened with any amount.
3 per cent. interest allowed on deposits up to £500
repayable on demand, from date of deposit. 2 per cent.
on minimum quarterly balance of current accounts when
not drawn below £15.

NO LOANS, DISCOUNTS, OR OVERDRAFTS.
NO CHARGE FOR KEEPING ACCOUNTS.

All Funds invested under the Trust Act and in Colonia
Governments Securities.

SAMUEL GURNEY MASSEY, Managing Trustee.

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY.

THE CHARGING CROSS BANK (Established 1870),
2 BEDFORD STREET, CHARGING CROSS, LONDON, W.C.

3 Months	4
6 Months	5
12 Months	6
Capital and Reserve	£200,000 0 0

LOANS of £50 to £2000 granted at a few hours' notice
in town or country, on mortgages of furniture, trade and
farm stock, plants, crops, &c., without removal; also on
deeds, policies, and reversions, stocks, shares, and
merchandise of every description.
Special facilities to all requiring banking accounts.
TWO AND A-HALF PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on
the minimum monthly balances of CURRENT ACCOUNTS
when not drawn below £20.
Deposits of £10 and upwards received on terms as under:
4 per cent. per annum, subject to 3 months' notice
withdrawal.
5 " " " " " " "
6 " " " " " " "
Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid
quarterly. Depositors have no liability whatever, and are
amply secured. Write or call for Prospectus.
A. WILLIAMS, Manager.

When writing to advertisers, please mention
"THE HIGHLAND NEWS."

THE Dairy Date is on each Cask containing
the PASTURE CREAM BUTTER.

JACK'S Famous Teas. Use our 2s Blend.
Other Prices 1s to 2s 6d per lb. JACK, Exchange.

BARCELONA PORT 1s 6d per Bottle.
Jack's 2s Tawny Port, both splendid value. JACK
Exchange.

ART IN THE HOME

SPECIAL VALUE

High-Class
AND
Inexpensive
Furnishings.

Messrs A. FRASER & Co.,
HOUSE FURNISHERS,
INVERNESS.

Are now offering Exceptional Value in
HOUSE FURNITURE.

The Stock is one of the Largest in the Country, and is both Select and Hand-Made on the Premises.

DINING-ROOM and PARLOUR SUITES, from 4s 10s to £40.

DRAWING-ROOM SUITES IN TAPESTRIES or VELVETS, from 25 10s to £25.

BEDROOM SUITES, including CHEST of DRAWERS from 41 10s up to £100.

SINGLE PARLOUR CHAIRS, covered in LEATHER, VELVET, or HAIR SEATING, from 6s 6d upwards.

Double-Width SERGES, from 11d per yard upwards.

Double-Width TAPESTRIES, several thousands yards in stock to select from, 1s 10d per yard upwards.

CRETONNES, Past Colours (Upholsterer's Patterns), from 3d upwards.

A Large Selection of REM

SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS.

GOLSPIE—THE WEATHER. The snow-drops, ever-welcome harbingers of spring, are already shaking their snowy bells in sheltered corners here.

ROGART—ENTERTAINMENT.—Mr Murray, Garvauld, entertained a large number of friends and neighbours to a grand supper and dance on the other evening.

DURNESS—SUCCESS OF A STUDENT.—Mr John G. Nicolson, M.A., Durness, Sutherland, has won the Bursary prize of £20 for Hebrew and Hibernian Greek.

LAIRD NOTES.—The annual social gathering of the Laird Branch of the Sutherlandshire Association comes off on Friday 12th February.

GOLSPIE—FREE CHURCH GUILD.—The Rev. John Mackenzie on Sabbath last announced his intention of establishing a Guild in connection with the Free Church, of which he is pastor.

SALE OF THE REAY COUNTRY.—The large tract of country, now offered for sale by the Duke of Sutherland in detached portions, once formed the patrimony of the Lords of Reay.

LOTH — PRESENTATION TO MR FORBES, POSTMAN.—A very pleasant ceremony took place in the Old Free Church schoolhouse, Portgower, the other night.

GOLSPIE—THE LATE MR JOHN STEWART.—Mr John Stewart, son of Mr Wm. Stewart, Railway Terrace, passed away on Wednesday at the early age of 26 years.

REAY COUNTRY NOTES.—The inhabitants of Eddrachillis and Durness are at present exercised over the prospects of a light railway to Laxford.

TOWN COUNCIL.—The monthly meeting of the Town Council was held on Monday. Bailie Macrae was appointed senior Bailie in room of the late Bailie Lemon.

INSURE COMPOUND.—A delectable anodyne expectorant for Coughs, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, etc. It is a new and valuable remedy for Coughs, etc.

TAIN NEWS.

Last Saturday, in the first round for the Sunlight Cup, the Victoria defeated the Thistle by 8 goals to 1.

To the St Duthus Lodge of Good Templars on Tuesday evening Mr J. Dunbar, of the Scottish Temperance League, delivered a stirring and highly-appreciated address.

At a meeting of the Academy Governors of Tain Royal Academy held on Monday, the Rev. Thomas Grant was unanimously elected chairman for another year.

A public meeting of the inhabitants to consider as to the best means of making Tain attractive to tourists has been convened by the Provost for Tuesday evening.

At a special meeting of the Town Council on Monday last, it was agreed to expend the sum of £300 on the Highmills of Tain.

Mr Alexander Brownie, M.A. (Hon.), Aberdeen, Intermed. B.Sc., London, at present Mathematical and Science Master in Ward Academy, Inverthorpe, has been appointed to a similar position in Tain Academy.

At a meeting of the Tain Lodge of Freemasons on Monday evening last week, Mr Dallas, solicitor, Right Worthy Master, intimated that he wished to present the Lodge with a piano in commemoration of his having been appointed Right Worthy Master.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR DAVID ROSE.—On Sunday Mr David Rose, son of the late Mr Rose, shipowner, suddenly expired at his residence in Morangie Road.

MR FRATER, BLOCCIONIST.—On Wednesday evening, in the Masonic Hall, Mr James Frater, Edinburgh, gave a dramatic recital under the auspices of the Tain Literary Society.

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BLACK ISLE NEWS.

AVOCH—TEACHER'S SUCCESS.—We are pleased to note that Miss Alice Mackinnell, who has for some time acted as pupil teacher in the Public School, has passed with distinguished success the examination qualifying her as an assistant teacher.

About eighty couples were present at the annual Volunteer ball held on Friday night in the Drill Hall, Fortrose. The place was prettily decorated, and the concert trophies disposed to brilliant advantage.

PORTROSE—WINNER OF THE "QUAICH".—This valued trophy of the honorary members of B Company, 1st V.B.S.H., was won this season by Mr J. Thomson, farmer, Castleton. The presentation was made in the Drill Hall, Fortrose, on Friday night by Miss D. Macintyre, daughter of General D. Macintyre, Mackenzie Lodge, Speerhead, on the occasion were made by Major Jack and Mrs. Spence Ross. The last winner was Captain D. Macintyre, at present commanding the 6th Gordonhairs in India.

At a meeting held on Wednesday night, the Fortrose Water Committee, subject to the approval of Town Council, accepted the offer of Mr Neil Wilson, plumber, for conveyance of water to the Poorhouse and Ness. The water is to be conveyed by what is generally regarded as a curious route, and it is stated that an influential petition against it is being signed for presentation at next Town Council meeting. Meantime the ratepayers are watching for developments.

AVOCH—CURLING.—The Rosehaugh challenge silver teapot, which has now been played for during eight successive years, was won last week by the Union Bank of London, who were defeated by the Rosehaugh club. The next best score was made by Mr W. Judie, 17; Mr J. Mackenzie, 17; Mr D. Mackenzie, 16; and Mr W. Moir, 15. Last week's curling at Rosehaugh included a match between the estate team, skipped by Mr T. Henderson, and the team of the Rosehaugh club, skipped by Mr Robertson. The former won by 27 to 11. Electric light matches have made a brilliant feature in the programme of the past week's sport.

PORTROSE—HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of the Black Isle Horticultural Society Committee held on Wednesday night, the schedule for the ensuing year was revised, and the committee reports received. It was proposed that the exhibition should be held on the 22nd of August, and that the day of next annual exhibition, and that in the event of the cattle show being restored to its early home, viz. the royal burgh, the flower show should be held on the 22nd of August. The Rev. Spence Ross, convener, the chair was taken by Mr Lumsden, governor of the Black Isle Combination Poorhouse, whose finished report, as one of the district collectors, was received. The other reports with any feasible suggestions as to additional attractions were requested for next meeting.

PORTROSE—M.A.—"The Transval and the Boers" was the title of a brilliantly-written and highly interesting paper given by Mr J. Finnie at the meeting of the Mutual Improvement Association on Tuesday night. Mr Finnie, who, during his twelve years in Africa, has enacted the rôle of hunter, explorer, and prospector, is the eldest son of the late Mr James Finnie, Town Clerk of the Royal Burgh. Naturally Mr Finnie's relationship to the town would have won him a ready hearing, but to this was added, in the paper in question, so graceful a literary style and so grand a wealth of information as to quite transcend the ordinary. The audience was quite captivated. The paper was read by the President (Mr J. Maclean), and Messrs Henderson, Cunningham, and Geddes all testified to the intense interest with which Mr Finnie's experiences had been followed.

FORT-WILLIAM NEWS.

A meeting of the Kilmallie Parish Council was held on Friday last—Lochiel presiding—consider the proper housing of the poor. After some discussion the meeting was adjourned for further inquiry and information.

FREE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The annual soiree in connection with this school was held in the church hall on Friday last. The Rev. John Mackintosh, the minister of the congregation, presided. There was a crowded attendance. After tea had been served the Chairman congratulated the school on the success of the year. The school was well represented by the choir, the organ, and the choir, consisting of handsome Bibles, given by Mrs Cameron Campbell of Monzie for proficiency in Scripture knowledge, and by Mr James Miller for proficiency in the Shorter Catechism, were presented by Mr Chapman to the successful competitors—Jessie Fraser, 1 High Street, and Bella Macmillan, Fraser Square. Mr McLeish, the superintendent of the school, submitted the report, which showed that the amount collected by the scholars was £13 2s. Messrs J. Mackenzie, Mr J. Maclean, Mr Dalchreggan, and Donald Cameron, Haxroft, addressed the children. During the evening a number of hymns were sung, under the leadership of Mr Donald Macmillan, Miss Dalchreggan presiding at the harmonium. A duet was sung by Mrs Mackenzie and Miss Dalchreggan. Solos by Misses Pringle and Cameron were also well rendered. At the close oranges were supplied to the children as they retired, the Chairman remarking that, however other people might view the orange, they ought not to be ashamed of it—"We all like oranges; we like its look and we like its taste." The hall was very tastefully decorated by Miss Macphoe and Mr Donald Macmillan.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.—This building, which has been erected in High Street by the Trustees of the late Mr A. B. Affleck, sometime druggist in Fort-William, was opened on Wednesday by Mr James Macgregor, in presence of a few specially invited guests. Lighted throughout with electric light supplied by the Fort-William Company, the building reflects great credit on Messrs L. & J. Falconer, architects, Fort-William and Blairgowrie. The contractor was Mr Messrs Messrs Messrs Uist; Lawson & Co., joiners, Glasgow; McLeish, plumber, Perth; Ross & Peat, plasterers, Oban; and A. L. Gray, painter, Fort-William and Oban. The sorting-room fittings were supplied by Mr Macpherson, Stirling. Mr Macintyre, postmaster, referred to the difficulties under which the officials laboured in the old office for a number of years back, but that they had now got an office in which their work could be carried on with satisfaction to the public and the comfort of the officials. Provost Macfarlane said that they had now an office worthy of the great improvements going on in the burgh, and expressed a hope that they might soon be crowned with an acceleration of mails and home letters received, and despatched twice a day. In the sixteenth century the town was made a Royal burgh by a Scottish Act of Parliament, under the name of Inverburgh. Subsequently it was known as Maryburgh, Gordonburgh, and Duncairnburgh, but now as Fort-William. Why Fort-William, he knew not. He thought that they who lived in the near neighbourhood of Glencoe had no reason to rejoice in the name of William of Orange. Orange stank in his nostrils. Lochiel said it gave him pleasure to declare the new office of the officials. Provost Macfarlane said that they had now an office worthy of the great improvements going on in the burgh, and expressed a hope that they might soon be crowned with an acceleration of mails and home letters received, and despatched twice a day. 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JACK'S 10-YEAR-OLD "LONG JOHN," 3s 6d per Bot., 1s per Gal.

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All Matured Whiskies; and, on comparison, will be found vastly superior to anything offered elsewhere.

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RAILWAY NOTICES.

THE Public are respectfully informed that during JANUARY and FEBRUARY, 1897, and until further notice, the Trains will arrive and depart at the following hours, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit, viz:—

In the undernoted times "a" after a figure stands for a.m., and "p" denotes p.m.

UP TRAINS—FROM THE NORTH.

Table with columns: STATIONS, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

For times of Sunday Mail Trains see Time Tables.

The following Trains will run in addition to the above:

6.40 A.M. Passenger, Struan to Perth; 4.0 and 4.15 P.M., Inverness to Forres; 8.0 A.M. Mixed, Struan to Blair-Atholl.

a Will stop to set down Passengers from North of Blair-Atholl, on notice being given to Guard at Blair-Atholl, as Glasgow Central.

c Arrives at Glasgow Central.

d Does not run on Saturdays. Pullman Sleeping Cars.

e Will stop to set down Passengers holding Tickets from North of Dingwall and from Strathpeffer on their Informing Guard at Muir of Ord.

f G.N.S. Company's Train awaits 15 minutes for Passengers to Guard at Forres.

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DOWN TRAINS—FROM THE SOUTH.

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b Passengers from Perth and Stations south thereof booked to Strathpeffer, Dalwhinnie, and Newtonmore by this train are allowed to go on to Kingussie, and return thereon to the Station for which they are booked by the 6.0 A.M. Up Train in Inverness without extra charge.

d Via Forth Bridge. Fridays only.

m Mondays excepted. Pullman Cars run by this Train.

o Stops to pick up Passengers for North of Blair-Atholl.

p Will stop daily by signal to pick up Passengers of the Black Isle Section for Stopping Stations North of Dingwall or Strathpeffer.

q Saturday and Sunday Nights Excepted.

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about the sheep that such an affection of mystery and privacy should be kept up? Let all this mumbo-jumbo be swept away, and let the public know whether sheep-stealing in Inverness and surrounding country is on the increase or not. But let no suspicion be cast upon any part of the country by such a suggestion without the public being able to test the value of the evidence. Or is it an attempt to get shepherds or watchers for the property of sheep-owners at the expense of the public?

HAMISH MACCUNN AND GAELIC MUSIC.

[By FIONN.] We are inclined to think that some of the statements made by Mr Hamish MacCunn regarding Scottish and Gaelic music, in his lecture the other evening, require to be accepted with certain reservations. We have read several reports of his lecture, and as far as we can gather, he wished to give Gaelic music a lift, as might be expected from anyone bearing such a Christian name. In doing so he stated that Burns adapted Highland airs which were originally wedded to Gaelic words descriptive of scenery—pastoral songs, in fact—to songs descriptive of persons—love songs, I presume—and in so doing sacrificed the airs at the expense of the words. Now, we have a fair knowledge of Gaelic poetry written by Burns' contemporary bards—and before then, and we also have given some study to Gaelic airs, but we have failed to find but very few of those "pastoral songs" referred to by Mr MacCunn, and when we come across them we are astonished to observe them set to Lowland airs. (Take, for instance, Alexander Macdonald (known as Mac Mhaighstear Alasdair), who was a contemporary of Burns, having been born early in the eighteenth century, and lived till towards the end of it. The first edition of his poems was edited by himself and published in 1751—eight years before Burns was born.) The Gaelic words are descriptive of summer and winter, the former marked to be sung to the tune "Through the wood, laddie," and the latter to the tune "Tweedside." One of his best efforts in the direction of pastoral poetry is "All an t-àitichean," which is set to the tune "The Lassie of Patie's Mill." The majority of the other songs or poems in the work are set to airs bearing such Lowland names as "Black Jock," "The becket you want," "Let's be jocular," "Gaid nicht an 'joy be wi' ye," "Another copy of Gaelic," "The Gaelic Air," "Ban Mac Intyre, 1724-1812." His leading pastoral—"Moladh Beinn-dorain"—is set to a pipe tune, while "Cunha Chreathach" is set to the "Flowers of Edinburgh." The majority of his songs are personal ones, or other than pastoral. Without going into details regarding all the leading Gaelic contemporary bards we may safely affirm that their pastoral songs are few indeed as compared with their personal ones. With such a scanty supply of pastoral poetry the airs inspired by Gaelic scenery, in contact with nature—must have been equally limited.

Let us apply another test. We have beside us as we write probably the first collection of Gaelic contemporary songs, edited by Rev. Patrick Macdonald, Kilmore, near Oban, and published in 1784. This musical pastor was born in 1729, and died 1824, so that he lived before and after the Ayrshire poet. The work contains 186 vocal airs, 86 of which are Gaelic. The Gaelic airs are from Perthshire, 41 from Argyllshire, and 31 from the Western Isles. The work also contains 32 Highland reels and 4 pieces of pipe music. Unfortunately, the words associated with these airs are not given at length, but the Gaelic titles of the various airs, with the title of the song—are given, and judging from these we can only detect in this large collection some ten or twelve airs that were wedded to pastoral poetry. On the other hand, we have beside us a careful analysis by Mr M. Macfarlane of the various airs to which Burns wrote or adapted verses, and we find that a very large percentage of these have been wedded to Gaelic love or personal songs, and only an infinitesimal small proportion associated with pastoral poetry. With such a scanty supply of pastoral poetry the airs inspired by Gaelic scenery, in contact with nature—must have been equally limited.

SHIELDLAG—LITERARY SOCIETY.

On Thursday last, under the auspices of the Shieldlag Literary Society, Mr Mackenzie, supervisor of Inland Revenue, Gairloch, gave a lecture on the "Benefits of life and old age assurances." (Mr D. Murphy presided. The lecturer, after complimenting the Society on the good work they were doing, said that he felt all the greater freedom in respect to his subject, as he had been invited to do so because he did not come there to advocate the claims of any particular office or offices, but to state broadly the principles on which life assurance was founded and the great benefits to be derived from the practice of it.) The lecturer, Miss Falconer, Glen Affric Hotel, accompanied by Mrs Smart on the harmonium. Amongst the vocalists were Messrs Ewen Fraser, M. E. Mackenzie, D. Forbes, and Miss Timmie Fraser and Miss Flora Macleod. Miss Falconer, Glen Affric Hotel, gracefully presented the prizes in the following order:—1. Mary Ann Macleod, Invercannich; 2. John Mackenzie, Cannich Mills; 3. Elsie Falconer, Glen Affric Hotel; 4. Peter, Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 5. Peter, Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 6. William Macdonald, do; 7. Bella Mackenzie, Cannich Mills; 8. Mary Oighir Mackenzie, do; 9. Maggie Fraser, Kerrow House; 10. Jessie Mackenzie, Cannich Mills; 11. Alexander Hardie, The Hotel; 12. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 13. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 14. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 15. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 16. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 17. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 18. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 19. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 20. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 21. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 22. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 23. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 24. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 25. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 26. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 27. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 28. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 29. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 30. Ewen Fraser, Glen Affric Hotel; 31. 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HECTOR MACRAE:

A STORY OF THE WEST.

By Hannah B. Mackenzie, Author of "The Factor's Daughter," &c.

CHAPTER III.—(Continued).

Hector snatched slowly lowering. It was a glorious morning, the loch lying calm and glittering beneath the rays of a warm August sun, the spurs of the hills on the opposite side stretching upwards into the blue heavens and downwards into the blue waters, so that there seemed to be a double line of green sloping mountains—a delicious dreamy warmth and silence lapping all around. On the shore the brown nets flapped lazily against the supporting poles, above the white road wound round by the side of the shore with its line of loch-turched houses, from which the blue smoke curled upwards. The village looked less deserted than it had done for the past fortnight. The fishermen felt they would be justified in having a time of idleness after their past labours. They gathered in groups on the "dyke," or sea wall, where they smoked the pipe of peace and loch content, and discussed the past fishing, or stood about on the shore examining their nets and boats with the satisfied eye of lentils on their heads, or strolled up and down, hands in pockets, and eyes absently fixed on the blue waters of the loch. The women were mostly indoors setting their houses to rights and preparing the dinner of fresh herring and new potatoes. In the afternoon they would swing their creels round their shoulders and, stocking in hand, set off on their laborious journey up through the steep "crofts" to the peat-moss, whence they were to fetch sufficient fuel for the next day's consumption.

Hector joined a group seated on the dyke, among which he discerned Donald's Auburn head. "Well, lads, it's a fine morning, is it not? You're taking your ease after your labours, I see. I'm thinking of taking the boat out for a day's fishing; it's plenty codling and whitties there are in the loch just now. Will you come with me, Donald?"

"To his surprise, Donald, who was standing by the wall, turned on his heel, and with a word, but with a sulky look on his face, walked away. "Now, what's the matter with the 'gille ruidh'?" (red lad), exclaimed one of the men. "It's him that's mad over something, it is it yourself that he's angry at, 'Echain' (Hector)."

"If it is, I don't know what cause he's got," Hector replied, a slight tone of annoyance in his voice. "I've only seen him once since he came back, and that was last night. He paused, trying to recall any cause of offence he might have given, but could remember nothing. "It's yourself and him were always the good friends, were you not, 'Echain'?" pursued the other. "But maybe he's jealous of you now you're getting on so well; it's not unlike—oh, lads!—and the speaker laughed. Hector turned away, feeling vaguely annoyed and uneasy. Donald and he had been staunch friends and sworn allies all their lives, from school days, when they had never been a shadow between them until now. He could see no cause for the shadow himself; it must be all on Donald's side. For a moment he felt inclined to pass on and let the other sulk if he pleased; then his better nature conquered, and turning back he laid his hand on the shoulder of Donald, who had walked away a little distance from the others, and was now standing, hands thrust in his pockets, staring moodily at the loch.

"What's wrong, Donald, 'ad'?" he asked in Gaelic. "You're angry with me, but why? I have not done you any harm that I know of; but, if you know of any, tell me, that I may try to amend it." Donald moved his shoulders, but he remained stony silent. "I'm not going to let you turn against me like that for no reason," Hector went on. "Tell me, 'Challach,' if it's anything I can make amends to you for. I'll do it, if you may depend on that."

Donald hesitated a moment, he felt half-tempted to make a clean breast of his miserable jealousy and unhappiness; then the morose, morbid spirit of the Gael, preferring to eat its own bitterness in silence, rather than confess rather than frankly own all, came upon him, and he drew away, roughly shaking off Hector's hand.

"If you do not see the reason yourself, go and find it out, and don't trouble me with your company," he exclaimed with sudden fierceness, again moving away. Hector said that further pressure would be useless, and, with a shrug of his own shoulders, half-angry, half-contemptuous, he gave up the attempt.

"Donald does not come with me, I'll go myself. I can get little Sandy Morrison to take me over, and I'll have a good day's fishing out by Loch Kiscock, if we can manage to pull round," he said to himself as he turned away.

He was hardly conscious of any other reason in his own mind than that Loch Kiscock was noted for its plentiful hauls of white fish when he decided to go there. If there were any other lingering in some back corner of his mind he did not acknowledge it in any way. So it is to be presumed, no greater surprise had ever come upon Hector Macrae than the events which were to follow his resolve that day.

CHAPTER IV.

THE GHOST OF KISSOCK.

It was a long pull and a strong pull from the centre of Loch Torran round the rocky headland of Stray Point into Loch Kiscock. Both were "lochs" in the Scottish sense of the word—that is, that they were not inland lakes, but mere arms of the sea, the mooring in between the land from the Atlantic Ocean without. Loch Kiscock was not a mountain-loch, but a large loch, situated on a mountain-sloped fifth like its larger neighbour, but a smooth, well-rounded bay, running in from the sea to a flat, well-cultivated arable country, whose fields of Seamore and Cleary sloped down to the water's edge. There was a prettier beach here than at Torran, and the coast was much less wild and rocky.

It was afternoon ere Hector and his youthful companion, with the aid of a sail, and with a strong breeze in their favor, found themselves in Loch Kiscock. Once well within the bay, Hector brought down the sail, drew in his oars, and prepared for an hour or two of fishing. It was a sultry afternoon, and the breeze which drove him along had almost died down; there was scarcely a ripple on the waters. The boat bobbed gently up and down, the water breaking on its keel with a musical splash. Fishing with a line is rather sleepy work, and the combined influence of the sea and the motion of the boat, and the afternoon silence and languor, made Hector drowsy. His head drooped, even as he held the line in his hand, and vague dreams began to float before his eyes. They were of the kind which one can never afterwards distinctly remember, but which, nevertheless, cause a strange hazy impression of pleasure in the mind. Pale, fair faces, misty and indefinite, but always surrounded with a halo of golden hair, seemed blended into a landscape of running waters, green fields, and dark rocks; but they were the prominent part of the picture, and floated about—without seeming connection, relevance, or support—everywhere.

Suddenly a sound broke in upon his dreams, startling him out of them to a sense of the present. It was a laugh—low, soft, and clear—almost beside him. With a great start Hector roused himself, sat erect, tugging at the line in his hand, and looked around him. There, within two yards of him, was another boat, also motionless, with oars drawn well in across it, and seated in it was one person—the original and reality of Hector's past dreams.

Hector pulled off his cap with a curious feeling of mingled awe and admiration. The person he saw was a young man, of a gown of navy blue, and a little sailor hat at the back of her head showed the curly golden hair beneath. Her hands were bare, and they gleamed white in the sunshine as they rested on the oars before her. "Good morning, Mr. Macrae," she called, and her voice sounded clear as a bell, with its Southern accent, so unfamiliar to Hector's ears, as it floated across the water. "Is that the way you usually fish, with your eyes shut? I should like to learn how you do it. But will you please row over close to me? I wish to speak to you."

Hector mechanically drew in his line, and pushed his oars out in their rowlocks. He felt half-dazed and hardly knew what he was doing. How had the girl come there? Was she a witch or a fairy? And what could she possibly want with him? She, the lady of Kiscock, of noble birth and titled name, for all he knew! But he could do nothing else than obey her, he had, indeed, no choice. Her imperative words left him none. He rowed to the side of her boat—a pretty little white cockleshell of a thing, striped with blue—in two long strokes, disclaiming the assistance of Sandy Morrison, the little yellow-haired youth who accompanied him, and who looked with open eyes and mouth at the strange being who addressed them.

"You didn't see me come round the point ten minutes ago, Mr. Macrae, though I saw you," said the girl demurely. "You were fast asleep to see anyone? Are Highlanders all as sleepy-headed as you? And do they usually fish in their sleep? Well, you don't need to trouble telling me after all, for I haven't very much time to spare, and I wish to talk to you of other matters. Mr. Clisholm has gone over to Redcross to-day, so I took the opportunity of getting Campbell, the gamekeeper, to give me his boat; for Mr. Clisholm has a deep-rooted aversion to seeing me in a boat alone. I believe he has an idea that I wish to cut short his earthly career with unseemly haste, and so takes this manner of doing so as the most sensational and romantic, not to speak of its being the pleasantest. But I have no intention of the kind; I have a sneaking fondness for life, notwithstanding all that people can say against it, which prevents me even contemplating such a thing."

"Isn't this a pretty little boat?" Campbell calls her the White Witch, which I think so appropriate, because my friends used to flatter me by calling me that—my friends in Australia I mean, not here."

Hector had not got the opportunity of interposing a remark during all this desultory speech, and he felt rather embarrassed, because the speaker, leaning a little forward on her oars, never once lifted her eyes from his face while she spoke. The look almost magnetised Hector. He found himself vaguely wondering what colour the eyes were, for even as she spoke it seemed to change several times from blue to grey, and from that to a strange hue between green and brown.

"Isn't it strange to have seen you again to-day?" she went on. "I wanted so much to see someone whom I could tell my strange story to, and I don't wish to tell any of the servants, not even Campbell—it might frighten them into leaving Kiscock, and that would hardly suit Mr. Clisholm, you see."

"By-the-by, did you know we were here?" she asked, and her eyes were fixed on Hector. "No, I did not know Mr. Clisholm was here, but I was myself—last night, you might not, I suppose—it is quite likely, for we came, I believe, unexpectedly, did we not?"

"I think it was not generally known that the Laird was coming to Kiscock," said Hector, speaking for the first time. "The people did not know, whatever; but I suppose the factor did."

"No, he didn't, whatever," she answered, with a mocking imitation of his accent, which sounded so prettily from her lips, and which annoyed Hector a little. The girl saw the flush that rose to his face, and laughed. "Ah, you're angry! But what mustn't be at any of my little jokes—that's what Mr. Clisholm calls them. No, Mr. Matheson did not see me, nor were we coming—that was the bolsh's deep laid plot, to catch the good man napping! Mr. Clisholm is as celebrated for his little plots as I am for my little jokes. Then, you didn't know us? Well, now you do, won't you tell me what you think of us?"

"As to your opinion as to what I think of you, I suppose that is likely to be the most correct of the opinion of the rest of the people; at least, I should fancy you should be a pretty good representative of them."

"I'm afraid you must excuse me, and for two reasons, one of which is that I am not accustomed enough to have formed any opinion on the subject; the other, that I'm anything but a fit representative of the people," answered Hector, hardly knowing whether to feel amused or annoyed at the odd frankness and coolness of her manner. "Besides, one cannot take the opinion of a community on such a subject in the gross; I suppose there's some diversity in the minds even of Highland crofters."

"Ah, now you are sarcastic, and perhaps I deserve it. But, really, Mr. Macrae—By-the-by, I've broken my oar, though I know who I am, I dare say. No doubt you are setting me down in your own mind as a most eccentric and doubtful young woman, perhaps as one of the most advanced type of the New Woman, who is even beyond latches and cycling costumes. But I don't care to think that; I am not a New Woman at all; all my eccentricities you can lay down to the fact that I am an Australian native, as Mr. Clisholm calls me. My name is Valenta Carruthers, usually and disparagingly called Val, and I am Mr. Clisholm's ward, and my feminine belonging. Now we know each other's names, for you see I have got your very much at my finger ends; so we can feel like old acquaintances. I even know who he is, Mr. Matheson told us, for of course we mentioned you when we were in the grove last night. He told us you were the son of—oh, what was the name? I can't remember it, but it was Hugh Macrae in English; and that the said Hugh was a very good man indeed, indeed; and one day he was over, which mysterious title he explained to us very minutely."

Hector bowed, but made no answer. What was the use of explaining to this very free and frank young lady that Hugh Macrae was not his father, and that her conversation was wrapt in obscurity and mystery? It would not be of the slightest interest to her. Any interest she had in him arose solely out of his being a new specimen of humanity to her, which she had seen alternately study and ridicule herself in her leisure.

"How quiet you are!" Miss Carruthers broke in a little impatiently. "You were not so quiet last night. However, as I wish to give you information, not to ask information from you, it doesn't matter. As she had been doing that all along, Hector could not help thinking his question was justifiable, if not compulsory. "Now, listen," she bent a little towards him, her hands still resting on the oars, and spoke in a tragic whisper. "A strange thing happened to me last night. I have seen the ghost."

late when we arrived at Kiscock House, as you may imagine, and the servants were just before us—they came by the mid-day train. Mr. Clisholm had telegraphed from Inverary to the factor, so he, too, was waiting for us, and stayed till about one in the morning. Of course, I asked him about the ghost, though Mr. Clisholm, as usual, fumed and fretted over my folly. Mr. Matheson looked decidedly dubious, but he said he was saying something about a specter, but it's all lies; the people must be speaking about something," he said, evasively. One can't get many things out of a Highlander—I've found that out. Mr. Matheson. When Mr. Matheson left, Mr. Clisholm retired, the servants had left to do so before. Soon, to adopt the language of popular fiction, Kiscock House was wrapt in deep slumber from basement to garret. But I could not sleep; it was too much exercised in mind about that ghost. I think it would be about two when I stole quietly downstairs, meaning to get a book out of the library. It was a beautiful night, clear moonlight, as I dare say you know; the moonbeams streamed in upon the staircase through the window, and that it was shut up during the latter part of his life—for what reason Mr. Matheson does not know. He had not taken us through it, because it was unfurnished and bare, he said, and also because he had no money to purchase a sufficient reason in it. I should think. It seemed to me that the footsteps came towards me in the direction of the west wing. I felt a bit nervous for a moment; then I recovered myself, for I am naturally nervous, as you may have guessed. I went to the window, and looked out, and I saw the moonbeams streaming in upon the staircase, and that it was shut up during the latter part of his life—for what reason Mr. Matheson does not know. He had not taken us through it, because it was unfurnished and bare, he said, and also because he had no money to purchase a sufficient reason in it. I should think. 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THE Highland Home.

BY MORAG.

TO MY FAIR READERS.

I hope to interest you all in this page, which is specially our own. With your aid, I am confident we can make it so interesting that the "mere male animal" will first turn to it when he purchases his "H.N."

Now for hints to those fair correspondents whom, I hope, are going to help me. An editor and a printer abhor MSS. written on foolscap paper. Foolscap paper is too long for the convenience of the printer; it necessitates many foldings, and these make it difficult to read and handle. Paper of neither too thin nor too heavy, and of the "commercial note size" is the most desirable. A manuscript should be folded as little as possible; it should "never be rolled." A rolled manuscript is abominable. Use a black or purple ink. Never use lead pencil.

Every offered manuscript should be accompanied by a stamped envelope and a postal card, the latter to insure acknowledgment, and the former the ready return of the MSS. if it proves unavailable. This applies to all sorts of MSS., even if they are only in text describing the making of lace. Otherwise, how can an author expect a reply or a return of MSS.? It costs the writer the stamp for his MS. only, but the editor in daily receipt of many MSS. could not afford to send them back unless stamps are provided.

In writing to have a question answered, be sure that your question is one of importance, and be careful to send a stamped and addressed envelope to insure a reply. Do not be in an immense hurry to have a reply. Your question is only one of dozens, scores, sometimes hundreds, sent to the office. An editor is human, and being human, is sometimes tired. Questions of all sorts are wearisome when they come day after day, and the editor deserves a little consideration at times. Have patience with the editor.

"THE QUEEN OF THE SEASONS."

MR W. S. RODDIE'S CANTATA IN ALEXANDRIA.

Miss Mackenzie, late of the High School, Inverness, has sent to a friend a very interesting account of the performance, on 22nd December last, of Mr Roddie's cantata "The Queen of the Seasons," by the children attending the English School, Alexandria. The nationalities represented are peculiarly striking. Miss Mackenzie writes:—Miss Flora Mace (English) spoke the prologue. Egrina Benzium (Italian) executed a skipping rope dance. "The Queen of the Seasons" has come," but we had to substitute the words "glad Christmas-tide" for "May day" all through. The little girl was Adrienne Dogdardi (Italian), and we dressed her as Red Riding-hood. The fairy was Miss Webb (English). "Gathered in the Woodland" was sung by Elvira Levi (Spanish) and Anna Brandt (Swiss). "Praise of Lily" was sung by Lily Webb (English), and "Praise of Daisy" by Grace Austick. "Daisy" was her sister Katie, both are English, but none of them have ever seen England, so we had better call them Anglo-Egyptians. "Praise of Rose" was sung by Miss Caliope Papadopoulos (Greek), a girl with a magnificent voice. "The Queen" was Charlotte Cherrier (French), and the "Reveries" were gathered from England, Syria, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, and Germany. Such is the cosmopolitan nature of the school. The second little girl was Marie Caran (a Syrian). "Spring" was sung by a Greek (a Greek), "Summer" Elvira Levi (Spanish), "Autumn" Marie Shirder (a Swede), "Winter" Master Jameson (a Scot). I had to change one or two of the parts as our platform is rather small. For instance, the "Seasons" could not be attended to, but when they were finished they grouped themselves at the "Queen's" feet. "Spring" danced with castanets, and as she was dressed in white silk, with garlands of violets and primroses, she made a pretty picture. "Autumn" was crowned with rice and poppies, and carried a sheaf of feathery grasses and a basket of apples and mandarins. As this corn is only springing at present, we were rather at a loss for the sheaf, but a friend at Aboukir had a sheaf of wheat. "Winter" had a robe and cap covered with white wool, trimmed with mistletoe and holly from England, and held a robin redbreast in one hand and a bunch of mistletoe in the other. They made such a pretty picture, and I wished to have them photographed, but Miss Kirkpatrick assured me the parents of the other children would be highly offended, and it was better not. The choruses all went excellently, and the recruits were well received. The three boys were Arthur Eccleston, Samuel Levi, and Max Benzium. The latter has a full Highland costume in 42nd tartan, which he calls "Ecosaisie." When the cantata was finished we had La Sonnambula. Then the prizes were distributed. Our head girl was Miss Maud Austick (Welsh), and just four marks behind her was Elvira Levi (Spanish), I am sorry (Miss Mackenzie goes on) that you could not see us, and hear us too, as I am sure you would have admired our beautiful Eastern girls, with their dark eyes and hair. There is no shyness to overcome as we have at home, for they throw themselves thoroughly into the spirit of whatever they are doing, and for the time being are the character which they assume.

Literary Queries.

LITTLE GENIUS.—The editor of a magazine usually decides whether a story is worth illustrating or not, and he makes all arrangements for the illustrations. Of course, if one is well known as a good illustrator and a clever writer, one's illustrated stories would be gladly accepted.

INVERNESSIAN.—The name Paderewski is pronounced Pah-ter-ef-sky, with the accent upon the first and third syllables. He is a widower, and has one son.

HISTORICUS.—The first periodical devoted to women's interests was issued at monthly in Queen Anne's reign, bearing the double title of "The Lady's Diary or Woman's Almanack"; its intention evidently to aid the inexperienced housekeeper. The first number contains directions for cooking, preserving, wine making, together with general hints upon the proper care and management of a home. Recipes for pomades, perfumery, and cooling lotions of different sorts were included.

CONVERSATIONIST.—Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Justice of England in the 17th century, wrote a letter of advice to his children, containing many sensible suggestions on the subject of conversation. He says—"Some men excel in husbandry, some in gardening, some in mathematics. In conversation learn as near as you can where the skill or excellence of any person lies; put him upon talking on that subject, and observe what he says, keep it in your memory or commit it to writing. By this means you will glean the worth and knowledge of everybody you converse with, and, at an easy rate, acquire what may be of use to you on many occasions." Herein lies the key to the art of conversation. It is employed not merely to gain information, but to maintain an easy flow of conversation.

THE MURDER NUMBER THIRTEEN: A Romance of Modern Life.

BY JOHN K. LEYS, Author of "The Lindseys," &c. &c.

My eyes were cast down, and I pondered the question. I felt that her eyes were fixed upon me, and I did not know what was before my eyes. If they had been suddenly bandaged I could not for my life have told what I had last seen, when suddenly I came, as it were, to myself with a start so violent that it attracted my companion's attention.

"What is it? What is the matter?" she asked, eagerly.

I did not answer her. I could not. I was staring at the point of her umbrella. The stick was lighted with a match, as light as a tinwood, and it was stained, from the ferrule to the silk, with dark, clayey stains.

"What have you been doing with your umbrella?" I asked, impulsively.

"I was using it to shade my face, then at me, with surprise." "Nothing."

"It is stained with mud, you see. Have you a habit of poking it into the ground? Do you remember doing so lately?"

"And what is to be the fate of this discovery of mine?" he asked, angrily, as if his discovery were an infant born to an inheritance of a hundred thousand per annum, whom I was proposing to strangle out of the hand.

"It is to be ignored altogether."

"By no means," said I; "but the case is a difficult one to advise on. I must see my client again before I can say what view he would take of the matter, and after all he is the principal person concerned. And very likely I should want to take counsel's opinion. You may depend upon it that if my client's interests seem to demand it, I will not be slow to use the weapon which your keen observation and sagacity have put in my way."

This seemed to soothe the old boy's feelings, and he smiled as he held out his hand.

"Well, I will hold my tongue for the present. And in the meantime? There seems to be nothing for me to do."

"Don't you think," said I, catching up (so to speak) the stone that lay nearest to my hand—"Don't you think that it would be a capital thing if we could find out who had that little scamp Danglefield, that no one knows anything about, was doing at Mr. Braithwaite's house at half-past nine—that was the time, I think you said—at half-past nine in the evening?"

The Major shook his head gravely at the suggestion. Whether he meant that the task was beyond his powers, or that it was beneath his notice, or that he had discovered this was chaffing him, I could not quite determine.

(To be continued.)

FUNNIMENTS.

You needn't be trying to comfort me—I tell you my dolly is dead!

There's no use in saying she isn't, with a crack like that in her head.

It's just like you said it wouldn't hurt much to have my tooth out that day.

And then, when the man "most pulled my head off, you hadn't a word to say.

She (on her first voyage)—What is that place down there?

He—Why, that is the steerage.

She—And does it take all those people to make the boat go straight?

Husband—Really I didn't notice the dresses. Mrs. Brown, though, wore her gown on train.

Wife—It's a wonder you noticed that much! Husband—Couldn't help it—I stepped on it.

Mrs. Sourface—Come here, my little dear. What a nice lovely little girl you are! Tell me why you are so fond of the cat?

Little Girl—"Cause when she purrs I know she means it."

Reporter (interviewing): "Would you oblige me by telling me what book has helped you most in life? And after a thoughtful pause the great man answered—My bank book."

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HOUSEWIFELY HINTS.

TO ORNAMENT A CLOCK.

A small, nickel-plated clock can be made more ornamental than when purchased. Take a box, perhaps a cigar box, without a lid, and in the bottom cut a circular aperture just large enough to match the circular disc of the clock. Cover the sides and bottom with plush or some similar rich material, crimson or dull blue in colour, or whatever suits the room or the fancy. Now, the cloth must be cut out to match the spot in size, save that it must be slightly larger in order to allow for turning in around the edge. Clip it to the wood, turn in on the inside of the box and insert enough small tacks to hold the plush or silk in place. The frame is then ready to hold the clock.

TESTS FOR FLOUR.

Entire or whole wheat-flours vary in depth of colour according to the special method of grinding. They should not contain any bran, and, aside from colour, should answer to all the tests for white-bread flour. Ordinary white-bread flour should be of clean colour; when rubbed through the fingers it should feel slightly granular, like fine meal; a few spoonfuls squeezed tightly in the hand should not retain the imprint of the fingers, but fall apart when released. Pastry flour, on the contrary, is white in colour, clings to the pores of the skin when rubbed between the fingers, and a little thrown against a wall or board will adhere to the surface after the fashion of a snowfall.

LITTLE FRENCH LESSON—A Menu.

Huitres en coquille—Oysters in shells. Consommé au celeri—Clear soup with celery. Petites timbales de poisson—Timbales of fish. Filets de boeuf—Filets of beef. Dinde à la St Jacques—Roast turkey à la St James. Boudins à la chasseur—Boudins of game. Salade à la Russe—Russian salad. Baba au Rhin—Parisian baba. Crème glacée à la vanille—Vanilla ice cream. Gette au vin de champagne—Champagne jelly. Café noir—Black coffee.

RICE COOKERY.

Rice, like Indian corn meal, is a commodity which is not as popular as it should be with Highland housewives. Few, comparatively, understand the art of cooking rice to a state of perfection. And yet it is one of the most useful articles of diet available, because of its nutrition and cheapness. But the unpalatable form and condition in which it is frequently dished up attests the assertion that few, indeed, have mastered the proper methods of preparing this cereal.

The average cook puts rice on to cook in cold water, allows it to become pasty and cooked to a mess bearing but a slight, if any, resemblance to the article itself. And it is dished up watery, tasteless and unsightly, to be eaten with sugar and cream, or simply with sugar. It is but little time until the preparation becomes an untouched dish, and waste of good material is the result. The Chinese claim that we have no conception of the real beauty of rice as a food, for we know nothing of how to cook it.

First, let the water be boiling into which you drop the well-washed rice, and let there be plenty of water; in fact, a seemingly unnecessary quantity of water. Two cups of rice far better than too little, for too little means failure in the desired results. Slightly salt the water, put in the rice, cover, and let boil undisturbed for some twenty or twenty-five minutes. Place a colander of some kind over a kettle that it fits well, pour water, rice, and all into the colander, and allow it to drain thoroughly, and to steam awhile. In this way you will find every grain of the rice swollen to its fullest capacity, and each grain will almost burst with water and glutinous to its neighbours. It will be white, mealy, and most tempting to look upon, as well as to eat.

Rice left over is never wasted. There are many ways of utilizing it. A rice pudding well and carefully made and baked to a nicety, is a wholesome and most palatable dish. Fresh eggs, whole milk (that is, milk that has not been skinned, but used whole, cream and all; farmer's milk—in fact, not town milk), sugar, and rice, and whatever of seasoning one prefers. Those who know prefer no flavour for a rice pudding other than that imparted by raisins in generous quantity.

Now a word about the colander in which the rice should be drained. A bought colander the Highland housewife has, and of use for. She prefers to make her own, and does so. A bright new tin basin is perforated thickly in the bottom by driving a nail of the size that makes the size of hole required, through the tin from the inside out. A common new kettle cover answers the purpose of cover for this home-made colander. Home-made colanders can be used for all manner of purposes. For rice cookery keep one exclusively for it should be always the brightest. Old, worn tin discolors the rice.

A MEAT DIET.

It is often felt as a deprivation in a Highland home that the meat diet is restricted for economical reasons. As a matter of fact, all specialists agree that far too much meat is eaten in this country.

A meat diet, unless in the case of a certain class of delicate invalids, coarsens and brutalizes. Animal food is inflaming; it kindles the worst passions, makes the temper ferocious and excitable. Unless tempered by the cooling juices of fruits and vegetables, the blood of the meat eater becomes heated and overburdened with fibrine.

Meat-eaters are subject to fevers and inflammatory diseases in general, especially to rheumatic and gouty disorders. Physicians forbid meat eating during rheumatic attacks, and afterward as a preventive. A healthy and vigorous condition of the stomach is indispensable to life and comfort. Such a condition cannot be maintained unless one is extremely careful to live in accordance with the laws governing health.

A PRAYER FOR GIRLS.

You ask for a little prayer. Here is one written by Jeremy Taylor in his effort to teach the world what was meant by holy living—"Teach me to watch over all my ways, that I may never be surprised by sudden temptations or a careless spirit, nor ever return to folly and vanity. See a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips, that I offend not in my tongue, neither against piety nor charity. Teach me to think of nothing but Thee, and what is in order to Thy glory and service; to speak nothing but of Thee and thy glories; and to do nothing but what becomes Thy servant, whom Thy infinite mercy, by the graces of Thy holy spirit, hath sealed up to the day of Redemption."

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COLD MEDAL, International Health Exhibition, London. The following letter is published by special permission—Balmoral Castle, Scotland, 25th Sept., 1896.

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INVERNESS, Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 1897.

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Women's Lacing Boots, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, 6s 6d
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Boys' Strong Rip Lacing Boots, Spar. or Tack (any style), according to size 3s 6d, 4s 6d, 5s 6d
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Sea Boots, Deck Boots, House Boots, House Shoes, Dancing Slippers, Small Boots, &c., &c. But send for one of our Illustrated Price Lists, which will be sent Free. You will see all our Prices and Designs of Boots.

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