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DESTINATION OF SCOTTISH MILITIA. The Scottish headquarters authorities on Monday set the machinery in motion in connection with the embodiment of the militia battalions detailed for permanent duty during the war.

THE INVERNESS-SHIRE MILITIA. Active preparations are now being made by the permanent staff of the 3rd Battalion Cameron Highlanders (Inverness-shire Militia) in view of the army order for the mobilisation of the battalion.

MILITIAMEN'S FAMILIES. The Scottish District military orders on Monday contained the following:—Officers commanding regimental districts will put themselves in communication with the chief constables of counties, and, utilising the adjutants of Volunteer corps and the local instructors of the Volunteer permanent staff, be good enough to ascertain at once where the militiamen of their territorial corps are residing, whether they are married or single, and what number of children there are in each family.

RECRUITING FOR THE CAMERONS. Owing to both battalions of the Cameron Highlanders being abroad and the regiments being much under strength, all officers in charge of recruiting areas have been instructed to urge as much as possible recruiting for these battalions, which must be brought up to strength as soon as possible.

TEN THOUSAND POLICY-HOLDERS AT THE FRONT. Although those who have given any thought to the subject would expect to find a fair proportion of the soldiers of the Queen included in the ranks of the policy-holders of the Prudential Assurance Company, it is astonishing in the highest degree to learn that in a very short time now no less than 10,000 of the Company's clients will be facing the enemy.

THE FIGHTING AROUND LADYSMITH. A telegram from Sir Redvers Buller was received at the War Office yesterday, in which the General reports that, up to Sunday last, no serious attack had been made on Kimberley, the bombardment hitherto having been slight and resulting in no damage. Mafeking was safe on 27th October.

THE INVASION OF CAPE COLONY. The threatened Boer invasion of Cape Colony has as yet proved quite ineffective. The flood in the Orange River is given out as the cause, but it is conjectured that the danger of the invading force having its retreat cut off is really the reason why the Boers are not advancing.

SOME HINTS ON ELECTRIC LIGHTING. HOW TO DISPOSE OF TOWN REFUSE. Municipalities which are considering the question of electric lighting might with advantage, says a London correspondent, take a lesson from what has been accomplished by the Shoreditch local authority.

PAST EVENTS. Oct. 7.—Reserves called out: Parliament summoned. Oct. 9.—Transvaal ultimatum presented to British Agent; received London, October 10.

THE LIGHTING OF INVERNESS STREETS. THE VALUE OF AGITATION! At the monthly meeting of the Inverness Town Council on Monday—Provost Maclean presiding—a further discussion took place with regard to the want of lighting facilities in certain streets in the town.

HIGHLAND HONOURS. It is long since some of our perferred Gaels have been on the track of the man who introduced that uncivilised custom known as "Highland honours." If the following paragraph be correct, he has at last been spotted:—Lieut. Menzies, of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers and battalion Gloucester Regiment, sent to turn enemy's right flank, about 1000 men, taken prisoners by Boers after losing heavily. British force retired to contentments. Sir George White reports to incident as a "disaster."

ARRIVAL OF THE "ROSLIN CASTLE." The "Roslin Castle," the first of the transports containing the Army Corps, has arrived at Cape Town. This adds over 1000 infantry to our forces in South Africa.

Council from its previous resolution in this matter. The Town Clerk also protested against Councillor Young's remark. Councillor Young, resuming, said that the position he had taken up in this matter was in the interests of the ratepayers whom he represented, and further stated that if the report of the Lighting Committee was adopted as a whole, then his constituents would be left in darkness for at least another eighteen months.

THE FREE CHURCH AND THE TRANSVAAL. Mr T. B. Porteous, Harrismit, Orange Free State, writing to the Editor of "The Free Church Monthly," wishes to point out the circumstances of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa at the present period. It is confidently expected that when the political crisis passes there will be a very large influx of English-speaking people, particularly to the Transvaal.

STOP TO CONSIDER. Sufferers from gravel, lumbago, pain in the back, dropsy, wind and water complaints, diseases of the kidney, bladder, urinary organs, stone, scalds, rheumatism, and colds, will find a positive cure in HOLLAND'S GRAVEL PILLS. Try small boxes. If not satisfied, money returned. Is sold chemists or box. If not satisfied, money returned. Is sold chemists or box. If not satisfied, money returned. Is sold chemists or box.

FORT-WILLIAM AND DISTRICT

A LOCAL STORY.—In "Home Chat" of November 11th, just out, is a new serial story, "Blindfold," by E. Forster Marshall...

PRESENTATION.—In addition to the silver tray presented to Brother Duncan Mackintosh, P.M., by the members of the Lodge "Lochaber," L.O.A.S., a notice of which appeared in a former issue...

NAVIES IN TROUBLE.—William Sheahan, a hut-keeper or navy ganger, employed on the Mallaig railway at Rannochan, was on Thursday, tried before Sheriff-Substitute Davidson at Fort-William on a charge of assault...

COAL AND CLOTHING SOCIETY.—Another year of this Society has just closed. The deposits are steadily increasing. This year the amount collected is £279 8s 3d, being an increase of £17 2s 7d on last year...

FORT-WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB.—A meeting of the above Club was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall on Friday last. The meeting was presided over by Mr J. Macdonald, Inverness...

KILMALLEY SCHOOL BOARD.—The members of the Kilmallely School Board held their monthly meeting at Fort-William on Tuesday—Canon MacColl presiding. The monthly report of the Fort-William Public School was submitted, and considered satisfactory...

BURGH COMMISSIONERS.—The monthly meeting of the above Council was held in the committee room of the Town Hall on Monday evening last—Provost Young presiding. The draft agreement between the Commissioners and the Electric Lighting Company, under which the company are to have the surplus town water supply, was adjusted in terms of the recommendation of the special committee to whom it was referred...

BEN NEVIS.—Ben Nevis is nothing if not peculiar. It makes up a record of weather differing in almost every important point from that experienced on lower ground. People were congratulating themselves on the sunny and almost rainless weather enjoyed on the lower ground during the greater part of the month of October, but Ben Nevis had 18 inches of rain at the Observatory, or 3 1/2 inches above the mean, while the amount of cloud was 2 per cent. more than the average for the month...

An addition has been made to the already large number of weekly newspapers catering for a share of public recognition, in the shape of the "Weekly Record," another of the numerous publications of Messrs Harmsworth. The new weekly is a seven-column, eight-page, nicely printed paper, and is offered to the public for the modest sum of one halfpenny. A feature of the paper is the large amount of space devoted to fiction. We have the first instalments of no fewer than three continued stories, while two complete short stories are also given. The get-up of the paper includes nearly all those features usually associated with non-local weekly journals, and in particular a £100 prize competition on distinctly novel lines should prove an attraction to readers. It will be interesting to watch how this very up-to-date weekly will fare.

GAIRLOCH MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

OPENING OF WINTER SESSION.

A meeting of the members of the Gairloch Mutual Improvement Association was held last week. Mr J. O. Black, M.A., was called on to preside. The following office-bearers were then elected:—Hon. President, Mr M. Mackenzie, supervisor; President, Mr J. O. Black, M.A.; Vice-President, Mr John Ross; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr E. N. Mackintosh; Committee of Management, Messrs M. Maclean, W. Macdonald, B. F. Williams, H. Mackintosh, M. Maclean, Meall, and D. Ross. The Chairman paid a graceful tribute to the memory of the late Dr Anderson who died since their last meeting, and who had been a most active member of the Society during its last session. He also referred to the loss which they sustained by the departure of Mr John A. Dixon from Inverness, one who was foremost in every good work in the district. Their gratitude and good wishes followed him wherever he went, and, lastly, he voiced the regret of every member of the Society that Mr Mackenzie, supervisor, expressed a wish not to be elected to office this year. Mr Mackenzie was its president since its resuscitation four years ago. He was an ideal Chairman, and, as was his wont, whatever he took in hand he did with all his might. The Chairman and Mr W. Macdonald expressed the great pleasure it gave them to see Mr E. N. Mackintosh again in office. They all knew that Mr Mackintosh spared neither time nor trouble in carrying on the work of the Society, and to have him as secretary was a guarantee that the session would be a successful one.

At the weekly meeting of the Association held on Friday last—Mr M. Mackenzie, I.R., occupied the chair—the secretary read a letter which he had received from Rev. Mr Mackintosh, in which it was stated that as the meeting for that night was advertised to take place in the meeting house, Strath, they might hold that meeting there, but as the consent of the Session was not yet obtained the next meeting would have to be held in the Schoolroom, Achtercairn. The matter was freely discussed, and it was resolved to meet in the Schoolroom in future, although, as was pointed out, this will mean that the meetings will not be so far from the centre of population.

The subject for the evening was a lecture on Education by Mr J. O. Black, M.A., president of the Society. The lecture, read a resume of the great progress which had been made within recent years with special reference to technical education, and pointed out the necessity there was for paying more attention to this matter if we are to hold our own as a nation in the future. He explained the changes made by the Code of 1899, the greater freedom it gave the teacher, the greater necessity there was for faithfulness on the part of the teacher, and the necessity for hearty co-operation on the part of School Boards, so that the requirements of the Code, especially as regards technical education, drawing, and nature study might be fulfilled. He hailed with the greatest satisfaction the interest which the best minds in the country were taking in education. This was a most hopeful sign, and it would bear abundant fruit in the near future. The lecture, which was both interesting and instructive, was frequently applauded during its delivery.

The Chairman, in reviewing the lecture, said that Mr Black was a most successful teacher, as was evidenced by the excellent work which he did since he came to Gairloch, and therefore whatever he said on education carried an authority and a conviction with it which in other circumstances could not be obtained.

Mr Duncaan Mackintosh and Mr E. N. Mackintosh also complimented the lecturer on the ability with which he treated the subject.

SMALL HOLDINGS IN STRATHNAVER.

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

A large and representative meeting was held in the Public School, Farr, the other evening, to consider the terms of the Strathnaver scheme. Among those present were Rev. J. K. Maclean, Farr; Rev. D. Mackenzie, Farr; Rev. C. Kerr, Melness; Mr A. Mackay, Thurso; Mr John Mackay, Melnich, &c. The conditions of the scheme were read over, and Mr Wm. Macleod opened the discussion, which was continued by Mr Maclean, Mr Mackenzie, Mr A. Mackay, Newlands; Mr J. Mackay, Melnich; Mr A. Mackay, Achina; and others.

The speakers pointed out that the price of 17s 4d per acre was far too high for a hill, and some of it not of the best.

Mr Kerr remarked that he would be glad to see Strathnaver peopled, though the people came from England, yet he would not like to see any one going there under the proposed conditions.

The meeting appointed the following committee to lay the case before Lord Balfour and his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, viz.—Rev. D. Mackenzie, Rev. J. K. Maclean, Messrs Wm. Macleod, Achina; Alex. Mackay, do.; Wm. Mackay, Newlands; Alex. Mackay, do.; John Mackay, Melnich; Hugh Macdonald, Achmesrick; Alex. Grahame, Ballhouse.

The following memorial was submitted and approved of, to be sent to Lord Balfour and a copy to the Duke:—

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of the districts of Farr, Skerry, and Melness—Resolved, to express the thanks of these districts to Lord Balfour of Bute and the Congested Districts Board for the earnest and large attempt to meet the needs of these districts for more land by devising such a liberal scheme of loan; but while conscious of this liberality, and anxious to secure the land, it is respectfully submitted that applicants will find it difficult to avail themselves of the scheme for the following reasons:—

"1. The conditions of taking stock at valuation are objected to, as the estate has not always insisted upon it in letting farms, and as the Syre stock has within recent years deteriorated, so that at sales this year the prices realised were lower than those for crofters' sheep; while many of the applicants have stock of their own of good quality.

"2. The number of sheep proposed for the club farm is more than the ground can carry, men acquainted with the ground holding that 800 ewes and 200 to 300 hogs are as many as could be properly grazed on it. Other means quite as effective as taking the proposed stock and testing the pecuniary abilities of applicants, are open to the Board; and while the people are not favourably disposed to a scheme of purchase, yet in view of the liberal terms proposed by the Board, the applicants, owing to the earnest desire for land, would, especially if relief be given from taking the present stock, be prepared to welcome the scheme, and it is felt confident also to work it to advantage.

HEAD TO THE DEAF.—A Gentleman who cured himself of Deafness and Noise in his ears, and who will give the particulars of the remedy on receipt of stamped addressed envelope, to F. Curran, Anberley House, Strand, London, W.C.

INVERNESS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED.

The monthly meeting of the Inverness Burgh Ratepayers' Association was held on Wednesday evening—Councillor Young, president, in the chair. After the usual formal business, the Chairman briefly explained the action he had taken at the recent meeting of the Town Council in reference to the lighting of certain streets. He also sketched at some length the proceedings of the conference on the land values, held at Glasgow on the 20th ult., and when he attended as a delegate of the Ratepayers' Association. He indicated that there was a possibility that Councillor Ferguson and ex-Bailie Burt, of Glasgow, two gentlemen to whom Glasgow was greatly indebted for the pressing forward of its Bill, might come down to Inverness and address a public meeting on the land values question at no distant date—(applause). He believed that the people only wanted to be taught in this matter. He took exception to a statement made by one of the speakers at the recent aggregate meeting, to the effect that taxation of land values might be good enough for London or other large centres of population, but not of any use to towns the size of Inverness. Small corporations, like large ones, had to pay immense sums to landlords for public improvements, and the result was that the corporation did not get one fraction of the expense incurred in these improvements. Referring to the question of the burgh boundaries, the Chairman said that the increased area would give an additional assessable rental to the burgh of, roughly, £12,000 a year. At 10 per cent. that would give the Corporation £1200 a year, not including the taxation of vacant spaces of land. Even with this £1200 a year the Corporation could borrow from £20,000 to £25,000, which could be expended on improvements.

SLUMS MIGHT BE BOUGHT UP and dilapidated houses repaired and improved with that money—(applause)—and the Council would be enabled to go in for a large scheme of workmen's dwellings—(applause). He concluded by earnestly advising all bodies in town to unite in pressing forward this most vital question to a successful issue—(applause).

Mr Hassan, tailor, homologated the remarks of the Chairman on the vital necessity of the subject.

Thereafter the Chairman went exhaustively into the details of the two alternative schemes of burgh boundary extension now before the Town Council. He said that of course the town would reap a small benefit in the shape of extra revenue, but that would be the amount of money going into the hands of superiors? He contended that the very fact of these improvements being made by the Corporation immensely enhanced the value of the district indeed.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING DEPUTATION.

Mr James Macdonald, painter, moved that the Association condemn the action of the Town Council in appointing so large a deputation to visit the electric light Corporation generating stations in the South. He considered such action was quite unnecessary. Personally, he (the speaker) was against any deputation, as he contended that the councillors could get any information required as well by communication as by visitation—(hear, hear). When the Council had appointed an expert engineer, was it necessary for them to visit any places to get information? The engineer should be quite able to give them all the information they wanted. He formally moved that the Association condemn the action of the Council in appointing so large a deputation.

Mr Hassan seconded. He could not see what the Town Councillors knew about electricity. There were tailors, bakers, &c., on the deputation—(laughter). If they were practical men it would not so much matter. Mr Grant, carpenter, supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SABBATH DESACRATION.

Mr Gill gave notice that at next meeting of the Association he would move a resolution defining and defending the position recently taken up by the Association on the question of Sabbath desecration, particularly in regard to the opening of ice-cream shops on Sabbath and the arrival of shows, &c., on that day; and he would also deal with the proposal to open the Public Library on Sunday, as lately mooted. Mr Gill also indicated that he would deal at a future meeting with the question of the housing of the working classes.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Alluding to the municipal election, the Chairman said it was gratifying to find that the nominee of the Association, Mr Gillanders, had been returned, as also had Councillor Sinclair, who was their honorary president—(applause). They regretted that Mr Melven had been unable to retain his seat. As a councillor he had always conducted himself in a straightforward and honest way. He hoped that at some future date Mr Melven would again be returned to the Council—(hear, hear).

SHINTY.

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN CLUB.

The Glasgow Caledonian Shinty Club is now an actual reality, and had its first practice game at the club ground at Possilpark on Saturday. Notwithstanding the miserable weather, there was a splendid turnout of players; in fact, it is very questionable if at a practice game there has ever been seen such a representative gathering of the wielders of the caman. We have during the past week (writes a correspondent) been hearing much about the want of co-operation that exists amongst our Highland Societies in this city, but I must admit that the Caledonian Club's gathering on Saturday was a pleasant novelty in this respect, and gave ample proof of how, with a common object in view, our city Celts can co-operate and fraternise with each other. Meantime, the outlook for the new Club certainly seems bright, and, with proper management, they should do much to stimulate the interest in the game in our city. They should have no difficulty in getting up a strong team, as the display given by their members on Saturday last was really first class, and the combination shown by some of their forwards is, unfortunately, what we have to look in vain for at too many shinty matches. The following clubs were all well represented:—Inverness, Beaulieu, Lovat, Caberfeidh, Kingussie, Portree, Ballachulish, Oban, Inveraray, and Delnalyne. We trust that all those interested in the game will support the Club by at once becoming members, and we can assure them that, entirely irrespective of where they come from, they shall be made heartily welcome, and can spend a most pleasant afternoon in healthy exercise.

FROM THE SCOTTISH CAPITAL.

[By JOHN NORTH.]

ONE SIDE OF WAR—AND THE OTHER

Those of us who are rather tired of the effusive patriotism of the Jingoes and their vociferous laudation of this war and the glory it must bring us find many things to intensify our disgust of such ill-timed rejoicing in the many pathetic incidents that are daily being woven into this resplendent robe of national patriotism and glory. I cull the following from a daily paper, and would wish to impress it upon the people whose delight just now is to take a light-hearted view of the situation. Who has not read Kipling's "Absent-minded Beggar?" but even in it we hear but the strong blare of the war trumpet, and the under-tone of that blare—which Mr Kipling has not given—is ever one of pathos and pain and sorrow. This is the paragraph referred to:—"Private Charles Miles, of the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, wrote the following letter from India on September 16th to his parents, who reside at Cross Street, New Swindon, Wilts:—"Dear Mother and Father, I am sorry to let you know that we are going to war in South Africa. I hope this will not upset you, for, remember, I am a soldier, and have to do a soldier's duty. I am glad I'm going, though not for your sakes, as I know what it will be like—a medal or a bullet. Cheer up, for I will try to do my duty to my Queen and country. Remember me to my relatives, and if I am killed tell them I died a good soldier's death.—Your loving son, CHARLIE." The anxious mother has since received this brief announcement from the War Office, 'I have to acquaint you with regret the fact that Private, C. Miles, of the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, was killed in action on the 24th inst.'" This requires little comment, but surely, in the midst of the popular jubilation, remembrance should be had of the many homes where news of victory means sorrow and anguish for loved ones killed.

THE POET OF THE CUSS-WORD AND THE SWEAR.

There's a little chap called Kipling, and he sings our nation's odes In a lingo that is hot and strange and strong, For he's in the empire-building house of Chamberlain and Rhodes, And accordingly he trims his tune and song. For St Joseph and St Cecil have a newer sort of creed Than was ever practised before by saint or priest; And Kipling is their Sankey, and he pipes his bloom'ing reed With a vigour that is wonderful at least. O! we know the man of cuss-words; yes, we know the singer, surely— The man who dots his cadences with d—s— The man who fights—for copyright—the man who stands out purely As the poet of the new Imperialise.

And perhaps it is a great thing, tho' it seems a dubious hap, To stand and cheer our transports down the street; To cheer them with bad blasphemy, the while we wave our cap, To send them with a swear to speed their feet;

To tell them it be little if their hearts be black as hell, Or if they've cheated maids or wives or friends;

For now they've got to fight for us, and this is our farewell—"Fight like demons—that will make all full amends."

O, wild, grotesque philosopher! who looks at life awry, And thinks your twisted vision is correct; There's another sort of music, and we'll hear it by-and-by.

From the homes and hearts our warfare will have wrecked.

There's another side to glory of which Kipling never speaks, And it's never found by flag or smoking gun; But you'll find it in the sad homes where the city vapour reeks, And you'll find it where the woodland valleys run.

There are hearts there dark with sorrow, there are lives there crushed and broke, There are weepings for the dead that no to-morrow Can bring from the far desert, thro' the carnage and the smoke, And a fund or ode will scarcely touch their sorrow.

Ah! hush the songs and cheering roaring up into the sky, And play the soldier's dead-march sad and slow; Remember those lads far away who starkly, stiffly lie, And think a little of War's dool and woo.

A DUKE AS POLITICAL MENTOR FOR THE "PLEBS."

When I took up my morning paper the other day and read the letter of the Duke of Portland, in which he assumes quite a fatherly and patriarchal attitude to the people of Calthness, I knew not well whether to laugh or admire this piece of unparalleled audacity. Since when has the Duke become a sapient political guide for the democracy; or since when have the people of Calthness lost the common-sense that has led them so well and wisely, in a political sense, for so long? Are they, we wonder, to be henceforth gaily led in the leading strings of His Grace? I do not by any means approve of much of Dr Clark's conduct in or out of Parliament; but the final criticism must lie with his constituents, and they are quite capable of judging. At the same time there is little doubt that this war could have been avoided—that the immense cost it must involve might have been utilised for far better purposes than that of wholesale murder. I hear on every hand condemnation of the presumptuous letter from the Duke. It is quite possible for so public-spirited and philanthropic a gentleman to find a more practical outlet for his tenderness and solicitude of the Calthness people. Even Calthness is not a perfect Utopia, and the Duke, with his immense wealth, can do much still for its amelioration and welfare.

MR COLIN CHISHOLM IS ENTERTAINED,

AND GETS PRESENTS.

Among Highlanders from home, Colin Chisholm, late superintendent of the Thames, and President of the Gaelic Society of London, is a man exceedingly well known and of excellent repute. He has resigned the one office and the other, and he is going to travel in America for some time, in order more particularly to visit his many relatives and friends in that great country. The rumour that he was leaving London brought out manifestations of good feeling which have been altogether exceptional. Kennington, an immense district of South London, entertained him to dinner on the 12th October, and the gathering was representative and most enthusiastic. On the Monday following he was entertained by the Gaelic Society at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr John Mackay of Hereford presided, and he was supported by such old members as Dr Farquhar Matheson, Mr John Forbes, Mr James Sutherland, Mr Ewen Cattanaoh, and others. The health of Mr Chisholm was proposed by the Chairman in fervently eloquent terms. He referred to the long connection of his uncle and namesake, the late Colin Chisholm, of Inverness, with the Society; and he thought it exceedingly happy and appropriate that his nephew should follow in his footsteps so honourably and so faithfully. The Gaelic Society had prospered greatly in those latter years under the presidency of Mr Chisholm. They had attempted several important matters in the furtherance of their objects as a society, and to Mr Chisholm was due the credit of initiating more than one such movement, and of seeing them carried to successful issues. Their concert, which had grown to such a great affair, was initiated by Mr Chisholm; so was the great deputation on Gaelic in schools, which two years ago waited on Lord Balfour; and in many other ways he had made his personality and his Highland enthusiasm so essential that his departure from their midst could not be felt very severely. He (the Chairman), however, hoped that new and younger men would come forward to fill the breaches and take up the labours of those who had to fall out of the ranks after long years of service. He, on behalf of the whole membership, wished Mr Chisholm and Mrs Chisholm and their family long life, happiness, and prosperity, and the sooner they found them back again amongst them the better they would be pleased. He had great pleasure in asking Mr Chisholm to accept as small remembrances a snuff-mull and pocket-flask, subscribed for by the members. The one, he would keep by him in case of sea-sickness going across the Atlantic, for it contained a drop of the "real"; and from the other he would give a "smeechin" to their friends in Canada and America. "Air son na tun chian." Mr Mackay's speech was punctuated by free and frequent cheering, and it was evident that, however well he had expressed himself, the meeting was fully in front of his sympathy and sincerity for Mr Chisholm.

Mr Chisholm replied feelingly. He had been a member of the Gaelic Society for thirty-one years. He was most sorry to part with them now, but he sincerely hoped to see them all again, for wherever he was, absent or present with them, he should always remain a member of the Society. He did not quite feel that the Society was in every respect all it might be, or did all that it might do, but he was sure the good time was coming when the Society would give a good report of itself. It had an old name, and a name made honourable by the good services of good Highlanders, and therefore it was a very peculiar trust, of which they should take most delicate care. For himself, while he had a copper in his pocket it would be at the service of the Society towards the promotion of its most praiseworthy objects. He went over some of the more important points of the Society's duty, referring more particularly to teaching and the learning of Gaelic among themselves. He recalled how Lord Balfour had put his finger on this weak spot, and how much it prejudiced outsiders to find that, however ardent we may be in advocating a cause, we must first show ourselves to believe in it to some practical extent. He (Mr Chisholm) made a strong attack on drinking "with Highland honours," to which he had just submitted. It was not a nice custom at all. "Cha'n fhasan gasd idir o." It had origin at some theatrical function in Edinburgh, and had no connection whatever with the Highlands. He hoped they would suppress it. Mr Chisholm spoke throughout in Gaelic, and he finished up by sincerely wishing every member for ever of the Gaelic Society "Long Life"—"Gann bu fada do gach ball a bhluineas dhuibh gu deiridh an t-saughall!" It is needless to say that Mr Chisholm's sentiment was heartily appreciated.

On Friday evening last, 3rd November, he was again entertained by the residents and business men of the Thames. At this meeting Dr H. Cameron Gillies presided by special request. It was a very representative and hearty gathering, all testifying to the affection and respect in which Mr Chisholm was held. It was remarkable to hear man after man, with unfeigned feeling, declare that in losing Mr Chisholm he was losing a friend. Mr Chisholm's kindness and sterling fidelity impresses everyone with whom he comes in contact, and it was clear that his late subjects of the banks of the Thames saw and felt this in no mean measure. Mr D. G. Kidd, on behalf of the community, presented him with a magnificent gold watch and chain, with suitable inscription. Mr Chisholm, in returning his sincere thanks, remarked upon the hearty good fellowship he had met with among Englishmen. They had always been good to him, and he was most thankful to know that they thought he had in his day done his duty toward them. He would with pride wear their splendid present.

Mr Chisholm leaves for America to-day.

The other evening, during the presentation of the drama, "For Bonnie Scotland," which held the boards of the Grand Theatre for a short season, Mr Theodore Naylor, in full Highland costume, was present, and the picturesque old gentleman attracted much attention as he eagerly followed and cordially applauded the play from the gilded refinement of a stage box. At the close of the second last act, Mr Ernest Stevens, the lessee, led Mr Napier upon the stage, and the latter, in a neat little speech, expressed his appreciation of the play, ventured the assertion that every true Scot is a Jacobite at heart, and believed that "For Bonnie Scotland" would have the effect of increasing the spirit of Jacobitism in Scotland.

FORT-WILLIAM.

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A Sample Bottle will be sent free on receipt of full postal address.

An Interesting Conversation.

"All right again, Charlie?" "Oh, yes; getting on fast in that direction, thank you. I gave had a weary time of it, but was lucky enough, only a week ago, to spot just the very thing that my constitution needed."

"What, then, was the marvellous specific?—for you have indeed picked up wonderfully." "This splendid tonic—Coleman's 'WINGARNIS.' It is a brilliant example of an article that really does what it claims to do. My faith is pinned to it for the future."

"WINGARNIS is a delicious beverage and tonic made from Choice Wine, Liebig's Extract of Meat, and Extract of Malt. It has received 6000 testimonials from Medical Men, and is sold by all Licensed Grocers, Chemists, and Wine Merchants."

SOLE MANUFACTURERS—COLEMAN & CO., LIMITED, NORWICH AND LONDON.

A Sample Bottle will be sent free on receipt of full postal address.

Smoke

PLAYERS' MILD IN RED MEDIUM IN BLUE

Packets & Tins

COOL AND LASTING.

Manufactured from the Finest Virginia Tobacco.

THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST.

WARNING!

As is usually the case with all successful articles, the immense popularity of PLAYER'S NAVY CUT has brought a number of imitations into the market.

Smokers should see that they get PLAYER'S. Sold in sealed Packets and Tins only.

THE CREAM OF BEN WYVIS WHISKY.

PURE MOUNTAIN DEW. As Supplied by us to ROYALTY. "Sweetly recommends itself into our gentle senses."—MACBETH.

WHY the CREAM OF BEN WYVIS is the IDEAL WHISKY. BECAUSE This CREAM of Ben Wyvis is used by the best class of consumers every-where.

A. W. & D. SKINNER, MITCHELL & CRAIG, RAILWAY BUILDINGS, INVERNESS.

MACDOUGALL & CO., LTD.

ROYAL TARTAN WAREHOUSE, FOR WINTER WEAR.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT. COSTUMES, CLOAKS, CAPES.

GENTLEMEN'S DEPARTMENT. SUITINGS, OVERCOATINGS, TROUSERINGS.

IN NEWEST COLOURINGS AND CLOTHS.

28 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

REMNANT SALE

CARPETS, LINOLEUMS, TAPESTRIES, ART FURNITURE, SERGES, AND SLIGHTLY-SOILED GOODS.

During November Messrs A. FRASER & CO. are selling off all Remnants and Goods in any way soiled, at nominal prices, a clearance being absolutely necessary in order to provide room for the Christmas Exhibition.

CUTTINGS. Several hundred bundles of Cretone, Felt, Serge, Tapestry, and Carpet Cuttings, from 6d per bundle up, adapted for lamp shades, etc.

GOODS SLIGHTLY SOILED. Several dozen pairs Lace Curtains, Lace Window Screens, Quills, Cushions, Coates, Lamp Shades, Tapestry and Silk Table Covers, and a very large quantity of Fancy Goods, suitable for presents.

SPECIALITY. Several hundred filled and plain cushions, corner brackets, double chair backs, fancy "hanging" wallpapers, &c., made up from remnants of latest silk brocades. Flashes, selling to clear, from 10d upwards.

FURNITURE DEPARTMENTS. The whole stock of Drawing-room, Dining-room, and Bedroom Furniture is also being offered at greatly reduced prices.

RECOVERING OLD FURNITURE. The enormous quantity of short lengths for sale are specially adapted for re-covering furniture and making-up inexpensive parlour, drawing-room, and dining-room suites, &c.

SECOND-HAND FURNITURE. A large quantity of good Second-Hand Furniture always on view in the Auction Sale-rooms, Baron Taylor's Lane.

A. FRASER & CO., COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS, UNION STREET AND BARON TAYLOR'S LANE, INVERNESS.

SALE! SALE! To-day. Bargains, oh! what bargains, going while they last. Hurst & Co.'s Bankrupt Stock Sale at STEWART'S, 4, Eastgate.

COOPER & CO'S TEAS

THE PERFECTION OF QUALITY. HOLD THE LEADING POSITION. REPRESENT THE BEST VALUE. GIVE GREATEST SATISFACTION. OF SUPREME EXCELLENCE.

We have many thousands of regular customers, and we know from past experience that those who try our Teas for the first time generally become constant users.

PURITY, ECONOMY, AND FRAGRANCE. LEADING PRICES—1s 2d, 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 8d, and 1s 10d per lb.

20 UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Central Warehouses—823 Howard St., Glasgow; at London, Liverpool, &c.

Local Tea Agents: INVERNESS—J. Tennant, Merchant, Millburn. Do—Mrs Mackay, 45 King St. Do—P. Paterson, 17 to 19 Eastgate.

DALES' GOLD MEDAL DUBBIN. Is a wonderful waterproofer for BOOTS and HATNESS. Softens and Preserves the Leather. Pleasant odour; it allows polishing with blacking.

PHOTOGRAPH ENLARGEMENTS

FOR 5s. "The Highland News" Management have made arrangements with a first-class firm of Photographers whereby Readers can have Photographs of themselves or of their friends enlarged by a first-class process.

These Prints are Permanent, Highly Finished, and Mounted handsomely on Plate-work India Tint Mounts measuring 18 by 14 inches.

Applicants must pay careful attention to the following:—Send an Ordinary Photograph. Write Name and Address on back. Enclose Postal Order or other remittance for 5s. and 6d for postage. No extra charge for more than one person.

The Photos. will be returned along with Enlargements. The latter will be carefully packed, but the Proprietor does not undertake risk for loss or damage.

The ordinary Photographer's charges for similar Enlargements are from 2/1 to 2/3 8s. We are, therefore, making a unique offer to our readers of which they should lose no time in taking advantage.

This Offer is only open for a limited period.

"GLEN-ALBYN" BLEND

HIGHLAND WHISKIES. Direct from the Dealer and Blender. AWARDED FIVE GOLD MEDALS.

MARCUS CAMPBELL, WHISKY MERCHANT, 299 ARGYLE STREET, GLASGOW.

Two BOTTLES (marked \*\*) 6s 0d Two BOTTLES (marked \*) 6s 6d Two BOTTLES (marked \*) 7s 6d Two BOTTLES (marked \*\*) 8s 6d

Worth a Trial; no Risk of Breakage.

HADDOW'S POPULAR STORES

FOR TEAS GROCERIES and PROVISIONS at WHOLESALE PRICES.

172 CROOKSTON STREET, & 67 SALTMARKET, GLASGOW.

GRAND EXHIBITION OF AUTUMN NOVELTIES.

GEO. BATCHEN & CO., (SUCCESSORS TO BATHEN & CAMERON), Beg to intimate return from LONDON of the BUYERS for the various FASHION DEPARTMENTS.

NEW GOODS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS Including the Latest Ideas in MANTLES, DRESSES, MILLINERY, MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF SILKS and VELVETS, LADIES' SILK and Flannel SHIRTS and BLOUSES, Carefully Selected French and Coloured JACKETS, Choice Selection Black and English MILLINERY, Trimmed Felt HATS, Dressing GOWNS, Dressing JACKETS.

Special attention directed to the MAKING-UP DEPARTMENTS.

A NEW RANGE of Superior All-Wool Costumes MATERIAL, Black and Coloured COATINGS, 32s, 39s 6d, 47s 6d, 55s, 65s, For the complete Costume.

INSPECTION CORDIALLY INVITED. GEO BATHEN & CO., INVERNESS.

PUBLIC COMPANIES. INVERNESS THEATRE.

The Directors of the Theatre Royal Company (Limited) met on Monday afternoon last to consider the accounts and balance-sheet of the Company for the year ended 31st August, 1899.

31st August, 1899. It was agreed to recommend a dividend of 2 1/2 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 5 per cent., on 10th April, 7 1/2 per cent. on the capital stock for the year. A substantial balance is also carried forward.

SCHOLASTIC. INVERNESS BURGH SCHOOL BOARD.

The Evening Continuation Classes in Cookery and Dress-making will be opened on MONDAY, 13th November, at 7.30 p.m. The teachers will enroll pupils on Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. No fees.

ST. GEORGE'S CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES (EDINBURGH).

These long-established Classes meet the requirements of students at all stages of advancement. Preparation for University Examinations, Scottish Universities (preliminary and St. Andrews L.A. Special attention given to young and backward pupils. Strong staff of Tutors. Apply Sec. Miss S. E. MURRAY, 5 Melville Street, Edinburgh.

APPOINTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES. MALE AND FEMALE.

ENROL NOW FOR SPECIAL PREPARATION AT KERRY'S COLLEGE. DAY, EVENING, AND POSTAL TUITION. Successful Students Number over 6,000.

"The Highland News" is SET UP BY LINO TYPE COMPOSING MACHINERY.

The Highland News

INVERNESS, Saturday, Nov. 11, 1899. SUMMARIES.

Her Majesty the Queen left Balmoral yesterday on her return to the South.

The latest information from LadySmith is to the effect that the bombardment by the Boers still continues, but that little damage is being effected. General White reports that his entrenchments are daily growing stronger, and that he has an ample supply of provisions.

An Army Order has been issued mobilising the Fifth Infantry Division for immediate service in South Africa. This involves the calling out of further reservists.

It is announced that the Admiralty have ordered 450 new 12-inch steel and wire guns for the strengthening of the Navy. These throw a projectile weighing 850 lbs.

SCHOOL REFORM.

The approach of winter, with its cold surly blasts accompanied by heavy downpours of rain or drifting snows, makes us susceptible to wants to which we are quite insensible during the warmer periods of the year. There are one or two deficiencies connected with our schools, especially rural schools, which appear very conspicuously during the cold, wet weather of winter and spring and to a less extent all the year round, but which have hitherto attracted very little public attention.

The school buildings of to-day are generally so incomparably superior to those of thirty years ago, that the public seem to conclude that the present school premises are as perfect as may be desired. It is quite true that the existing schools are a great advance on those in which the men and women who have passed middle life received the scraps of education which were thought to be sufficient in those days, and it is because of this very advance that the public are so ready to believe that the present buildings are everything they should be. Indeed, we remember meetings of the public some years ago where the sentiment was applauded that the school buildings which the Education Act of 1872 had brought into existence were quite extravagant, and it is quite possible some such opinions may be still found in certain quarters. There are, however, sentiments of a totally different kind abroad, and a desire to make our schools as perfect as possible for the purposes for which they exist is now more general than it was at the time of the passing of the Education Act. School premises may be viewed from two standpoints—the educational and the sanitarian. With the former it is not our province to deal, but we desire to direct attention to our Highland schools from a sanitarian point of view. We are strongly of opinion that the physical health of our youth should receive the first attention in all our educational arrangements. Educational authorities seem lately to be awakening to a sense of this fact. But the means by which they propose to secure the proper physical development of the school youth is not much required in our Highland schools. Our Highland boys and girls could very well dispense with the so-called drill which has recently become compulsory in every school. It may not be improbable that there may be reasons other than those of health for the compulsory introduction of drill to the public schools, but into that aspect of the question we shall not enter at present. If the Education Department had looked thoroughly into the question of how the health of the children was affected by their school attendance they would find that there was scarcely a school in the country but had some very serious sanitary defects, which, but for the continued daily vigilance of the teachers, would result in serious consequences to the health of the children. There is not within our knowledge a properly ventilated school throughout the Highlands—a school which has a properly constructed automatic arrangement for the ingress of fresh air and the egress of foul air, thus furnishing a copious supply of pure sweet air during the entire sitting. Windows and doors can no doubt supply this want, and there are schools which have never passed summer or winter without observing that the windows were open

to the fresh breeze of heaven, but obviously this is not possible at all times, and there are teachers who cannot, or believe they cannot, stand the open windows.

Let anyone enter a school about mid-day where there is little attention paid to the ventilation by the only available means of the windows and they will speedily realise the urgent need there is that there should not be a school recognised by the Education Department without a proper system of ventilation quite independent of whether doors or windows are open or shut. We had hoped that the sanitary authorities established in every county by the Local Government Act of 1889 would effect salutary and radical changes in respect of school sanitation, but, with the exception of supplying schools which had been without water with a proper water supply and the removal of some other glaring defects, little has been done. The blame cannot altogether be laid on the shoulders of the sanitary authorities. On the introduction of the Local Government Act both the medical officers and sanitary inspectors inspected, we believe, every school within their respective jurisdictions. The defects which they found in the school buildings are to be found in the reports which they submitted to their respective County Councils. There the matter ended. The schools are practically to-day as regards ventilation and other matters bearing on sanitation in the same condition as they were ten years ago. To furnish the schools with a proper ventilating apparatus would require some expenditure of money, and School Boards will not execute the necessary improvements till they are compelled to do so. It seems to us that this is a matter deserving greater attention from the Education Department than it has yet received. The Department at present contents itself with inserting an article in the Education Code to the effect that the school premises must be healthy, well lighted, cleaned, warmed, drained, and ventilated, supplied with suitable offices, and contain sufficient accommodation for the children attending the school. But beyond the reports of the hurried visits of their own officers the Department have no means of knowing how far these necessary requirements are carried into practical effect. Instead of the present system the Education Department should request the Medical Officer of each county to furnish an annual report of the sanitary condition of every school within his jurisdiction, and no school premises should be recognised as fulfilling the conditions of the Article of the Education Code which we have quoted above unless My Lords received a favourable report from the County Medical Officer of Health. There are other defects of the school premises, which have an important bearing on the health and comfort of the children, and to these we hope to direct attention in a future issue.

THE NESS IN SPATE.—As a result of the severe storm of wind and rain then prevailing the River Ness on Sunday last attained a very high level, while the Islands were during the week. Accompanied by rendered impassable. Since then the height of the water has much abated, although the river is not yet at normal level.

INVERNESS BIRD SHOW.—We would remind readers that this show takes place on Wednesday first in the Margaret Street Drill Hall, and it promises to be the best yet held. Entries are forward from Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cupar-Fife, Perth, &c. The bird singing competition should prove an attractive feature of the show.

MR JAMES A. DUNCAN IN THE NORTH.—Mr James A. Duncan, the prospective Liberal candidate for the Inverness Burghs, has been staying at the Royal Hotel, Inverness, during the week. Accompanied by Mr George Ross, secretary of the Liberal Association, and Mr Webster, organiser, Mr Duncan visited several parts of the town during his stay before leaving on Thursday evening for the south.

INVERNESS POORHOUSE CONTRACTS.—The Inverness Parish Council have accepted the following tenders for supplies to the poorhouse for the coming year.—Oatmeal and groceries—J. D. Noble, East Gate; butcher meat—Colin Macdonald, & Co., Castle Street; milk, potatoes, and straw—Miss Mackintosh, Balmoro of Leys; boots and shoes—Alex. Noble, Academy Street; clothing—Alexander Fraser, draper, Church Street.

INVERNESS TOWN COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE LIST.—The following is the attendance register of Town Councillors for last year at ordinary and special meetings of the Council, the "possible" being 29:—Provost Macbean, 27; Bailie Macdonald, 20; Bailie Clark, 27; Bailie Maclean, 28; Bailie Elliot, 25; Deacon Guild Fraser, 21; Treasurer Ross, 29; Councillors Macdonald, 25; Wm. Fraser, 24; Young, 28; Snowie, 10; Squire, 22; Macallister, 21; Thomson, 28; Mackintosh, 10; Sinclair, 26; Macfarlane, 17; Kelso, 26; Guild, 26; Mackay, 22; and Munro, 21.

THE LATE RODERICK MACPHEAL, RAILWAY GUARD.—The funeral took place on Thursday, to Tomnahurich Cemetery, of the late Roderick Macphail, Highland Railway guard, who died on Monday last from the effects of severe internal injuries, received at Inverness Railway Station in the early part of the previous week. The funeral was largely attended, a great many of deceased's fellow-employees being present. A few of the higher railway officials also paid this tribute of respect to the memory of the departed. Deceased, who was forty-nine years of age, had been in the employ of the Highland Railway Company since 1871. Of unassuming manners, he was well liked by all who knew him. As a railway servant, he bore a very high character for honesty, integrity, and efficiency. He leaves a widow, two sons, and one daughter, for all of whom the utmost sympathy is felt.

DEER FORESTS IN THE HIGHLANDS.—The acreage of deer forests in Scotland is increasing. Fifteen years ago they extended in the Highland counties to 1,711,892 acres; last year there were 2,287,297 acres. These figures, too, are exclusive of certain forests, such as Glenmach and North Africa, with regard to which no return has been obtained. I observe, says a London correspondent, from the Parliamentary report issued on Wednesday last, that in several cases the sheep farms of 1883 had become the deer forests of 1898. In thirteen other cases the forests of last year—some of them of great acreage—were not "formed" thirteen years ago. In Ross and Cromarty, the constituency of Mr Weir, who moved for the issue of a return, the increase in the acreage of deer forests has been particularly great. The forest of Park in that county, extending to about 42,000 acres, was in 1883 a sheep farm. This huge farm is now given over to sport, and the assessment upon it only £1500. The total assessment from the deer forests of Argyllshire, Inverness-shire, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and Orkney and Shetland amounts to £100,833. This is at the rate of considerably less than one shilling an acre.

INVERNESS GAIIC SOCIETY.—A most interesting paper by the Rev. Adam Gunn, Durness, was read at the opening meeting of the Society on Tuesday evening. There was a fair attendance of members, presided over by Mr Thos. A. Mackay, British Linen Bank. The paper, which was entitled "Unpublished Literary Remains of the Reay Country," dealt more particularly with Rob Donn, several of whose unpublished songs were included in the lecture. He also dealt with the poetry of J. Mackay, Middle. Other Reay Country verses were cited by Mr Gunn, who gave many specimens of the poetic skill of what may be termed the minor poets of the Reay Country, the whole being interspersed with interesting and critical remarks from the lecturer, who at the close was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

ETHEL'S LECTURES TRUST.—RETURN VISIT OF SIR ROBERT BALL.—We understand that the Trustees of the Ethel's Lectures, Inverness, have just concluded arrangements for the delivery of two lectures by Sir R. Ball, F.R.S., LL.D., &c., Astronomer-Royal for Ireland. The lectures will be delivered in the Music Hall on the evenings of Wednesday, 20th, and Friday, 22nd December. The subject of the first lecture is "A Universe in Motion," and of the second, "The Eternal Astronomical Subjects." As a lecturer, he is at once witty and instructive, and he may be relied on to give a clear and admirable exposition of his most interesting subjects. We heartily congratulate the Trustees on the step they have taken in again bringing this eminent scientist to Inverness.

PIERS IN SKER.—Yesterday a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Inverness-shire County Council was held in the Council Chamber, The Castle, Inverness—Mr Donald Grant, Grantown, convenor, presiding. The only business of interest before the Committee was the question of the proposed piers at Struan Bay and Poitell, Skye, respectively. Regarding the Struan Bay (Skye) pier, the Clerk, Mr James Anderson, stated that the matter had come before the County Council at their last meeting on 19th October, and it was then decided that the Finance Committee to proceed in the application as soon as plans and specifications would be supplied. In a recent letter to the Clerk from Macleod of Macleod, who had been interesting himself in regard to the proposed pier, it was stated that he had not yet been able to procure the necessary plans and specifications to lay before the Committee. Accordingly, until these are produced, the Committee have postponed consideration of the matter. With reference to Poitell pier, Skye, it was resolved to go on with as soon as the Committee received the sanction of the Board of Trade.

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THE USUAL WINTER COMMUNION.—The usual winter Communion takes place in the Free Church, Bross, to-morrow (Sabbath). The following ministers will assist the Rev. Mr. Murray:—Rev. Messrs Mackenzie, Maryburgh; Johnstone, Strathpeffer; Mackenzie, Golspie; and Grant, Helmsdale.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE DEER.—The deer forests in Scotland are increasing. Fifteen years ago they extended in the Highland counties to 1,711,892 acres; last year there were 2,287,297 acres. These figures, too, are exclusive of certain forests, such as Glenmach and North Africa, with regard to which no return has been obtained.

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INVERNESS CHORAL UNION. RE-OPENING OF THE MUSIC HALL.

Last night the Inverness Music Hall was re-opened, and a fresh lease in the public musical life of the people was entered on. The occasion was made doubly interesting from the fact that the first concert in the new hall was given by the Inverness Choral Union, in the presence of a fashionable audience. Every seat was occupied, and not a few present had to be contented with standing room. The Provost, Magistrates, and members of Town Council were also present, these gentlemen having marched to the hall, accompanied by the halberds, these attendants taking up a position in front of the platform while the audience were assembling. The appearance of the hall itself was very favourably commented on; the handsome and lofty ceiling, the electric light, the cheerful architectural surroundings—all were the theme of praise. It was observed that the electric light lends itself in a particularly pleasing manner to the enhancement of colour, and in this respect the appearance of the dresses of the ladies, as seen from the auditorium, was a charming sight. The arrangement, however, by which the chorus found their way to the platform by coming out to the top of the main staircase, thus coming in contact with the public who are going in by the same door, is one which, we think, should, if possible, be avoided, and we have no doubt any collision will be obviated in future. Otherwise everything passed off most satisfactorily, and the architects, Messrs Ross & Macbeth, are to be complimented on the manner in which the hall has been re-constructed and finished.

Before proceeding with the concert, Provost Macbean ascended the platform, and, addressing the audience, said it gave the Magistrates and members of the Town Council great pleasure to be present that night to take part in the semi-jubilee of the Choral Union—(applause). Nothing, he thought, could be more appropriate than that that ceremony should take place at the opening of what was practically a new Music Hall. There could be but one opinion as to the manner in which the various tradesmen engaged in the work of re-construction had carried out the tasteful design of Messrs Ross & Macbeth, and when the decorations were completed by Messrs Ross & Sons, Inverness, he had no hesitation in saying that both directors and the public would have every reason to be proud of that beautiful hall in which they were assembled—(applause). The Choral Union, under the able leadership of Mr Roddie—(hear, hear)—had done much to place Inverness in the front rank of musical circles, and might they not predict for it, under the genial and energetic chairmanship of Mr Kenneth Macdonald, a still larger lease of life than it had hitherto attained to?—(applause). As they were all aware, the country was stirred to its depths by the noble deeds which were being performed by our soldiers in the Transvaal struggle—(applause). He (the Provost) thought it would be appropriate and becoming that ere they entered upon the programme of the evening the Choral Union should favour them with "Britannia, the Pride of the Ocean." He invited the audience to stand up and join in the singing of its patriotic chorus, as a tribute to the brave soldiers who were at that moment fighting the battle for Queen and country—(applause).

The concert therefore opened with a spirited rendering of the once famous chorus—not so often heard nowadays—which tells of what has been done and shall be under the "Red, White, and Blue." This number was not in the programme, but the fact that its stirring harmonies reverberated throughout the building suggested the idea that one or two equally patriotic songs would not have come amiss at the present moment. The orchestra, which was under the capable leadership of Mr Watt, played Auber's overture "The Bronze Horse," with a true appreciation of the delicacies of the work and, upon the whole, with commendable steadiness. This item was followed by the chorus "Behave we Swear" (Bishop) in which the solo work was very ably performed by Miss Boyd. Mr H. F. Munro gave a most feeling and expressive rendering of "Love, could I only tell thee" (Cupel), and he was rewarded with an encore. Perhaps the most interesting item in the evening's programme was Macfarlane's cantata, "May Day." Here many of the older members were renewing acquaintance with a friend whom they had known in other years—so many years ago!—when this was no orchestra attached to the Union to lighten the labours of the chorus and inspire them to an enlarged apprehension of the mind of the composer. The idea of taking up the "May Day" was a happy one, and young members and singers who sang with cheer in the cantata in the Music Hall twenty-five years ago proved by their performance that they thoroughly enjoyed the selection. Miss Watt, as "Queen of the May," sang the recitative "Loyal Heart" and the solo "Beautiful May." Miss Watt was in excellent voice, and gave a cultivated rendering of the Queen's greeting. In response to a warm encore, the recitative and solo had to be repeated. As to the choruses, no one will venture, we think, to praise the beautiful rendering of "Behave we Swear," "The Choosing of the Queen," more particularly the passage where the claims of "Susan" to be Queen of the May are set forth. The altos were happy in their rendering of this delightful number. The remainder of the cantata was sung with remarkable care and precision, and in this connection it is only right to mention that the sopranos displayed a power the value of which Mr Roddie is to be congratulated on, and which, it is hoped, the Union will be able to retain during the season.

Beethoven's symphony No. 1 was the opening item in the second part of the programme. It consisted of six movements, and it was well interpreted. The orchestra was played a pretty and catching melody by Beethoven with much success. A male voice chorus, "The Windlass," and a part-song, "Love at First Sight," formed the remaining united vocal items on the programme. Miss A. M. Cameron moved from her place among the first violins in her place among the choruses, and gave an exceedingly artistic rendering of Mascagni's fine song "Ave Maria." The audience made an unmistakable demand, and the song had to be repeated. Mr J. H. Leslie Reed gave a correct solo from "The Windlass." Mr Robert Reed had also to favour a delighted auditory with a second and cleverly-manipulated solo. This ended a very enjoyable concert, much of the pleasure of which was due to the able and judicious leadership of the orchestra by Mr Roddie, the sympathetic accompaniments on the pianoforte, played by Miss C. Fraser; the finished performance of Miss J. T. Mackintosh on the organ, and the accomplished leadership of the orchestra by Mr A. Watt. It only remains for us to add that we trust our countrymen for us to Mr A. Watt. It only remains for us to add that we trust our countrymen for us to Mr A. Watt.

GRANT TO NAIRN HARBOUR.—It is understood that Mr Laing, Town Clerk of Nairn, has received official information from the Fishery Board agreeing to give grant for three-fourths of the estimated expenditure of the Nairn Harbour scheme, provided the burgh raises one-fourth.

INVERNESS TOWN COUNCIL.

ELECTION OF MAGISTRATES.

Yesterday the first meeting of Inverness Town Council as newly constituted was held in the Council Chamber at noon, the swearing in of members having an usual taken place on the preceding day.

Provest Maclean presided, and there were present Bailie Clark and Maclean, Dean of Guild Fraser, ex-Bailie Macdonald, ex-Treasurer Ross, Councillors Thomson, William Fraser, A. J. Stewart, John Sinclair, K. A. Gillanders, Young, Tulloch, Squair, Mactavish, Guild, Mackay, Macallister, and Munro, with Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Town Clerk, and Mr Laing, Town Clerk Depute. A number of ratepayers were also present.

The proceedings opened with prayer, offered up by the Rev. Gavin Lang. Thereafter the Town Clerk read the minutes of Thursday's meeting, and submitted the Returning Officer's report on the election. The first business of the meeting was the election of third and fourth Bailies.

Provest Maclean said that, as they were aware, Bailie Clark would act as senior Bailie, and next to him was Bailie Maclean. That left two vacancies in the bailiwick. He had very great pleasure in moving ex-Bailie Donald Macdonald for the third vacancy, and Councillor Sinclair for the fourth—(applause). It was an unwritten law of the Council that when a fellow-Magistrate served three years to the satisfaction of his colleagues and the general community, he had only then served his apprenticeship to the office, and that he be elected to a second term as a recognition of the manner in which he had discharged the duties of the magistracy during his term of office.

He therefore thought it was the unanimous opinion of Bailie Macdonald's colleagues that he had done credit during the past three years to them and to himself, and he felt confident that his election that day would be unanimous. With regard to Councillor Sinclair, he thought it was but simple justice to say that since he had been elected a representative of the Third Ward he had faithfully discharged the trust imposed in him—so faithfully, indeed, that he had the satisfaction of being returned at the recent election at the head of the poll, proving that his services had met with the entire approval of his constituents—(applause). Councillor Sinclair had done good service as convener of the Public Parks and Cemetery Committee, and in all their deliberations around that Board he had taken an active and intelligent part. It therefore afforded him very great pleasure in moving him for the fourth bailiwick. He moved the appointment of those two gentlemen in the full assurance that it would meet their unanimous approval.

Councillor Munro, in seconding the motion, said he agreed with all that the Provest had said regarding the two gentlemen. The appointments were cordially agreed to.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Bailie Macdonald, in acknowledging, said he begged to thank them very much for the great honour they had done him in again electing him to the Magistracy Bench. He not only considered it a great honour, but he also appreciated it as a mark of the goodwill and esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in that Council—(applause). He assured them it would be always his endeavour to cultivate that feeling. It was very gratifying to him and to them all to know the friendly feeling that had been entertained at that Council for the last year or two, and he hoped it would continue—(hear, hear).

Bailie Sinclair begged most sincerely to thank them for the great honour conferred upon him by electing him one of the Magistrates of the burgh. He could assure them that he appreciated their kindness very highly, and more particularly the kind words said in his favour by the Provest, and it would be his earnest endeavour to fulfil the office of Magistrate without fear or partiality—(applause). He would endeavour to temper justice with mercy, and to uphold the dignity of the Bench so far as it lay in his power—(hear, hear).

THE NEW TREASURER.

Thereafter the election of the Burgh Treasurer took place. Provest Maclean remarked that Inverness had for many years past been very fortunate in her treasurers. The late Treasurer Jonathan Ross and Treasurer Mackintosh—the latter, they were glad to say, was still in health as one of their citizens—had been model treasurers, and therefore it was no easy task that fell to the lot of the treasurer who succeeded these gentlemen in office. But he had no hesitation in saying that Treasurer Ross, whom he had had the pleasure of submitting for re-election to that office, had so discharged the duties of the treasurership during his tenure of office that he would in all sincerity be considered a worthy successor to the model treasurers (he the Provest) had referred to—(applause). He had therefore pleasure in proposing Treasurer Ross's re-election, and if any election had met with the approval of his colleagues, he felt satisfied that this one would do so—(applause).

Councillor Mackay had much pleasure in seconding. He agreed with every word the Provest had so well said regarding Treasurer Ross. During the period which he had filled the office Treasurer Ross had done the work so satisfactorily and so well that he sincerely hoped he might long be spared to fill it—(applause).

Treasurer Ross, in reply, said that as one who knew beforehand of his honour, he was supposed to be easy of mind when the actual did happen. But he did not feel easy in the resumption of the work of the office to which the Provest and Councillor Mackay had agreed that he be appointed. He had had three years' experience of the work, and he must admit he was beginning to like it; but at the same time he felt it a very important office—in fact, the most important in the Council—(hear, hear). He was exceedingly obliged to the Provest for the very kind words expressed regarding him. He was conscious of being very far behind his great namesake, whose loss they deplored, and Mr Mackintosh, whom he was glad to know they had with them yet. But with the ability he had he would endeavour to fulfil the duties of the office in the best way possible for him to do, giving all the attention that he could to master the extreme difficulties which were connected with an office of that kind. Even with these personal efforts he would not have fulfilled the duties of the past to his own satisfaction, not less to that satisfaction of the Council, were it not that he was supported

by the members of the Finance Committee, each and all of whom took a personal interest in the work. With their assistance and that of the officials the work of the treasurership during his term had been of an extremely pleasant nature, and that it might continue was his fervent desire. He knew it would continue as long as the members of the Committee were as united now as they were in the past—(applause).

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES.

The appointment of the various Committees then took place, when Bailie Clark was elected visitor to Inverness Prison in room of Bailie Macdonald; and Councillor Munro was appointed a manager of the Northern Infirmary in room of Councillor Snowie. The Free Library Committee consists of the same members as in the previous year. The Provest said that as usual the Town Council would attend divine service in the High Church, and he asked the members to assemble at the Town Hall not later than 28 minutes to eleven o'clock forenoon to-morrow (Sabbath), when they would proceed to the High Church.

On the motion of the Provest, Rev. Gavin Lang was thanked for his services, and the proceedings then terminated by Mr Lang pronouncing the benediction. Immediately afterwards the Council adjourned to the Caledonian Hotel, where the healths of the newly-appointed members were cordially pledged.

THE RETIRING COUNCILLORS.

Provest Maclean, on Monday evening, at the last meeting of the Inverness Town Council previous to the municipal election, paid a warm tribute to the two gentlemen who had retired from the Council. Referring to the retirement of Mr Alexander Macdonald, the Provest said he was sure they all agreed with him in expressing their hope that the rest would improve his physical health—(hear, hear). He also took that opportunity of recording his regret—his deep regret—at the permanent removal from public municipal life of the father of the Council—Bailie Elliot—(hear, hear). Bailie Elliot was a member of the Council when he (the Provest) entered it twenty-one years ago. The Bailie had several times been one of their magistrates, and had discharged the duties of the office with a conscientious faithfulness that friends and foes alike admired, and he had no hesitation in saying that the Bailie's figure would be greatly missed at their Council Board—(hear, hear)—and that he carried with him into his retirement from public life the best wishes of every single member of the Council without exception—(applause).

NAIRN.

At a special meeting of Nairn Town Council yesterday the following appointments were made:—Provest Dallas (re-elected); Bailie Asher (re-elected); Treasurer Mackintosh (re-elected); Dean of Guild Brooman (re-elected). Councillor John Gordon, shipping agent, was proposed for first Bailie, but declined the honour. Councillors Macandrie, wine merchant, and Simpson, retired Excise officer, were then proposed. On a vote being taken, Councillor Simpson secured a majority of votes.

INVERNESS MUNICIPAL BOARD.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Yesterday a meeting of the Inverness District Board of Lunacy was held in the Convent-Room, The Castle, Inverness—Major Stirling of Fairburn, chairman of the Board, presiding. The Finance Committee first met. A number of accounts were submitted to the Committee to be examined, and passed.

INCORRECTLY-STATED ACCOUNTS.

Mr Donald Grant, Grantown, said he had not gone over the accounts very particularly, but there were some items which in his opinion were incorrectly stated inasmuch as they appeared to be charged to the capital expenditure revenue. He might instance the fire insurance premium and the rates and taxes which were invariably charged as revenue expenditure. He did not complain of the accuracy of the accounts, only that he considered these he had specified incorrectly stated. The accounts were then passed.

DISPUTED CONTRACTS.

The Treasurer (Mr James Anderson, solicitor) read letters from two firms in Inverness declining to carry through the contracts for certain supplies to the Asylum, which they had been awarded at the previous meeting of the Board, on the ground that they had tendered for the entire supply of the particular class of goods, and not for a part supply only, which the Board had awarded them. The entire contract only, the letters stated, was tendered for in each case. The Board accepted the explanations of the firms, and awarded the contracts to the next higher offerors.

THE BOARD'S FINANCES.

Some discussion arose on the composition of the Sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the finances of the Board. Rev. Donald Mackintosh, Rogart, remarked that the members of that Committee, with the exception of the Chairman, were all members of the Inverness County Council. He knew that more than one of the other County Councils—and he spoke more particularly for the Sutherland County Council—felt strongly that the finances of the Board needed a thorough overhauling. He certainly thought that other County Councils should be represented on that Committee.

The Chairman asked whom Mr Mackintosh would suggest should be added to the Committee? The great thing was to have people living near Inverness who could attend; that was the difficulty.

Mr Mackintosh suggested that his colleague on the Board—Mr Murray, Inveran—should be added to the Sub-Committee. This was agreed to. The name of Mr J. T. Garrioch, Beaulieu, was also added.

On the Chairman asking what had become of the representatives from Ross-shire, much amusement was caused the members by the Rev. Mr Mackintosh pointing out that the notices calling the meeting had announced the time of meeting as 11.30 p.m. Mr Mackintosh considered that in these circumstances the members from Ross-shire were not to blame—(laughter).

A DAMAGED CAB.

A letter was read from a cabman in Inverness stating that on a recent evening his cab had accidentally fallen into an unreported hole at the Asylum Square, and had sustained some damage. His lamps were lit at the time. He enclosed a note of the damage done to the cab, which he asked the Board to make good. The amount he asked for was £1 14s 9d. The Clerk considered it was perhaps better to pay, and the Board, while not admitting liability, agreed to pay the amount as stated. This was all the business before the Finance Committee.

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOARD WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

LUNACY COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

The report of the auditor, which was submitted, stated that the total amount received by the Treasurer as due to the Board for patients by different parishes was, to the 15th August last, £3445 10s 5d, as against £3362 5s 3d for the corresponding period in the previous year. The report on the Asylum of Mr John Fraser, Commissioner in Lunacy, dated 21st July, 1899, was submitted. It appeared in full in our issue of 12th August last.

DR KEAY'S REPORT.

Dr Keay's report on the number of inmates stated that on that day (10th November) the total number of inmates was 578—284 males and 294 females. He also submitted a number of requisitions required up to 15th January next, amounting to £250, which were passed.

This was all the business.

UNION AMONG SHOPKEEPERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

A public meeting of the Scottish Shopkeepers and Assistants (Inverness Branch) was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of forming a branch of the above Union, and of electing office-bearers. There was a poor attendance of both shopkeepers and assistants in the unavoidable absence of Provest Maclean, who sent a letter stating that he was in full sympathy with the object of the meeting, Councillor K. A. Gillanders occupied the chair.

The Chairman chiefly dwelt upon the objects of the Union. It was more particularly a benefit Society for the good of assistants who, by contributing a certain sum each week, were entitled, when necessary arose, to sick pay, allowances, &c. Mr Kenneth Milligan, Glasgow, Chairman of the Union, then addressed the meeting. He detailed the circumstances which led to the formation of the Union. He referred to the bill of Sir John Lubbock. That bill gave power to three-fourths of any trade in a given district, by sending a requisition to the Magistrates of the town, to close up the shops at a given hour. It was on these lines that they had worked all along. Their Union differed from any other Union in that it covered both men and women. The employers themselves had clamoured for this Association. Alluding to the advantages of the Association as a benefit society he said that by subscribing 27s a year, the member, when ill, became entitled to £1 for the first four weeks, 12s 6d for the next nine weeks, 9s per week for the succeeding six months, and 5s per week for the remaining time that the illness lasted. At the end of each four years the benefit tables were revised.

Mr Fraser, Queen's Gate, Secretary of the local Shopkeepers' Union, also addressed the meeting. He referred to the recent passing of the Seats for Female Shop Assistants Bill as an instance of the power which the English Early Closing Association, a body akin to the Scottish Shopkeepers' and Assistants' Union. The bill comes into force in January. But the matter of seats in Inverness he did not think they required as much as the question of the holiday once a week. Besides the advantage of sick benefit given by the Association, the secretary, Mr Barclay, told him that the Association looked out for situations in the case of any man going south, and a strong organization of shopkeepers for the purpose of pressing home the bill that has already been brought before Parliament by Sir John Lubbock. He trusted the shopkeepers of Inverness would put their shoulders to the wheel and work the Association for what it was worth.

The Chairman stated that he had very great sympathy with the Society and all its objects. He thought young men should join it for their own benefit. He detailed the scale of sick allowances allowed. Office-bearers were then elected. Councillor K. A. Gillanders was unanimously and heartily appointed Chairman; Mr W. W. H. Fraser, Queen's Gate, Vice-Chairman; Mr Alexander Mackintosh, Queen's Gate, Secretary. In addition, Messrs Elgin, shipping agent, and Mackenzie, clothier, Church Street, masters, and Messrs Macleod, Macavitch, and Macpherson, accountants, were appointed members of the Committee. The strength of the Branch in Inverness is now about fifty.

THE INVERNESS-SHIRE ELECTION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—The particulars given by "An Occasional Correspondent" in your issue of to-day as to the treatment of the tenants of The Mackintosh are more than enough to make one's blood boil. Talk of patriotism! Why, some of our landlords could hardly be more cruel or more unpatriotic if they appeared in the role of despoiling invaders or foreign tyrants. In any country, and at any time, to convert large tracts of useful and much-required land into deer forests is undoubtedly a crime against humanity. And for tenants to have their cattle poisoned because of trespass is, whatever it may be legally, nothing more or less than moral assassination and theft. The time is not very far distant when such anti-social and condemnable action will be rendered impossible; but meantime it is the bounden duty of electors to discriminate between friends and foes, and not to listen to the hypocritical cajolery of mere party politicians, who only beat the drum patriotic so long as it suits their own selfish interests and their ambitious personal ends.

At the next General Election every constituency in the North of Scotland should be represented by an advanced land reformer; and to bring this about only requires the united efforts of the people and their true leaders to make the issues plain and declare their will at the poll.—I am, Sir, yours, &c., JACOBUS.

4th November, 1899.

PERSONAL PARS.

Colonel Hilton, late of the Seaforth Highlanders, now residing at Nairn, has been appointed to take charge of the garrison at Wrexham pro tem.

Lord and Lady Encombe, who have been the guests of Lord and Dowager Lady Lovat at Beaufort Castle for the past few days, have left for the South.

The Right Hon. Mr Jacob Bright, younger brother of the late Mr John Bright, and for many years M.P. for Manchester, died on Wednesday, aged 78. He was prominently identified with the women's suffrage movement.

THE WAR.

BOMBARDMENT OF LADYSMITH.

The War Office has received the following despatch from General Buller, dated Cape Town, Thursday:—

I have received by pigeon to-day from General White, Ladysmith, the following message:—

Bombardment at long range by heavy guns continues daily.

A few casualties occurring, but no serious damage.

Boers sent in to-day a number of refugees from Transvaal under flag of truce.

Flag of truce from Ladysmith met them outside the pickets, but were fired on before its return.

Our entrenchments daily growing stronger. Supply of provisions ample.

Official telegrams state that Capt. L. Hoare, 15th Dragoon Guards, was wounded at Ladysmith on Friday. He is doing well. Private O'Shea, 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, has been missing since the 1st of November.

POWERFUL NEW GUNS FOR THE NAVY.

In accordance with the recommendation of Parliament, the British Navy is being strengthened by the addition of new 12-inch steel and wire guns, which fire a projectile weighing 850 lbs. The Admiralty have ordered 450 of these at a cost of £10,000 each. Each man-of-war will carry four, and forts on sea-fronts will also have them.

MOVEMENT BY THE ESTCOURT GARRISON.

Estcourt, Monday, 10.45 a.m.—Signs are about to manifest that a movement is contemplated by the garrison here. The destination of the troops, however, is kept profoundly secret.—Reuter.

FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION TO BE MOBILISED.

An Army Order will be issued to-day calling out such reservists as may receive notice to join their regiments. Monday next is the first day of the mobilisation, and the Order adds that the Fifth Infantry Division will be mobilised at once for service in South Africa.

ALLEGED FIRING ON AMBULANCE.

Regarding the allegation in South African papers that our artillery had fired on the Geneva flag, General Buller telegraphs an account of the incident given by a Dutch derygman with the Boers. He says that the English artillery mistakenly thought the Boers were at the Railway Station, and fired there, one of the shots going through the ambulance. Directly they discovered their error they ceased firing. The ambulance should have been three miles away from the battlefield. The reverend gentleman adds that it was unintentional.

LOSS OF CONVOY.

General Buller also telegraphs that, according to a message from Bulwer's General flag, and escort, under Spreckley, of Plummer's force, was attacked by Boers. Six men are missing, and the convoy was lost.

THE DELAYED TRANSPORTS.

The troopship "Arwa," which was twice delayed, sailed from Southampton for the Cape yesterday morning.

A Lloyd's telegram from St Vincent, Cape Verd, says the repairs to the transport "Persia" will require seven days.

The transport "Bavarian" left Queenstown for South Africa yesterday with a large number of officers and men of the Connaught Rangers and Dublin Fusiliers.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.

INVERNESS COUNTY COMMITTEE.

- The Mackintosh of Mackintosh... £250 0 0
Messrs Stewart, Rule, & Burns, solicitors... 20 0 0
Rev. Canon Brock and Mrs Brock... 1 0 0
Messrs Mackintosh, Inverness... 10 0 0
Mrs Chisholm of Chisholm, Eccles Castle... 15 0 0
Lady Margaret Cameron of Lochiel... 5 0 0
Donat Cameron, Esq., of Lochiel... 5 0 0
Lieut. General F. W. Pele, Bromholm... 5 0 0
James E. B. Murray, Esq., of Lochour, M.P... 5 0 0
Messrs Anderson & Shaw, solicitors... 5 0 0
Caledonian Bank, Inverness Staff... 2 12 6
R. B. Ross, Esq., Spearsburg... 1 0 0
Robert Davidson, Esq., Mayfield Cottage... 0 12 6
Captain Scott-Russ, Sandhouse... 1 0 0
Mr H. Bell, Esq., Cantray House... 1 0 0
Sydney Holland, Esq., Cantray House... 1 0 0
Mrs A. Gordon Mackenzie, Cantray House... 5 0 0
Colonel R. H. Murray, C.B., Oakland... 5 0 0
J. G. Macgregor, Esq., Trafford Bank... 3 0 0
James E. Walker, Ness Castle... 1 0 0
C. Pountaine Walker, Esq., Ness Castle... 1 0 0
Mrs Hugh Arbuthnot, 26 Caledonian Square, London, S.W... 1 0 0
Mrs Rhodes, Eastwood... 1 0 0
Mrs Cameron, Dunain... 2 0 0
Mrs J. M. Murray, 10, St Andrew's Street... 1 0 0
Farquhar Urquhart, Esq., Union Street... 1 0 0
John W. Murray, Esq., 22, St Andrew's Lodge... 5 0 0
Wm. Mackay, Esq., solicitor... 5 0 0
J. G. Asher Forsyth, Esq., M.D... 2 0 0
A. Grant, Esq., solicitor... 1 0 0
Captain Murray, The Firs... 1 0 0
Enes W. Mackintosh, Esq., of Raigmore... 2 0 0
Major and Mrs. W. Mackintosh... 5 0 0
Miss Dove, Elean Algas... 3 0 0
Mrs Hugh Fraser, 31, Ness Bank... 2 0 0
Mrs J. Macleod, 32, Ness Bank... 2 0 0
Mr W. Macleod, Esq., of Lochour, Dalrossie Castle, per National Bank of Scotland, Ltd... 3 0 0
Dunlop Mackintosh, Inverness Staff... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Hlaville, Ardross Street, per Bank of Scotland... 0 10 0
Employees of Messrs J. Mackenzie, Forbes & Son, Ltd.—Mr John Trendell, manager... 1 0 0
Mr J. Peidle, 28; Mr Andrew Duncan, Esq., 10, Brodie, 6d... 0 13 0
Rev. Norman Macleod, D.D... 1 0 0
Messrs Mackintosh, Union Street... 1 0 0
Miss Alison Macleod, Union Street... 1 0 0
Messrs Mackintosh & Graham, solicitors... 5 0 0
Thomas Mackenzie, Esq., 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
Miss Christie, Royal Hotel... 0 10 0
John Cameron, Esq., Royal Hotel... 0 10 0
Employees, Royal Hotel—Mr Kenneth Robertson, 25, 61; Mr James Abernethy, 26, 61; Mr Alex. Macleod, 14; Miss Annie Sherwin, 26, 61; Miss Maggie Macleod, 26, 61; Miss Mackintosh, 6d; Miss Lizzy Macleod, 28; Miss Maggie Fraser, 28; Miss Annie Macleod, 28; Miss Margaret Macleod, 28; Mr Finlay Algie, 28; Miss Ella Hendry, 18... 0 12 0
Mr and Mrs Donald Davidson, Waverley Hotel... 2 0 0
Wardlaw, 28; Miss Jessie Finlayson, 28; Miss Janet Fraser, 28; Miss Ina Bain, 28; Miss Bessie Macmillan, 58; Miss Christina Mackenzie, 58; Miss Lizzy Grant, 28; Miss Mackintosh, 28; Miss Annie Macleod, 28; Messrs Duff & Stark, Bridge Street... 0 17 0
Mrs Inglis, Kingmills... 1 0 0
D. M. Cameron, Dempster Gardens, Inverness, and Staff... 0 11 0
Mr and Mrs A. S. Fraser, 28... 3 0 0
W. E. Gordon, Esq., Drumchapel... 1 0 0
Mrs John W. Ramsden, Ardvreckie, Kingussie... 2 0 0
Captain Monckton, R.N., Brerangrove... 2 0 0
Mrs Stewart, Ardross Street... 3 0 0
James A. Duncan, Esq., Royal Hotel... 10 0 0
The Lord Abbot and Community of St Benedict's Abbey, Fort-Augusta... 8 0 0
W. T. B. Lawson, Esq., of Glendruich... 2 0 0
A. Cowan, Esq., wine merchant... 2 0 0
James Kitchin, Esq., 60 East Gate... 1 0 0
John Fraser, Esq., wine merchant, Kenneth Street... 1 0 0
Messrs A. & S. Fraser, 28... 2 0 0
J. T. Thomson, Esq., Armliston... 0 10 0
Mrs Thomson, do... 0 10 0
Messrs Thomson & Co., 28... 0 10 0
Miss Thomson, do... 0 10 0
Mrs Young & Chapman, drawers... 2 0 0
Provest Maclean... 2 0 0
James Ross, Esq., solicitor... 2 0 0
Mrs James Eastwood... 2 0 0
Councillor Melville... 10 0 0
Mrs Young & Chapman, 10, Church Street... 10 0 0
Bishop of Meray and Mrs Kelly... 1 0 0
Major J. K. Milroy, Fort-Augusta... 1 0 0
Captain Wimerley (for sick and wounded)... 1 0 0
John Black... 1 0 0
A. D. Macdonald, fletchers... 1 0 0
Mr and Mrs Mactavish, Kilchurn... 1 0 0
Mrs Young & Chapman, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Silverwells... 1 0 0
James Duncan, Esq., Fern Villa... 2 0 0
Mr Alex. Donaldson, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
D. Gray & Co., Union Street... 1 0 0
Dr Norman Macleod... 2 0 0
Mrs Lawrence, Fine House... 1 0 0
Miss Morrison, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Gillies and Miss Adam, Island Bank... 1 0 0
Wm. Mackenzie, Esq., clothier... 1 0 0
Major J. K. Milroy, Fort-Augusta... 1 0 0
R. F. Cameron, Esq., C.A... 3 0 0
Canon and Mrs Brock... 3 0 0
Mrs Fountain Walker, Ness Castle... 1 0 0
Miss Black, Academy Street... 1 0 0
Mrs Young & Chapman, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Silverwells... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Silverwells... 1 0 0
Mr Alex. Donaldson, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
D. Gray & Co., Union Street... 1 0 0
Dr Norman Macleod... 2 0 0
Mrs Lawrence, Fine House... 1 0 0
Miss Morrison, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Gillies and Miss Adam, Island Bank... 1 0 0
Wm. Mackenzie, Esq., clothier... 1 0 0
Major J. K. Milroy, Fort-Augusta... 1 0 0
R. F. Cameron, Esq., C.A... 3 0 0
Canon and Mrs Brock... 3 0 0
Mrs Fountain Walker, Ness Castle... 1 0 0
Miss Black, Academy Street... 1 0 0
Mrs Young & Chapman, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Silverwells... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, Silverwells... 1 0 0
Mr Alex. Donaldson, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Mackenzie, 10, Church Street... 1 0 0
D. Gray & Co., Union Street... 1 0 0
Dr Norman Macleod... 2 0 0
Mrs Lawrence, Fine House... 1 0 0
Miss Morrison, do... 1 0 0
Mrs Gillies and Miss Adam, Island Bank... 1 0 0
Wm. Mackenzie, Esq., clothier... 1 0 0
Major J. K. Milroy, Fort-Augusta... 1 0 0
R. F. Cameron, Esq., C.A... 3 0 0
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Mrs Fountain Walker, Ness Castle... 1 0 0
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THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

INVERNESS.

The municipal election in Inverness passed off on Tuesday uneventfully and without a trace of excitement. Contests took place only in the First and Third Wards, in the Second Ward Messrs Francis Squair and A. D. Ross, who fell to retire, being re-elected without opposition. There was an entire absence of any broad difference of opinion on municipal subjects among the candidates, doubtless caused by the fact that there was really little before the electors to differ about. Straw splitting on the question of the site of the slaughter-house, the proposed municipal stables, and treatment of unlighted streets absorbed most of the attention of the candidates. In the First Ward, where there were three contestants for two vacancies, the issue was never for a moment in doubt, and resulted in Mr Thomas Tulloch, painter, a new candidate, being returned at the head of the poll by 451 votes, Mr D. Macdonald, a previous representative of the Ward, being second with 425 votes. The unsuccessful candidate was Mr Alex. Macdonald, licensed grocer, 18 Grant Street, who only received 121 votes. Mr Tulloch succeeds Mr Alex. Macdonald, builder, who has retired from the Council owing to the state of his health, and will, we believe, become a useful member of the Council. Mr D. Macdonald's long and faithful record of service for his Ward well merited the continued support of his constituency. In the Third Ward there were three vacancies, for which four gentlemen went to the poll. The result was as follows:—Mr John Sinclair, confectioner, 382; Mr K. A. Gillanders, grocer, 291; and Mr A. J. Stewart, wine merchant, 283—elected. The unsuccessful candidate was Mr J. T. Melven, bookseller, who polled 243. Mr Sinclair, who heads the poll, has been re-elected by his constituents, on whose behalf he has all along worked conscientiously and honestly. Messrs Gillanders and Stewart are new faces at the Council Board. Both, however, have good records in other spheres of usefulness, and their experience, we have no doubt, will be used ungrudgingly in forwarding the interests of the town. As regards the defeat of Mr Melven, his was certainly an unfortunate experience. Since his election to the Council Board some two years ago in room of the late Mr Jonathan Ross, Mr Melven has proved an exceedingly useful and level-headed member of the Council. Though temporarily, by the fatigues of the polling booth, debarr'd from the Council, we trust that at no distant date Mr Melven's ripe experience and sterling honesty of judgment will again be placed—and we hope successfully—at the service of the electors of the town.

THE GUILDHALL BANQUET.

LORD SALISBURY AND THE BRITISH SOLDIER.

The Guildhall banquet was held on Thursday, and naturally the war was the principal theme of the speeches. Lord Wolsley, replying for the army, said every day applications were received from all parts of the Empire to be allowed to take part in the present war. The British soldier was in all respects a fine fellow, and he asked the British people to trust in him at the present moment. If they did not they would not be disappointed. That day orders had been sent out for the mobilisation of another division of Her Majesty's army, and should the Prime Minister call upon the War Office to mobilise a second army corps they were quite prepared to do so. The Prime Minister, replying for the Ministry, said that for many years he had replied for that toast, but never before had he answered it under circumstances which justified him in appealing so confidently to their sympathy and support as in the present grave conditions of public affairs. He was happy to say that in our dealing with other nations there could be no question of doubt or apprehension. The happiest relations existed between the United States and ourselves. With regard to Samoa, an agreement had been come to between this country and Germany. It was a complicated agreement, but the result had been that our relations with the German people were now all that could be desired. Referring to the Transvaal, he said there appeared to be a feeling that the want of troops was somewhat due to the action of the Government. But there were two voices as to that, because it was also said that we were a strong nation attacking a weak one. That could not be true, however, so long as there was an interval which must elapse between the despatch of troops between this country and their arrival in South Africa. The real cause of the war was the events of 1881. Those events led up to the accumulation of munitions of war which could only be used against ourselves. The Government were conscious that the beginning of the war must be accompanied by some retirement, but he hoped our troops were now beginning to arrive. He would not attempt to forecast the future, and he would only say that his faith in the British soldier was unbounded, and that he was deeply gratified to feel that he was in the vigorous and sagacious hands of Sir Redvers Buller. With regard to the future, he must deplore some very strange assertions in the Continental press. He could honestly say that the Government were not anxious to steal the gold and diamond fields. They did not seek any new territory. What they desired was equal rights for all men, all races, and equality for our fellow-subjects and the Empire.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS.

HELMSDALE.—THE WEAVER AND CROPS.—A number of people have lost a good part of their winter fodder by the recent gales of wind. Potatoes are a great crop, and the hands are leisurely engaged at the lifting.

DORNOCH.—QUEEN'S SCHOLAR.—Miss Agnes Gillespie has successfully passed in the Third Division of the first year's papers in connection with the Queen's Scholars' and Queen's Students' Teachers' Certificate Examinations.

GAELIC SERVICES IN LONDON.—The next Gaelic service (under the auspices of the London Gaelic Service Committee) will be conducted in the Scottish Church, Crown Court, Covent Garden, on Sabbath first (to-morrow) by the Rev. Adam Gunn, Free Church, Dundee. The services for 1900 have been fixed for the following dates:—February 11th, May 13th, July 8th, and November 11th. The services begin at 3.30 p.m.

HELMSDALE.—EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.—Mr Harry Young, of the Evangelisation Society, has been conducting services in the Free Church Hall during the past fortnight. His addresses are full of interest to all, and have been drawing out increased audiences every night. Mr Young exerted himself in presenting the truth, and gave it pure and fresh, and in a way which ought to convict sinners and build up the converted.

EDINBURGH SUTHERLANDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The usual monthly meeting of the above Branch of the Association will be held in the new Masonic Hall, Graham Street, Lauriston, on Tuesday, 14th inst., at eight o'clock. Mr Robert Sutherland, President, will, it is expected, occupy the chair. At the meeting final arrangements will be made for the annual service, concert, and assembly, which takes place on Thursday, 7th December.

GLASGOW COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND ASSOCIATION.—Rev. Adam Gunn, M.A., Dundee, lectured to this Association last night on "The Norse Element in Sutherland." Mr Gunn preaches in the Free Church, Edinburgh, on the 12th inst., and on the following evening lectures to the Gaelic Society of London. On Thursday next Mr Gunn will address a gathering of the Clan Mackay at 5 Leith Walk, Square, Edinburgh, on Friday he lectures to the Aberdeen Celtic Society, of which he is a patron.

BONAR BRIDGE.—THE FREE LIBRARIES ACT.—On Saturday last the parish of Creich, by the substantial majority of fully three-fourths of the householders, adopted the Free Libraries Act. The polling for the entire parish, which was conducted by Mr David Ross, Clerk to the Parish Council, took place in the Drill Hall, Bonar. The Act implies the acceptance of Mr Carnegie's offer of £1000 towards a library for Bonar Village and £250 to each of the districts of Spinningdale and Rosshall towards the same objects. The offer was accepted on condition of the parish adopting the Act.

BONAR BRIDGE.—MR CARNEGIE OFFERS A FREE HOSPITAL.—Mr Carnegie has recently made an offer, through the Clerk of the Parish Council, of a fever hospital for the use of the parish generally, and also for the use of his own establishment as well, should the occasion arise. Mr Carnegie lays no restrictions as to outlay in providing a suitable building for the object in view, and has undertaken to supply the site, which is situated on the premises as well. The matter, it is understood, is to come before an early meeting of the Council for their consideration before any action is to be taken. The parish of Creich is to be congratulated on the offer, which is both able and willing to spend his means on such laudable objects as have been thus specified.

HELMSDALE.—CHILDREN'S CONCERT.—The children attending the Helmsdale Public School gave an exhibition of their mental and physical skill in the Drill Hall on Friday evening before a large and select audience, who admired the various performers. The programme was exceedingly well done, and although intricate, there was not a hitch in all the performance of it. The serving maids took well, and astonished the audience in the complete set-up of the costumes. The bar bells were also beautifully manipulated. The following solos were accompanied by the choir:—Miss Marjory Sutherland, Miss Dinnie Couper, Miss Jessie Sutherland, Miss John Gilchrist, Robert Macpherson, Mrs Bruce, and Adam Sutherland. Mrs Hill supplied the music, and Mr Hill filled the chair. As staff under the headmaster, Mr H. C. Robertson, were fully engaged attending to the several duties involved. The decorations, which were very profuse and elaborate, were carried out by the constabulary and drill instructor. The proceeds are in aid of the School Library.

ROGART.—DEBATE ON THE WAR.—"Is the Transvaal War justifiable?" was the subject debated on Wednesday last by the Rogart Debating Society. Mr Donald Murray, Culdrain, who led for the affirmative, gave an excellent address in support of his side. In a very clear manner he described the history of the Boers since their first settlement in Africa. He characterised them as a brave and valiant people, and that with the Uitlanders grievance. The affirmative was supported by Messrs R. Mackay and A. M. Thomson. Mr George Macdonald led for the negative, and occupied about twenty minutes in showing that the Boers had not the right to possess the land on behalf of Mr Rhodes and the London Stock Exchange. He quoted from a speech given by Mr Charles Selous in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on the 16th November, 1881, in which he said that the Boers were industrious. He characterised the Uitlanders grievances as being imaginary, and said, as the Uitlanders were a transitory class of people, that although they were not to be expelled, yet their claims should be applied to the Transvaal that there would be no more voters in Johannesburg than there are now. The negative was supported by ex-County Councillor Hugh Sutherland, Mr Alexander Macdonald, and Mr A. M. Thomson. On a vote taken an equal number of members voted on each side.

ADRISHAIG NEWS.

DISPUTE REGARDING A WATER SUPPLY.—In the Court of Session on Tuesday Lord Low gave judgment in the action by the Mid-Argyll District Committee against Wm. Foulds & Co. (Limited), School Wynd, Paisley, which was brought for the purpose of having the respondents interdicted from removing pipes by which the water supply for the special water district of Adrishaign was conveyed from the lands of Kilduskland to Adrishaign. The respondents, distillers at Glenfyne, contend that they have right to the water in the Kilduskland Burn under the four-charter conveying the site of the distillery to their predecessors, dated in 1864. In 1870 an augmented supply was brought into the district from Altnamaine Burn, and the complainants said that the respondents had no right to the water got from that Burn. The respondents, however, had threatened to remove the pipes and other works belonging to the complainants, and this, they contended, would deprive the village of Adrishaign of water. In answer, the respondents denied that the village was within the special water supply district, and they maintained that under the four-charter they had a first and preferable claim to the water of the Kilduskland Burn. They contended that they had a right to remove the pipes and other works in so far as they intercepted or interfered with the water of the Kilduskland Burn or its tributaries. Lord Low said that if both parties were agreed he thought it would have been convenient to have had their respective rights to the water of the burns in question determined in this process. It seemed to his lordship, however, that the respondents were not entitled to take the law into their own hands and remove the pipes, but he thought that a relevant case had been set forth of the respondents' right to the water, and he sided the case to allow the respondents to bring an action within four weeks for the vindication of their alleged right. The question of expenses was reserved.

EASTER ROSS NEWS.

DELNLY.—DEATH OF MR ELLIOT, POLNICO.—We sincerely regret to have to put on record the death of Mr John Elliot, Polnico, which took place on Monday last. The deceased, although a comparatively young man, was in failing health for several months, and went to live with his relative, Balie Elliot, Inverness, for a change. Their anticipations in this respect were not realised. The deceased was an excellent farmer, and a very successful breeder of stock. He owned a splendid flock of Leicester sheep, which he selected with great care, and the good averages realised at the annual sales is a proof of his wisdom in this respect. He was a member of the Easter Ross Farmers' Club, and took part in the various projects undertaken by that Club. Spending the last days of his life on the "Barbet" property, he was much devoted to that family, and in the recent coming of age of the Countess of Cromartie he took a very keen interest. He took also a very warm interest in everything which concerned the welfare of the community, and was mainly instrumental in getting up the Milnawa Library, which is in a flourishing condition. Mr Elliot leaves a widow and eight of a family, the eldest son being nineteen years of age. The deceased's death was a great loss to his family and to the community. The funeral took place on Thursday last to Kilninch Easter Churchyard.

WESTER ROSS NEWS.

LOCHCARRON.—MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Lochcarron Mutual Improvement Association was held on the evening of Monday last in the Drill Hall—Dr Mackay, President, in the chair. As there was no particular debate set down for that evening, the night was devoted to readings, recitations, &c. Messrs A. Mackenzie, A. Gordon, F. Macpherson, and D. Paterson respectively read papers on different subjects. Mr John Mackenzie read a very instructive essay regarding the early-day adventures of a certain old inhabitant of the village, and the "ways and means" by which the said party managed to raise the wind. Mr A. Mackenzie gave a humorous reading, and J. Stewart, J.P., read a piece of Gaelic prose, no doubt, were greatly relished by the company present. Mr Hector Mackenzie rendered a Gaelic song in excellent style. It would, adds our correspondent, be much more encouraging to the younger members of this Society if the officials and the learned members took a more active part in the proceedings.

LOCHCARRON.—SCHOOL BOARD.—At a meeting of this Board held last week offers for supplying the various schools within the parish with coals were considered. The offer of Mr Kenneth Mackenzie was accepted, he agreeing to supply English coal from the ship's side at 2s 6d per ton, and 2s 6d from the coal-yard. The report on the Lochcarron School was read and considered most satisfactory. A communication from the Education Department calling the attention of the Board to the necessity of enlarging the North Strome School. It was resolved to comply with the request of the Department, but, inasmuch as to dismantle the school building during winter would entail great inconvenience on the children and teacher, it was resolved not to proceed with the enlargement till summer, when the school was to be closed. A list of children who get in school age, but not on the school registers, was submitted, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the parents or guardians of such children requesting them to send their children to school. The compulsory officer submitted his report, which was, on the whole, satisfactory. The salaries of the teachers and various accounts were ordered to be paid. The draft of charter for the Lochcarron Public School, was submitted, and considered satisfactory, and ordered to be made out in proper form for signature.

TAIN NEWS.

St Duthus Lodge of Oddfellows are, we understand, to have their annual social meeting next month as usual.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is to be dispensed in the Free and Established Churches to-morrow. Thursday was therefore the Fast Day.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.—The quarterly meeting of School Board was held on Monday last. The only matter of public interest was, however, consideration of an alleged complaint against the treatment of merit-certificate pupils in the Academy. It was ascertained that on entry there were put back a class further than they ought to be. Into this matter the School Board at a former meeting ordered an inquiry. Now the result is that the committees appointed reported that the headmasters of both Public Schools and Academy agreed that the pupils were placed in a class as far advanced as their ability admitted. Further, Mr Stephen said that he was assured that the pupils received the utmost consideration at the Academy, and he trusted that parents would not be satisfied that they laboured under a misapprehension in this matter, for Mr Hobbs' classification of the pupils appeared to meet all present requirements. He took the opportunity of reading to the headmasters the following paragraph in the last report of H.M. Inspector on the Academy, viz., "The School Board has treated the matter of their duty to see that the course of study at the Public School includes such preliminary instruction in specific subjects as will facilitate classification when the transference of the pupils takes place." He also stated that he agreed that the proper interpretation of the paragraph was that the pupils of the Public School should be brought up to a higher state of proficiency in such subjects as Latin, French, and Mathematics.

BANKRUPTCY EXAMINATION.—In or about March last year Mr William Macgilvray, coachbuilder, Tain, started business in opposition to the Easter Ross Carriage Works which formerly held a monopoly of the trade in the district. Mr Robert Munro, accountant, Alness, put up new works in Government Place, and for a time Macgilvray seemed to be in a fair way of establishing himself. Still competition proved too keen for him, and he came down. On Wednesday he was examined in oessio at the instance of a creditor. Mr John Mackenzie, solicitor, Tain, appeared for the creditor, and Balie Mackay, Tain, appeared to advise Macgilvray. His state of affairs in process showed a deficiency of £200. When asked to explain how such a deficiency arose in the time bankrupt said it was owing to his having no capital to start with, and his having very often to sell under cost prices in order to pay wages, &c. He had not a good class of customers, only very few being good. He could give no estimate of his weekly drawings. He took £129 9s 6d out of the business for wages, &c. He had only £2 17s 6d to capital, and they paid him cash promptly. He admitted that his cash book was not correctly kept, and that sums totalling over £45 in the latter were not posted up in the cash book. In reply to a question about "commitments" he explained that these sums were paid to workmen, &c., for orders procured. He kept no bank account, and passed no cheques. The business was still carried on, but with fewer hands. Thereafter the examination was continued for a week, at that time bankrupt is to lodge an amended state of affairs and endeavour to post up his cash book.

DINGWALL NEWS.

CORAL UNION.—The first practice for the session of the Dingwall Choral Union was held in the Temperance Hall on Monday night, with Mr W. S. Roddie, Inverness, as conductor. Mr Roddie was so well pleased with the class, that he recommended, and we understand it was decided to give a concert of National Music in a few weeks. A most enjoyable session is anticipated.

PRESENTATION.—Mr Murdo F. Mackenzie, on the occasion of his leaving the service of the Dingwall branch of the National Bank of Scotland, was on Monday last made the recipient of a beautiful gold and pearl scarf pin from the agent and a handsome travelling bag from the staff. Mr Duncairn in making the presentation passed a high eulogium on Mr Mackenzie's capabilities, and said they were parting with him with regret. During the ten years Mr Mackenzie had been with them, he had discharged his duties to his (Mr Duncairn's) entire satisfaction, and the high esteem he was held in by the Bank was shown by the recent offer of promotion to the telegraph at Abroath. He trusted that in the new sphere he was about to enter he would be most successful, and become a useful member of the community. Mr Mackenzie suitably replied.

OUR HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.—The Glasgow Ross and Cromartyshire Association have taken the initiative in convening representatives from the various Highland and Clan Associations in this city to meet in the Christian Institute on Monday first to consider what means should be taken to raise funds for the wives and families of those members of our Highland regiments who may fall in the war. It is to be hoped that our various Associations will show that they can act together when the occasion arises, and that the result of the meeting will be worthy of our Highland humanity.

LITERARY EVENING CONCERTS.—The first of what is intended to be a series of Saturday evening entertainments was given in the Temperance Hall on Saturday. These evening concerts have been organised by the Rev. Mr Macpherson, and are intended to offer some counter-attraction to the street and the public-house. On Saturday Mr Macpherson gave a lecture on the "Philippine Islands," illustrated with lime-light views, and the lecturer was listened to attentively during the whole of his discourse, which was both interesting and instructive. At the close Mr R. Mackenzie, cabinetmaker, moved a vote of thanks to Mr Macpherson on his lecture, and also to Mr Malcolm for his solos during the evening, and to Mr Munro for his lime-light views.

GLASGOW ROSS AND CROMARTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the above Association was held in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, on Tuesday evening. Mr Malcolm Ross, the president, occupied the chair. Mr William Mackay Mackenzie, M.A., delivered an interesting lecture entitled "Highland Gleanings," which was illustrated by a large number of interesting lime-light views. Among the scenes depicted were a number dealing with the historic mansions and castles of Ross-shire, as well as the lonely shielings of the crofter. A series of views showing the difficulties encountered in the workings of the Highland Railway on account of the drifting snow created much interest, and in his descriptions of the railway the lecturer took occasion to say a good word on behalf of the Highland Railway management. During the evening he also referred to the fund about to be raised on behalf of our soldiers presently engaged in the Transvaal. To this fund the different Highland Societies of the city will be asked to subscribe, and a conference to further the movement is to be held on Monday evening first. The initiative in this laudable scheme has been taken by the Ross and Cromarty Association. The lecturer paid a warm tribute to our Highland soldiers, and trusted the members of the Association would see the advisability of doing something on behalf of the widowed and fatherless which the war would inevitably leave behind it. Mr Mackenzie, of the Glasgow Gaelic Society, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, heartily supported the proposed benevolent fund, and impressed on the members the advisability of each one personally doing their best. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

BLACK ISLE NEWS.

FORTROSE.—TOWN COUNCIL.—The first formal meeting of the new Town Council took place on Thursday, when the members took the vows of municipal allegiance.

FORTROSE.—FORTHCOMING LECTURE.—The Rev. William Green, hon. president of the Glasgow and Rosemarkie Mutual Improvement Association, is to give the opening lecture of the current session in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday night.

AVOCH.—BAND OF HOPE.—The first meeting of the current session of the Free Church Band of Hope was held on Friday (last) night—Rev. D. F. Macleod, conductor. On the same night the Free Church Choir resumed practice under the leadership of Mr Anderson.

FORTROSE.—PRESBYTERY MEETING.—A meeting of the Free Presbytery of Chanony was held here on Tuesday—Rev. Neil Gillies, Redcastle, moderator. A communication was received from the sub-committee of the Committee on Union recommending the union of the Synods of Moray and Ross. To this proposal the Presbytery agreed. Rev. Mr Macleod, Munloch, intimated an increase of £2 throughout the bounds of the Presbytery for the Sustentation Fund, during the past five months.

ROSEMARKIE.—DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—Last week a fire broke out on the farm of Ryevelt, Raddery, which, before it could be extinguished, had destroyed all the grain in the stackyard and granary. The farm is occupied by Mr John Grigor, a nonagenarian, and the oldest tenant on the estate. The origin of the fire is unknown, and the loss is estimated at £200. The grain was not insured. Much sympathy is felt for the aged farmer, who, by a pathetic coincidence, was deprived of his harvest on Harvest Thanksgiving Day.

FORTROSE.—M.T.A.—The opening meeting of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Mutual Improvement Association for the session 1899-1900 was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday night. Mr J. Maclean, M.A., presided, and in a recapitulatory speech made sympathetic allusion to the loss sustained by the Society during the past year through the death of ex-Ballic Watson and of Mr Fred Dunn, whose brilliant talents had so long been placed at the service of the Society. He also expressed the regret of the Association at the departure of the late official secretary, Mr John Forbes. The following officers were then elected:—Hon. Presidents, Rev. W. Green and Balie Stuart; President, Mr J. Maclean, M.A.; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Fraser and Messrs Maclelland and Murray; Secretary, Mr Donald Mackenzie; Treasurer, Mr David Barclay; Syllabus Committee, President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The fee of 1s for the session is to be continued.

HALF HOLIDAYS.—The shopkeepers' weekly half holiday began on Wednesday last, and will be continued until the end of May.

AULDEARN SCHOOL BOARD.—A meeting of the School Board took place on Monday—Rev. James Bonallo in the chair. Also present—Rev. Mr Kerr, and Messrs Russell and Anderson. The committee appointed to make inquiries regarding the making a roadway through the playground to the school-house reported they had got an estimate, but they considered it too high. After some discussion, it was agreed to provide for the two existing classrooms of Auldearn School. Several cases of irregular attendance were reported, and the Clerk received instructions to send the usual notices to the parents. A letter was read from the mother of a boy over thirteen years of age asking that he be allowed to leave school, as she was in necessitous circumstances. After some discussion regarding legality of the question at issue, the Board resolved to ask the inspector to examine the boy for the merit certificate.

MEADOWFIELD FARM, near Nairn, which is at present occupied by Dr Mann, has been let to Mr James Cameron, Albert Street, Nairn.

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QUEEN'S STUDENTS' EXAMINATION.—In the list of successful students in connection with the Queen's Scholars' and Queen's Students' Teachers' Certificate Examinations we are pleased to observe the names of the following Nairn competitors who have passed in the Third Division of the first year's papers:—Misses Margaret Douglas, Esther Maclelland, Bessie Ross, and Nellie C. Ross.

BEAULY AND THE AIRD NEWS.

PRESENTATION TO MR MERRY, BELLA-DRUM.—A deputation from the tenantry on the Belladrum estate, in the Aird district, waited upon their landlord, Mr A. W. Merry, on Tuesday evening, and presented him with a handsome testimonial on the occasion of his marriage on the 15th inst. to Miss Chetwynd, Mr W. L. MacWilliam, Coumhill, the largest farm on the estate, made the presentation. Mr Merry thanked the tenantry for the superb gift of which they had made him the recipient. The employees at Belladrum House also presented Mr Merry with a flower bowl. The deputation was afterwards entertained to cake and wine.

GLEN-URQUHART NOTES.

Recently deacons were "made" in the Free Church.

We are enjoying fine open weather just now. Mr and Mrs Bradley-Martin, Balmacraan, who were on a short visit to England, have returned. The cover shooting, which in common parlance is the best in the Highlands, begins in a few days.

Wednesday last was observed as the Thanksgiving for the Harvest in the Glen. In the Free Church the services in Gaelic and English were conducted by the Rev. Mr Noble, Lairg. There were large congregations at both diets. The annual collection for repairs in connection with church and manse was taken at the doors at both services.

The past few weeks, although cold, have been beautifully fine, and a continuance of the same has allowed a good number to lift their potatoes. The crops, of course, are all secured, but till last week a stock here and there could be seen. The straw and grain are not of such good quality as last year, which means a financial loss to the farmer.

The Trustees of the Lewistown Mission Hall, held an entertainment at Balmacraan to defray the expense of enclosing the hall within its own grounds. Although Balmacraan is not the most central place to hold entertainments of this kind, yet there was a good attendance. Mr Martin presided. We think a public hall in a central place is much needed. Mr Bradley-Martin would perhaps help in the matter, and this would be a further proof that he takes a keen interest in their (the people of Glen-Urquhart) comfort and welfare. As it may not be quite fresh in the minds of many, I may here refer to the grand fancy dance given in the hall in the big house in New York by Mr Martin, and which was said to have cost over £27,000. It was said the ball was suggested by one given in this country by the Countess of Warwick, sister of the Duchess of Sutherland. He then said it may, I think I can safely say that a ball given on a much less scale would be much appreciated by the people of Glen-Urquhart. There has been no function worthy of the name, excepting one given by Mr Bradley-Martin a few years ago, when one of the family attended. As his majority, since the memorable event given by the late Earl of Seafield when his son, Ian, attained his majority. For that event a ball-room was specially built, and the road leading to the main road at Little Millers to the big house was beautifully hung with lanterns. Sporting tenants all over the country nowadays give entertainments to their gamekeepers, gillies, and servants, in the shape of a supper and dance, as it is commonly called. We would like to see still another of the "kindness and courteous manner towards" not only Lewistown men, but Glen-Urquhart folks as a whole. There are lots of accommodation at Balmacraan, and a function to dispel the monotony would, I know, be much appreciated by both old and young. A foursome neatly danced in Highland costume, accompanied by the "hoch" of the Gael, which rings so pleasantly, would accord equally as much delight to the distinguished visitor at Balmacraan as the Northern Meet-ings Games. As the times are so perpetually changing, and we with the times, I hope the feeble hint thrown out may not be without effect.

FORT-AUGUSTUS NEWS.

DEATH OF MR F. T. RUFFORD.—It is with much regret that the sad news was received here in the beginning of the week of the death in Brighton of Mr Francis Tongue Rufford, who for thirty-two years was lessee of the shootings of Inchnacardoch and Auchterawe and adjacent fishings. During that long period Mr Rufford took a deep interest in the welfare of the village. He was a firm supporter of the Church of Scotland. Some thirty years ago he laid the foundation-stone of the present church, and was treasurer to the Building Committee of the new manse, to which fund he contributed the handsome sum of £150. To the Public Hall, the foundation-stone of which was laid by Mr Rufford, he gave the substantial donation of £25. The needy also were the recipients of his liberality, so that his name will be long cherished by all classes in Fort-Augustus.

SERVANTS' BALL AT CULLACHY.—On Thursday last the annual servants' ball was held at the estate home farm steading, when some thirty couples from the neighbourhood assembled. The grand march was led off by Mrs Harriet Smith and Mr J. Dods, of the mansion house. On the completion of the first part of the programme the company sat down to a cake and wine banquet, enlivened with song and sentiment. Thereafter the second part of the programme was resumed, and right merrily sustained until an early hour in the morning. Excellent music was alternately supplied by Sergeant-Piper John B. Mackenzie, late of the Scots Guards; Messrs Alex. McRaid, C.C., Fort-Augustus; Donald Fraser, Glen-Urquhart; and Mr J. McCabe, Inverness.

ARDERSIER.—RE-OPENING OF FREE CHURCH.—A public meeting was held last week in connection with the re-opening of the Ardersier Free Church. There was a large turn-out of the congregation, and a number of friends from the neighbouring congregation. The meeting, which was presided over by the pastor, and addressed by several ministers and laymen, was very hearty. The treasurer stated that £23 had been received for the Building Fund. The cost of the renovation was £275, leaving a balance in hand of £53. This is very creditable to the congregation, and the many Christian friends outside the congregation who have generously lent their aid will not doubt be gratified to hear of the satisfactory result.

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THE LATE REV. MR SINCLAIR, PLOCKTON.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

SIR,—Being from home, I did not hear of the sad death of Mr Sinclair till I saw it in the papers. Permit me to say that it is now almost forty years since I first met Mr Sinclair and heard him preach. He was then one of the most active of men, and a good preacher. A kinder or more hospitable man in his own house there could not be. No one on the north-western seaboard of Scotland has done half so much for the furtherance of education, and that long before the Education Act of 1872 was in force; and as a consequence, no district on the west coast of the same area and population has sent so many young men into the professions as Plockton has done. It is safe to say that in every part of the civilised world there are successful men who owe their first start in life to Mr Sinclair, and who will doubtless mourn his loss. He was not in sympathy with certain recent movements in the Free Church, but small blame to him. He was far removed from the great palpitating, progressive heart of the Free Church, and his environment for many years was not conducive to progressive thought. He was chairman at the luncheon given at Kyle of Lochalsh on the occasion of the opening of the new Free Church there recently. I was asked to propose the "Free Church." After doing so he thanked me, and said that he was about fifty years in the Free Church, and that he intended to die in it, a remark which was loudly cheered. Although there were signs of failure then, not one of us thought that the end was so near.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

M. MACKENZIE.  
Gairloch, 6th November, 1899.

A GOOD RECIPE FOR GINGER WINE.

3 1/- BOTTLES FOR 41d.

A 41d bottle of Effell Tower Lemon Ginger makes three 1s bottles of most delicious Ginger Wine of wonderful quality. It is made as easily as Effell Tower Lemonade, and should be tried by everyone. The remarkable thing about it is, that while it is ridiculously cheap, yet it is wonderfully good. Be sure and ask for Effell Tower Lemon Ginger when you are next ordering your goods. If you cannot get it from your grocer, send 41d to G. Foster Clark & Co., Dept. 3231, Effell Tower Factory, Maidstone, and they will send by return of post a bottle sufficient to make three 1s bottles of Ginger Wine. For those who prefer a longer drink, 20 tumblers of most invigorating and delicious Ginger Punch can be made from a 41d bottle of Effell Tower Lemon Ginger. It is a blend of Ginger with the finest Lemons, and is unsurpassed as a Winter Drink. A bottle sent post free for 41d. Everybody who has tried Effell Tower Lemonade should certainly try both of the above beverages.

1000 BOTTLES TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

The firm have adopted the following novel method to induce everybody to try their Lemon Ginger and Ginger Punch. One quarter of the bottles opened every day not only have the Lemon Ginger and Ginger Punch sent by return post but the stamps are also returned to the fortunate applicants.



AGRICULTURE.

SOME NOTES. If anyone cherished the hope that the war in South Africa would raise the price of grain that hope must be laid aside now.

It is reported that Como, the well-known Kincardineshire stallion, has died at sea while on a voyage to Montreal.

The entries for the coming show of the Scottish National Fat Stock Club, which is to be held in the Waverley Market on Wednesday and Thursday, 29th and 30th inst., are now closed.

At Mill of Petty, Fyvie, tenanted by Mr James Milne, there has just been erected one of the new Semi-portable Threshing Machines driven by water power.

GRAIN MARKETS. Inverness, Friday.—There was a moderate attendance at to-day's market. Prices:—Barley, 55 lbs. 23s 6d; Oats (new), 24s 6d; Oats (old), 24s 6d.

TO PREVENT ERRORS, it is requested that all consignments be duly advised, and that they be directed to Edward Jex & Son, in full.

INVERNESS, Monday. At Macdonald, Fraser & Co.'s weekly sale of fat stock, there were about average numbers for this season.

EVERY CROFTER has one of these handy Ma Hines, which besides thrashing and cutting, is also adapted for the lightest to drive of any Manual Thrasher in the market.

SALES AND CONTRACTS SUMMARY.

PROPERTY AND OTHER SALES. SATURDAY, November 11 (To-day).—Sale of decorative plants, shrubs and fruit trees, in the Artillery Drill Hall, Margaret Street, Inverness, by W. J. Morrison, auctioneer, at 12.

STOCK SALES. SATURDAY, November 11 (To-day).—Sale of turnips at Belmont Farm, near Inverness, by Macdonald, Fraser & Co., auctioneers, at 4.

INVERNESS AUCTION MART. WEEKLY LIVE STOCK SALES. Every TUESDAY, commencing with PIGS at 11 A.M. CALVES at 11.15, FAT CATTLE at 12 Noon.

DINGWALL AUCTION MARKET. MACCALLUM BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS AND LIVE STOCK SALESMEN. Special attention given to FURNITURE and FARM STOCK SALES.

JAMES S. DAVIDSON & CO., COMMISSION AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS, PETERHEAD. Agents for the sale of Italian Wood Floors, Herring Barrel Staves, and Headings.

TO PREVENT ERRORS, it is requested that all consignments be duly advised, and that they be directed to Edward Jex & Son, in full. Established over 50 Years.

GUPISS' CONSTITUTION BALLS. Testimonial. For Grease, Swelled Legs, Cracked Heels, Coughs, Colds, Sore Throats, Disordered Breeds, Broken Wind, Influenza, Loss of Appetite, &c., &c.

THE NEW FOOT AND HAND THRASHERS. GREAT IMPROVEMENT FOR 1899-1900. Every Crofter has one of these handy Ma Hines, which besides thrashing and cutting, is also adapted for the lightest to drive of any Manual Thrasher in the market.

SHAW, WALKER, & CO'S

CITY IRONMONGERY STORES, 14 TO 18 UNION STREET, GLASGOW. Telegraphic Address—"Stores," Glasgow. Shut at 6 p.m. every day all the year round.

PARAFFIN OIL.—3000 cases paraffin oil in 42 gallon cans. "Special" quality, 6d per gallon; "water white" quality, 7d per gallon.

MARRIAGE PRESENTS A SPECIALTY. BOOTS AND SHOES. A. T. HOGG. Is still selling his famous Boots at the old prices. Highest quality of material and workmanship.

ALL GOODS CARRIAGE PAID. Imake a special study of boots for country wear. Working Men's Boots, Heels, Tackets, or Sprigs in Soles, Topcups, 6d, 7s, 8s, best quality 8d 6d.

THE BRIG O' TURK HIGHLAND WHISKY. BOTTLED BY THE PROPRIETORS—A. & R. VANNAN, LTD., 53, BOTHWELL STREET, GLASGOW.

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MACTAVISH'S NEW FURNISHING WAREHOUSE. The Largest and most Complete Furnishing Warehouse in the North of Scotland.

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SPECIALITIES IN FINE TEAS.

MACDONALD & MACKINTOSH. Having made extensive and advantageous purchases in INDIA, CEYLON, and CHINA TEAS, they are offering as the finest that can be produced at their respective prices.

JACK'S SEVEN BLENDS HIGHLAND WHISKIES. JACK'S YELLOW SEAL, 2s. REA SEAL, 2s 6d. BLUE SEAL, 2s 6d. GREEN SEAL, 2s 6d.

JAMES ADAMS & COMPANY, TRADING SAWMILLS, GLASGOW. All kinds of American and Baltic Timber, Mouldings, Flooring, Lining, Battens, Logs and Spars.

MIND MY CORNS! MIND MY CORNSH! MIND MY CORNSH! It is an expression frequently heard, but little or no attention is felt for sufferers with Corns who neglect to use.

OLD PORT WINES. FINE OLD TAWNY PORTS, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s and 3s 6d per Bottle. RED WINES (Caledonian), 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d 1s 9d per Bottle.

THE BRIG O' TURK HIGHLAND WHISKY. BOTTLED BY THE PROPRIETORS—A. & R. VANNAN, LTD., 53, BOTHWELL STREET, GLASGOW.

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BUSINESS CARDS.

MINCK, Practical Watchmaker, 21 Inglis Street, All Repairs personally attended to. Good Workmanship guaranteed. Charges moderate. Terms Cash.

ALEX. CAMERON. Late of Datchet & Cameron, QUEENSGATE (CORNER OF ARCADE), INVERNESS.

W. J. MORRISON. AUCTIONEER & VALUER, 22 HIGH STREET, Conducts Sales and Valuations of every Description.

W. MICHIE. AUCTIONEER & VALUATOR, 22 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS. Sales and Valuations of every description conducted. Proceeds guaranteed.

JOHN H. FORSYTH & CO., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WINE MERCHANT INGLIS STREET, INVERNESS.

INVERNESS, THE WESTERN LINES AND GLASGOW, VIA CALEDONIAN CANAL. LOCHNESS SERVICE. INVERNESS FOR FORT-AUGUSTUS.

OBAN AND FORT-WILLIAM MAIL SERVICE.—From Fort-William daily (ex. Sunday) at 8 A.M., returning from Oban 12.30 P.M.

NOTICE—SPECIAL SAILINGS. For the convenience of the traffic the "Texa" sails from Glasgow every Friday.

BURNETT BROTHERS,

BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS, SUCCESSORS TO W.M. MILNE & SON, HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

FANCY LOAF BREADS A Speciality. Our "FANCY" and "FANCY CAKES" are commanding a steady and increasing sale.

COLIN D. JACK, 22 BARON TAYLOR'S LANE, INVERNESS. PAINTER, GLAZIER, AND PAPERHANGER.

GILBERT ROSS, ACADEMY STREET, INVERNESS. BARCLAY PERKINS, London, and Guinness' Dublin Stout; in prime condition.

THE HIGHLAND NEWS' OFFICE, INVERNESS. HIGHLAND RAILWAY NOTICES. WEEK-END CHEAP FARES.

FROM THE SOUTH. STATIONS. Saturdays. WEEK DATA. Dep. a.m. p.m. a.m. night.

TO THE SOUTH. STATIONS. WEEK DATA. \$ a.m. p.m. a.m. night.

THE Railway Time Table will be found on page 11.







For the Ladies.

BY MORAG.

TWO MUSICAL EVENINGS AND A BUDGET OF BARGAINS.

MY DEAR MORAG,—How very disappointing it must have been to the ladies and gentlemen who came forward and gave their aid in sustaining the musical programme at the concert of the High Church Guild on Friday evening of last week to find so poor an attendance in the Academy Street Hall. Really, it is high time the youth of the congregation were taking their share of the work cheerfully performed by those who are ever ready and willing to give their assistance. One could not but regret to observe the apparent lack of interest shown by the congregation in the event. The cold and wet evening will no doubt be credited by the stay-at-homes for their own non-appearance. I am rather inclined to ascribe an indifferent and "can't-be-bothered" policy to the majority of folks. This lack of sympathy in the Guild movement is to be regretted. Awake! all ye young folk who are in any way connected with our ancient Church, and bestir yourselves to what is going on around. Surely you are not going to have those ladies and gentlemen, who, over since I can remember, have taken the brunt of the labour of arranging these musical evenings, bear the burden alone. These energetic workers do not grumble, but they must at times crave for sympathy and support, and it is only natural that the congregation should, by coming out in their hundreds of an evening to be present at these interesting events, show their appreciation of the efforts of those who guide and direct the meetings. It may be that the hall is not so attractive to the youth of to-day as it might be. Well, I confess I somehow thought it did lack a warm and cheery appearance; but, that, with a little forethought and re-arrangement, it might have. Another thing is that in these musical evenings there is a great want of sociability about the whole affair. If you are a stranger, and you pay a visit to the concert, a stranger you will remain; and a cold icy reception is not conducive to the success of any entertainment. Is this stolid, freezing demeanour to be continued for ever? Rather let the stranger receive a fraternal greeting; for have we it not on the best authority that in entertaining strangers we may entertain angels unaware!

However talented the artistes are, one is the better of an occasional non-comer, and thus it was with Miss Will, who for the first time took part at the High Church Guild concert. Miss Will delighted all by her pretty rendering of "The Holy City." Highland music, played by Miss Shaw, Thornhill, was a delightful treat, and if similar performances were given at local functions, it would, I am confident, do more for the propagation of Celtic music than half-a-dozen Mods.

Eminently successful was the concert held last Saturday evening, when the Grant Street Hall was well filled with an audience which would have delighted the heart of the Rev. Mr. Hoyle, late of the Wesleyan congregation. It was indeed a refreshing sight, and the very youngsters, for whom the affair was held, gentleman during his stay in Inverness worked so assiduously—scores of little dirty faces, but withal happy countenances—occupied the seats around. The pretty and attractively lighted hall was indeed cosy, and yet well ventilated, Mr. Adam Munro taking every precaution to see to the ventilation. Rev. Mr. Kennedy and Rev. Mr. Wallace were present—the former an old and valued friend of the little ones, and the latter equally popular with the boys. Mr. Gibson was doorkeeper, and a better could not be found. One penny was the admission fee, and I'm sure if a little friend came without his copper he would not be sent away. No, no! the concert is just in aid of these children, and the more the merrier. To Mrs. David Logan—a lady whose name is associated with all that is good—is due the entire thanks for the arrangement of the programme, as well as to those ladies and gentlemen who so generously assisted. A favourite saying of the Rev. Dr. Macleod is, "No man liveth unto himself." The text was beautifully illustrated on Saturday evening, although I should say a little further than Dr. Macleod said, "Neither does any woman live for herself." The majority of the artistes were ladies, and right heartily did they go into their work, while by their doing so they lighted the little ones, who were not slow to demand accolades. At the outset the Rev. Mr. Kennedy paid a pretty compliment to the boys. He said hitherto their conduct was exemplary, and there was no fear but during the coming winter session they would be attentive hearers—(applause). Mrs. Logan opened the proceedings with a pianoforte selection. It is needless to refer to Mrs. Logan's abilities; these are well and deservedly known. Miss Morin, one of our most talented artistes, followed with a beautifully-sung song, the rendering of which delighted all. Attired in a purple skirt, with pretty striped blouse, and smart toque in fawn and purple material, decked with steel ornaments and a couple feathers, Miss Morin looked very pretty and attractive. A cornet solo by Mr. Leslie-Reed came next, and his brilliant performance was heartily applauded. The next item was a Dutch song by Miss Manners. The happy and homely way in which Miss Manners sang this somewhat amusing parody created great laughter and hearty applause. A skirt in navy, and pink striped blouse, draped over with white silk fichu, and navy hat en suite, was that adopted by this young lady. Mr. Lawrence Fraser's songs—this is a host in himself—are always so beautifully sung, and always so up-to-date, that no wonder he is so popular. Indeed, the only fault that is to be found with Mr. Fraser is that the public do not hear him often enough. A feature of the evening was a trio composed of Miss Boyd, who, like her beloved mother, seems never weary in well doing, Miss Morin, and Mr. Whitehead. The trio was a masterpiece, and bespoke the valour for the performers, whose graceful gestures demanded rounds of cheering, and they were encored. Again they mounted the little platform, and repeated the last verse of the "Countess." Miss Boyd was smartly gowned in crimson, veiled over with black net, and her smart toque, draped with green tulle and clusters of geraniums and green corn, completed the trimmings. Mrs. Boyd also was present, and was attired in black. A song from Mr. Whitehead was thereafter given, and he, like the others, was very successful. Mr. Reid followed with a comic song, which the audience so thoroughly enjoyed that an encore was demanded. Mrs. Logan and Miss Henderson thereafter played a duet delightfully. Miss Henderson, always so charming, wore a pretty striped blouse, with a stylish arrangement of white lace around the throat; white sailor hat, and dark skirt. Later on Miss Henderson, whose voice is daily improving, sang a song very sweetly, and received hearty reception. A fitting item for such a gathering was a

cornet solo, "Soldiers of the Queen," by Mr. Leslie-Reed, which evoked much enthusiasm. Mr. Reed had an accompaniment which, I am sure, he at the outset never anticipated. A chorus of over a hundred children's voices sang out so bravely as true soldiers of the line. God natively Mr. Leslie-Reed accepted an encore, and again the children's voices sang forth the loyal chorus. Miss Boyd recited Rudyard Kipling's latest poem, and although not yet so well known amongst the masses, she received hearty applause. The poem is a magnificent composition from the pen of a gifted author who, it may be, during his stay at Loch Ness in the summer months, was inspired to write the lines. The concert, which augurs well for the opening of the Merkinch Mission winter evenings, was a brilliant success, and concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

I saw such a pretty dress and coat the other day, and that too worn by a lady visitor. The dress was in navy serge, made in robe style, and fastened at the waist, with a waistband of the material. The bodice exhibited a sailor collar, cuffs, and revers of deep red cloth, showing a berth of soft white lace. Her long tight-fitting navy overcoat was trimmed identically with the former, and when I tell you that a most becoming toque in red cloth, with a triple arrangement of navy pompons artfully fastened at the side, was also worn you can imagine the result. The toilet was indeed pretty, and it suited the handsome wearer to perfection.

What cosy and elaborately embroidered garments Mr. George Hall is showing at present in his windows in Union Street. These articles would suit children whose ages might range from four years upwards. A very charming coat in red fine cloth suitable for a little girl, say about eight or nine years, caught my eye the other day. This garment was really very chic, and decked with pearl buttons. Other smart coats suitable for either sex were elaborately braided, and if worn with those useful and drosy caps in astrakan would, I am confident, give the utmost satisfaction. Really what pretty garments are being provided nowadays for our children if we only knew where to get them, and at such little cost. I observed those Astrakan caps, suitable for girls whose ages might range from five upwards, in brown and white colours, and more than likely Mr. Hall will have them in stock in other colours. In another Mr. Hall's windows I observed gentlemen's dressing gowns in such comfortable materials; they were just the article to don in these cold mornings. There were heaps of other useful and cosy articles, specially noticeable being gentlemen's ties, scarfs, &c.

I have received from Messrs Ogg Brothers, drapers, Paisley Road Toll, Glasgow, a copy of their "Budget of Bargains" for autumn and winter wear in the shape of a handsome booklet of over 100 pages, and containing numberless illustrations. In their comprehensive catalogue one can find no article missing necessary to complete the outfit of any ordinary person. As, of course, is usual, a great amount of the space of the catalogue is given over to the ladies. In the corset and underclothing department there is shown a full range of corsets and underclothing in all the newest materials and colours. A large number of ladies' blouses in the newest styles are shown. Messrs Ogg also present an almost endless variety of mantles, furs, wrap shawls, braids, buttons, dress trimmings, black dress goods, silks, ribbons, sashes, &c., all in the very latest fashions, patterns, and shapes, and at very moderate prices. A really charming variety of baby linen of every description is shown, a mine of tempting and pretty articles of children's wear being exposed for selection. Mothers should experience no difficulty in finding suitable apparel for their little ones after an examination of the contents of this department. There is also a men and boys' ready-made department, where a selection of equally fashionable and merry goods are shown. The variety of millinery presented, trimmed and untrimmed, should enable the most fastidious lady to be suited to her entire satisfaction. Other goods are shown in number, quality, and variety, far too numerous to mention. For instance, we get a furnishing department, a toy and fancy goods department, and a jewellery department. My Dear Morag, it only remains for me to add that I am sending this catalogue on so you may see the bargains for yourself. If any of your friends wish to copy they have only to drop a post card to Messrs Ogg Brothers, who, I am sure, will be happy to forward their "Budget of Bargains" by return of post.—Your affectionate cousin, F. MORAG.

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