





**THE MORAY SYNODS.**  
**FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**WORK AMONG INDIAN STUDENTS.**

The provincial Free Church Synod of Moray met in the Free High Church, Inverness, on Tuesday. The Rev. Mr Stockdale, Orange, retiring Moderator, presided, and preached. In vacating the Moderator's chair Mr Stockdale conveyed his cordial and sincere thanks to the members of the Court for their kindness in calling him to occupy that position, and also for the kindness shown to him during the time he had filled the chair. He also desired to express his thanks to the Clerk, Dr Winter, Oyne, from whom any Moderator would always receive the best guidance. In all probability this is the last time that Strathegic would be included in the Synod of Moray. Perhaps he might mention this fact, which was not very widely known, that exactly 200 years ago Strathegic was disjoined from the Synod of Aberdeen and united to the Synod of Moray, and now after another 200 years they were to be sent back again—(laughter). He had now to propose a Moderator for the coming year and the name he would like to bring before them would be his sure commend itself to the judgment and appreciation and acceptance of every member. He referred to his esteemed friend, the Rev. George Cassie, Hopeman, whose experience and knowledge of church business would be a guarantee that everything required to be done by the occupant of the chair would be done in a manner worthy of the reverend Court—(applause).

The Rev. George Cassie returned thanks for his election.

**SYNOD STATISTICS.**

The Clerk submitted the usual abstract of the statistics of the Synod, as follows, the shillings and pence being omitted in the contributions:—

Presbyteries.	Schemes.	Fund.	Sund.	Other.	Total.
Aberdeen	250	2308	2416	4263	11177
Aberdeenshire	132	801	650	559	1941
Elgin	281	1555	1477	228	5411
Forres	33	138	628	718	1509
Inverness	474	3411	1925	2346	8526
Nairn	169	950	774	590	2483
Strathgibbon	210	381	698	37	2926

Total, 1900..... £110 2508 2884 £270 22,074  
 „ 1899..... 1418 858 672 £210 22,438

Presbyteries. Elders. Deacons. Com. Adh. Bapt.

Aberdeen	52	53	1016	516	62
Aberdeenshire	40	27	647	1462	64
Elgin	33	33	628	718	139
Forres	35	29	821	1056	52
Inverness	94	72	2418	4341	274
Nairn	61	45	1124	1554	38
Strathgibbon	82	114	2386	419	101

Total, 1900..... 473 488 11,335 10,228 706  
 „ 1899..... 554 434 11,163 10,764 829

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

A report on Foreign Missions was submitted by the Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, Inverness, corresponding member of the Foreign Missions Committee. He said they were on the decrease rather than on the increase. While they had increasing Presbyteries they had also decreasing Presbyteries. The increasing Presbyteries were those of Aberdeen and Strathgibbon—(applause). The decreasing Presbyteries were Abernethy, £1 4s 9d; Forres, £2 6s; Elgin, £2 14s 4d; Nairn, £6 4s 2d; Inverness, £4 1s 6d. The total increase was £11 19s 9d, the total decrease £19 10s 9d; net decrease over the whole Synod, £7 11s. The total amount collected within the Synod for this scheme was £586 4s 4d; last year, £593 15s 4d. The total amount over the whole church for the year was £18,146 7s 3d and last year £18,377 1s 3d, leaving a decrease this year of £231 5s.

The Women's Branch of the Foreign Missions scheme showed an increase. The net increase in that branch in the Presbytery was £26 2s 6d. Over the whole church there was an increase in this branch of £2217 11s—(applause). He emphasised the importance of the Foreign Missions Scheme of the church. Every member of the church should, he said, be taught his responsibility in this matter. If all their members, male and female, would only contribute a shilling each they could send as many ministers to the heathen abroad as they had in the churches at home. He concluded by introducing Principal Hector of the Free Church College, Calcutta, who would speak to them on mission work among Indian students.

**MISSION WORK IN INDIA.**

Principal Hector delivered a most interesting address on the progress of mission work among the students of India. It was his firm belief that no section of India's population more needed the sympathy and prayers of the Christian Churches than they did. He described the steps taken by the famous Dr Duff to turn the intellectual movement in India into religious and Christian channels. There were now in India 168 Colleges with 20,861 pupils and 5382 secondary schools with 566,903 pupils. The meaning of these figures was that the intellectual movement began in Calcutta 70 years ago, had rapidly assumed a vastness which could not be ignored. The movement indeed, was a veritable 19th century renaissance, and had much to do with the future of India whether they looked at it from the social, religious, or political point of view.

It was matter for regret that so much of that education was on purely secular lines. Experience had shown that in a land like India such education tended to destroy accepted moral and religious beliefs, and accepted moral and religious sanction. Observers were now taking up the very attitude of Dr Duff, and were practically saying, "Do all you can to turn this movement into moral and religious channels." Such an appeal threw great responsibility upon missionaries, especially upon those of them who had the management of mission schools and colleges, and a great responsibility upon missionaries in Calcutta where that intellectual movement first began.

They had 18 arts colleges there, with 4160 pupils, and secondary schools with 20,000 students. It rested with the missionaries to prevent this movement becoming anti-Christian, and to make it directly Christian. In his own college they had 969 pupils and the local expenses of the college were paid by fees and Government grants in aid. They tried to familiarize the minds of the pupils with the story of the Redemption and with the life-giving truths of the Bible. He wished he could give them an idea of the quickening power of the Bible when taught sympathetically. It was an old worn book in too many of our Christian lands. But it was a new thing to the people of India, something like what it was in our own lands in Reformation times. He next referred to the visit that had recently been paid to their Mission by the

Rev. Mr Martin of Oban, and Rev. Peter Macdonald, Stormoway. He was present when they preached in Beaton's Square that Sunday evening, and they had an audience of men as attentive and sympathetic as perhaps they might have in their own Highland congregations at home—(applause).

He urged upon his hearers the necessity of providing homes for students not resident in Calcutta, so that out of college hours these pupils could be directly influenced towards Christianity, as such homes would be superintended by Christians. Their Mission Home was opened two years ago, and had forty native residents today—(applause). The vastness of the work taxed all their resources. The workers engaged were too few, and he feared that for some time past they had not been supported as they should have been by the sympathy of the Home churches. When he thought of their surroundings he felt that there was no class of the native population at the present time that more needed our sympathy and our aid. It was his firm conviction that success on other lines of mission work depended upon God's will upon success they had among the students. He believed that the winning of India at all costs depended upon the winning of those men who are sharing in this new life and in this new age that had dawned upon them in India—(applause).

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

On the resumption of business, after an adjournment for luncheon, the Rev. Mr Niven, Burghhead, convener of the Committee, read his reports on the Sabbath Schools. The report was of an encouraging character, the increase in collections being £48 3s 8d. The total sum collected for missionary and benevolent purposes was £315 14s 0½d—the highest sum he had returned yet to the Synod—(applause). Inverness maintained this position, Forres and Nairn showed an increase, and the others a decrease. Teachers were fewer. They were 123 in 1900 and 105 schools, as compared with 123 schools and 761 teachers last year, being 18 schools less and 72 teachers less. The number of pupils was 3332 male and 3714 female. Alluding to home instruction, he said it was to be feared that many parents neglected their obligations in this important matter.

The report was adopted.

The Rev. Dr Winter impressed upon his hearers the importance of this work in bringing the practical side of religion to the young people, and in bringing the power of the Gospel to bear upon their consciences.

The Rev. Mr Anderson, Edenkille, said that, if the attendance at the schools showed a decrease, he certainly believed that the parents of the children were to all to blame, in which case it was the bounden duty of ministers to do what they could in their public and private capacity to impress upon guardians and parents the necessity of sending their children to Sabbath schools.

**RELIGION AND MORALS.**

The Rev. Mr Macpherson, Finghorn, convener, submitted the 15th annual report on Religion and Morals. The report embodied no new feature. Appreciative reference was made to work among farm servants, while Sabbath desecration and the profanation of public-houses and ice-cream shops were deplored. He referred to the numbers of boys and girls seen loitering about the streets till late hours. Evidently a considerable amount of work had yet to be done in Inverness, and that not only by the church but by many parents as well. The report was adopted.

Mr Macpherson intimated that this would be the last report he would read, as he had been appointed to the Chalmers lectureship.

Complimentary references to the valuable work Mr Macpherson had done were made, and on the motion of the Rev. Mr Taylor, Rafford, seconded by Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, Inverness, the Rev. D. Connell, Inverness, was unanimously appointed to the position of Convener.

This was all the business of public interest.

**ESTABLISHED CHURCH.**

The Established Synod of Moray met in the Parish Church, Forres, on Tuesday last. Rev. Mr Green, the retiring moderator, preached an appropriate sermon from Romans x, 15. The Synod heard a report constituted the retiring moderator proposed as his successor for the ensuing year. Rev. Alexander Stuart, Daviot. The motion was agreed to unanimously, and Mr Stuart received a very hearty reception on taking the chair. He thereafter returned thanks for the honour that had been conferred on him, and trusted that, with their kind co-operation, he might carry on the duties to their satisfaction.

On the motion of Rev. Mr Pirie, Knockando, the cordial vote of thanks from the Synod were conveyed to Mr Green for his excellent sermon.

**A QUESTION OF MINUTES.**

Rev. Mr Bruce, Glenrindes, the clerk, then submitted the attestation of the minutes of the last meeting of Synod.

Rev. Mr Bain, Duthill, said this was an innovation and violation of the constitution of the Church. It was an extraordinary thing for any committee of assembly to attest a minute which had not been approved by the Synod itself, and he called in question the procedure.

Mr Macpherson, Elgin, pointed out that the minutes of the last meeting of Synod had been read before the Synod was closed.

Rev. Mr Allan Marnoch, held that the minutes of last meeting could only be confirmed by the present Synod.

The clerk said the Synod was only doing what they had done for years.

Mr Bain said if that was the case, it was time to call the Synod to order, and he therefore asked the clerk to read the minute.

The minute was read. Mr Bain then said he had a matter to bring up in connection with the minute of last meeting. Some discussion ensued, and the Moderator ruled that this could only come up at the diet of presbyterial superintendence. The subject then dropped.

The Synod thereafter sat in private in connection with presbyterial superintendence. We understand Rev. Mr Bain, Duthill, was cited to appear before the Synod to explain his reason for not having a Sunday School. Parties having been heard, it was agreed on the motion of Mr Pirie, Knockando, that Mr Bain's citation be discharged on constitutional grounds, and that it be remitted to the presbytery to deal with.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DR NORMAN MACLEOD.**

On resuming, Rev. Mr Pirie, Knockando, before giving in the report on Small Livings, said he wished to make a motion offering their sincere congratulations to Rev. Dr Norman Macleod, Inverness who had been nominated as Moderator of the General Assembly. They knew that Norman Macleod was a household word in the Church. The father of Dr Macleod, of Inverness, was a very distinguished man, and was known as the tallest minister in the Church—(laughter). He was a man of very high character and outstanding ability, and in his day and generation did good work for the Highlands he loved so well. Dr Macleod had other distinguished relatives, but he did not think that he owed the honour to his family connection, for he well deserved it in consideration of the great work which he himself has rendered to the Church of Scotland—(hear, hear). He did so in various spheres of labour—in Glasgow in the Gaelic Church, Blair Athol, St. Stephen's, Edinburgh, and last, but not least, in the Highlands of Scotland. Dr Macleod's settlement in Inverness was a source of much strength to the Church in the Highlands, and they trusted he might be long spared to adorn the position he occupied. He therefore proposed that the Synod tender to the Moderator-elect their

sincere and cordial congratulations on the prospect of his occupying the Moderator's chair, and he trusted that it would be cordially and unanimously passed—(applause).

Rev. Mr Allan Marnoch, said he did not wish to bring up a matter of business, but in accordance with the proceedings of the Synod when Moderators had been chosen from the Synod of Moray.

Mr Pirie said there was no precedent necessary, and the motion was cordially agreed to.

**SMALL LIVINGS.**

Mr Pirie then gave in the report of the Committee on Small Livings. He said the total grants received came to £589, and the grants from contributions amounted to £321 7s 9d. There were 67 parishes in the Synod, and of these there were 20 participating parishes. There had been a great reason to congratulate themselves on the regularity of the contributions made in the Synod, although in some cases they might be larger. He considered it was one of the most important schemes of the Church of Scotland, and he said they should have a well-educated ministry to fill their pulpits, but if they expected to have that they must give to the labourer sufficient remuneration for his work. He did not say that any man would think of entering the Church for the mere sake of making money, but he ought to have such an income as would put him out of anxiety in regard to himself and the support of his family. Even after augmentation there were still 288 charges under £200 a year, and the object of the scheme was to raise them to that amount. It was proposed in order to augment the livings that a capital sum should be raised, the interest of which would raise the smaller livings up to £200. The sum required seemed large, but the proposal was that a certain amount should be raised locally and the other half would be supplied by the central fund and by the Baird Trust. After referring to gentlemen, including Lord Strathcona, who had supported the scheme, he said he hoped the Synod would take some practical steps to support Mr Gillespie, the convener of the committee, in this work. A well-conducted ministry lay at the foundation, and the usefulness of the Church. A difficulty was found in obtaining men of sufficient talent for the Church, and it seemed to be a question now whether they were to get men to supply their pulpits at all. The harvest was plentiful, but the sowers were few. He thought of the small number of students who were coming out at the present time for license, they would be struck with anxiety and fear for the future of the Church, and they must therefore try to do what they could to help the cause. He thought he had had Joint-Convener of this Committee for many years, and they had tried to do what they could in discharging the duties, but as they both felt they were getting on in years, they could not long continue. There followed four years of intense suffering, only relieved by the manifestation of a continual and high trust in Divine Providence, and then, on the 25th April, 1890, he was taken beyond the shadows, where there is peace and the angels are at rest. Mr Lang concluded his instructive meditation upon William Cowper by commending the faith and piety which notwithstanding his much tribulation, were ever "Light shining out of darkness."

**THE CAMANACHD TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**UNDECIDED FINAL TIE.**  
**KINGUSSIE 1, FURNACE 0.**

At last the long and wearily postponed final for the Camanachd Trophy has been decided, for at the North Inch, Perth, on Saturday last Kingussie proved themselves victors over their opponents, the redoubtable Furnace, and bore off the trophy in triumph to the Badenoch Capital. This second meeting of these two well-known Clubs, consequent upon their one all draw at Inverness just a month before, was awaited with lively interest by shinty players all over the country. Yet, despite the keen anticipation attached generally to the fixture, the attendance, from whatever cause, can only be termed most disappointing. Comparatively few supporters accompanied the teams, while in Perth itself an important football cup final on the same day no doubt led to a diminished attendance of townspeople. All these facts—no latter one especially—were very unfortunate for the Association, who, taking into account the expenses in connection with the match, which must have been considerable, could have benefitted but little. However, in fixing the match for the day they did, and Perth as the venue of play, the officials no doubt acted, as they thought, for the best, and it is too late now to cavil at their decision, yet the meagre "gate" lent much argument to the opinion of those many followers of the game who held that the replay should have been fixed for settlement at Glasgow.

**THE GAME.**

As the teams took up their positions on the field, in answer to the whistle of Referee Tom Fraser, Beaulie, it was seen that there had been little change in either team since the memorable do-do at Inverness. Kingussie replaced James Grant in the forward line by David Robertson, a player new to first-class shinty, while perhaps the most noticeable change in the Furnace team was the sending of Ernest Smith to half-back in place of Archibald MacArthur, the reversed positions we believe of these two players in the Inverness match. Sharp on time, with the turf in glorious condition, and under sunshine rather too hot to be pleasant for the players, the following teams proceeded to chase the ball—

Kingussie—Goal, D. Cattanch; backs, John Campbell and W. Ross; half-backs, Charles Macpherson, and Alexander Macpherson; centres, Alexander Falconer, John Dallas, and W. Dallas; forwards, David Robertson, Alexander Gibson (captain), Angus Mackenzie, and James Gibson.

Furnace—Goal, John Sinclair (Inverary); backs, Peter Campbell (Cowal), and Charles Campbell (Cowal); half-backs, Ernest Smith (Inverary), and Alistair MacArthur (Furnace); centres, Allan Macnool (Furnace), Archibald Campbell (captain), and Archibald Campbell ("Lackie") (Cowal); forwards, Archibald MacArthur (Furnace), William Macfarlane (Furnace), John Macgougan (Furnace), and Archibald Munro (Cowal).

The wind blew across the field, and was of little help to either team. As the result of the toss up, the Furnace captain elected to play with the sun at his back. At the start the Kingussie centres got the ball, and passed to their forwards, who, evading the Furnace halves, were instantly swarming round Sinclair, but the ball was sent by. From the hit out the Kingussie forwards were again speedily on the ball, and a fine try was registered by Robertson. The Furnace left wing now took up the running, but a long hit by Falconer eased off their attack. Only for a minute, showing very clean and swift hitting, the Furnace forwards and centres paid a cordial visit to Cattanch. They were

**CHURCH NOTES.**

The annual report of the Free High Church, Inverness, just issued, shows that there has been an increase for last year in all branches of the Church's work. The report of the Inverness Queen Street Congregation is also of a satisfactory character, general good progress being the feature of the past year's work.

The total income of the schemes and funds of the Church of Scotland during 1899 was £201,041, as compared with £190,272 in the previous year—an increase of £10,769.

The Rev. Allan Cameron, Free East Church, Inverness, lectured last Sabbath evening on "A Young Man's Leisure Time." He said he was sorry that 1700 individuals passed into 10 public-houses in Inverness during the space of two consecutive hours on a Saturday evening, but he was satisfied there was no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement. At that time, 5 new persons were taken with the result that 834 persons passed into them on a Saturday night during one hour. It was a very serious thing for these young men — for their homes and futures—to contract habits which they now may have the mastery, but which the facts of history prove would, by-and-by master them and make them slaves. Young men could only acquit themselves like men in their various callings and walks of life, by building up a character on the sound basis of true religion and morality, and by setting forth a good example by sobriety of life, by temperance in all things, and by purity of word and act.

In anticipation of the centenary of the death of William Cowper, the great English poet and hymn writer, which fell to be celebrated on Wednesday last, a commemorative service was held in the West Parish Church last Sunday evening. There were no fewer than eight of his hymns in the Scottish Hymnal, and six of these were throughout the day beautifully rendered by the church choir, under the leadership of Mr George Neale, the organist. Rev. Gavin Lang, in a most interesting discourse, dealt with the touching association which gathered around these words, and in doing so wove in a narrative of Cowper's trying and tragic life. Touching on Cowper's connection with Rev. John Newton, and what are known as the "Olney Hymns," Mr Lang said that Cowper wrote sixty-eight of these, of which the best are: "There is a fountain filled with blood;" "Sometimes a light surprises;" "Hark! my soul, is the Lord;" "O for a closer walk with God;" "God of my life, to Thee I fly;" "God moves in a mysterious way." Cowper's natural gloom deepened and grew after the sad and unexpected death of Mary Unwin, to whom, but for his mental malady, he would have been married and was much attached. There followed four years of intense suffering, only relieved by the manifestation of a continual and high trust in Divine Providence, and then, on the 25th April, 1800, he was taken beyond the shadows, where there is peace and the angels are at rest. Mr Lang concluded his instructive meditation upon William Cowper by commending the faith and piety which notwithstanding his much tribulation, were ever "Light shining out of darkness."

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repulsed before that player was tested, and away went the ball to the other end where a scrimmage ensued in front of the Furnace goal, but ultimately their lines were cleared and the game was carried to midfield. After some aimless long returns between the half-back lines, Kingussie once more took the aggressive, John Dallas, however, sending by. At this stage of the game the Kingussie forwards were seen at their best. The quartette were all very swift, and each man was forcing the pace for all he was worth. They continued, mainly owing to the slipperiness of their forwards, to have the best of the exchanges, and were repeatedly round the Furnace goal, but sterling defence work prevented their scoring, Ernest Smith and the Campbell's at back being especially noticeable in beating off the attack. A long drive by "Lackie" let away the Furnace forwards, but again they were repulsed without being able to shoot. Play was again taken by the Furnace end, A. Gibson winding up the attack with a shot which Sinclair was just able to clear. A second later another Kingussie player sent the ball past the post. Truly the Badenoch boys were going great guns! But the Furnace team were not going to lie down to this sort of thing, in fact, as it subsequently turned out, they really hadn't found their feet yet. They replied to the pressure on their goal by a dangerous combined rush, but were once more repulsed. At back for Furnace the Campbells were working like a pair of Trojans, and it is largely owing to their fine defence that their charge did not meet with early downfall. A spell of midfield play which succeeded brought relief to both teams, which was broken by a determined rush on the part of the Furnace forwards, Macgougan, however, sending wide. The lads from the south now showed up in their true light—that of a really first-class shinty combination. It was now the turn of the Kingussie defence to fall back on their own goal, and for a spell, Furnace took the game in hand. The notable feature of the match was the uncommonly strong defence of both teams. In this department both sides were equally well-represented, and people guessed that the match would ultimately go to the side whose forwards lasted longest. The prolonged attack of Furnace was beaten off at last, and away went the Kingussie forwards to Sinclair. The ball was sent across from the right but the pass was not caught. A minute later Sinclair threw out a lovely try from the club of a Kingussie player. At this one-sided game by the substantial total of 8 balls to 0, Dingwall were quite unable to pierce the home defence, while the Kingussie lads were much faster and showed much superior combination. Muir of Ord were the winners of the cup last year.

Votes of thanks to Mr Harry Christie, Perth, for the successful manner in which he had carried out the arrangements for the match, to Mr J. P. Macgillivray, secretary of the Association, and to the Chairman, concluded the entertainment. At Kingussie the winning team were met by a large crowd, who escorted the players to the town. Many of the processions carried torches.

The shinty final match, writes our Lochyness correspondent, has at length been decided against Furnace, the team which that the best team did win. The effect of the match will likely be to dissipate shinty enthusiasm in Furnace for an indefinite period to come. Inverary has given it up, and Furnace will follow its example. Expenses for distant matches are too heavy for a team of working men, who have no revenue of any kind except what accrues to them from a match "gate" and from private subscriptions. For some years back there has been a lack of efficient players; authority in the field was usually absent; and the effort to enlist help from other places by calling on individual players has naturally resulted in getting together a team that, taken unit by unit, might be allowed to be capable, yet when the players of united play arose, the team could not be expected to show a united front to opponents. In Saturday's match the Furnace team contained only five Furnace players; the rest consisted of men from Inverary, Cowal, Glasgow, &c., who had not come to an opportunity for practice. The somewhat grotesque expectation on the part of Furnace to secure a win in these circumstances against a team united and accustomed to practice together like Kingussie, resulted, as all such fatuous hopes do, in a now the Furnace team must be looked upon as unsoldiered, like the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table—never to face a match until represented by a fresh generation of local players, replaced from captain to shinty boy.

**JUNIOR CUP.**

Muir of Ord and Dingwall met in this competition for the trophy at Muir of Ord on Saturday. It was expected that the match would be a closely-contested one, but contrary to general expectation, Muir of Ord rose to the occasion, and outplaying their opponents at every point, won a very one-sided game by the substantial total of 8 balls to 0. Dingwall were quite unable to pierce the home defence, while the Kingussie lads were much faster and showed much superior combination. Muir of Ord were the winners of the cup last year.

**ROGALT SHINTY CLUB.**

A meeting of the Shinty Club was held at Pittenloch the other evening. Mr John L. Gunn, the club's secretary, submitted a financial statement on the finance of the club since December, 1898, to 4th April, 1900, which showed that the club's income during that period was £9 6s 6d, and their expenditure 8s 5d, leaving a balance of £8 18s 1d in the Secretary's hands. Mr Donald Sutherland moved that Mr Gunn's statement be accepted by the meeting, as he knew everything in it was correct. Mr R. Macpherson seconded. This was unanimously agreed to. The Secretary's resignation was then submitted and accepted. Mr George Macdonald was appointed the club's secretary. The meeting then made arrangements for playing for the "Wallace" Trophy with Lairg to-day (Saturday). The Secretary was instructed to order clubs and balls from Mr Macpherson, Inverness, at once.

**IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

THURSDAY, April 26.

The House of Commons resumed to-day after the Easter holidays. Mr Wyndham, in answer to questions, stated the number of remounts being forwarded to Lord Roberts—the total bought since the beginning of the year being over 65,000 mules and horses. Mr Wyndham also stated that Lord Roberts had not commented on Lord Methuen's disposition at Magersfontein, but added that the War Office had taken the same action in respect thereto as in the case of General Gatacre. In Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates Mr Macneil moved to reduce the salary of the Attorney-General as a condemnation of his action in the matter of Mr Howard Gray's contempt of Justice Darling's Court at Birmingham; he alleged that the law had been strained in the matter. Sir R. Webster pointed out that similar actions had previously been raised, and added that in similar cases in future he would do the same again. The motion was negatived without a division.

**Blaming The Cook.**

Too often the cook is blamed for unsatisfactory dishes when the fault is not at all hers, but is really caused by something wanting in the quality of the ingredients used.

The cause of a soft and insipid blanc-mange or Corn Flour pudding is often that some other make than Brown & Polson's PATENT Corn Flour has been used.

Clever Cooks maintain that this brand has a distinctive delicacy of flavour, and that it is really more economical than cheaper Corn Flours, because it goes so much further.

Ask always for

**Brown & Polson's**  
**"PATENT" Corn Flour**  
See that  
None Other is supplied.

WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE CREAM OF BEN WYVIS WHISKY?

READ WHAT "THE LANCET" says about the CREAM OF BEN WYVIS:— "HIGHLAND WHISKY.—It has been pretty freely stated, that in consequence of the enormous demand which has taken place in recent years, there is very little whisky in the country which, in reality, is 10 years old. On the face of it, there must be some truth in this statement, although, undoubtedly, the skill of blending is so great that a spirit of mature character, though not very old, can now be produced. The whisky under analysis is stated to be ten years old. We could gain no evidence in controversy of this statement. On the contrary, it possessed a mild and smooth flavour characteristic of a very old spirit. There was no evidence of the presence of injurious or crude alcohol. The analysis was as follows:—Extractives, 0.40 per cent.; mineral matter, nil; acidity, nil; alcohol, by weight, 41.30 per cent.; by volume, 49.75 per cent.—equal to proof spirit 85.45 per cent. The spirit appears to be of excellent quality."

MITCHELL & CRAIG (Formerly A. W. & D. SKINNER), Railway Buildings, Inverness

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HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AT THE FRONT, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE BEST VALUE AND GIVE GREATEST SATISFACTION. PURITY, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY.

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FURNITURE. BUY DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS AND SAVE FROM 30 TO 40 PER CENT.

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DINING-ROOM SUITES. DRAWING-ROOM SUITES. PARLOUR SUITES. BEDROOM SUITES.

420 IRON AND BRASS BEDSTEADS. 120 SLIGHTLY MARKED AND IN USE. 40 WOODEN BEDSTEADS.

3500 Yards TAPESTRIES. 3000 Yards ART SERGES, DAMASKS, &c.

3500 Yards CREPONNES. 1800 PLAIN AND FIGURED VELVETS and PILEUETTES.

2000 Yards LINOLEUMS, CORK CARPETS, and FLOOR COVERINGS.

THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH. Everything will be marked in plain figures.

FOR BAZAARS. AN FANCY GOODS left over from the Christmas Show at Half-Price.

A. FRASER & CO., COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS, UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

WE do all kinds of Repairs on the Premises on shortest notice by skilled workmen quickly and cheaply.

FURNITURE FOR SALE. Including Dining-Room Suites, Drawing and Bedroom Suites, Side-boards, Cheffoniers, Couch and Easy Chairs, Favour Chairs of every pattern.

SELLING UNDER ANY SHOP IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

CHISHOLM & SON'S, 82 & 87 ACADEMY STREET AND 4 GEORGE STREET, INVERNESS.

TWENTY (20) Gold Medals have been won by the famous "No. 1" Brand Smoked Sausages.

"THE HIGHLAND NEWS" IS SET UP BY LINOTYPE COMPOSING MACHINERY.

The Highland News

INVERNESS, Saturday, April 28, 1900.

SUMMARIES.

By the casting vote of the Moderator, the Free Presbytery of Lewis have approved of the General Assembly's overture for union with the United Presbyterian Church. Page 7.

According to the War Office official statement to 21st April, the total casualties during the war have been 4717 deaths from disease and wounds, 2228 officers and men were killed in action, and 9659 officers and men wounded. The missing and prisoners number 4007. The total British losses number 18,383.

The Queen has caused a letter to be published thanking the people of Ireland for their reception, and expressing her pleasure at her visit. She has also sent a cheque for £1000 towards Dublin charities. A number of honours have been conferred, including baronetcies for the Lord Mayors of Dublin and Belfast, and knight-hoods for the Mayors of Cork and London-derry.

Ottawa, the capital of the Canadian Dominion, has been the scene of a great conflagration, caused, it is believed, by Fenian incendiaries. The fire broke out at three points, and raged over the greater part of the city, doing damage which yesterday forenoon was estimated at the gigantic total of £4,000,000. Three persons have been killed, but the casualty list is expected to be much greater.

THE POSITION OF THE HUSBANDMAN.

The Highland people are everywhere in these days busily engaged endeavouring, not with the most favourable weather, to push forward their spring agricultural work. To the husbandman, spring is always a time of supreme importance; when—as it has been during the past two months—the weather is excessively wet and unsettled, the hard and weary toil which favourable weather does so much to lighten and brighten is aggravated by concern and anxiety. To the vast multitudes who in modern times make their livelihood otherwise than by the primitive occupation of tilling the soil the state of the seasons, except for holiday purposes, is a matter of little concern. From, as they suppose, the exalted heights of their various pursuits, they look down with feelings akin to contempt on the men whose daily occupations are connected with agriculture. What may be the source of this foolish and mischievous idea we shall not at present stop to enquire. That the idea is prevalent and widely spread among a certain type of mind there can be no manner of doubt. The man who has never to put off his coat is very generally regarded with a consideration of esteem and respect which is commonly denied to the man who is employed in the pursuits of husbandry and kindred occupations. The modern husbandman himself is far too ready to accept without any protest the low place assigned to him by those whom he has been taught to regard as his social superiors. Yes taught—religiously taught, too. The doctrine of "superiors, inferiors, and equals" was very rigidly taught in our early days, and we suppose, is yet. The doctrine in certain aspects may contain some elements of truth. As very generally applied, it, however, gives rise to very unhealthy social ideas and opinions. Who is the "superior" and who is the "inferior" is one of the most difficult questions to answer. In many aspects of the case there are no such distinctions. Commonly, however, the word regards the man of wealth and property as the "superior," to whom all others are in duty bound to make their obeisance. But if men were regarded according to the importance of the services they confer on the community, who should hold a more honourable place among men than the husbandman? There are none. Upon the tiller of the land the whole social fabric rests. Man's first requisite is food. He cannot eat gold or silver or rich-producing gold mines or in consols. The millionaire, who is fast becoming the example which men in their insane ambition strive after, could not exist a single week without the aid of the food-producer whom he treats as a man of no account. One of the evil results of our modern complex civilisation is that the fundamental truth that all men—be their title, wealth, or office what they may—are dependent for their bodily existence on the fruits of the labour and toil of the husbandman on some part of the earth's surface is gradually and by imperceptible degrees becoming obscured, and to a great extent entirely forgotten. There is, therefore, pressing need that men's minds should be directed afresh to the contemplation of this elementary truth: The man who lives indirectly by the produce of land has need to regard in his proper relationship to the social system the man who, by his daily exertion, wins from nature that staff of life which supports man's material existence, and, without the material body, the moral and intellectual nature of man according to the constitution of things on our planet could have no field for its display. Further, there is need that society should see to it that the tiller of the land is not subjected to any injustice in the pursuit of his necessary, beneficent and honourable employment.

Our country in the past does not stand well in this respect. Injustice, terrible and almost incredible in its application

has often been perpetuated on the husbandman. Nowhere has the cruel hand of injustice created greater devastation than in the Highlands of Scotland. Up to fourteen years ago, men had no assurance but the land they reclaimed one spring from a state of nature might next spring be snatched from them and given to another. Because the law permitted an unrighteous act of this kind the public looked upon the transaction as the normal order of things. Happily that state of matters has passed away. There is need, however, that the previous condition of things should be kept fresh before the mind of the present generation and that succeeding it in order that they may properly appreciate the great deliverance that had been achieved in the passing of the Crofters Act of 1886. The beneficial effect of that measure is becoming yearly more and more apparent to the public. Each succeeding spring since the passing of the Act it is not difficult for even the passer by to observe the increased interest that is being taken in the cultivation of the land that is held under the tenure of that Act. The pity is that the holdings in most cases are so small. That must be remedied. The remedy will be applied when the people so resolve and take the necessary measures to carry their resolution into practical operation, but not till then. Meantime we are glad to observe the various improvements that are being effected from year to year. We hope none of the Highland people—especially the young—will to any degree come under the influence of the debasing ideas to which we referred at the outset of our remarks. Naturally they are, we believe, as free from the unworthy influence of social distinctions as any people on the face of the earth. But powerful influences of an opposite kind are continually and constantly at work in all our Highland parishes. Snobbery, with its debasing and degrading effect on men's character, rears its head as persistently and luxuriantly as the destructive weeds which, if permitted to flourish unchecked, frustrate all the husbandman's best efforts to produce an abundant and fruitful crop. Just as sure as the natural weeds destroy the husbandman's labour, so sure it is that snobbery and all its kindred relations destroy those virtues by which the human character is adorned and made morally beautiful. The Highland people have therefore much need to daily consider the dignity of the work in which they are engaged in producing their maintenance from the natural elements. Considerations of this kind will raise their minds far above all contemptible and degrading ideas which are morally so injurious to man. By acting thus they will not only possess well-cultivated fields but well-cultivated minds also.

HOO'S THIS FOR FRAMES?—Frame, the ever-smiling, occupies the Music Hall to-morrow evening, and again on Monday night. We do not suggest that his engagement of the largest hall in town has anything to do with the magnitude of his smile, but we are sure that Mr Frame and his selected company of artistes may be relied upon to give two hours robust yet harmless funning.

VISIT OF THE GLASGOW CELTIC F.C.—On Monday first, 30th inst., Inverness will receive a visit from the famous Glasgow Celtic football team, who are to play a representative eleven of the North of Scotland. Considering the high position the Celts have attained this year in the football world, as winners of the Scottish Cup, Inter-City League, and also as the runners-up of the Glasgow Cup competition, a treat is in store for lovers of the game. The Celtic will play their full League and Cup eleven, which is as follows:—Goal, Macintosh; backs, Turnbull and Battles; halves, Russell, Marshall, and Orr; forwards, Hodge, Campbell, Diver, Macmahon, and Bell. The North of Scotland Association have selected as strong a combination as possible to meet their formidable opponents. The match will be played on the Clach Park, off Grant Street, the kick-off to take place at 7 p.m. The Highland Railway Company are granting cheap fares for the occasion from Dingwall on the North and Elgin in the East, and intermediate stations, to Inverness. Provost Macbean has kindly consented to kick off the ball.

AMATEUR DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.—Last night a very successful amateur dramatic performance was given in the Theatre Royal, Inverness, in aid of the local branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. There was a fairly large audience, chiefly composed of ladies. The cheaper parts of the house might, however, have been better filled. Among the gentlemen, appropriately enough, the military element largely predominated. The performance opened with a rendering of the two-act comic drama, "The Jacobite. There are six characters in the piece, and Lieut.-Colonel Fleury, who acted as stage manager, must be heartily congratulated upon the efficient manner in which the members of the caste acted their several parts. The ladies who kindly gave their services to forward the efforts of so deserving an Association were Miss G. Murray, Miss Fleury, and Miss N. Macleod, each of whom was thoroughly at home in her respective part. The gentlemen in the caste were Captain Parry, Mr Spence, and Mr Charles Webb, on whom the major part of the fun of the piece depended. Mr Webb's Micawber-like mannerisms greatly amused the audience. A farce, entitled "Poor Pilloccody," followed the comedy, the leading part—that of the too loving and jealous "John Peter Pilloccody"—being again efficiently filled by Mr Webb. Miss Boyd, Miss G. Murray, and Miss Fleury were dealt out to look to look to other parts; while Captain Parry, as "Captain O'Scuttle," a long-absent mariner, was very successful in his impersonation. Captain Parry—intentionally or otherwise—was "unadaptable" in a style that brought the famous Captain Kettle vividly to mind. From the histrionic point of view, as doubtless from the financial, the performance was a success. The orchestra was ably led by Bandmaster Leslie-Red, the duties of Acting Manager being well performed by Mr W. Macleod. An afternoon performance will be given to-day at three o'clock.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—The cottage and grounds known as Blar-nan-Croabh, Lentrane, have been bought by Messrs Macfarlane & Gibson, solicitors, Inverness, for a client at the upset price of £450.

Miss Marguerite Macintyre's return to Covent Garden is a matter on which the directors of the Royal Opera Syndicate may be congratulated. The distinguished Scottish soprano has not been heard at that house since 1897, but during the interval she has been singing with great success on the Continent, notably in Russia and Italy. Miss Macintyre is a daughter of General J. M. Macintyre, of the Royal Artillery, and is one of the vocalists whom the Queen is always pleased to see. "Her Majesty is so quietly dignified," said Miss Macintyre on one occasion, "that it is difficult to realise that your most attentive listener is ruler of the British Empire."

LINUM CATHARTICUM PILLS. Digestive, corrective, and agreeably aperient. 22

Mr James Walker, who was for some time in the Royal Bank of Scotland, Inverness, has been appointed agent of the Dundee branch.

SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON.—For the theft of ninepence from a comrade, a private of the Seaforth Highlanders was on Thursday sentenced to one week's hard labour by Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff at Inverness.

INVERNESS DEAN OF GUILD COURT.—The Town Cross in front of the Town Hall, The Cross, which will carry the Clachna, cuddin Stone, is being restored at the expense of Sir Robert Finlay, the member for the Burghs.

THE ACCIDENT TO CAPT. FINDLATER.—Our Strathcarron correspondent makes the gratifying announcement that Capt. Findlater, who was thrown from his horse at Strathcarron last week, is making decided progress, and he is entertained that in a week he may be sufficiently recovered to admit of his removal to his home at Inverness.

THE ASYLUM MILK SUPPLY.—Yesterday, at a meeting of the Board of the Northern Counties Asylum in Inverness—Major Stirling, Chairman, presiding—the offer of Mr Macpherson, farmer, Balnagair, for the supplying of milk to the Asylum for a period of three years was accepted. The price at the rate of 8d per gallon. Mr Macpherson is the present holder of the contract.

RAILWAY APPOINTMENT TO AN INVERNESS MAN.—It is announced that Mr S. B. Critchley has received an appointment as accountant of the Central London Railway. Mr Critchley has been with the Mersey Company for the past ten years in the capacity of assistant secretary and accountant. Previous to this appointment he was with the Highland Railway Company in Inverness for 11 years in the accountant's department and secretary's office. Mr Critchley's father was for many years station superintendent at Inverness.

WESLEYANS AND THE MINORITY REPORT.—An animated debate on the question of the Minority Report of the Licensing Commission took place in the Inverness Wesleyan Church Guild on Monday evening. Councillor Young moved the adoption of the Report on the ground that it gave a practical basis for immediate and effective temperance legislation. Mr Edward Chisholm opposed the adoption of the Report, but found his hearers out of sympathy with his view, Mr Young's motion being carried by 18 votes to 2.

MACFAVISH SHINTY TROPHY FINAL.—To-day the Inverness and Laggan shinty teams meet at the Longman to decide who shall hold the Macfavissh Trophy for the ensuing year. Much interest is attached to the game in shinty circles in view of the excellent records of the competing teams. Laggan as a team is better known locally than by their performances against teams drawn from Inverness or neighbourhood. But as the winners of the Badenoch Cup, in which competition they overcame the redoubtable Kingussie, they may be depended upon to make a bold stand for the honour of Badenoch shinty. They are also the winners of the Kennedy Trophy, having beaten the Inverness team in the Inverness team have worked their way to the final in the competition by shinty and hard work, and are well deserving of hearty local support from all lovers of the ancient Highland game. The ball will be thrown up at 3 p.m. sharp.

SALE OF OIL PAINTINGS.—Yesterday Mr William Barry, the well-known Inverness artist, sold, by public auction, a large number of oil paintings and studies in black and white in the Music Hall. There was a large attendance of the general public. Prices were, however, by no means so high as has been realised by Mr Barry at previous sales—doubtless owing to the generally dull times prevailing. A number of buyers were present from the country. The leading purchases included Mr Lawson Johnson, the millionaire, London; Mr M. Matheson, Crown Drive, Inverness; Mr Maslin, I.R., Inverness; Mr Alexander Donaldson, Ardross Street, Inverness, and Mr Ross, Dingwall. A representative of the Dukes of Sutherland purchased a couple of pretty flower studies in black and white. Mr Noble, Inglis Street, conducted the sale.

THE CLEANING OF THE STREETS.—At a meeting of the special Committee appointed by the Inverness Town Council to enquire into the work of cleansing of the streets, the further remit from the Council on the matter as regards an increased staff, horses, &c., was taken up. The Committee found that there was sufficient money in this year's estimates to carry out these recommendations. In the meantime, until the larger question of stabling is taken up, it is suggested that the cleansing inspector be authorised to procure temporary stables in Shore Street on lease for three years at a rental of £12 per year for the extra horses. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that in future all street channels should be kept clean by the Cleansing Department, so that this matter which for some time past had caused friction between the Burgh Surveyor's Department and the Cleansing Department is at length within sight of being finally settled.

THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES.—Interesting addresses dealing with the above subject were given in the Town Hall, Inverness, on Thursday evening, by ex-Mr Burt, of Glasgow, and Mr John Paul, Glasgow, Editor of the "Single Tax." The lectures were given under the auspices of the Inverness Ratepayers' Association. Councillor George Young, President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. Both speakers dealt extensively with the entire subject, and held that the condition of the great mass of our population in towns was caused by allowing private individuals to monopolise the land. The condition of the worker had not so greatly changed, but the owner of land had vastly. He showed how much the value of a piece of land or of a shop depended upon the nearness of a population. Rents were going up and up, and the increased value of land did not come out of the soil, but was the outgrowth of the demand for land as cities grew. He favoured the taxing of land values, because he held that the owner should be taxed upon the value of the land (applause). The community had made the land valuable, and if the owner kept it out of the market, he would require to pay a taxation on it (applause). He concluded by emphasising the great importance of the question. Mr Paul also addressed the meeting. He said he believed it was of little use to look to other parts, but to the mind of the community itself. He knew of no question that could be brought before this one, although he believed there were others (laughter). To-day, in spite of enlightening and political advancement, they found that the matter of houses alone, the mass of the people of this country lived in houses in which no aristocrat, no wealthy man, no decent man, would care to have his hearers to press forward this reform through their representatives, whether in Parish Councils, Town Councils, or County Councils. Hearty votes of thanks to the speakers and to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE CROFTERS COMMISSION, ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the proceedings of the Crofters Commission during 1899 was issued on Thursday last as a blue-book. Each case dealt with by the Commission during the year is reported in detail, showing in a marked degree the wide range of subjects dealt with by this ubiquitous body. The operations of the Commission commenced at Oban in February of last year, where an inquiry was held and applications heard attended with some urgency from the districts of Knapdale, Lismore, Sunart, and Lochiel in Argyllshire. Inspection at Sunart, Lochiel, and Fort-William followed. In May and June inquiries were conducted on the eastern seaboard of Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland. These necessitated public sittings at Inverness, Dingwall, Tain, Argyay, and Dornoch. Following these sittings were inspections made in the districts of Culcoden, Strathairn, Ferintosh, Pindon, Kilmuir Easter, and Ederton, Ross-shire; Migdale and Achu on the Skibo Estate, Sutherlandshire; and certain localities in the parishes of Dornoch and Rogart on the Sutherland estates in the same county. These proceedings occupied the whole time of the Commission till the middle of June, when they went to the west of Ross-shire, and there dealt with cases at Shieldaig, on the estate of Lochcarron. Subsequently Skye was visited, and the Commissioners were engaged there for some time dealing with questions as to marches, grazing rights, &c. At the end of June they proceeded to Glenelg, where they dealt with applications for enlargement of holdings by crofters in that quarter. During July they were engaged in the county of Shetland. They held public sittings at Lerwick, Aithing, and Mid-Yell, and made inspections of subjects in Bressay Sound, Barra Isle, Sand, Clousta, Walls, Ollabruy, West Yell, and Burraev. In the middle of October the Commission visited Caithness; sittings were held at Wick, but inspections had to be made throughout the county. Towards the end of November a visit was paid by one of the Commissioners (Mr Orkney), and an urgent case in the island of South Ronaldshay disposed of. Early in December the Commission conducted inquiries in the Helmsdale district of Sutherlandshire, and thereafter they proceeded to Broadford (Skye), and dealt with various applications in that quarter. In the appendix is given a list of parishes, the information hitherto obtained with regard to which has not been sufficient to enable the Commissioners to determine whether they are or are not crofting parishes within the meaning of the Act. In this list are mentioned the parishes of Cawdor, Croy, in Inverness-shire, and of Cromarty and Rosemarkie, in Ross and Cromarty.

In concluding their report the Commissioners state—as to our proceedings since the commencement of the Act in 1886, it may be mentioned that there are 163 civil parishes in the seven counties to which the Act applies. After inquiry we found that of these 151 were crofting parishes in the sense of the Act. Our determination was in every case confirmed by the then Secretary for Scotland. Of the remaining 12 parishes, the information hitherto brought before us has not been such as to enable us to say whether they are or are not crofting parishes. Regarding our labours in these 151 parishes, it may be stated that we have received 19,954 applications to fix fair rents, 3184 applications for enlargement of holdings, 302 miscellaneous cases, and 1190 appeals. We have disposed of 19,782 fair rent applications, 2334 enlargement applications, 286 miscellaneous cases, and 1182 appeals under the Delegation of Power Act, or in all, under these heads, 24,184. The number of inspections made before disposal of these various classes of cases was 18,093. We have also dealt with 91 applications to the Rent Commission for removal, 706 to prohibit the sale of the effects in respect of non-payment of rent, and 200 under the Crofters Common Grazings Regulation Act. The extent of land dealt with in fair rent applications was 194,218 acres in individual, and 1,255,738 acres in common occupancy. We have assigned 45,500 acres in enlargement of crofters holdings. The old rents with which we dealt under fair rent applications, and applications for re-valuation, amounted to £31,691 8s 5d, and we re-fixed the fair rents at £69,167 17s 1d, the annual increase being thus £27,523 11s 4d. The arrears with which we dealt amounted to £184,229 11s 7d. Of these we cancelled £122,915 12s 7d, and ordered £69,413 19s to be paid.

MARRIAGE REJOICINGS.—Wednesday last, being the occasion of the marriage, in Edinburgh, of Captain John Aitchison, commanding the s.s. "Cavalier," to Miss Isabella Fraser, Killin Cottage, Fort Augustus, sister of Mr Alex. Fraser, late assistant to the Rev. Dr A. C. Macdonald, Queen Street Free Church, Inverness, the day was observed throughout the Galoponian Canal system by a display of bunting and other fitting manifestations on all steamers plying within its limits—gratifying evidence of the high esteem in which Captain Aitchison is held, not only throughout the route, but in Mr Macdonald's steamer service. Entering Mr Macdonald's service as a smart youth some twenty years ago, Captain Aitchison was steadily promoted, as occasion offered, until he obtained, on the death of Captain Macfarlane some two years ago, the command of the s.s. "Cavalier"—an appointment that gave much satisfaction to the travelling public and to his brother officers.

DEATH OF A YOUNG POSTMAN.—We regret to notice the death of Alexander Duncan Fraser, which occurred last week from an internal malady, after a very brief illness. The young man was for the past seven years employed in the Inverness Post Office, and latterly as a member of the Postal Staff. At the funeral, which took place on Monday last from the residence of deceased's parents in Attadale Road, many comrades were present, about thirty of the Postal Staff escorting the hearse to the graveside. Other Post Office officials present included Mr Reeves, postmaster; Mr Reid, chief clerk; Mr James Dallas, assistant superintendent; Mr George Macdonald, telegraph department; Mr Gibson, Mr Ross, inspector; Mr Fraser, caretaker, &c., and many of the general public. Two handsome wreaths were sent by the members of the Postal and Telegraph Departments respectively. Much and deep regret is expressed for Mr and Mrs Fraser in the loss of so promising and dutiful a son at the early age of 19 years. The lad was of a cheerful and obliging disposition and well liked by his comrades in the service, all of whom are unfeignedly sorry for his untimely death. A pathetic incident in connection with his decease is that on the day following his death news reached his parents that their late son had just been promoted to a higher rank in the service.





Lewis.

TIDE TABLE—HIGH WATER AT STORNOWAY.

Table with columns: Date of Month, Morning, Evening, K.M., P.M. Rows for April 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

STORNOWAY.

Articles of interest to our Stornoway readers will be found on page 6.

"A Christian Soldier's letter" is held over till next week.

Messrs Robertson and Strachan, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, have finished the examining in the Park district.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The Registrar's returns for the parish for the week ending Wednesday are—Births, 7 (3 males and 4 females); marriage, 1; deaths, 5 (3 males and 2 females).

BABY'S SCHOOLS.—Miss Macleod, Bayble Public School, has been appointed assistant teacher in Airdhaunium Public School, and Miss H. A. Smith, Broadford, has been appointed to a similar position in Bragar Public School.

A GOOD NAME.—A new fishing boat for a Point crew arrived at Stornoway this week. The craft, which is one of the largest class and fitted with steam hauling gear, and all the latest improvements, is called after the heroic defender of Mafeking, the "Baden Powell."

KNOCK—APPOINTMENT OF HEADMASTER.—At a special meeting of the Stornoway School Board, held on Tuesday, Mr Morrison, headmaster, Bernera Public School, was appointed headmaster of Knock Public School.

Cottage gardening will this year be again attempted among the crofters of Marvig. As soon as the sheep are removed (10th May) from the township, cabbage plants will be distributed to all who are desirous of making a second attempt. Seeds also will be offered.

SCHOOL NOTES.—At a recent school examination in Marvig the composition exercise given to the Sixth Standard was as follows:—"Write a letter to a friend in Egypt about the new road and its advantages to the people!" When Egypt hears about Marvig, adds our correspondent, the district will have become famous. For all that somebody's ears will tingle. The youngsters, however, acquitted themselves well in their extremely delicate subject.

ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES.—At the meeting of the Free Presbytery of Lewis held on Wednesday, the Clerk (Rev. P. Macdonald) reported that all the Assembly representatives elected at last meeting had accepted office, except Rev. John Mackay, Kinloch. On the motion of the Rev. J. S. Macdonald, seconded by Rev. H. Cameron, Rev. P. Macdonald was appointed to fill the vacancy. The representatives for this year are:—Rev. D. MacArthur, Uig; Rev. H. Cameron, Back; Rev. G. L. Campbell, Shawbost; and Rev. P. Macdonald, Stornoway. Elders—Sheriff Jameson, Edinburgh; Messrs A. Ellison Ross, Edinburgh; George Walker, Inverness; and Joseph Russell, Port-Glasgow.

SCHOOL BOARD—NO CONTEST.—Only seven candidates—the requisite number—have been nominated for election to the Stornoway School Board. There will thus be no poll, and should there be no withdrawal the new Board will consist of:—\*Rev. J. H. S. Hunter, U.P. Church; \*Rev. Alexander MacArthur, merchant; \*Rev. Peter Macdonald, F.C. Church; Rev. George Mackay, Free Presbyterian Church; Rev. George Macleod, F.C. Garraobost; Mr Aeneas M. Mackenzie, shipowner; and \*Mr John Mackenzie, shipbroker. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were members of the retiring Board.

SCHOOL BOARD.—At a meeting of the Stornoway School Board, held on Monday—Rev. P. Macdonald, chairman, presiding—it was agreed, on the motion of Provost Anderson, to give Miss Johanna Fraser and Miss Johanna Morrison, assistants in the Nicolson School, an increase of £10 each, making their salaries £30 and £40 respectively. Mr John Mackenzie, shipbroker, moved as an amendment that any increase be delayed till the annual reports are received and considered, but there was no second. It was agreed to supply Mr Macleod's (of Bayble Public School) new bilingual text book to all the scholars on Standards V. and VI. in the Board Schools.

PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.—A meeting of the Landward Committee of the Stornoway Parish Council was held on Wednesday afternoon—Mr Torquill Macleod, chairman, presiding. The principal item of business before the Committee was in connection with the proposed formation in the parish of agricultural holdings of from 15 to 20 acres each, about which matter they have been in communication with the Congested Districts Board for some time. A number of applications were submitted and considered, and the meeting selected twelve applicants who in their opinion would be able to stock and work holdings if they were granted the same, and who are otherwise eligible. The Congested Districts Board, in the event of their arranging for such holdings, will advance money on easy terms for building purposes, but they make it a condition that the tenant shall stock the place himself.

PARISH COUNCIL.—The ordinary monthly meeting of the Stornoway Parish Council was held on Wednesday—Mr Aeneas M. Mackenzie, chairman, presiding. The others present were—Councillors ex-Procovst Smith, John Macglavry, David Tolmie, John Mackenzie (shipbroker), Torquill Macleod, Kenneth Macleod, Duncan Mackay, Kenneth Maciver, and Malcolm Macleod. The Committee in charge of the question of mussel culture gave in their report on their visit to the shores of Loch Erisort, near Crobrog, in search of a suitable place for the cultivation of mussel. They regretted to report that they had not found any place which they could recommend as one that an expert should be sent to further examine. They asked to be continued in office with a view to further enquiry in other parts of the island. The report was unanimously approved of. The remainder of the business was purely routine, and included the half-yearly revision of the poor roll. The half-yearly list of vaccination defaulters was also submitted and dealt with.

THE FREE PRESBYTERY OF LEWIS ON THE UNION QUESTION. The above Presbytery met at Stornoway on Wednesday. Rev. J. S. Macdonald, moderator, presided at the opening of the meeting, and there were also present Rev. Messrs H. Cameron, Back; N. M. Morrison, Barvas; George Macleod, Garraobost; John Macdonald, Croisbost; D. M. Macdonald, Ness; John Mackay, Kinloch; D. MacArthur, Uig; and Peter Macdonald, Stornoway (clerk), ministers. Also Messrs John Mackenzie, Stornoway; Alexander Thomson, Donald Macleod, John Mackay, John Maciver, John Smith, John Macrae, Ranald Macdonald, and Alexander Maclellan. It being known that the Presbytery were to consider the overture on the union question a number of the general public were present.

APPOINTMENT OF MODERATOR. This being the first meeting after the meeting of Synod the Presbytery elected as Moderator the Rev. D. MacArthur, Uig, who thereupon took the chair. The elders commissions were also received and sustained.

THE UNION QUESTION. The Clerk having read the overture sent down for consideration by Presbyteries ancient union with the United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Hector Cameron, Back, rose to move that the Presbytery disapprove of the overture. For three reasons he did not intend to say much (1) because he would like the elders to have an opportunity of expressing their minds; (2) because the Unioning Act would come before them for consideration between now and 31st October, and he would, if spared, have an opportunity of understanding clearly what the attitude and action would be; and (3) because he held in his hand a pamphlet written by the late Dr Kennedy, Dingwall—(applause)—bearing on the question of national religion, from which he intended to read some extracts. From the pamphlet he read copiously to the effect that if the Free Church united with the United Presbyterian Church she would be departing from her distinctive principle of national religion—(applause). He remarked that the men who met at Achaasheen had broken their promise in that they did not come to agitate the people of the Highlands; and that they did not come to Lewis was not, he said, his fault. He referred at considerable length to certain things that had happened in the Free Church such as the modifying of the formula for deacons, the introduction of hymns and organs, and the Declaratory Act, and maintained that in entering into the proposed union the Free Church was departing from the principle of the national establishment of religion—(applause).

Mr Alexander Thomson, elder, Tong, seconded. It was, he said, very unfortunate that the elders should be called upon to pronounce on a matter which was not written in a language which they could read—(applause). He regarded the proposed union as a sign of declension in the Free Church, and likened it to the action of the Children of Israel in seeking to have a King in order that they might be like other nations. This union, if it took place, would, he said, disturb every congregation in Lewis except one—(applause). He concluded by arguing in favour of a threefold union.

Rev. Peter Macdonald, Stornoway, said that when he came to the Presbytery that day he did not intend to have made a speech, but to content himself by simply moving the approval of the overture. But after the extraordinary statements to which they had just listened he could not remain silent. Mr Cameron had quoted as an authority against union the late Dr Kennedy of Dingwall. He (Mr Macdonald) had far too much respect for the memory of Dr Kennedy even to go and remark on what Mr Cameron had read, but if the names of the departed were to be introduced as authorities for the guidance of the people of Lewis on the subject of union, he would remind the members of the Presbytery that in the days of the former union controversy they had within their bounds the greatest intellect in the Highlands. They had as a member of the Lewis Presbytery the Rev. John Macrae—(applause)—than whom no man entered a Highland pulpit in his day, or since, better able to grasp in their breadth and length questions of doctrine or Church principles—(loud applause)—and yet at a time when many ministers were opposed to union the Rev. John Macrae stood strongly for it. They had also in the Presbytery the Rev. Donald Murray of Garraobost—(applause)—a Lewisman of whom every Lewisman might be proud—who was distinguished for his judiciousness, his clear grasp of the truth, and his love for the people of Lewis, and yet Mr Murray, even in the old days of the controversy, was an ardent supporter of union—(applause). Turning to the question in hand, Mr Macdonald said that he differed entirely from those who would represent the proposed union as a sign of declension on the part of the Free Church. Mr Cameron had said that the ministers were not the Church, nor the elders, but the people. He (Mr Macdonald) had great respect for the ministers, the elders, and the people, but he would remind them that it was not the ministers, elders, or people that were the supreme authorities on this subject. The supreme authority was the Lord Jesus Christ, and He had made it unmistakably clear that it was His desire that His people should be one. So far from regarding the proposed union as a sign of declension he (Mr Macdonald) considered it a cause for thankfulness to God that the Free Church had responded so heartily to the opportunity offered it. God's providence for union with a branch of the Church of Christ that God had owned, and that had an ancestry and a record as honourable as that of their own Church—(applause). There he took a stand, and because he believed that the union was agreeable to the mind of His Lord, he would stand for it and by it, though he should have to stand alone in Lewis—(loud applause). He would esteem it a grace to be a minister in the United Church, and if the people of Lewis would not have as ministers those who remained in the United Church, then the world was wide and God would honour them that honoured Him—(applause). He had gone carefully into all this subject, and he was convinced that in the proposed basis of union there was no departure from the principle or the doctrine of the Free Church of Scotland—(applause). He acknowledged

the right of such an intelligent member of Presbytery as the Rev. Mr Cameron to dispute such points, but when Mr Alexander Thomson—who admitted that the points in dispute were written in a language which he could not read—posed as an authority upon this subject, and sat in judgment on the 150 pious ministers and elders that formed the Joint Union Committee, and undertook to instruct the Presbytery, it was beyond endurance—(applause). Mr Thomson referred to the trouble this might cause in Lewis. He (Mr Macdonald) knew what methods had been adopted to poison the minds of the people of Lewis against this union, and he had it in black and white that there had been circulated throughout Lewis, in order to prejudice the people against union, what were positive untruths—(applause). Mr Thomson had referred to Scripture, but the extraordinary thing about his quotation from Scripture was that it supported the very view which he opposed. The children of Israel had asked for a king because they refused to have God as king, and he pointed to the other action of the Free Church was a free church because she would have God as king, and refused to have Caesar sit upon the throne of Christ—(applause). More extraordinary still, Mr Thomson had asked—"Why not a three-fold union?" In the very forefront of the overture sent down was this statement—"The obligation lying on this Church to aim at the general re-union of Scottish Presbyteries." Mr Thomson wanted union of the three Presbyterian anti-unionists—(laughter and applause)—there was the consistency? If he wanted three why object to two? He (Mr Macdonald) understood what underlay this sophistry. It was a hankering after union with the Established Church. If Thomson was in love with that step let him distinctly understand that the Established Church was still bound by the trammels of the State quite as truly as on the day when the Disruption fathers were forced to sever connection with her—(applause). He had exercised his judgment of Establishment, and it was represented as if Christ's right to rule over nations was an open question. No, Moderator, he said, that cannot be an open question in any Church that acknowledges the Word of God as its supreme authority. He had no objection to the acknowledgment of the Word of God as its supreme authority, but he objected to the acknowledgment of the Word of God as its supreme authority in a Church which did not acknowledge in Scripture as a union between Church and State in the sense generally accepted. He would go further and say that the recognition of the State as a partner in the Unioning Act was a constitution of the Free Church. On that he contented himself with quoting the opinion of one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in Britain.

Rev. G. L. Campbell—Is that Mr Taylor Inver? Mr Macdonald—No. It is Mr Haldane, Q.C., to whom the Unioning Act and the proposed bases of Union have been submitted, and he pledges his reputation as a lawyer in support of the statement in the Westminster Confession of Faith, in the Protest in the Claim of Right, and in the Model Trust Deed there is not one single word that can be construed into a statement of obligation or of the propriety of the State setting up an establishment of religion—(applause).

He had been made to stipulate that the people of Lewis by agitation, he (Mr Macdonald) would remind those that were contemplating such an agitation of the solemn duty of looking sufficiently far ahead. Supposing they succeeded in bringing the people of Lewis to the Free Church after the Union took place, what could they do with them? Where could the people go, if they did not remain in the United Church? They would have to face one of three possibilities—they must either go to the Established Church, or to the Secessionists, or else form a new denomination. Regarding a return to the Established Church, he would ask if that Church had ever shown any penitence for compelling their fathers of the Disruption to sever connection with her? As for going to the Secessionists, there were many of them, a number of that Presbytery who did not believe but that those who had left and become Seceders would have done better if they had remained where they were—(applause)—for, if they had otherwise, to be consistent they should have accompanied them. Secessionists, or else form a new denomination, the thing was absolutely out of the question. If those agitators chose to come to Lewis they would be contented, and he (the speaker) would take his part in confronting them, and he had no fear of the result if the people were willing to believe the truth—(applause). He concluded by moving the following amendment—"That considering that the proposed basis of Union is not inconsistent with the standards of the Free Church, with its constitutional law and practices, and with the liberty of its members, and whereas the terms of the Unioning Act have not yet come to hand, the Presbytery approve of the overture sent down."

Mr John Mackenzie, elder, Stornoway, seconded. He saw plainly, he said, that this matter of union between the Free and the United Presbyterian Churches was already a foregone conclusion, and to continue fighting against it was only waste of time—(applause).

Rev. George Macleod, Garraobost, was not, he said, going to make a speech, for he understood that there was to be no discussion on the subject there that day. When Mr Cameron tabled his notice of motion he told them that he did not intend to say a word in support of it. He would like to ask Mr Cameron if that was not so.

Mr Cameron said he had changed his mind—(laughter). Rev. G. L. Campbell, Shawbost, said it would have been better if there was much less discussion than there had been, but no statement of Mr Cameron's could bind the Presbytery—(applause).

Rev. George Macleod—We all know that. Mr Alexander Maclellan, elder, Kinnaird, said the Free Church had begun very poor, but she had prospered, and now they would not have the name "Free Church," and they did not seem to know what was her name. At one time it was the "New Church," and now it was going to be the "United Free Church." It was because he loved the Free Church that he did not want to see her name or her principles discarded—(applause).

Mr John Smith, elder, Kinnaird, said his concern was with the cause of Christ. "Blessed are the peacemakers." It was not those who were opposed to the union that had caused the dispeace, but those who were promoting the union—(applause). He would like to ask whether it was in the minds of any of them to drive those of them who were opposed to the union out of the Church?—(applause).

Rev. P. Macdonald—Certainly not. Mr Smith said he was very glad to hear it.

Rev. John Macdonald, Lochs, occupied, he said, the same position on this question as he occupied last year. He did not want the union, but it had come to them to be considered. He knew that those in the island who were opposed to it were opposed to it because they loved the Free Church—(applause)—but, so far as he could understand, the union that was proposed did not make any change on their principles or doctrines, and he would stand himself free until the whole matter were before them, which would not be till they received the Unioning Act.

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membered the old union controversy, and said that he had always held by the position which he now occupied—(applause). Mr Macdonald, of Stornoway, would bear him out when he said that he for one had not agitated the people. In the United Church, he said, there would be room for such opposite extremes as their good friend, Mr Cameron and Dr Hutton—(laughter).

Rev. George Macleod asked if Mr Campbell was not in favour of union when he was minister in Glasgow. Rev. Mr Campbell—No. Rev. John Mackay, Kinloch, was sorry that he had not instructed his people on this subject as several of his brethren had done, but he had faith in the intelligence of the people of Lewis, and he believed that when the matter was explained to them they would be able to form a judgment as well as any people in the Highlands—(applause). He was not going to vote on either side, but would remain neutral until the Unioning Act was received.

Mr Donald Macleod, elder, Ness, was against the union in the olden times, and he saw no reason to alter his opinion now. He failed to see what good the Church could do after the union that she could not do now—(applause). However, if the union did take place, he would be no party to make any division in the island—(applause).

Rev. D. M. Macdonald, Ness, also came to the meeting without any intention of speaking. He had exercised his judgment on the basis of the proposed union, and he could not see what ground those who opposed it had for their opposition—(applause).

Rev. N. M. Morrison, Barvas, said that during the past year methods had been adopted throughout Lewis for prejudicing the minds of the people, and stirring up trouble, that could not bear the light of day; and if the people who employed these methods thought that they would have God's blessing on such conduct, they were very far in their own light—(applause). He was surprised at the attitude of Mr Cameron. If Mr Cameron made an idol of any man, it was of Dr Hodge, and yet Dr Hodge was against Mr Cameron on this question—(laughter and applause).

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ANGLO-Loch fishing in Park district is meeting with considerable success at present. The Calbost lochs are yielding fair sport, and some capital baskets of trout have been secured on Cromore Loch. Fishing this loch on the 21st inst. Mr Kerr had a basket of one dozen which turned the scale at 42 lbs.; heaviest trout, 1 lb. Fine black gut tackle and Stewart hooks (3) were used.

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THE SON OF A CROFTER.

By W. C. MACKENZIE.

Author of "West Highland Idylls," &c.

CHAPTER X.

Rose Curnow lost no time in putting her resolution into practice. Her advertisement for a post as governess received a reply, which in these days of an over-stocked governess market, was remarkable for its promptness. In due course she presented herself at the house of Mrs Job Smalley, in Bloomsbury, and underwent a cross-examination by that lady. Mrs Smalley's catechism for governesses was framed by her with due regard to the desirability of impressing upon applicants the overwhelming honour which, in the event of their eligibility, would be conferred upon them by being received into the bosom of the Smalley family.

Her husband, a meek man, who was "something in the City"—as a matter of fact he was a prosperous tailor—never presumed to interfere with her domestic arrangements, which included the engaging of servants and governesses. These arrangements not infrequently failed to meet with his approval, but, for the sake of peace and quietness, no audible complaint was suffered to proceed from his lips. "Maria knows best," he would say to himself, with a shake of the head which belied his words—and there the matter ended.

Rose was ushered into the drawing-room, whose only noticeable characteristics were the presence of antimacassars and cheap china dogs and other fearsome specimens of bric-a-brac, and the absence of all appearance of comfort. Stiffness was the prevailing note of the furniture, which exactly accorded with Mrs Smalley's idea of eminent respectability. Mrs Smalley motioned her to a chair, with a wave of her fat hand, which was meant to be majestic. She was an ample woman, large in physical proportions as in manner.

"You have called in answer to my letter, Miss Curnow. Of course you have references from your last place in Park Lane?"

Mrs Smalley had derived no inconsiderable satisfaction from the anticipation of telling her friends that her "new governess" had come to her from so aristocratic a quarter as Park Lane.

"I have never been a governess before," was the astonishing reply, "but I can get references which will, I think, be satisfactory."

"Never been a governess before! Then may I ask," she continued, regarding poor Rose with a severely judicial air, "in what capacity you acted in Park Lane?"

An awful suspicion had seized her that the social status of this applicant was not, after all, equal to her requirements.

"In what capacity?" Rose could not refrain from smiling. "I am afraid that is rather a puzzling question."

Mrs Smalley's suspicions were increased. "I looked after the house."

"Oh!" and the lady's eyebrows were uplifted. "You were then the housekeeper there?"

"Yes, I was the housekeeper. But not a paid housekeeper, you know," the position was embarrassing, it was said. "The fact is, the house belonged to my uncle, now dead, and—and that is the reason I am now looking out for a situation."

There was a suspicious catch in her voice as she uttered the words. But Mrs Smalley's brow had cleared, and her manner underwent a sudden change. To her governess transcended her wildest ambitions, and she inwardly chortled with joy at the thought of the secret envy that would fill the hearts of her friends when the fact should be disclosed to them.

"Yes, yes, my poor lady, I quite understand," she said in her sweetest tones. "I saw at once that you were out of the common, so to speak. I can't abide common people myself—they give me the 'ump.' I'm not a difficult one to get on with, I'm sure. My 'usland always said so, and I'm sure he's right. As for your references, we'll see about them by-and-by. I can see as they will not be necessary. I know a real lady when I see her. And you will be ready to commence your duties at once, Miss Curnow?"

"Yes, as soon as you like. By the bye, I don't yet know anything about my charges—your children. They are—how many are there?"

"For bless you, my dear, there ain't only two of them—Augustus—that's my eldest—and Claribel. Sweet names; ain't they? And though I says it as shouldn't, they're the sweetest bits o' jam as you'll find in a day's walk. Don't you fret; you'll have no trouble with them. And their cleverness is—well, it's just hextrordinary. Now, as to your wages—beg pardon, your salary I oughter say, we'll just leave that till Mr Smalley come 'ome. 'E's the one as provides, 'y know, but I can answer for 'im. 'Course you can teach French and German, and the like o' that, I don't hold much with parlyroving myself—drat the French, say I—but in our position, we must keep up with other folk. No Board schools for my children, say I. Nothing but the real article—a fust rate governess like yourself, my dear."

"I suppose I may come at once?" asked Rose timidly. She was anxious to get it all over as soon as possible, and although the prospects of life with the Smalley family, to which were added the unknown possibilities of Master Augustus and Miss Claribel, did not open up a vista of unalloyed happiness, still, she thought she detected a kindness in her future mistress's hidden beneath a veneer of vulgarity, which she hoped would make the life bearable.

"Yes; come to-morrow, and then we shall introduce you to the children. They're out at present, bless their dear hearts."

And so Rose Curnow commenced her career as governess in Bloomsbury. Mrs Smalley had mercifully dispensed with her usual catechism, fearing to wound the susceptibilities of her great catch, the young lady from Park Lane.

"It's all right, mother," was his triumphant remark. "I ain't afraid of her. She ain't a big 'un like Miss Whack (Rose's predecessor). She looks jolly nice, an' I won't stick any pins in her when she's not looking." And his face beamed with the recollections of surreptitious pin-pricks with which he had paid out his ancient enemy, big bonny Miss Whack, with the loud voice and the heavy hand.

"Hush, darling, you mustn't talk like that to Miss Curnow. It's only his 'igh spirits, 'y understand," she added, turning apologetically to Rose. "E's all right—just a bit 'asty in the temper like his father. This is Claribel," she added, turning to the demure, gawky damsel by her side, who was looking at Rose out of the corner of her eyes.

"I trust I shall always perform my tasks to the satisfaction of Miss Curnow," murmured this hopeful maiden in her primest manner. Rose instinctively perceived the young gentleman with the predilection for pins.

"Hark at that, now," said the delighted mother. "There's a sweet child for you. Run away now, dears, as I want to talk to Miss Curnow."

The "old of the 'ouse" which was Mrs Smalley's description of her better-half—a title more nominal than real—was duly presented to Rose on his return from the City. He appeared harmless, inoffensive, but good-natured, and at the evening meal, which consisted of "high tea," compromise, in Mrs Smalley's estimation, between aristocratic and frugal habits—endeavoured to make himself pleasantly agreeable to the new governess. But, conscious of Mrs Smalley's restraining presence, and fearful of awakening a feeling of jealousy in her ample bosom, he felt compelled to keep his affability within certain bounds. Anxious to make the governess feel at home, but realising that it was incumbent upon him to avoid undue familiarity, his conversation, after a few polite remarks about the weather and the health-giving properties of Bloomsbury, became somewhat spasmodic. He struggled against an inward feeling of inferiority in the presence of this real lady from Park Lane, with the quiet composed manner, who showed no signs of becoming embarrassed in the presence of her employers. So he took refuge in talking "shop."

"By-the-bye, my dear," he remarked to his wife, "that speck of mine in the Moonshine Mining Company is no go. I was oping as things wouldn't be so bad, but I've no go. Not a haunce of gold in the 'ole mine. It's too bad," said the little man looked terribly dejected.

Mrs Smalley, who was consulted by her husband in his financial, as in all his other affairs, sniffed derisively.

"And what did I tell you, Job? Didn't I say that it were all a swindle, just a downright swindle? But you wouldn't listen to me. No—you knew better—it was going to be a Hell Dorader—them's the exact words you said—a Hell Dorader. And now what's come of it? Next time praps you'll follow my advice," she added with a firm accent for the judgment of the "old of the 'ouse."

"The missus is right," said poor Job, turning to Rose. "But it looked so tempting in the prospectus. An' it was all the doing of that man who committed suicide the other day, that rascal, Joseph Bullem. 'He's bin the ruin of thousands.'"

"Well, well, it's no manner o' use crying over spilt—why, what's the matter with you, my dear, aren't you well?" for Rose had gone deathly pale.

"I—I don't feel very well, Mrs Smalley. It's nothing much, but, if you'll excuse me, I'll go to my room and lie down for a little. I'll soon be all right."

Mrs Smalley was alarmed at the sudden illness.

"Certainly, my dear. An' if there's anything I can bring you—a drop of something 'ot?"

"No, thank you very much, it is very kind of you. I assure you, I shall be all right in a few minutes."

When she dashed her room the poor girl burst into a flood of tears.

"Is there no escape," she wailed, "no escape anywhere from that awful shadow? How can I face these people when they learn that I am the niece of the man they have just been cursing? And I cannot honestly keep them in ignorance of the fact. Yes, I will tell them."

When the Smalleys discovered the cause of Rose's indisposition, they felt much concerned. It was a test of their character, and they emerged from the trial triumphantly.

"Don't you take on about it, my dear," said Mrs Smalley soothingly. "You that's as innocent as the babe unborn! And, after all, it serves my 'usband right for meddling with things as he don't understand. Every man to his trade says I. Hexperience teaches us, and wise men too, and a passion has no call to grumble if he pays for his lesson."

"I'm ortal sorry, Miss Curnow," stammered the little man, "that I said one word about that business. 'Course if I had known—but I ain't going to say another word about it, and I 'opes as you'll forgive all that I said about Mr Bullem. Why bless 'y'r 'arts,' he added brightly, "it's a thing as 'appens every day. And, after all, my loss is a mere baggytelle—just a mere baggytelle."

Some weeks after the episode just related, Rose, "taking the air" with her pupils, with whom she had by this time established a mutual understanding. As a rule, their walks lay in the direction of Holborn, where the busy thoroughfares and the streams of pedestrian passing and repassing, diverted the channel of her thoughts, and where the shop windows proved an irresistible attraction both to Master Augustus and Miss Claribel. Further west she dared not venture, for fear of meeting old acquaintances, with its attendant inconveniences. But she did not have troubled herself on that score, for already she had passed out of their lives, even Clara Gushing ceased to wonder where she had hidden herself; and she herself had taken every precaution to render her concealment effective. On this particular occasion she bethought her of exploring the numerous Squares with which Bloomsbury abounds, and the first she entered with her charges was Russell Square. While glancing idly at the dull brick buildings, with their air of somewhat despatched respectability, her eye was caught by a shining brass plate, which instantly arrested her attention, and caused her to stop short in her walk. Mrs Smalley's suspicious instincts were immediately aroused, and she quickly followed her teacher's look; she took a mental note of the name on the brass plate, but, following the impulse of her secretive nature, "laid low, and said nuffin." On looking up she observed that Rose had changed colour; a mental note was also taken of that circumstance. The interrupted walk was quickly resumed, and no reference was made then or later to the cause of the interruption. But Russell Square was thereafter carefully shunned by the trio; its atmosphere was apparently not exhilarating. Miss Claribel pondered these things in her sly little heart.

(TO BE CONCLUDED).

OLD FALSE TEETH BOUGHT.

Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes Street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them, they will remit you by return of post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs Bacon & Co., bankers, Ipswich. 12-13

A TRAGIC COMEDY.

[By DONNELL MACCALLUM.]

Chaluithe dh' fhag The MacDodo na fir 's a' phrosan, a feitheadh air lath' a mhòid, na chaidh e far an robh Lady Mhysrhm, air eagal 's gu'm biodh Captain Gobhios roimh air, a thagradh a lath, a xéir a chumhant a rinn i ris, agus air dha fàth a thuiris a chuir an còil ag ràdh— "Having now, my dear lady, as your ladyship's faithful and valiant knight errant, fulfilled your behest, I come before your noble ladyship to claim my reward." Bha fios aig a bhantraich mhòir air tuile mu'n chùis na bha dui aige, agus mar so threag, air i—"My dear lord, The MacDodo, will your noble lordship have the goodness to wait for my answer till the trial of the poachers is over, on the understanding that it will be ruled by what happens?"

Cha robh dol às aig an triath seòl a bhi riaraichte leis an fhreagairt so agus aon-tachadh leth. 'Feagamh 's am bhi cha robh aige nach fòrnuadh a freagairt a bhi fobharra air an agh. Atha. An doigh cha robh e duilich nach deach a chùis a thoirt gu ceann. Bha beagan lùthian aig fathast d'a shoras agus d'a shoras a bha e, na ainneas, deonach-siobairt air altair an Iodhal Dìoghaltas.

VON MICHAEL, or THE POACHERS POACHED: A Tragic Comedy by

The MacDodo, Henry V.

Air bhoiladh an "stagg" rinn e suas cathair rìghail, agus an lathachd a an lady na suidhe, agus air gach taobh dhith 's air a cùlthobh chuir e aiteachan suidhe do na l-uisean mu eile. Air an cùlthobh-sa bha na daoine cumanta ri bhli na'n suidhe na na'n seasadh mar a thachairadh. Air bh na dochain chranuach na heuslean mora do thall' a mhòid a dh' thairm ciod a dh' èirhead do na "poachers."

Air dhuibh neo-chionlachd (not guilty) a thagradh chaidh an dearbhadh (proof) air aghaidh. My so thairm an fheadh—My lord, I am to prove that these men at the Bar, Lorán and Gilbain, are guilty of the crime of poaching, and to plead that they be punished according to law. I shall lead evidence to show that a scoundrel calling himself Von Michael (one, I doubt not, of his many aliases) feloniously induced these poor simpletons to trespass in pursuit of game on the property of the lord The MacDodo.

Air dha siod a dhearbhadh le fannaisan dh' fheabrach Loréan an fheadh Henry V, a bhi air a chuir ann am boosa na miona (witness-box) agus a bhi air a mhionachadh a chum's gum freagradh e aona cheid a bha aige ri chuir air. Thuir an Siorra gum fadhad siod a bhi air a dheanadh. Chaidh The MacDodo do bhiosa na rionnan agus a mhionachadh, agus so a cheud a dh' fheabrach Loréan dheth—"is your lordship, The MacDodo, the individual, disguised in horse's mane and an artist's pork suit, calling himself Von Michael, who engaged us to shoot game on your property, and promised to pay us well for the same?" dh' fheadh The MacDodo aitheachadh gum b'e, agus 'nuair a sguir an gaire mòr a thog an slugh, 's an lacharstach, a deir an Siorra—"I dismiss Lorán and Gilbain from the Bar without a stain on their character."

ENGLISH AND GAELIC NAMES

OF MEN AND WOMEN.

[By A. M. P.]

MEN'S NAMES. Adam—Adhamh. Albert—Ailbeart. Alexander—Ailsair. Allan—Ailean. Alpin—Ailpean. Andrew—Aindreas. Angus—Aonghas. Archibald—Gillcaibung. Arthur—Arair. Bernard—Beàrnard. Charles—Teàrlach. Christopher—Gillecristod. Colin—Cailean. Coll—Colla. David—Daibhidh. Daniel—Danial. Donald—Domhnall. Dugald—Dughall. Duncan—Donncha. Edward—Iomhair. Ewan—Eoghannan. Farquhar—Fearchar. Finlay—Fionnladh. Francis—Fràing. George—Seòras. Gilbert—Gillebrìde. Hugh—Dìusan. Hector—Easchann. John—Iain, Eoin. Joseph—Eosaiph. James—Seumas. Kenneth—Coinneach. Lew—Luth. Malcolm—Calm. Martin—Martainn. Michael—Micheil. Moses—Maòis. Murdoch—Murcha, Mureach. Nicol—Neacal. Niel—Niail. Norman—Tormaid. Paul—Pol. Patrick—Pàruig, Padruig. Peter—Peadar.

DO NEOINEAN

A BHA A' CINNTINN GU DOBRACH URAR FO BHLATH AIR AN RATHAD MHOIR AIR MADUINN NA BHLADH' UIRE, 1868.

B' ANN AIR MADUINN NA BHLADH' UIRE, ANN AN DÙLDACHD 'GEAMBRAIDH, A CHUNNAIC MISE NEOINEAN ÀILLIDH, 'S E MAR BHLATH AN T-SAMBRAIDH.

Cka b'ann fo chùran gáradair, No'm brachan bh'a an altair, Ach air rathad mòr an rìgh, Gun sìon do fhaghadh ann da.

Dha eòrla is caoirich air gach taobh, 'S gach bileag fhaoin gu chreim, a' Ach saltair air no beantainn ris, Cha robh ann aon a rinn e.

Bha ghucag gael le bile dearg, Bu mhàid do ghruaidh bann bainne, 'S gach duilleag usm mar roth mu'n cuairt 'Gu dhìon o' fhuachd 's o' chrainnteach.

O 's ann mar sud 'tha iomadh neach, 'S iad ruigte ris an t-soghal, Tha deuchainn plèigh is bairidhean, A' curteachadh gach taobh dhìubh.

Ach ged a dh' fheadh gach cruid chas ud An cuir gu brach na h-èiginn, Gidheadh gu b'èirich cha tuit iad sìos Is lath 's an dìon nach lèir doibh.

An Ti a ghlèidh an neoinean faoin Tre mheadhan gearhraidh gailbheich Gu'n glèidh tre gearhraidh 's-àghail so Gach neach a lath a dh'èirbas.

I. C. Ledaig.

\* Mairistir Ailean Beag was educated in Spain, like Mairistir Ailean aor of Eskayk, hence why he calls himself Sagart Beag na Spaine.

Richard—Ruiseart. Robert—Raibeart. Roderick—Ruairidh. Ronald—Roonull. Samuel—Somhairle. Simon—Sim. Thomas—Tomas. Torquill—Torcall. Walter—Bhaltair. William—Uilleam.

WOMEN'S NAMES. Amelia—Aimil. Anabella—Anabala. Ann—Anna. Barbara—Barbara. Beatrice—Beitiric. Catherine—Cairtona. Christian—Cairistine. Clara—Sorcha. Elizabeth—Ealasaid. Flory—Fionnaghal. Grace—Gorsal. Helen—Eilidh. Isabella—Iseabal. Janet—Seonaid. Jane—Sine. Louisa—Lunsaidh. Margaret—Maireagard. Marjory—Marsale. Mary—Mairi, Muire. Euphemix—Oibrig. Sarah—Rachail. Sophia—Beathag. Susan—Susan. Winifred—Una.

A HUMOROUS GAELIC SONG.

The following humorous song was composed by the late Rev. Allan Maclean, uncle of the family of Glennig in Moirdart. The occasion was as follows:—When he was stationed in Barra he was one day suddenly called away for a sick call to the lonely island of Mìngulay and in consequence disappointed a party who were to be married on that same day. For six weeks he was storm-stayed on the island. The song is well-known to the people of Barra. The version here given was taken down from the dictation of Mrs Mìngulay, the wife of the highly respected quondam schoolmaster of Mìngulay:—

'S fhad 'tha mise ri port na moille 'S nuimintir na bainne 'g an ionndrain, 'S bho'n nach d' fhuair mi dol 'gan ionnsuidh Bithidh tuaidh-cùil do chramhan.

Fonn.—A Nighean òg a' chòtain duibhe, Gu'n deanainn suidhe cuide-rìut, A nighean òg a' chòtain duibhe Gu'n deanainn suidhe làimh-rìut.

Micheil Mac-ant-Saor 'g a' ghreadadh, 'S 'tha a' b' àrdachadh 's a' fheagach, 'Seall a' mhàid an faic thu eithear Ma sgeiran tràighe-chàise! A nighean òg, &c.

'Seall a' mhàid an faic thu eithear 'An faghadh no 'm fuaradh an eilein; 'S ann is còitach leam gu'n cheil iad Sagart beag na Spaine! A nighean òg, &c.

'Nuair a thèid luaidh-cùil an ordugh, Aonghas Cruinn Mac-Lain 'le-Dhomhnall Agus Padruig Cnoc-nam-mòine 'S math an meòir gu tlàdh A nighean òg, &c.

'S Domhnall Donn a' call a chéille 'Nuair a chual e bh' 'g an eighnach, 'S math a sheinneadh e Strath-spéidh 'Nuair bhitheadh gleusadh àrd òirre. A nighean òg, &c.

'S ann a s' in a bhithcas a' chuirme 'Nuair a chruinneachas a' bhàis, 'Curstaidh Mh'òr a' cur nan car dh' 'Toirt farra air na clàraibh. A nighean òg, &c.

'S mise so 'am port na moille Ag itheadh langair le'n cuid uibhean, 'S ann a thogas sinne h-uidhean Gu Uibhist nan gràdhann. A nighean òg, &c.

Major the Rev. E. P. Lowry, Senior Wesleyan Chaplain to the Forces, with the Rev. T. F. Falkner, Senior Church of England Chaplain, visited these trenches immediately after the Boer retreat from their mighty stronghold. Mr. Lowry writes to the "Methodist Recorder":—

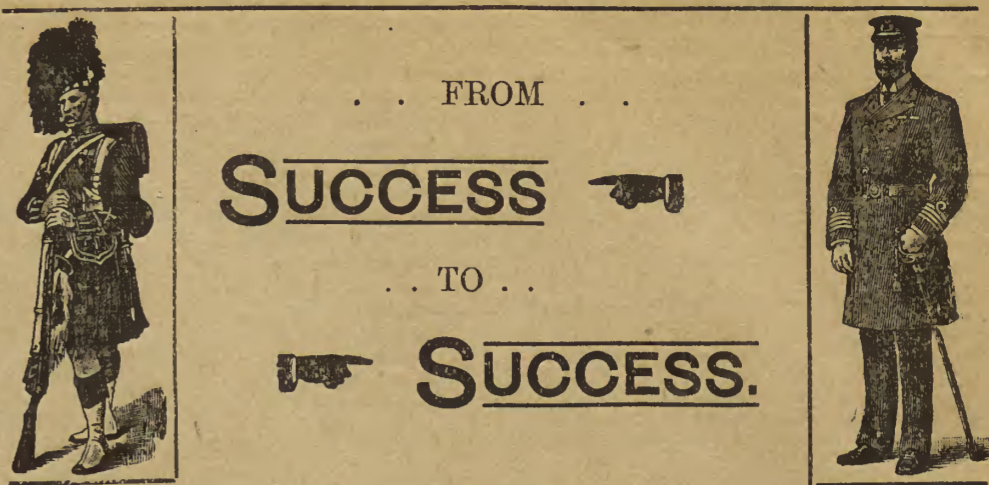
"Of course I did not go to those trenches and laagers for purposes of loot. That is scarcely in my line, though naturally I picked up a few 'curios, as in duty bound. But the professional looters, who were there betimes, were in some cases well repaid for their trouble. We are told that in the tents of Boer officers diamond rings and gold watches, and portmanteaus full of various valuables, were found. The retreat must have been hurried enough to justify its being called a 'rout'; and the line of retirement was for a long way littered with abandoned spoils.

"Large supplies of sundry kinds of food and clothing were left in the trenches or beside them, and I was astonished to note how large a portion of the Boer belongings had originally come from England. One of our poets tells us that

'Sympathy without relief Is like mustard without beef.'

"I saw no beef in the Boer trenches except in the, to us, repulsive form of stale 'biltong. Of that there must have been tons left; but the mustard was there—'good old English, with the famous Bull's Head on the tin.'"

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BOER TRENCHES AT MAGERSFONTEIN.



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