

The Cream OF Ben-Wyvis, ESTABLISHED 1859. The Leading Highland Whisky, As Supplied by us to Royalty.

This Brand of Whisky, besides being the most popular in the Highlands, has been received with unqualified approval by Consumers in all parts of England, the Continent, and the British Colonies. It is beyond question the finest Whisky ever produced in Scotland, being a combination of pure Malt from the best Highland Distilleries, cunningly blended, and matured in fine sherry wood for several years respectively.

Guaranteed Seven and Ten Years old, 18s & 21s per Gal.; 3s & 3s 6d per Bot. A Fine Mellow Whisky, 15s per Gal.; 2s 6d per Bot.

A. W. & D. SKINNER, (MITCHELL & CRAIG), WINE MERCHANTS AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN, RAILWAY BUILDINGS, INVERNESS, Next to Messrs Macrae & Dick's Posting Establishment.

VICTORIA HOTEL, BRORA.

This Magnificent Hotel is now OPEN. It is just at the Railway Station. Immediately adjoining is the Golf Course of Eighteen Holes, which is believed to be one of the finest Courses in Scotland.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

UNION HOTEL, 46 AND 48 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

Invites Commercial Gentlemen and others to inspect the House and give it a trial, assuring them of best attention to their comforts at a very moderate tariff.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

THE OLD ESTABLISHED PEACOCK RESTAURANT AND DINING SALOON, 46 AND 48 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

Is now in Occupation and Management of MR KEEBLE (Many Years of More).

STEAMER NOTICES.

ADDITIONAL STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEITH, ABERDEEN, AND INVERNESS AND MORAY FIRTH PORTS.

THE SWIFT STEAMERS "EA N. HOLM" AND "JAMES HALL" will sail as under, weather &c., permitting.

MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, at 6 P.M. And every Monday and Thursday thereafter.

TUESDAY, 1st MARCH, at 6 P.M. And every Tuesday, calling at Cromarty and Invergordon (and at Buckie, Lossiemouth, and Burchard alternately).

FROM INVERNESS TO ABERDEEN AND LEITH (CALLING AT CROMARTY AND INVERGORDON).

MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, at 2 P.M. The Steamers have superior accommodation for Passengers and for Sheep, Cattle, and other Live Stock.

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With least trouble and labour it makes bread, rolls, muffins, scones, and cakes of finest flavour, light, sweet, appetizing, assuredly digestible and wholesome.

The "ROYAL BAKER AND PASTRY COOK" contains nearly one thousand receipts for all kinds of cookery. Free on application.

Wholesaled in Inverness by STROTHER & CO.

BE SURE TO USE ONLY THE ROYAL BAKING POWDER MANUFACTURED BY ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO. NEW YORK, U.S.A.

PIANOFORTES AT REDUCED PRICES.

Table listing piano models and prices: WALNUT, by Payne, London, Iron Frame, Check Action, £238 6/6; WALNUT, by Hinks, Panel Front, Good Tone and Touch, £25 1/6; ROSEWOOD, by Hawkins, Check Action, Iron Frame, £25 1/6; etc.

ANY INSTRUMENT MAY BE HAD ON HIRE SYSTEM. Comparison of Price and Quality invited.

MARR & CO., 23 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS.

BUSY MEN who find the day all too short for their numerous engagements, and who sacrifice luncheon time rather than miss an appointment, will also find that a cup of

BOVRIL is a stimulating restorative, repairing the waste of the overworked system and increasing both mental and bodily activity.

BOVRIL LIMITED, Food Specialists, LONDON.

Chairman: The Right Hon. Lord PLAYFAIR, G.O.B., LL.D. Consulting Chemists: Professor SIR EDWARD FRANKLAND, K.C.B., M.D., Corr. Mem. French Institute, etc.

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The Highland News

INVERNESS, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 1898

SUMMARY.

A big Liberal victory is announced from Crickdale. (Page 5).

Easter Ross Farmers' Club had an interesting and lively meeting yesterday. (Page 5).

Rev. Mr Munn was inducted to the charge of Kirkhill Free Church congregation on Wednesday. (Page 3).

The annual "At Home" of the Inverness Branch of the Commercial Travellers' Association was held in the Caledonian Hotel last evening. (Page 5).

The Inverness Farmers' Society held their annual Root and Seed Show and annual dinner on Tuesday. (Page 3).

The Inverness Post Office telegraph staff held their annual "At Home" in the Palace Hotel last evening. (Page 5).

The Clan Mackinnon had a most successful gathering in Glasgow last week. (Page 2).

The Harbour Trust discussed the proposed extension of the harbour scheme on Wednesday. (Page 3).

The Inverness Wine and Spirit Trade Benevolent Society held their annual dinner in the Royal Hotel on Wednesday evening. (Page 5).

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

In the Autumn of 1886, now nearly twelve years ago, the late Sir Randolph Churchill, speaking in his place in Parliament on behalf of the then newly constituted Unionist party, made the announcement that Ireland was entitled to, and would receive from the Unionists, a system of local government similar to that which the party had become pledged to establish in England and Scotland, and moreover, that the case of Ireland would be dealt with simultaneously with that of the other two kingdoms. But, though during nine of these twelve years the Unionists have been in power with large majorities, it is only now that they have screwed up their courage to redeem the solemnly given promise. True, Sir Arthur Balfour introduced a nominal Irish Local Government Bill in 1892, but the scorn with which it was everywhere received, compelled the Government, strong as they were, to withdraw it almost as soon as it had been introduced. Indeed nobody believed that the Government at that time seriously intended to abolish the landlord rule in Ireland. But the Bill introduced to the House of Commons last Monday by Mr Gerald Balfour, the present Secretary for Ireland, is radically different from that introduced by his brother in 1892, and has been received by a united chorus of approval by apparently all sections of the Irish members. It would

perhaps be too rash to predict that the favourable opinions expressed on Monday night will be continued when the Bill itself sees daylight. A bright sunny morning is often the precursor of a very stormy day, and the passage of the Bill through Parliament may not be so smooth and easy as the opinion expressed on its introduction may lead us to anticipate. But for the moment Nationalists and landlord representatives from Ireland have united in its praises. Mr Michael Davitt is the only Irish member who had the courage to protest against the price that is to be paid to the Irish landlords to secure their acquiescence in what is after all but a very small instalment of the rights due to the Irish people in the matter of the government of their own country.

But the question may be asked how comes it that the Bill of 1898 is so radically different from that of 1892? Are the Tory landlords and their friends in Ireland more liberally disposed towards the Irish people than they were in 1892? Not a whit. What, then, can have brought about this remarkable change? Nothing more or less than the Liberal policy of the last 12 years. Whatever good Ireland may receive from this newly-proposed Bill it will owe it, not to the Tories, but to the Liberal party, and that in a two-fold sense. Mr Gladstone's Home Rule Policy of 1886 compelled the Tories to propound an alternative policy as regards the future Government of Ireland. But when they attempted in 1892 to reduce this policy to practice, it was seen that their Bill was only a mockery of the solemn assurance given to Parliament and the country, and an almost deliberate insult to the Irish people. But the financial reforms carried by Sir William Harcourt and the Liberal party in 1894 has furnished the Tories with ample means to protect the Irish landlords from any additional burdens that might justly fall upon them under a system of popular Local Government. Under this it is proposed to give Ireland an annual sum of £770,000 from Imperial sources for purely Irish local purposes. This then is the secret of the whole matter. The landlord opposition to Local Government is bought for in hard cash, to be paid by the taxpayers of England and Scotland. What becomes now of the Protestant minority that we used to hear so much of? The Tories, having made provision for the landlords, are quite content to leave the Protestants to the tender mercies of their fellow Catholics. For our part we never believed that Protestants had any reason to fear giving the full control of the local affairs of Ireland to the Irish people. But thousands of people believed that it was for the sake of the Protestants that the Tories opposed the Home Rule policy of the Liberal party. Surely the blindest may now see what was the real reason of the bitter, determined, and virulent opposition meted out to the Home Rule proposals of 1886 and 1893. As soon as the Tories are able to protect the landlord interest at the expense of the general taxpayer, Ireland may apparently have Local Government to its heart's content. No doubt many in and out of Parliament who may be opposed to the bribe given to the Irish landlords will give their support to the proposals of Government in the belief that by so doing they will once and for ever kill the Irish demand for a local Parliament. But the lapse of a few more years shall assuredly prove that this is a vain delusion. The national sentiment of Ireland is not to be satisfied by County and District Councils as proposed by the Bill. The establishment of these bodies by popular election is a vast improvement on the present system, and apart from the price to be paid for it, has our approval; but we are certain of this, that the time will come when it will be seen that the Tories have begun at the wrong end: that the policy advocated by the Liberal Party is the only one that will satisfy the national sentiment of Ireland in regard to the government of Irish affairs. And what is true of Ireland is also true of England and Scotland; and the time is fast approaching when the impotency of the present Parliamentary system will be generally acknowledged, and an appropriate remedy found and applied to the special circumstances of the three kingdoms.

PURCHASE OF AN HOTEL.—Mr Macandoe, Inverness, has purchased from Mr George Harvey the Crown Hotel, Tain, the price paid being £2500.

PRESENTATION TO EX-BAILIE SMITH.—Ex-Bailie Smith was met on Saturday last by members of the Town Council of Inverness and the burgh officials and presented with a tangible token of the esteem and respect entertained for him as a late colleague on the occasion of his departure for Victoria, British Columbia. The pleasing ceremony took place in the Council Chamber. Provost Maclean presided, and ex-Bailie Smith was accompanied by Mrs Smith. The Provost spoke of Bailie Smith's valuable public services to the town, and called on Bailie Maclean to make the presentation. He wished God-speed to the Bailie and Mrs Smith in Canada, whither they were about to go (applause). Bailie Maclean, who was associated with Bailie Clark in promoting the testimonial, then, in a few happy sentences, presented Bailie Smith with a gold watch and Mrs Smith with a handsome gold bracelet. Bailie Smith, in his reply, said he had, as a member of Town Council, made many friends and passed many agreeable hours at the Council Board. Looking back on these six years they were, he thought, the happiest time of his life. He had done his best for the burgh of the town, and as an Inverness boy, he still always have a warm corner in his heart for Clachnacuddin (applause). The gold watch bore the following inscription:—"Presented (along with a bracelet for Mrs Smith), by members of the Town Council of Inverness and burgh officials, to William James Smith, Esq., on the occasion of his leaving Inverness, in recognition of his services as Magistrate and as Convener of the Public Health Committee, February, 1898." The articles were supplied by Messrs Ferguson & Maclean, jewellers, Inverness.

DEATHS.—At 11 Young Street, Inverness, on the 23rd inst., the wife of SIMON FRASER, bird-stuffer, of a son.

At 102A High Street, Forres, on the 10th inst., the wife of DAVID CAMPBELL, fisher, of a son.

At Raittoun, Nairn, on the 18th instant, the wife of WILLIAM CALDER, farmer, of a son.

At Kinstry Lodge, Nairn, on the 18th inst., the wife of J. W. W. of a son.

At the Schoolhouse, Loch Laggan, Kinross, on the 18th inst., the wife of JAMES LIVINGSTON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.—At H.M. Vice-Consulate, Blandy, British Central Africa Protectorate, on New-Year's Day, before Mr G. B. Battersworth Pigeot, H.M. Consular Judge, and afterwards in the Church of Scotland Mission Church, Blandy, by Dr D. C. Ruffell-Scott, DUNCAN BRAYTON, acting manager, African Lakes Corporation, Ltd.; and MRS ALICE MATHIAS, of PLANTA, of SUSA, Switzerland.

At S. Michael's, Headingly, Leeds, on 22nd inst., by the Rev. Edward James Phillips, assisted by the vicar, GILBERT WOOD, CHARLES LEWIS PHILLIPS, M.B. & S. ENG. L.R.C.P. Lond., Bury, and MARY, only daughter of the late Rev. Duncan Stewart, D.D., of Spoo, Dunbar, and Dorloch, Sutherlandshire, and of Mrs Stewart, 7 Ashwood Terrace, Cumberland Road, Headingly, Leeds.

At Forres, on the 18th inst., MARGARET MACINTYRE, aged 61, widow of William Ross, Stornoway, Procurator Fiscal of the Lews.

At Tacoma, Washington, on the 31st ult., THOMAS HENSHAW, aged 77, greatly beloved son of William A. Macrae, London and San Francisco Bank, Tacoma, and formerly farmer, Garagh, Laggan, Inverness-shire.

At Springburn, Thurso, on the 17th inst., Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel ALEXANDER MACLENNAN, M.D., J.P. for the County of Caithness.

At Dalrymple, Thurso, on the 8th ult., ALEX. YOUNG, aged 50 years, a native of Nairn.

At Davaar, Hawthorn, Melbourne, on the 19th inst., DONALD CAMPBELL LOVE, youngest son of the late Alexander Campbell, Hawthorn, Victoria, aged 55.

At Ruel Cottage, Dunoon, on the 22nd inst., JAMES MACLENNAN, in his 78th year; deeply regretted.

At Newborough, on the 14th inst., CHRISTINA MACDONALD, widow of the late Alexander Kennedy, formerly farmer, Garagh, Laggan, Inverness-shire.

At 15 Redcliffe Square, London, on the 18th February, JESSIE, Lady Mackenzie of Sealwell and Tarbat.

Suddenly, at 22 Elm Street, KENNY, only son of Robert Smith, junior, aged 30 years; deeply regretted.

DIED AT THE NORTHERN INFIRMARY, Inverness, on the 24th inst., MARY STRACHAN CHISHOLM, eldest daughter of John Chisholm, Blackmore, Inverness, and Mrs Chisholm, of Glasgow, aged 84 years.

DIED, suddenly, at 16 ABBAY STREET, Inverness, on the 25th inst., ELLEN WALKER, dearly beloved wife of James Gray, junior. Deeply regretted. FUNERAL on MONDAY NEXT, at 1.30 P.M., to TOMNAHURCH CEMETERY. All friends invited.

MRS ROSE and FAMILY return most grateful thanks for the many expressions of sympathy shown in their recent sudden and sore bereavement.

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QUEEN'S GATE (OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE). Designs and Prices on Application. Send for Patterns and compare Prices.

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THE NEW GOLF COURSE AT NAIRN.—A circular has been addressed by Mr William Dallas, convener, and Mr Wm. Laing, Town Clerk, to the public generally, calling their attention to the proposed new golf course, and asking subscriptions, so that the Committee might be enabled to accept of the land donated offer made to the burgh by Sir Alexander Dunbar. Subscriptions may be intimated to the Town Clerk, who is authorised to receive and acknowledge them.

FRAUD AND IMPOSITION.—In the Inverness Burgh Police Court on Wednesday, Ernest Stewart, a young seaman, pleaded guilty to fraud and imposition. He went to several clergymen in Inverness, and told them that he was mate of a Glasgow steamer which was on its way to the port. He was waiting for its arrival, and was short of money. Rev. Mr Mackintosh, of the Cathedral, gave the self-styled mate 3s; Mrs Mackenzie, Free North Manse, gave him 2s; and Dr Black, Free High Church, gave him 1s. Bailie Maclean's contribution was one of sixty days' imprisonment.

THEFT BY A CAMPBELLTOWN SERVANT GIRL.—A lady, who left the train at Kinross last Friday evening, forgot to remove a valuable handbag, containing about 30s in money and other valuables, from the compartment which she had occupied, and, unfortunately, did not discover her mistake till some time after the train had departed from Forres. Information was telegraphed to several of the stations north of Kinross, and the compartment which the lady had occupied was searched at Nairn, but no trace of the missing property obtained. The case was subsequently reported to the police, who made a thorough investigation, with the result that on Tuesday Constables Morrison and Mackintosh, Forres, arrested Maggie Mackenzie (26), a domestic servant, hailing from Campbelltown, Forres-George, in a railway carriage at Forres Station, in connection with the theft, and recovered part of the stolen money, &c., in her possession. The same evening Constable Bennett, Findhorn, and Constable Anderson, Campbelltown, succeeded in recovering the missing handbag, &c., concealed under a bed in a garage at Forres, at Campbelltown. The girl was taken before the Sheriff at Elgin on Wednesday, pleaded guilty, and in respect that it was her first offence, was disposed of under the First Offenders' Act.

NORTHERN INFIRMARY.—The hon. treasurer, Mr E. H. Macmillan, begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the following subscriptions:—West Parish Church, Inverness, £16 7s; the High Church, do., £78 15s 2d; the Parish Church, Avoch, £5 10s; Free West Church, Inverness, £6 12s; R.C. congregation, Eskdale, £2 14s 6d; Captain A. R. A. Stock, R.N., Birchwood, £1 1s; United Temperance Committee, per Mrs Mackintosh and Mrs Burrell, £16 16s; also 12 pence from J. D. Fletcher, Esq., of Rosehaugh. The following letter was received by the Treasurer from the United Temperance Committee:—

United Temperance Committee Pleasant Saturday Evenings, Inverness, 21st February, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—We have great pleasure in enclosing herewith cheque, value sixteen guineas (£16 10s), in aid of the funds of the Northern Infirmary, being the entire proceeds of our Pleasant Saturday Evening concert of the 1st inst. The United Temperance Committee are much indebted to the choir of the Institute for the Blind, for their services on the occasion, and feel gratified at having the privilege of helping so deserving an Institution as the Northern Infirmary.—We are, yours sincerely,

ANNIE MACKINTOSH, Secretary.

JENNIE M. BURRELL, Hon. Treasurer.

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SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS.

ELPHINE.—Mr Fraser, keeper, Elphine, last week captured a fine specimen of the golden eagle on the local moors. The bird measured 4 ft. 5 in. from tip to tip.

SPINNINGDALE—LOVE DARG.—The contemplated "love darg" which was to take place on Tuesday on a field belonging to Mr John Ross, forster, has been postponed owing to the exceptional severity of the weather.

ROGART—APPOINTMENT TO A TEACHER.—Mr Garden, presently at Rogart, has been appointed by the Alvie School Board teacher of Baldow Public School, in succession to the late Mr Donald Mackintosh. Mr Garden is a native of Banffshire.

STRAIKHYLE—FAIR RENTS.—The following are the findings of the Crofters Commission in the recent applications from Strathkyle crofters to have fair rents fixed:—

Table with 4 columns: Name, Old Rent, Fair Rent, Arrears cancelled. Includes John Denon, Alex. Mackay, Alex. Forbes, Hugh Murray, Neil Murray, David Ross, Donald Ross, Jun.

BRORA—AN HIRELOOM.—The property known as the Commercial Hotel is to be exposed for sale on the 4th March next at the upset price of £450. The deceased landlady willed the property to the parish as a doctor's dwelling-house. It was found unsuited for that purpose, and is therefore to be sold, the proceeds to be used for the acquisition of a more suitable house as a permanent doctor's residence. We understand the Free Church of Clyne will benefit financially to a considerable extent by the will of the deceased innkeeper.

DUNDESS—DEBATE.—The Dundess Mutual Improvement Society met on Saturday last. Mr Angus Macleod presiding. The subject of debate was, "Which is more beneficial to Great Britain, the Army or the Navy?" Mr Mr George Macdonald led for the Navy, with Mr Donald Mackenzie as seconder, and Mr Andrew Mackay advocated for the Army, with Mr Donald Whyte as seconder. Essays being read by both parties, a long and keen discussion followed. On the vote being taken it was found that the Navy side won by a majority of three.

SPINNINGDALE—PARISH CHURCH VACANCY.—The people of the parish of Creich are still on the outlook for a minister. It is not known when they are to be fully satiated with probationary oratory. It is to be hoped that the system of canvassing, engaged in heretofore, will be promptly terminated by all right-thinking persons. The present candidate before the congregation preached in the Public Hall on Sabbath evening with much acceptance. There was a fair attendance notwithstanding the stormy character of the weather.

SCOURIE—NOTES.—Mr Mackay has held evangelistic services in the school on four successive Sundays, but the attendance is not encouraging.—About 30 couples are attending the club dance conducted by Messrs Mackenzie and Macleod, and the progress reported nightly is satisfactory. Excellent music is supplied by Mr A. Cruickshank.—Through the medium of your paper (writes a correspondent) I would like to thank Mr James Mackay for the efficient manner in which he fulfils his post as librarian, and hope that he will be seen for many a long winter to come beside the cosy fire in the library.

SPINNINGDALE—PRESENTATION.—Mr John Morrison, who accidentally lost his right hand at a sawmill two years ago, has been waited upon by several friends and well-wishers and presented with a purse of sovereigns, contributed by friends in the parishes of Creich and Dornoch. The presentation took place in the Public Hall, Mr K. Gunn, mason contractor, presiding. Mr John Mackintosh, mason, in a few well-chosen words, presented the purse. The recipient suitably replied. Votes of thanks were called for and given to the members of committee and collectors. All concerned in the matter deserve due praise for the good work done.

BRORA—PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening last a number of friends and well-wishers met at the Railway Station on the occasion of the presentation of a valuable gold Albert chain and appendage to Mr Geo. R. Murray, clerk, who was recently transferred to Tain. Mr Gibson, bank agent, who was called on to deliver a few happy remarks of a congratulatory nature, expressed the high satisfaction he entertained in presiding on so auspicious an occasion. Captain Geo. Sutherland, in making the presentation, said that as soon as it became known that Mr Murray was about to be transferred to another station, it was felt that something of a tangible nature ought to be done to show how the public generally in the parish of Clyne appreciated the kind, courteous, and obliging way in which he conducted himself during his stay in Brora. The outcome of these cogitations was the gold Albert and appendage before them, and he added that he hoped that the recipient would be long spared to wear the same. Mr Murray feelingly replied.

DORNOCH—THE ACTION AGAINST THE DUKE.—Lord Killybeg, in the Court of Session on Thursday last, was informed of the abandonment of an action in which James Mackenzie, a defender, had sought payment of £433 as damages said to have been sustained consequent on the defendant's alleged breach of contract in connection with two contracts made with the pursuer for sawing timber at Gortambush and Dunrobin, on the defendant's estate. The pursuer's allegation was that, although he had his mills placed in position, the defender, contrary to his obligation, had failed to provide timber for sawing, and that the mills consequently stood idle for a considerable time, to his loss and damage. In defence the pursuer's allegations were denied, and it was explained that, as regards one of the mills, the pursuer had the contract for carting the timber to the mills, and that if he failed to do so the fault was his own. It was accordingly pleaded that the pursuer's allegations were unfounded in fact. The case was down for proof next week, but it was intimated that the pursuer was not to proceed further, and in terms of a minute lodged, the defender was absolved with expenses.

GOLSPIE SCHOOL—A GLOWING REPORT.—Her Majesty's Inspector, reporting on Golspie Public School for last year, says:—"The record of successes gained at the leaving certificate examination proves that the Secondary Department of the school is in a very satisfactory condition, and the work done in the specific subjects of Latin, French, German, and Mathematics indicates thoroughly efficient instruction. The infant classes and the first and second standards have been taught with painstaking care, and success. In the third the written work is very careful and accurate; and all the work of the fourth produced a very good impression, particularly the high average attainments in arithmetic and general intelligence. The fifth has been taught with diligence, care, and good success; and, except in arithmetic, leaves little to be desired. In the last two classes grammar is exceptionally good. Singing and drill are very good throughout the school, and sewing is equally satisfactory. The school is at present being extended to provide increased accommodation for the infant department, and it is hoped that the Board will at the same time make provision for teachers' retiring rooms. The pupils in Morrichdale School give generally a very good account of themselves, and the new staff deserves warm commendation." Merit certificates have been awarded to B. H. Robb, J. H. Matheson, M. Macleod, and M. A. Bate. The grant earned for the year, exclusive of drawing, is £351 13s 6d, compared with £317 4s 6d in 1896.

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CRUICK—INDUCTION.—The Established Presbytery of Tain have ordained and inducted the Rev. James Wallace Macdonald, Glasgow, as minister of Cruick quoad sacra parish. The Rev. Charles Robertson, B.D., Fearn, was the officiating clergyman, the other members present being Rev. Donald Munro, M.A., Kilmarie-East, Rev. Alex. Macleod, Kincardine; and Rev. Neil Macleod, Edderton. The Rev. R. L. Ritchie, Cruick, represented Dornoch Presbytery.

THE TELEPHONE.—Provost Maitland has just had fitted in to his house at Lauderdale a telephone and switch with his office in Academy Street and the Glenmorangie Distillery in circuit. The Provost has spared no expense in the matter, and the present installation is the finest of its kind. The telephone is of the Hunning's Desk pattern, and the Provost can communicate from his house to the office or the distillery and vice versa, the extension gong and instrument bell at the house being continuously in circuit.

NURSING ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Tain District Nursing Association was held in the Mason Hall, Tain, on Tuesday afternoon last week. Bailie Munro presided, and there was a large attendance, especially of ladies. Miss Middleton submitted the secretary's report, which expressed the Association's great appreciation of Miss Mackenzie's services as day nurse and Miss Ross as night nurse. The day nurses paid over two thousand visits to 73 patients during the year, which was an increase of patients compared with last year. The report also conveyed the thanks of the Association to the Town and Parish Councils for donations, and to the congregations of the several churches in town for collections.

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AVOCH—"BURNS' NIGHT."—Though "born out of due season" by unavoidable circumstances, the Burns' anniversary was celebrated with all due honours in the Mackenzie Institute on Friday night. Rev. J. Macleod was chairman and lecturer, and his brilliant treatment of the poet's life will long be remembered with pleasure. Mrs Spence Ross made an efficient accompanist. A dance followed the concert, music being supplied by Bandmaster Waken's Band, Inverness. During the evening the Choral Union, conducted by the Rev. Spence Ross, gave a number of selections in a beautiful style. The following was the programme submitted—Song, "There was a lad," choir; song, "Bonnie Wee Thing," Miss Mackenzie, The Deacons; "Corn Rigs are Bonnie," choir; "Tam o' Shanter," Mr Macdonald, Gairdies; song, "John Anderson my Jo," Mrs Fleming; "Green Grow the Rashes," choir; song, "Gae bring me the," Mr Macaskill; "A Man's a Man," choir; song, "Scots Wha Hae," Mr J. Singer; "The Dell's aye," choir; song, "Whistle an' I'll come to ye, my lad," Mr Fleming; "O' wark thou in the Caird Blast," choir; song, "O' a' the Airts," Rev. Spence Ross; "Duncan Gray," choir; "Willie Wastie," choir; "Auld Lang Syne."

FORTROSE—"LADIES' NIGHT" AT THE M.I.A.—The second "Ladies' Night" on the syllabus of the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Literary Society was held in the Reading-Room on Tuesday night, there being a large attendance. Mrs Fraser acted as convener, and Mr J. Macleod, M.A., presided. The programme opened with a brilliant piano recital by the Misses Burgess and Sophie Grant. This was followed by "An Appreciation of the Poet Whittier," by Miss Dunn, who was venturesome enough to read her own paper. The song "Sweethearts" was charmingly rendered by Miss Mackenzie, The Deacons, who had to decline a vociferous encore. The next paper was a dainty little sketch of the wedded poets, Robert and Elizabeth Browning. This was written by Mrs T. Henderson, Craighu, and was read by Mr W. S. Geddie. "Macleod's Gathering" was very effectively vocalised by Miss Ross, Miss Mackenzie, The Deacons, acting as accompanist. This also received a vociferous encore. A piano solo was rendered very pleasingly by Miss Geddie, and was followed by a graphic sketch of Hugh Miller by Mrs Ross, B.L. Coy. Bank House, submitted to the Association's report, which showed that £108 5s 4d had been expended during the year for all purposes, and that the Society was almost self-supporting, there being only a balance of £2 5s due the bank at the close of the year. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr John Mackenzie, Town Clerk, both reports were unanimously adopted. On the motion of Captain Munro of Allan, last year's officer-bearer was unanimously re-elected. Captain Munro, in the course of his remarks, expressed the hope that they would soon have a Cottage Hospital in Easter Ross, but Miss Middleton gave expression to the hope that they would first have another nurse. The medical gentlemen were thereupon invited to express their opinions, and Dr Gillies expressed his thorough satisfaction with the manner in which Nurse Mackenzie carried out her work, but suggested that she should alter the rule which gives the nurse the option of calling in the doctor, and that they should have a doctor in all cases. If the patients happened to be poor, speaking for himself and his professional brethren, he would give their services gratuitously. Miss Middleton explained that the rules referred to were taken from the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Association's rules. Dr Gillies, continuing, said that there were sometimes trouble about securing the services of the night nurses. Miss Middleton explained that so far as she knew this only happened in the case of a non-subscriber. Both matters were remitted to the management committee, along with the doctors for further consideration with a view to adjustment, if possible, and the motion of Captain Munro, a vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman.

NAIRN NEWS.

FARM LET.—Earlsmill Farm has been let to Mr Peter Allan, Bankhead, Dyke.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.—A lecture entitled "Parodies and Parodists" was delivered by Mr James, of Huntly, before the Nairn Literary Institute on Friday last.

APPOINTMENT.—We are pleased to learn that Mr A. Shach, of the National Bank, Nairn, has been promoted to the National Bank office in Grantown.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."—Mr W. Payne Seddon produced "The Sorrows of Satan" before a fairly good house on Wednesday night.

THE HONORARY TREASURER OF THE NAIRNSHIRE HORTICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION has received subscriptions of £2 2s from the Hon. J. E. Gordon, M.P., and £1 from E. K. Hall, Esq.

DEAN OF GUILD COURT.—At a Dean of Guild Court on Wednesday—Dean of Guild Innes presiding—Mr William Mackay, of Railway Terrace, was granted warrant to alter and make additions to house at Academy Street.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.—At the Nairn Sheriff Court on Tuesday, before Sheriff Rampini, John Reid, Cawdor, was found guilty of committing a breach of the peace in Cawdor. A fine of 20s, with the option of fourteen days' imprisonment, was imposed.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.—At the Free Church Literary Association on Thursday night, Mr Mitchell delivered a paper on "Bret Harte, the American Poet and Humorist." At the U.P. Christian Endeavour and Guild on Thursday Miss Innes gave a paper on "The Life of Joseph."

REQUEST TO ALDEARBAN POOR.—The legacy which was left to the poor of Aldearban by the late Surgeon Smith, a native of the parish, has been handed over to the ministers of the parish for distribution, namely, Rev. Mr Bonallo, £10; Rev. Mr Macneil, £10; and Rev. Mr Kerr, £4.

PARISH CHURCH INDUCTION.—The induction of the Rev. Mr Pirie to the Nairn Parish Church takes place on Wednesday first, when Rev. Mr Fraser, Wey, will conduct the service. At 2 p.m. a public dinner, which will take place in the Marine Hotel, has been arranged for. On the following Sunday forenoon Mr Pirie will be introduced to his congregation by the Rev. Dr Marshall Lang, Glasgow.

MEETING OF HERITORS.—A meeting of the Heritors of the Parish of Nairn took place on Wednesday last to consider the repairing of the Established Church Manse. Mr J. S. Robertson presided. Many of those present expressed the opinion that the Manse and grounds should be sold, and a new manse should be built, seeing that the repairs would probably involve an expenditure of £300. It is estimated that by selling the Manse and adjoining garden enough revenue would come in to cover the cost of a new building. A committee was appointed to consider the selling of the present manse and the building of a new one.

BLACK ISLE NEWS

LEWIS.

STORNOWAY OFFICE—3 CHURCH ST. To which complaints as to the defective distribution of the paper should be addressed, and at which orders for advertisements and all Lewis communications may be left.

TIDE TABLE.

Table with columns for Date of Month, Morning, Evening, H.M., and H.M. for February and March.

STORNOWAY.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING.—The F.C. Quarterly Fellowship meeting will be held at Carloway on Wednesday, 2nd March, at noon.

REV. MR MUNN.—Rev. Mr Munn, the late popular assistant in Stornoway, was ordained and inducted to the pastoral charge of the Kirkhill Free Church congregation on Wednesday, and is to be introduced to-morrow by the Rev. P. Macdonald, Stornoway.

AMBULANCE.—The class conducted under the St Andrew's Ambulance Association by Dr Mackenzie during the winter months was examined on Saturday evening in the Nicolson Institution, Francis Street, by Dr Ross.

TRAWLING.—Mr Donald Mackenzie, secretary of the Fishermen's Association, has received £24 from Mr and Mrs Platt, Eskilun, towards the expenses of the proposed anti-trawling deputation to Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

STEAMER AFIRE.—On Saturday morning last, shortly after eleven o'clock, the North Shields steam line-fishing vessel "Gannet," S.N. 95, which at the time was moored at No. 2 wharf, was discovered to be on fire.

OBITUARY.—The death of Mrs William Ross, Stornoway, at Forres on Friday last, after a short illness, will be deeply felt by her large circle of friends and acquaintances.

PARISH COUNCIL.—The usual monthly meeting of the Parish Council of Stornoway was held on Wednesday—Provost Anderson presiding. A copy of Mr Penny's report to the Local Government Board was read, in which he stated that the recent opening of the Poorhouse in Stornoway had already reduced the paupers roll by about 10 per cent.

THE FATAL ACCIDENTS INQUIRY.—Mr Ross, Sheriff Clerk, has received the following letter dated 14th February, from Rev. A. M. Gibson, Portsoy, to whom he had sent the fees payable to the empanelled jury and the witnesses in the recent fatal accidents inquiry.

CROMORE—POSTAL SERVICE.—The Postmaster-General has stated that he will be very glad, if it is found practicable, to comply with the wishes of the inhabitants of Cromore, Lochs, Lewis, and an improvement in the postal service for the townships south of Loch Eribost.

BREASCLETE—SOIREE.—On Friday a soiree in connection with the Sabbath School was held in the Breasclete Public School, over which the Rev. Mr Macrae, Carloway, presided. After tea, the Chairman delivered an eloquent address to the children, and announced that he intended to give a medal to the pupil who received the highest marks in the Welfare of Youth examination.

CARLOWAY—PUBLIC MEETINGS.—Recently public meetings held at Carloway, Tolsta, and Breasclete, have passed resolutions to the effect that the meetings "viewed with indignation and alarm the way of respect shown to the petitions and resolutions of the ratepayers of Uig (East and West)." in reference to matters pertaining to the district.

THE WEATHER.—Heavy showers of snow fell in this district on Sunday and Monday, but it has all disappeared except a few patches on the hillsides.

SHAWBOST.—The services in connection with the Shawbost Communion commenced on Thursday. Rev. G. L. Campbell is being assisted by the Rev. R. Macrae, Carloway, and Rev. N. M. Morrison, Barvas.

LITERARY SOCIETY.—The subject at the weekly meeting of the Literary Society on Wednesday was a debate, "Should the House of Lords be Abolished?" Mr A. Cameron led for the affirmative and Mr M. Macarthur for the negative. As was to be expected, the affirmative side won easily.

LEWIS HOSPITAL.—The Hon. Secretary of the Lewis Hospital acknowledges, with thanks, the following:—£2 2s from Sheriff Johnstone, Edinburgh; a sack of oatmeal from Mr John Macleod, commission agent; and 5s from Mr Mackenzie, teacher, Arantium.

CHARITY CONCERT.—A grand cinematograph entertainment, combined with vocal and instrumental music, will be given at Stornoway on Friday, 4th March next. As the proceeds of the entertainment will be devoted to the relief of the Stornoway poor, it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. Tickets, reserved, 1s 6d; front, 1s; and back seats to be had at the shops of Messrs J. & Co., and Mr S. Macdonald, Stornoway. Provost John N. Anderson will preside.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—On Wednesday night an adjourned meeting was held of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Lewis District Committee to consider the provisions of the new Public Health Act as it specially affects the Lewis. Rules were drafted with reference to the three following matters:—(1) Water supply; (2) hospital accommodation, including employment of nurses; and (3) buildings, including bye-laws regulating the construction thereof. These draft rules will come up for approval at a future meeting of the District Committee.

THE "SALLY."—On Wednesday a tug arrived from Glasgow to convey to Belfast the sloop "Sally" which put in here before Christmas to repair pumps, and which was afterwards driven ashore and badly damaged. She was floated off with great difficulty, and has been lying alongside the Esplanade Quay for several weeks. She is grounded at her berth, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to get her off on Thursday morning; but with more favourable wind and tide it is expected she will be got away all right yet this week.

THE TRAWLING QUESTION.—At the Lewis District Committee meeting on Wednesday night a letter was read from the Scotch Fishery Board acknowledging the motion passed by the Committee at the previous meeting asking that a bye-law be made under the Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act, 1895 (section 10) prohibiting trawling within thirteen miles of the Lewis coast. The letter proceeded:—"From a personal view, it will be seen that the Board are empowered to prohibit beam and otter trawling in any area within thirteen miles of the Scottish coast, but that the exercise of this power is subject to the consent of the State Signatories to the Convention of 1882 being first obtained. As regards the obtaining of such sanction it would be seen from the letter dated 27th January . . . that the Secretary for Scotland, Mr J. L. Macdonald, central secretary of the Moray Firth Fisheries Association, that the Foreign Office do not consider the present a suitable time for approaching the powers interested, as that Department believed that such a negotiation could not meantime be successfully carried through, and that more harm than good would be done by entering upon the subject, because any successful negotiation now could hardly fail to prejudice the question and leave it in a worse position than if it had never been raised."

LEWIS DISTRICT COMMITTEE. A meeting of this body was held at Stornoway on Wednesday evening. Provost Anderson presided, and there were also present—Councillors Eneas M. Mackenzie, Dr Macdonald, Donald Mackenzie, Alex. Macaulay, J. G. Macdonald, and J. M. Morrison; also Dr Macrae, Medical Officer, Mr R. Macleod, Sanitary Inspector, and Mr C. G. Mackenzie, Clerk. A letter was read from Rev. Mr Macrae, Carloway, stating that in his opinion the Gaelic Schoolhouse was quite suitable for a residence for Nurse Milne if it were put into proper repair. There were several other sites, but the crofters and the estate would have to be consulted before they could be obtained. If the Gaelic Schoolhouse was not considered suitable, he suggested that a deputation should visit the district in connection with the matter. He further stated that he had received a letter from Miss Rainy, Edinburgh, to the effect that her Committee will not continue their efforts towards the nurse's salary beyond April unless she is provided with a suitable residence. The Surveyor was instructed to prepare alternate estimates for a two-roomed house (1) constructed of wood, roofed with corrugated iron, and (2) of stone and lime, roofed with felt.

NOTHING WAS PROPOSED. A meeting of the Board in Barra to carry out public works required or to relieve the present distress in the parish. The Chairman directed attention to the statement which had appeared in the public prints to the effect that the Congested Districts Board had expended £250 in developing the market garden in Barra, and stated that not a farthing had been spent in Barra for such a purpose. It was unanimously agreed to ask an explanation from the Congested Districts Board regarding this, and to have the statement contradicted. It was reported that no reply had been received from the Congested Districts Board regarding the obtaining of land for crofters or dwelling-house sites for fishermen from Lady Gordon Cathcart, the proprietress of Barra, and the Clerk was directed to ask the Board what progress was being made in the direction, there being a strong feeling abroad that the Congested Districts Board without compulsory powers to acquire lands is proving quite useless so far as any good result is concerned in Barra, where the congestion is much felt.

WIDOW GRAHAM, Portogaranur, for having permitted a marriage to take place in her house while her daughter was, to her knowledge, suffering from typhoid fever.

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LEWIS F.C. PRESBYTERY. THE UIG VACANCY.

The Lewis Free Church Presbytery met at Stornoway on Tuesday. In the absence of Rev. G. L. Campbell, Moderator, Rev. J. Macdonald, Lochs, presided. There were also present—Rev. Messrs H. Cameron, Back; N. M. Morrison, Barvas; R. Macrae, Carloway; J. S. Macdonald, Stornoway; and Peter Macdonald Stornoway (Clerk); also Messrs John Mackenzie, Stornoway, John Smith, do.; John Macrae, Timsigarty; Alex. Thomson, Tong; and Malcolm Mackenzie, Bayble, elders.

Commissioners were present from the congregation of Uig, craving the Presbytery to appoint a day to moderate in a call to the Rev. Roderick Macleae, Prince Edward Island, North America.

After hearing the representatives of the Kirk Session, Deacon's Court, and congregation, the Presbytery resolved to meet at Uig on Tuesday next at two p.m., to moderate in a call at large, the Rev. G. L. Campbell, Shawbost, to preach and preside. The Rev. Roderick Macrae, Carloway, was appointed to preach at Uig to-morrow, and to serve the edict.

The Presbytery unanimously disapproved of the General Assembly's overture appointing additional representative elders.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend Professor Salmon for the vacant Professorship in Aberdeen College.

LICENSES IN THE LEWIS

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS." Sir,—In the Licensing Commission report in your last issue Mr William Mackay, solicitor, condemned the action of the Lewis Justices as suppressive and illegal. However, he had in the process of examination to swallow his words. I am not expert enough in law to speak of the legality of their conduct, but as to the purity and righteousness of their cause I am perfectly convinced. So much cannot be said for their detractors and enemies.

He further says that smuggling and sheebening are the outcome of the suppression of licensed houses. His eyes are on the Lewis. The temperance sentiment of the people of that island is not palatable. He knows there is sheebening in Lewis, and that very respectable old women think it not disreputable to sell whisky. I am a native of Lewis. I know its inner life very intimately, yet I never heard of anyone here who kept a shebeen, except one dispensary at two miles from Broadford Inn, and five from Kyleakin Inn. It is well known there are more—many more—such cases in Skye, although it is so well stocked with public-houses. Again, there is no such thing as illicit distilling known in Lewis. It disappeared about the same time as the public-houses.—A LEWIS PATRIOT.

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STORNOWAY SCHOOL BOARD AND THE F.C. SEMINARY TITLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS." Sir,—The report of the deliberation of the School Board on this subject, as appearing in your issue of 19th curt, being of sufficient public interest to call for further knowledge on the matter at issue, I enclose herewith "Extract from the Free Charter in favour of the Trustees of the Free Church at Stornoway," to which I hope you will grant space.

The Board having by a majority "considered it derogatory to its character to further persist in intermeddling with this matter," I make no comment beyond stating that I procured access to the title without existing any high-handed procedure beyond consulting a copy of the free charter in possession of the Board.—I am, Sir, yours, &c., Stornoway, 23rd February, 1898.

Extract from the Free Charter in favour of the Trustees of the Free Church at Stornoway.

THIRD.—That piece of ground called the Seminary ground, on part whereof is erected the house built for and now used or occupied as a school, with the garden thereto attached, bounded on the north by unfenced ground belonging to me, along which it extends sixty-three feet; on the west by Colin Mackenzie's feu, along which it extends southwards one hundred and twenty-one feet; on the south by Francis Street, along which it extends eastwards sixty feet; and on the east, partly by unfenced ground belonging to me, and partly by the ground herein secondly above described, and which eastern boundary extends in length to one hundred and twenty-one feet in all (the said last-mentioned piece of ground, twenty-seven square poles Imperial, and which piece of ground, with the Schoolhouse and others erected thereon, having been presented by me to the Honourable Mrs Mary Frederica Elizabeth Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, who presented the same to the Free Church, and to which gift by her I am desirous to give full effect, subject always to the relative conditions hereinafter prescribed; which three several subjects before disposed lie in the town of Stornoway, barony of the Lewis, and county of Ross; but declaring that the afovea disposition is made, granted, and to be accepted of, not only in trust for the ends, uses, and purposes, but also with and under the whole conditions, provisions, and declarations aforementioned, and not otherwise.

FOURTH.—That the piece of ground and building thereon hereinafter "described," is disposed to and shall be held by the said Trustees for the purpose of a school, and dwelling-house for the teacher, and playground for the pupils, the dwelling-house to be occupied and enjoyed by teachers who shall from time to time be appointed in conformity with the laws and regulations of the said body of Christians, which said school shall be under the control of the Education Committee aforesaid, and shall be opened in like manner as the former school to the inspection of the Inspector for the time being of Her Majesty and her successors, as aforesaid.

FIFTH.—That the piece of ground and building thereon hereinafter "described," is disposed to and shall be held by the said Trustees for the purpose of a school, and dwelling-house for the teacher, and playground for the pupils, the dwelling-house to be occupied and enjoyed by teachers who shall from time to time be appointed in conformity with the laws and regulations of the said body of Christians, which said school shall be under the control of the Education Committee aforesaid, and shall be opened in like manner as the former school to the inspection of the Inspector for the time being of Her Majesty and her successors, as aforesaid.

SIXTH.—That the piece of ground and building thereon hereinafter "described," is disposed to and shall be held by the said Trustees for the purpose of a school, and dwelling-house for the teacher, and playground for the pupils, the dwelling-house to be occupied and enjoyed by teachers who shall from time to time be appointed in conformity with the laws and regulations of the said body of Christians, which said school shall be under the control of the Education Committee aforesaid, and shall be opened in like manner as the former school to the inspection of the Inspector for the time being of Her Majesty and her successors, as aforesaid.

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BARRA AND ALLOTMENTS. A meeting of Barra Parish Council was held at Castlebay on Wednesday—Rev. Father Mackenzie presiding—when the decision of the Congested Districts Board in the appeal of the County Council of Inverness regarding allotments was considered.

NOTHING WAS PROPOSED. A meeting of the Board in Barra to carry out public works required or to relieve the present distress in the parish. The Chairman directed attention to the statement which had appeared in the public prints to the effect that the Congested Districts Board had expended £250 in developing the market garden in Barra, and stated that not a farthing had been spent in Barra for such a purpose. It was unanimously agreed to ask an explanation from the Congested Districts Board regarding this, and to have the statement contradicted. It was reported that no reply had been received from the Congested Districts Board regarding the obtaining of land for crofters or dwelling-house sites for fishermen from Lady Gordon Cathcart, the proprietress of Barra, and the Clerk was directed to ask the Board what progress was being made in the direction, there being a strong feeling abroad that the Congested Districts Board without compulsory powers to acquire lands is proving quite useless so far as any good result is concerned in Barra, where the congestion is much felt.

FORT-WILLIAM NEWS.

SALE OF BUSINESS.—We understand the licensed grocery business, formerly held by the late Mr Walker, Glen Nevis Buildings, has now been taken over by Mr Murray, of Messrs Murray & Gillespie, Oban.

VOLUNTEERS.—The local company of the Cameron Volunteers have begun drill for the year. The company promises to maintain more than its usual strength this season. Twelve new members have already joined.

NAVY IN TROUBLE.—James Smith, a navy, was apprehended on Tuesday on a charge of assault and robbery. He emitted a declaration and was committed to prison for further examination.

INTERESTING TO SHEEP FARMERS.—In the Small Debt Court Sheriff-Substitute Davidson has disposed of an action, in which Alex. Macdonald, farmer, Drumbarne, sued Daniel Maben, farmer, Curranan, for payment of £1 5s 3d, being the price of a black-faced ewe which, the pursuer alleged, was sold by the defender while at the Fort-William charabanc Mart on 25th September, 1895. The defender admitted that he brought the sheep to the charabanc Mart, but averred that he then delivered it over to the pursuer, and informed the auctioneer that the animal belonged to the pursuer. The defender further averred that he brought 15 of his own sheep to the sale on that date; that the pursuer's animal was purchased by him on 3rd and 2nd, and that pursuer's was sold separately. The auctioneer's sale-book disclosed that defender sold 14 animals in lots of 3's and single animals. The last was sold by him separately at the price of £1 6s, and this was the animal the pursuer averred belonged to him. From the auctioneer's evidence it transpired that the pursuer was not entered in the sale that day as selling any animal. Further, one witness spoke to the pursuer's animal being pointed out to him before the sale began, and he identified it as being sold in the name of the defender at £1 6s. After considering the evidence, the Sheriff granted decree against the defender for the sum paid for, with 16s 9d of expenses, and costs of the cause.

PORTREE—KINTAIL FREE CHURCH.—Rev. R. Mackenzie, Free Presbyterian Church, Portree, who has gone over to the establishment, is to be inducted in his new charge at Kintail on the 11th of March. Rev. Mr Davidson, Lochalsh, will officiate at the induction, his row withdrawing his objections.

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PROPERTY IN STORNOWAY FOR SALE. Piece of Ground on Lewis Street, Stornoway, presently occupied by Mr MURDO MACLEOD, containing 402 Square Yards or thereabouts, with Dwelling-House thereon, substantially built of Stone, and Slated. Present Rent £18. There is ample space on the Ground for Additional Buildings. For further particulars apply to A. FRASER, British Linen Company's Bank, Stornoway, with whom Offers should be immediately lodged.

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ANGUS MACLEOD, PAINTER, GLAZIER, AND PICTURE-FRAME MAKER, 44 CHURCH STREET, STORNOWAY (OPPOSITE DRILL HALL). Oils, Paints, Varnishes, Glass, Paperhangings, and Picture Mouldings. Wholesale and Retail.

JOHN MACGILVRAY'S FURNITURE ROOMS, CROMWELL STREET. The subscriber has now on hand a Large and Varied Stock of Excellent New and SECOND-HAND FURNITURE, also, Iron Beds, Bedding, Carpets, Fenders, Fire-Irons, Grates, &c., to be Sold at Greatly Reduced Prices.

Stock always on hand. HEADQUARTERS FOR HOME-MADE COD LIVER OIL—MAIR'S. STORNOWAY COD LIVER OIL is much Superior to Norwegian. Absolutely the purest oil produced. It is recommended by doctors as invaluable for Chest Complaints. Sold in bottles—2s per quart; 1s per pint. Postage, 7d extra.

JAMES MAIR, 8 SHELL STREET, STORNOWAY.

JOHN MACGILVRAY, AUCTIONEER AND VALUATOR, STORNOWAY. Who has had close on Thirty Years' Experience, is now prepared to attend Sales by Auction and Valuations, in town or country.

TERMS MODERATE. Mr Macgilvray is Valuator for the Island of Lewis, by appointment of the County Council.

NOW PUBLISHED. STORNOWAY DIRECTORY. ALMANAC AND DIARY, and OFFICIAL HAND-BOOK FOR LEWIS. To be had from "The Highland News" Branch Office, Macleod's Buildings, Stornoway.

WM. G. RUSSELL, WAWERLEY BUILDINGS, SOUTH BEACH STREET, STORNOWAY. TERMS—CASH. TERMS—CASH.

SALE OF BUSINESS.—We understand the licensed grocery business, formerly held by the late Mr Walker, Glen Nevis Buildings, has now been taken over by Mr Murray, of Messrs Murray & Gillespie, Oban.

VOLUNTEERS.—The local company of the Cameron Volunteers have begun drill for the year. The company promises to maintain more than its usual strength this season. Twelve new members have already joined.

NAVY IN TROUBLE.—James Smith, a navy, was apprehended on Tuesday on a charge of assault and robbery. He emitted a declaration and was committed to prison for further examination.

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AGRICULTURE.

Combination Among Farmers

At the dinner of the Inverness Farmers' Society on Tuesday night, Mr. Gowans, Newton of Budgate, Cawdor, read an interesting paper on "Combination." Referring to the present to the increased prices which recently obtained for barley, Mr. Gowans remarked that if farmers had been united, they could at the very beginning of the season have received for their barley quite as high prices as were now obtainable.

Let them consider for a moment, continued Mr. Gowans, what a market for their produce they would have had if they had been united. Did one single consigner of stock know the numbers that were likely to be forward? Would it not have been advantageous if the consigner, by means of combination, had made themselves aware of the probable numbers that were to be forward?

Foreign competition came into play. It was unquestionably the case that foreign competition had come to stay; but, at the same time, he was very much inclined to think that it was to a large extent a bogey more terrifying in name than in reality. Their foreign competitors had enormous advantages to contend with, and it was by no means a very great stretch of the imagination to go the length of believing foreign competition had reached high-water mark.

Mr. Keeble, Inverness, could not understand how it was possible for the producer and consumer to be brought into immediate contact. There must, he considered, be an intermediary between these two, because what would not pay the producer to go about in search of the consumer.

Mr. Murray (of Messrs Murray & Watson), Inverness, held that the farmers hitherto had been lax in the matter of combination; and to an extent combination was necessary. He did not think that the middleman could be dispensed with.

Mr. K. A. Gillanders, Inverness, was of opinion that instead of taxing the farmers, the community of Inverness should give them every encouragement. Farmers and farming interests formed the backbone of Inverness. The Petty Customs were unjust, and what was unjust should be unlawful; they should therefore do the right, although the heavens should fall—(applause).

Mr. Birnie, Inverness, as representing the distilling industry, disclaimed the epithet of "necessary evils," as those engaged in his business were persecuted by the tax (hear, hear). On the contrary, he considered the distillers were the best friends of the farmers in the North. As to the Petty Customs, they must be prepared to convince the citizens of Inverness that it is to their interest as citizens to do away with the tax.

The first question asked of the deputations by the Secretary for Scotland would be—Do you represent the taxpayers of Inverness? When the deputations replied in the negative, they would see that the Secretary for Scotland would not listen any further to them. He agreed that at present the tax was illegally collected, and 25 per cent was allowed off, contrary to the terms of the Act of Parliament. But they could go to the Court of Session, get declarator on the point, and they would win. Mr. Birnie next referred to combination, which to a certain extent was, he said, advantageous, but carried to its limits, was most dangerous, as was instanced by the recent Engineers' Strike.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Robert Thomson, Kinmylies; Mr. Alexander Howe, Castle Heather; Mr. Alexander Fraser, Balloch, and other gentlemen.

Report of Inverness Farmers' Society Annual Seed and Root Show will be found on page 3.

GRAIN MARKETS. INVERNESS, Friday.—Barley, 20s to 22s; oats (sandy), 20s; oats (dry), 20s to 21s.

NAIN, Thursday.—Owing to the fine day a large number of farmers came into town. Prices were the same as last week—Barley, 20s; 56 lbs, 31s; oats, 20s.

EDINBURGH, Wednesday.—The supply of wheat was the same as last week, and unchanged in prices. Barley a smaller supply and also unaltered in prices, but fine samples for seed are in better demand. Oats about last week, both in quantity and prices, with a slow sale. Beans quieter. Millers made no change in the price of oatmeal, but

confirmed Friday's advance of 6d per sack on flour. In foreign grain wheat is firmly held for 6d to 9d advance, but not much doing. Barley about 3d to 6d lower. Beans and peas 3d to 6d higher. Oats in fair demand, at fully late rates. Maize 3d up. The following are details of the business done in Inverness grain in the farmers' market:—Wheat—784 qrs, wheat, being 1 more than last week, of which there were sold 592 qrs. Prices were 6d up on the top, and 1d up on the average. Barley—1829 qrs, barley, being 312 less than last week, of which there were sold 966 qrs. Prices were 1s down on the top, and 1d up on the average. Oats—4278 qrs, oats, being 81 less than last week, of which there were sold 2036 qrs. Prices were 1s down on the top, and 4d up on the average. Beans—237 qrs, beans, being 25 less than last week, of which there were sold 140 qrs. Prices were 6d up on the top, and 1d up on the average. Peas—25 qrs, peas, being the same as last week, of which there were none sold. Tares—70 qrs, tares, being 37 less than last week, of which there were none sold.

DEAD MEAT MARKET. LONDON, Friday.—Messrs Leo & Cowell, Central Meat Market, Smithfield, report:—Market overdone, with much fat on a standard, with unfavourable prospects. Per Stone of 8 lb. Per Cwt. Beef, English... 38 6d 38 6d 40 0d to 51s 6d; Scotch, long sides... 38 6d 38 6d 51s 6d to 53s 8d; short... 38 6d 38 6d 51s 6d to 53s 8d; Mutton, Scotch... 48 2d 48 2d 58s 4d to 63s 6d; English... 48 2d 48 2d 58s 4d to 63s 8d; Lamb... 28 6d 28 6d 37s 6d to 40s 6d; Pig... 48 2d 48 2d 51s 6d to 60s 8d; English Lamb... 7s 0d 7s 0d 9s 6d to 11s 6d.

INVERNESS, Tuesday.—At Hamilton & Co.'s (Limited) weekly sale to-day there were large supplies of cattle on offer. Buyers from town and country were largely represented. Trade was fairly steady all through. Anything really well finished met with a spirited trade, and was easily disposed of at prices in favour of sellers, while anything barely finished were more difficult to dispose of. Fat cows, if good, in demand, and selling well, but half-fair sorts rather a dragging trade. Milch cows were in demand and selling dear. Mr. Liddell, Denny, had a lot of good, useful milch cows, which met with a fairly good trade. Sheep—Hoggs were a dear trade, and easily sold; widders scarce, but selling dear. Ewes also met with a good going trade, and the market once congested took long to recover a normal healthy tone. Would it not be better for the farmers to combine, devising some method by means of which they might possibly be able to regulate more or less in accordance with the demand ruling the supply of stock which was weekly exposed to them at their local sales? How often did they meet with a long, dragging sale? Occasionally they met with a short sharp one; but so far as the farmers were concerned, it was a happy-go-lucky chance which of the two sales their stock was sold at.

Foreign competition came into play. It was unquestionably the case that foreign competition had come to stay; but, at the same time, he was very much inclined to think that it was to a large extent a bogey more terrifying in name than in reality. Their foreign competitors had enormous advantages to contend with, and it was by no means a very great stretch of the imagination to go the length of believing foreign competition had reached high-water mark. If home farmers aimed at producing, and did produce, the best possible article, no matter whether that be beef, mutton, train, or dairy produce, the home-grown article would ever command the market, and sell at by far the highest price—(applause). Mr. Gowans then proceeded to discuss the question as to whether it would not be possible for farmers to combine for the distribution of their produce to the actual consumer, and referring to the various hands through which a fat animal passes before reaching the consumer, he remarked that there were no less than five distinct profits obtained from the time it left the farmers' byre until it reached the table of the consumer. He considered it would be of the utmost benefit to the farmers combined for the effecting of their purchases of such articles as cake, bran, drafts, all kinds of feeding stuffs, as well as seeds, implements, and manures. Mr. Gowans alluded to the Petty Customs, the Marking of Foreign Meat, and suggested that the English combination among farmers might even be advantageous.

THE DISCUSSION. Mr. Keeble, Inverness, could not understand how it was possible for the producer and consumer to be brought into immediate contact. There must, he considered, be an intermediary between these two, because what would not pay the producer to go about in search of the consumer. While totally opposed to the present system of collecting the Petty Customs in Inverness, they must not forget that if it were abolished the tax would be transferred to the shoulders of the ratepayers.

Mr. Murray (of Messrs Murray & Watson), Inverness, held that the farmers hitherto had been lax in the matter of combination; and to an extent combination was necessary. He did not think that the middleman could be dispensed with.

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SALES AND CONTRACTS SUMMARY

PROPERTY AND OTHER SALES. SATURDAY, February 26 (today).—Furniture at Victoria Hotel, Invergowrie, by Noble & Dreghorn, Inverness, at 11. FRIDAY, March 1.—Dwelling-house "St. Margaret's" in St. James Street, Dingwall; within the National Hotel, Dingwall, at 12. WEDNESDAY, March 2.—Princeton and Trenton Villas, Lovat Road, Inverness; within Writing Chambers of Macgillivray and Maclean, Solicitors, Union Street, Inverness, at 12. WEDNESDAY, March 2.—Shrub and flowering plants, by A. Shivas, Inverness, in Artillery Drill Hall, Inverness, at 12. FRIDAY, March 4.—Property in Main Street, Brora; within Sutherland Arms Hotel, Brora, at 12. FRIDAY, March 4.—Alma Cottage, Waverley Road, Nairn; within office of Wm. Laing, solicitor, Nairn, at 2. SATURDAY, March 5.—Caledonian Hotel, Nairn; within Public Hall Buildings, Nairn, at 12. WEDNESDAY, March 9.—Marjory House and St. Vincent Street, Crown Street; within writing chambers of Macdonald & Graham, solicitors, Inverness, at 11. THURSDAY, March 10.—Springfield Villa, Albert Street, Nairn; within Procurator Fiscal's Office, Nairn, at 2. FRIDAY, March 11.—Dwelling-houses with Byres, 22, 21, 33, and 35 Muirtown Street, Inverness; within chambers of Am. J. J. Macpherson, solicitor, Inverness, at 11. FRIDAY, March 13.—Block of buildings, 10 and 12 Inglis Street and 13 Hamilton Street, Inverness, within the office of Macanewer & Jenkins, solicitors, Inverness, at 12.

STOCK SALES. MONDAY, February 22.—Annual Sale of Fat Cattle, Sheep &c. at Perth Auction Market, by Macdonald, Fraser & Co., at 11.15. MONDAY, February 23.—Weekly sale of fat stock at Northern Central Market, Perth, by John Swan & Sons. MONDAY, February 23.—Weekly sale, Inverness Auction Market, by Macdonald Fraser & Co., at 11.30. MONDAY, February 23.—Weekly sale at Perth Auction Market, by Macdonald Fraser & Co., at 10.30. TUESDAY, March 1.—Weekly sale at Inverness Auction Mart, by Hamilton & Co., at 11. TUESDAY, March 1.—Special Sale of Store Sheep and Cattle at Inverness Auction Market, by Macdonald Fraser & Co., at 11.30. WEDNESDAY, March 2.—Weekly sale, at Dingwall Auction Market, by Macgillivray & Co., at 12. WEDNESDAY, March 2.—Weekly sale at Dingwall Auction Mart, by D. Mackintosh & Co., at 12. FRIDAY, March 4.—Weekly sale at Easter Ross Auction Mart, Perth, by W. W. Mackay & Co., at 12. FRIDAY, March 4.—Weekly sale of store stock at Northern Central Market, Perth, by John Swan & Sons at 10.30.

BUILDING AND OTHER CONTRACTS. THURSDAY, March 3.—Conveniences to the New Market Inverness—J. A. Mackenzie, burgh surveyor, Inverness. THURSDAY, March 3.—Dwair Wall and Railing with Gates at New Cemetery, Glen-Urquhart Road—J. A. Mackenzie, burgh surveyor, Inverness. MONDAY, March 22.—Fire-works Goods (Retorts, Bricks, and Tiles) for Inverness Gasworks—K. Macdonald, clerk to the Commissioners.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

REMOVAL. INTIMATION. A. & S. FRASER, DRAPERS, 34 UNION STREET. For many years occupied by Mr. FRASER, Where they intend fitting up a Comfortable SALOON FOR MILLINERY, &c. This change will also give them more window space to show their select stock to advantage. Previous to Removing they have commenced

A BONA-FIDE SALE. Of their present HIGH-CLASS STOCK; but as a detailed list of the GREAT REDUCTIONS made in every department cannot here be given, they at the same time feel confident that the Removal Prices marked will recommend the Goods, which are admitted to be very tasty and the most up-to-date in Town.

A. & S. F. will spare no effort to make this very successful Sale, as every Department at present is overstocked on account of the past mild season, and as they also have contracted for their new Spring Goods previous to their removal arrangements, everything will be included in the Sale, thus giving the money-saving public an opportunity of securing new Seasonable Goods at very low prices. No antiquated or inferior Goods at this Sale.

SPECIALITIES IN FINE TEAS. MACDONALD & MACKINTOSH. Having made extensive and advantageous purchases in INDIA, CEYLON, and CHINA TEAS, they are offering as the finest that can be produced at their respective prices. HOUSEHOLD TEA.—For 8d they supply an excellent Tea of the flavour and great strength. Recommended by all the leading Hotels and Clubs. CHINA TEA, at 2s, is greatly valued for its richness of flavour and purity of quality. ASSAM TEA, at 2s 6d, is an exceptionally fine Tea of great strength, combining all the characteristics required by the connoisseurs.

THE BRIG O' TURK HIGHLAND WHISKY. BOTTLED BY THE PROPRIETORS—A. & R. VANNAN, LTD., 7 AROYLE STREET, GLASGOW. This Whisky is Guaranteed Pure and Old, and is recommended by Medical Men when a safe stimulant is required. THE BRIG O' TURK HAS THE LARGEST SALE OF ANY BRAND IN SCOTLAND. Sold by Licensed Dealers throughout the Country.

OUR MOTTO IS QUALITY. THE Undernoted REGISTERED TOBACCO is made solely by TOMAS CRAIG & SONS, Aberdeen, are sold everywhere, and recommended by all who use them. CRAIG'S "CARROLE" Bogie Twist; the Working Man's favourite. CRAIG'S "STYLISH" Golden Hair; a delicious and thrifty Smoke. CRAIG'S "FRUITFULIA" Flaked Golden Hair; very mild and fragrant. CRAIG'S "FRAXINELLA" Smoking Mixture; mild and fragrant. CRAIG'S "FLAKED TOBACCO" Cool and exhilarating. CRAIG'S "METHUSEL" Honey Dew Cakes; a delicious Smoke. CRAIG'S "IDELEWELL" Cigarettes; made from specially Selected Leaf. ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS. ESTABLISHED 17 YEARS.

FURNITURE FOR SALE.

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

SELLING UNDER ANY SHOP IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

A VISIT INVITED TO CHISHOLM & SONS, 95 AND 97 ACADEMY STREET, AND 4 GEORGE STREET, INVERNESS.

BOOTS FOR THE WINTER. SHOES FOR THE WINTER. SLIPPERS FOR THE WINTER.

Winter is now upon us, and unless your good bodies are fortified against the storms of winter by the addition of good Shoes, how can you expect to weather it? Simply by sending your orders to the undernoted address for the following specialities.

ONLY 7/6 ONLY. This is a genuine Ladies' Shoe for fine wear, and you can order with or without laces.

ONLY 13/- ONLY. This boot for ease, elegance, and durability cannot be surpassed. It is made of the best material, equal in wear and comfort to hand-sewn boots, and the soles being dampp-proof it is well adapted for ladies who complain of cold feet.

Agent for the celebrated B. boot. This is an elegant and wearing man's boot made from sound kip leather tanned from the best hides and is well finished with a neat topcap and water-tight. Tackets in soles cut in the style of a shooting boot. Sent post free to your address for 13s. If not pleased your money will be returned.

Write at once to ANGUS MORRISON, SHORE STREET, ULLAPPOOL.

THE HIGHLAND JEWELLRY ESTABLISHMENT.

By SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO H.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES HIGHLAND AND CAIRNGORM JEWELLRY.

ALL the Old Patterns and many Registered Novelties New this Season. HIGHLAND DRESS ORNAMENTS.

Dirks, Sporrans, Shoulder Brooches, Skean Dubh, and every Requisite for this Picturesque Dress. SOLID SILVER AND ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE. The Latest Specialities for Wedding, Birthday, and Complimentary Presents, at Moderate Prices.

Electric Time Ball in Direct Communication with Greenwich Observatory. Highest Price given for Old Gold and Silver.

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KELLY BROTHERS SPECIALITIES.

Our Challenge 30s Gent's Suits in all the Latest Tweeds and Serges. Our Special 30s Gent's Overcoats; entirely New Styles for the Coming Season.

Our Reliable 21s Scarboro' Waterproof Coats, with deep Cape and Tweed Colourings. Our Popular 20s Gladstone Bags. Superior Fittings and Finishes.

Our Serviceable 6s 6d and 10s 6d Gent's Umbrellas. Guaranteed for Twelve Months. Our Challenge 3s 6d and 4s 6d fine Hat, in all Colours; Soft and Hard Felt.

FOR WINTER UNDERCLOTHING. Boys' Suits, Overcoats, Gloves, Mullers, Scarfs, Ties, Socks, Caps &c. We hold the Largest Stock and Best Selection in Town. All Goods of Superior Make and sold at Keenest Prices.

Address—KELLY BROTHERS, Academy Buildings, Academy Street, INVERNESS.

THE "GLENNESS" OLD SCOTCH WHISKY.

THIS Special Whisky is a blend of Finest Highland Malts, from well-selected distilleries, thoroughly matured in Sherry Wood, and so judiciously proportioned as to produce a mild-flavoured, palatable, and genuine spirit, clearly indicated by the name approved and stamped on connoisseurs wherever it has been introduced.

Per Doz. Seven Years Old... 42s Ten Years Old... 48s Per Gallon. Five Years Old, 36s per dozen; 18s per gallon.

NOBLE & DREGHORN, CABINETMAKERS AND HOUSE AGENTS, "THE WHITE HOUSE," INGLIS STREET, INVERNESS.

WE have a Good Stock of HONORABLE FURNITURE, CARPETS, CURTAINS, FLOORLATHS, &c., to suit all requirements at Prices that simply defy competition. We respectfully invite inspection and comparison.

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CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS for 4, 8, or 16 days, will be issued to London via Forres and Dundee, on Monday, the 7th March, from the stations named below, at the times and fares stated.

FOOTBALLS, SHINTY, HOCKEY, & GOLF REQUISITES. MACPHERSON'S, DRUMMOND STREET, INVERNESS.

AN OPPORTUNITY RARELY OCCURRING.

TREMENDOUS PURCHASE OF CLOTHING, DRAPERY, BOOTS and SHOES.

Salvage Stock FROM MANUFACTURERS AFFECTED BY THE GREAT LONDON FIRE.

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By SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO H.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES HIGHLAND AND CAIRNGORM JEWELLRY.

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RAILWAY NOTICES.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

TRAIN HOURS for MARCH, APRIL, and MAY, 1898.

THE Public are respectfully informed that during March, April, and May, 1898, and until further notice, the Trains will arrive and depart at the following hours, or at near thereto as circumstances will permit, viz.:

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

UP TRAINS—FROM THE NORTH.

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

DOWN TRAINS—TO THE SOUTH.

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

Business Cards. P. MINCK, Practical Watchmaker, 21 Mr. Clegh, bookseller's. Repairs guaranteed. Moderate charges.

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

ELLIOT & CO., BUTCHERS, BRUMMOND STREET, INVERNESS. Telegrams—"ELLIOT, Inverness." Telephone, No. 84.

A. MACBEAN & SONS, TAILORS, CLOTHIERS, HIGHLAND DRESSMAKERS, INVESTORS OF HIGHLAND CLEAR AND ENRIKED BROOKERS, 35 UNION ST., INVERNESS.

A. & D. MACDONALD, FAMILY BUTCHERS, 63 UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Nooting Lodges and all Country Orders Punctually. Only the Finest Meat supplied.

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

HUNTER & MACBEAN, PAINTERS, GLAZIERS, AND PAPERHANGERS, CROWN AVENUE, STEPHEN STREET INVERNESS. All Orders promptly attended to.

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, FISHMONGER, POULTEER, AND GAME DEALER, CASTLE STREET, INVERNESS. Choicest Whiltshire Bacon and Ham.

JACK'S SEVEN BLENDS HIGHLAND WHISKIES. JACK'S YELLOW SEAL, 2s RED SEAL, 2s 3d BLUE SEAL, 2s 6d GREEN SEAL, 2s 9d BLACK SEAL, 3s V. O. BLEND, 3s 6d JACK'S 10-YEAR-OLD "LONG JOHN," 3s 6d per Bot. 21s per Gal.

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

JACK, EXCHANGE, INVERNESS.

THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

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MAIN MORTON

By Major Alfred R. Calhoun.

Author of "Under False Colours," "Fought to the Death," "The Gold Land," &c.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

MAUD MORTON, daughter of Agnes Morton, and adopted by Ned Rand. She works as a designer at Donald Morton's Works.

DONALD MORTON, a wealthy wall-paper manufacturer, executor of Maud's father's will.

NED RAND, superintendent in Donald Morton's works.

EDGAR MOORE, a rising young lawyer, in love with Maud.

COOTS, a man of a criminal type, who knows that Donald Morton has appropriated Maud's money.

CHISWICK, one of the same type as Coots; he is in the confidence of Coots and Donald Morton.

CHAPTER XXIX.

CHISWICK AND GURLY MAKE A REPORT.

If happiness consisted of great wealth and the ability to gratify every physical want, Donald Morton ought to have been a very contented man; whereas we know he was just the reverse.

To Chiswick and Gurly he pretended to treat lightly the demands of the unfortunate woman who claimed to be his wife; but at heart he knew that she was all she represented herself to be, and his great dread was that the world would come into possession of this knowledge. Immediately after the return of this woman from the asylum, in which she had been so long confined through her instrumentality, Morton set on foot an inquiry looking to the discovery of the man whom he had sent away with strangers in the long ago, and paid so liberally to rid of.

Through a detective agency he learned that the doctor's family into which the child had been adopted, had returned from abroad some years before.

A detective agency was given the contract to find the whereabouts of this family, but they had not had time to set their machinery in operation.

Donald Morton realised more and more the loneliness, if not the lovelessness of his situation; and he felt that if he could be brought into communication with the son from whom he had been glad to part he would make him his heir, if he did not actually disclose their relationship.

Both Chiswick and Gurly believed that the woman was Donald Morton's wife.

"Why," said the latter to Chiswick—for they talked very freely about their employer who was not in his presence—"the woman came to me, and I saw enough of her case to be sure that she's Morton's wife, and to know that if the proper lawyer takes hold of her case, she can make it hot for the old man."

"Do you think there's any truth in the woman's story about the child?" asked Chiswick.

"Not the slightest doubt in the world about it. Oh, I tell you when a woman's pined from her child in that way, she hangs on through life to the hope of seeing it again. The more I see of women the more convinced I am that they are strange creatures, and that it's no use for a man to try and find 'em out. But you can bet heavy that there's a child hid somewhere."

"Then you sympathise with the woman?"

"Well, yes, Gurly, I may say I do. You see, I'm the tenderest of men, and I never married; that's one reason why I never married and had a wife and a lot of children of my own."

"Indeed!" said Chiswick, in surprise.

"Yes, I was always afraid that they might die first, and I knew I could never see that. But as to this woman, I wish for Morton's sake, she could be put quietly away," said Gurly.

"She has no money. I don't see why Morton should fear her. You know she is stopping with Dr. Kenworthy; the doctor knew her in the past, and he's trying to help her now. I tried to get him to send her away, but the old man got so angry that I was glad to apologise for my suggestion and to get away with a whole skin. And Chiswick laughed a cold, heartless laugh."

The foregoing conversation is needed to show the utter heartlessness of these two men; it will also give an idea of the cool, business-like way in which they looked at the nefarious business they had on hand.

Dr. Kenworthy had been Morton's physician for many years, without ever becoming his friend. He had suspected him of much evil doing, but it was his business to attend to the man's physical ail without any care of his moral character.

The coming of Mrs. Morton, however, roused the old doctor to action, and without telling her or anyone else of his purpose, he set about righting her wrongs, if she had any, and bringing Donald Morton to justice if he deserved it.

Donald Morton sat in his own room one mid-night about a month after the time when he had formed a compact with Chiswick and Gurly for the ruin of Ned Rand.

He had told Mrs. Belton to go to bed, and that he would himself sit up, as he expected despatches of importance about midnight.

It was after midnight, nearly two o'clock in the morning, indeed, when he was awakened from a doze by hearing the front door bell.

He ran down, turned higher the light in the hall, and as he admitted Chiswick and Gurly he eagerly asked:

"What news?"

"Good news," said Gurly.

"Got him?"

"Yes."

"All worked well?"

"Like a charm."

"Let us go inside and talk it over," said Chiswick, coming to the vestibule and closing the door behind him.

"Good! Come to the dining-room. I think we shall find supper and a bottle of wine there."

Donald Morton, with a feeling of great relief, for he had been very anxious all the evening, led the way to the dining-room, where they found the lights turned up and the table set for three.

"Ha! I'm thirsty," said Gurly, catching sight of the bottle. "Excuse me if I help myself." And he poured out a glass of wine and tossed it off.

Chiswick and Gurly ate like men coming in hungry after hard work in the cool night air; but, though Morton went through the motions, nothing solid passed his lips.

He watched his Hottentots as if to read in their faces the reports of the success which he was shortly to hear from their lips.

"Now," said Gurly, throwing himself back in his chair with a sigh of satisfaction, "I feel better and quite ready to talk."

"And as you love to hear talk when you yourself the speaker, I shall smoke while you make the report," said Chiswick, lighting a cigar, and resting his chin on his upturned palms.

"Well," began Gurly, "I could sum up the whole report in the simple sentence: 'We have succeeded.' But I have often noticed that people are much more interested in the details of an important event than in the actual results."

"Very true; very true," said Morton.

"Then to begin at the beginning," continued Gurly, as he moistened his lip with a sip of brandy kept conveniently at hand, "we made our rendezvous at the Neptune House, and as the spring boating has begun, we attracted no attention. I should like to say that our tools attracted no attention, for we were far too wise to appear on the surface ourselves."

"We remained out of sight; but we could be found if wanted," chuckled Chiswick.

"We knew our people," continued Gurly. "They are all men that I've defended again and again. And, though it may seem like bragging, I can truthfully say that it hadn't been for me every man Jack of them would now be in the penitentiary. Those are high-priced fellows, Mr. Morton—"

"If you spent half the money on them that you got from me," interrupted Morton, "they must be very high-priced indeed."

"We spent every penny," asserted Chiswick.

"Every one," protested Gurly. "We had to buy them, then we had to buy, at market price, stolen goods of all kinds, and some of the most valuable goods we had to conceal in the

cellar of Ned Rand's house. Oh, yes, very funny that. Burglars generally enter a house to rid it of silver, jewellery, and other valuables, but our men carried these things into Rand's cellar, last night, and left them there."

"Dangerous business that," said Morton.

"You can bet it was, but our fellows did it safely. Well, after getting our trap fixed, the thing was to coax the game to walk into it."

"Yes, Gurly, that required skill," said Morton, now very much interested.

"We had the skill and the patience," Gurly continued. "We got Push Wogley interested, though the fellow has a sneaking liking for Rand. We knew that Polly Wogley was sweet on Ned, so we used that as a bait, for he's a gallant fellow, always ready to rush to the aid of folks in distress. We sent a letter through Push, purporting to come from Polly. Chiswick got that up in artistic style, spelling as natural as life and all that. Well, the letter asked Ned to meet Polly at a certain hour at nine o'clock last night as she wanted his help 'as much' the letter said 'as you wanted mine at one time. You know she'd helped him when he was sick. Ned bit at the bait. He was on hand. He was conducted to a room where all the goods were stored, and told to remain there till Polly came. Of course Polly did not come at once, but the officers did. We'd sent word to the chief of police; and so the place was raided. Rand was captured, and so was Polly Wogley, who, it seems, had reached the place for the purpose of warning Ned. She got into the plot and tried to spoil it; so I am not at all sorry that she's gone to jail for her impudence."

"And Ned Rand is in jail, charged with robbery and with having stolen goods in his house, for by this time his house had been searched," said Chiswick, flicking the ashes from his cigar with his little finger.

"Splendid! splendid!" exclaimed Morton, adding, in a less ardent tone: "But the plan is only half carried out."

"What do you mean?" asked Gurly.

"I mean that Ned Rand is not yet tried and convicted."

"You could hardly expect to have everything done in one night, Mr. Morton," said Gurly, in surprise.

"Of course not. But do you feel sure that he will be convicted?"

"As sure, Mr. Morton, as you sit there. He was a companion of the ex-convict Coots. He was at Coot's funeral, as two detectives can prove. He has been thick with Coot's daughter, who was captured in the same house. Knowing what I do, I could clear Rand. I said Gurly, taking another sip of brandy, and refilling his glass; "but I don't think there's another lawyer in the world that could do it."

"He is as good as in the penitentiary," added Chiswick. "But I'm a little afraid Push won't like it about his sister. He's a queer fellow, and I think his head hasn't been quite right since the death of his father."

"My friends," said Morton, beaming from one to the other, "you have both done well. I'll see that this woman who persists in calling herself my wife, and the future is assured."

Donald Morton suddenly stopped.

A closed door swung open, and the woman in black, with her veil thrown back and her dark eyes blazing stood before them.

CHAPTER XXX.

A THUNDERBOLT.

NEITHER Chiswick nor Gurly would have hesitated about making a false report to Donald Morton if they imagined that their own ends could be served thereby; but as it happened, they told the exact truth as to the trap that had closed on unsuspecting Ned Rand.

Intent upon helping one who had helped him, and as unsuspecting as the child mentioned in the forged letter, and twenty minutes afterward he was in the hands of the police.

It was useless for him to show the letter that was the cause of his coming, or to protest his innocence; the police were familiar with such subterfuges.

He was handcuffed like an old offender, and marched off to the station between two officers, with a number of other officers followed, with which Ned was surprised and captured.

At the station-house Ned saw Polly. She, too, was a prisoner, and this fact prevented his charging her with the treason of which he at first felt she had been guilty.

"Oh, Mr. Rand," cried Polly, when she caught sight of him, "so late I learned of the scheme to ruin you, but I tried to save you. God knows I tried to save you."

"I think you meant right, Polly. But why did you send me this letter?" asked Ned, handing her the note appointing the meeting.

"I never wrote to you. Before Heaven, that is not my work. Wait, and you will see that I have been your friend."

"I'd advise you two not to talk so loud," said the officer in charge of the station.

"Come, I'll take your records, and send you to your cells."

Ned and Polly stood up before the desk, and gave full particulars about themselves which was written down, and then they were conducted to the cells, not far apart, yet too far removed to hold any communication.

So unexpected, so humiliating was the blow that Ned had had to bear, that Ned, during the long hours of the night, was unable to collect his thoughts so as to account for his situation.

He was stunned; and he felt that he was the victim of a horrible nightmare, from which he must awake to find himself in his own bed.

He had been sitting for hours on a hard bench, with his head between his hands, when he was roused from his stupor by the turning of a key in a lock.

He looked quickly up, and saw a man opening the cell door, while another man stood behind him with a basket of bread and a tin pail surrounded by a lot of tin cups.

"Here's breakfast," said the man who opened the door.

The other man filled one of the cups with coffee, and placing a piece of bread on top of it, he set it on the bench beside the prisoner.

"I want nothing to eat," said Ned; "but I will pay liberally, if I can get writing materials, and a messenger to carry a note to my mother."

"You can't write any note or get any message here," said the officer. "You must do all these things through your lawyer."

"But I haven't got any lawyer."

"I guess you know where to find one," said the officer, and he went off to make his round of the cells.

Ned did not take further notice of the food. He sat down and was brooding, again, when he heard his name called, and through the bars he saw the sorrowful, fox face of Gurly peering in.

"Hello, friend Rand," called out the lawyer, "I've just heard of your trouble. Read in the papers not half an hour ago, and came down to offer my services. There must be some mistake about this."

"I am afraid, sir," said Ned, who never had a better friend than Gurly, "that there is no mistake at all."

"Why, Mr. Rand, what do you mean?" asked the lawyer, with well assumed surprise.

"I mean that I am the victim of a deliberate conspiracy."

"Who could do it? You have no enemies?"

"I should have none. No, Mr.—"

"Mr. Gurly," prompted the lawyer.

"Yes, Mr. Gurly. If you want to help me, get word to my mother that I am here; or, better still, have some one carry a note to her from me."

"I should be delighted to do that, Mr. Rand, but if I act in this matter, it must be in a professional way."

"Yes, as your lawyer," said Gurly.

Ned hesitated. He reasoned that he must have a lawyer, and while he disliked Gurly as a man, he might be able professionally.

Donald Morton had employed him, and this was an evidence that he had skill—at least, that was Ned looked at it.

"Very well, Mr. Gurly," he said, "act for me professionally. I do not think you will have much difficulty in showing that I am entirely innocent of the crime charged against me."

"I hope not; I hope not, I am sure," said Gurly, making a memorandum in a little book. "One thing is certain, if the case goes against you, it won't be my fault. Now keep mum and I'll come back and talk over matters with you before the preliminary hearing, which is set down for ten o'clock this morning."

Gurly stood before the grating during this conversation, and as he turned to leave, Ned called after him:

"Get word to my mother at once; and you might as well see Polly Wogley before you leave, for I am convinced that she is as innocent as myself."

"You'll pay for her, Mr. Rand?"

"Certainly."

"Very well, I shall find her at once."

Gurly did not have far to go, for he had already learned the number of Polly's cell; and as he was more familiar with all the passages and cells in that building than the architect who planned it, he had no trouble in finding the girl.

He looked through the grating and saw her sitting down, with folded arms, and a light in her grey eyes that showed she had neither been crushed nor humiliated by the calamity that had come to her.

Gurly called to her, and without rising or showing any surprise at his presence, she asked:

"Well, what do you want?"

"To speak with you, Polly."

"Come to the bars."

"I can hear you here."

"I'm Ned Rand's lawyer, and he wants me to act for you. I have come to talk over the case with you."

"You're just the reverse, Polly," he said, coaxingly.

"You can be no lawyer of mine!"

"I can't?"

"I say you sha'n't! Now leave me!"

Polly motioned him away with a gesture of scorn and defiance, and the lawyer obeyed her at once.

As he trotted off he rubbed his nose and looked back now and then toward Polly's cell, wondering what she knew that made her so defiant.

And forth and back and forth, Ned Rand paced his cell. His watch had been taken from him, with all his other valuables, by the officers the night before, so that he could not tell the time.

"It seemed to him that it must be late in the afternoon, when an officer again appeared, and this time he opened the door and called in a very loud voice:

"Rand, come out."

Ned obeyed; and he had but just reached the cold, gloomy corridor, when he heard a cry of "Gone, gone, gone!"

"Hallo, what's that?" asked the officer.

"From the gloom in the direction of the office a fair girl, with golden hair, rushed toward Ned.

"My brother! My brother!" she cried; and the next instant Maud was clasped to the prisoner's heart.

"You here!" exclaimed Ned.

"Here, Ned; here," she sobbed, "to bear your trials with you, and to ward off the disgraces your foes would bring upon you."

(To be continued.)

EDINBURGH GAELIC CHURCH.

HIGHLAND CONCERT IN THE CAPITAL.

One of the most successful Highland concerts ever held in Edinburgh took place in connection with the above church in St. Cuthbert's Hall, Lothian Road, on Thursday evening, 17th inst., over nine hundred persons being present.

Mr. Reginald Macleod of Macleod occupied the chair, and amongst others were the Rev. G. R. Macleannan, M.A., of the Gaelic Church; Rev. Dr. Blair, Rev. Mr. Fleming, Glasgow; Rev. Mr. Fletcher, Edinburgh; Rev. K. Mackenzie Campbell, M.A., Edinburgh; Rev. Dr. Masson, Professor Mackinnon; Messrs. Dundgal Macleannan, S.S.C.; Theodore Napier, Alex. Mackay, LL.D.; Archibald Monzie, S.S.C.; C. I. Ross, S.S.C.; James Macdonald, Highland Agricultural Society; John Macdiarmid, do.; William Mackenzie, Crofters Commission; Arthur Morgan, do.; R. Macgregor, Atholstone; James Muir, John Stewart, Craigmillar; Donald Stewart, do.; D. Campbell, do.; A. Aitken, Messrs J. Macintyre, Crofters Commission; W. Simpson, Highland Agricultural Society; Ian Carmichael, D. Campbell; Lady Colquhoun, Miss Grant of Grant; Miss Maclean of Islay; Mrs. Macleannan, Miss Mann; Mrs. Mackenzie Campbell, Mrs. Mackinnon; Messrs. Watt, Watt, and the welfare of the Mackenzie, Miss Ella C. Carmichael, Mrs. Simpson and Misses Simpson, Mrs. Fleming, Miss Masson, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. D. Mackay, and the Misses Menzies.

Mr. Chapman, on rising, said—It gives me great pleasure always to meet with my countrymen and to associate myself with any object of Highland interest, but that pleasure is on this occasion heightened by the fact that our meeting here to-night has for its object the furtherance of an institution which is of great value to Highlanders in this city, and an institution in the welfare of which we are all deeply interested. I refer, of course, to the Gaelic Church—(applause). I am a Highlander myself, but unfortunately I am not able to speak the language. That is my loss. There is no doubt that English is now

THE MOST WIDELY-SPOKEN LANGUAGE, and that every Highlander who wishes to make his mark in the world must learn it. At the same time, I say "do not forget Gaelic, value your mother tongue." Life is not altogether made up of the daily round of business and toil, and there is a place in every Highlander's life which his mother tongue is eminently fitted to fill; for, after all, it is our mother tongue that can touch the tenderest cords of our hearts, and it is of you who first learned to speak Gaelic in your Highland homes it will ever continue to have a sweetness all its own—(applause). The way to a Highlander's heart is through his native speech; all his deepest feelings and loftiest aspirations find expression in it. To the Highlander, English may be the language of commerce, but Gaelic will continue to be the language of worship, and the language in which comfort can be ministered to Highland hearts in times of sorrow and sickness. I should be sorry indeed if there were no provision made for the Gaelic-speaking people of this city to worship in their mother tongue; but as the Church of Scotland has met your wants in this direction by providing you with a church, where a Gaelic service is regularly conducted, I would therefore strongly urge upon you all to

MAKE USE OF THEIR PRIVILEGES. That church is open to all. Unfortunately, for some cause or other, it has not been for some time back so flourishing that we would have wished it to be. There has been a process of decay. But I understand that better days have come, and this meeting to-night itself testifies that greater interest is now being taken in that church, and may be regarded as an auspicious beginning of the pastorate of your new minister, Mr. Macleannan. We extend to him a hearty welcome to Edinburgh—(cheers). Mr. Macleannan has not been long amongst us, but he has done much in a short time. The state of matters which he found existing was, to say the least, deplorable; but he has succeeded in arousing energy into his work, and I am glad to say that under his guidance and care the whole aspect of affairs has suddenly changed, and that the Gaelic congregation now promises to be a large one in a very short time. When he came to Edinburgh the Gaelic service was almost extinct, but he has succeeded in arousing interest; and I believe the attendance has increased in a very extraordinary manner

and is still further increasing—(cheers). Before sitting down allow me to remind you that a Gaelic choir is to be formed in connection with the church, where you may have an opportunity of practising Highland music. I again express my hearty appreciation of the honours you have done me in asking me to be chairman of this splendid gathering—(applause).

Thereafter the programme was proceeded with, and it proved a very interesting one, the several artists all doing their work in a most creditable manner. Master Macleannan's happy playing was much admired and heartily applauded. The Rev. Mr. Macleannan was in splendid voice in singing "Fear a Bhaà," and in response to repeated calls rendered "God thà mi gun chroth gun aighean" with rare spirit and expression.

The audience was so delighted with the dancing song, "Màrsair J. and T. Macneill," who executed the Highland Fling with unusual neatness, that they had to appear on the boards a second time. It may be mentioned that these are two very young boys, grandchildren of the famous John Macneill, champion Highland dancer. A feature of the evening's programme was the violin accompaniment by the Misses Simpson, much amusement was created by the humorous sketches of Mr. Furst, who so excelled in the comic art that he had to appear several times. Rev. H. Mackenzie Campbell told Highland stories in his own inimitable fashion and some of these caused much laughter. Mr. Stewart Macgregor sustained his own part in his usual fine style, and the violin selections given by the members of the Highland Reel and Strathpey Society gave great satisfaction. The following was the programme:

Selection bagpipes, Master G. S. Macleannan, song, "Màrsair J. and T. Macneill," G. Cooper; recitation, "The Legend of Montrose," Mr. Furst; song (Gaelic), "Fear a Bhaà," Rev. G. R. Macleannan; dance, Highland Fling, Messrs J. and T. Macneill; quartette, "Skye Boat Song," Miss Macgregor, Miss Simpson, Mr. Hodge, and Mr. Grant; recitation, "The Legend of Montrose," Mr. James Galloway; Highland stories, Rev. H. Mackenzie Campbell; violin and piano duet—selection, the Misses Simpson; song, Mr. Leslie Curtis; humorous sketch, "Wee Johnnie Paterson" (Stevenson), Mr. W. Grant; Stevenson, P.S.A.; selection, Strathpey and reeling, "The Legend of Montrose," the Lea Rig, Earl Grey, Mrs. Fawcett, Perthshire Volunteers, Mason's Apron—members of the Highland Reel Society; song, "Ooperzootie," Mr. A. J. Deeks, Royal Scots Greys; song, "The Gift," Mrs. A. G. Cooper; song (Gaelic), "Mòr run gaileas," Mr. Galloway; recitation, "The Legend of Montrose," Mrs. Galloway; quartette, double Scotch (No. 19 Highland Whisky, Reel of Tulloch—members of the Highland Reel Society; song, "Cam' ye by Atholl?" Mr. Stewart Macgregor; humorous sketch, "The Legend of Montrose," Mr. W. Grant; Stevenson, P.S.A.; quartette, double Scotch (No. 19 Highland Whisky, Reel of Tulloch—members of the Highland Reel Society; violin and piano duet—selection, the Misses Simpson; song, Mr. Leslie Curtis; recitation, "The Frenchman proposes the toast of the ladies," Mr. Furst; song, "The Andalusian Maid," Miss Wood; song, Mr. James Galloway; dance, "Sean Triubhas," Miss Macleannan; selection, bagpipes, Master G. S. Macleannan. The accompaniments were tastefully played by Miss Grant of Grant and Miss Simpson.

At the close of the proceedings Mr. Theodore Napier, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, made reference to the ancient and noble house from which he had sprung, and mentioned that Dunvegan Castle was the oldest inhabited house in the United Kingdom. The present representative of that house, he said, was worthy of the noblest traditions of his family and race. Mr. Napier urged all Highlanders to cultivate their native tongue, and to hand it down to future generations. Would to God, said he, that I could speak Gaelic, and then I would hand it down to my children—(cheers). A most enjoyable evening was then brought to a close, and from the success which attended the efforts of the organisers of this concert, we trust that it will after this be an annual fixture in connection with the Gaelic Church. Mr. W. Simpson was in charge of the arrangements, and he was helped in his work by the following committee, who ungrudgingly laboured to make the concert a success—Messrs. Campbell, Macallum, Macculloch, Mackenzie, Macintyre, D. Campbell, Baker, Ewen Cameron, Miller, and Misses Menzies.

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THE . . .
Highland Home.
BY MORAG.

HOUSE HUNTING.

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

THE MODERN DWELLING-PLACE.

MY DEAR MORAG,—Already house-hunters are on the move, and once again the cry is heard, "Nothing to suit." It seems almost incredible that the demand for houses is greater than the supply when one considers the great number of tenements and villas that have been erected during the past twelve months. There are reasons, however, for everything, and possibly the rents are in many cases far above what the artisan can afford.

The class of houses which are termed workmen's dwellings are, in my opinion, most unsuitable for the average workman. They generally consist of three rooms—kitchen, with room and bedroom. In many instances the three rooms put together would only make one sensible and useful apartment. I have often wondered how those responsible for the erection of such houses would consent to the building of such "toys." Lately I had occasion to visit a newly married couple, who had their dwelling taken for them through a third party. The house was self-contained, in a nice locality, and the rent something about £11 per annum. The house could truly be termed a "toy one," and, as I have already said, the three rooms put in one would only make a comfortable apartment.

The indignation of the tenants, when on seeing their beautiful furniture huddled together like that in a sale-room, can better be imagined than described. The architect, when planning the building, must have had in his mind's eye tenants similar in size to the late "Tom Thumb," or his companion, "Commodore Nut." Workmen in town—at least many of those I know—would not grudge a reasonable rent if suitable and ordinary-sized rooms were obtainable; but I fear in too many cases what I have said by a local draper when two young ladies were purchasing a hat is applicable with regard to the houses. On the ladies referred to remarking that the hat was far too expensive for the material that was trimming it—"Yes," he said, "it is not the material, 'you pay for style.'" I am inclined to think the tradesman is asked to do the same with regard to the dwellings erected. One cannot walk very far ere the eye is attracted by notices of "House to let." These houses are, however, of the better class, and big rents are expected.

The class of house most desirable in our midst is something of the kind. Say, a large kitchen to begin with, for what element is more in use, especially where there is a family; a good-sized parlour, and two bedrooms, the latter big enough to hold good-sized beds, chest of drawers, washstand, and one or two chairs, and enough room to move about freely. I would suggest first places in each apartment, airy, and well ventilated.

In the Hill district there are two tenements in course of erection. Whether they will in point of comfort be more suitable than the house in which my friends the young couple reside remains to be seen. Little or big, the fact is they are daily visiting the building, and, indeed, it is amusing when one thinks of it, why is it that women go always a-hunting for dwellings? I fancy I hear "Mr. Man" say, "Oh, they like that sort of thing." Yes, they at least get it to do, as is apparent by the little parties one is sure to meet with at this season of the year on these domestic visits.

And now, just a line to my lady friends. This early house-hunting on the part of so many of our number contributes in no small measure to the increase of rent, which has been so apparent in these recent years. If they would only adhere to the lines of the old Scotch ballad, "Bairn bide a wee," they would not only contribute to their own personal convenience, but would materially add to their own comfort, as well as that of others. Housewives know to their cost the inconvenience to which they are day by day subjected by so-called house-hunters, many of whom year by year set out ostensibly in search of new quarters, but who never seem desirous of leaving their own places of abode. To satisfy inordinate curiosity seems to be their only purpose and desire.

I have just received from John Noble, Limited, Brook Street Mills, Manchester, a copy of the firm's annual sale catalogue. The catalogue is neat in size, and so admirably arranged as to be easily consulted. I was particularly struck with John Noble's half-guinea costume which is a pretty sketch of a model on the front page of the cover. The costume is made in the John Noble Cheviot serge or costume coating, and consists of a smart skirt and handsome reefer coat, fashionable length, and full size, trimmed with velvet collar, and large buttons, and finished with tailor stitching. The girlish costume on the back of the cover is also very smart. If you get a copy—and you should write for one at once, my dear Morag—you will be delighted with the many pretty costumes which are represented in this catalogue. The firm's

LONG EXPERIENCE
in the production of costumes, being established twenty-eight years, and the vast clientele which they have secured give them, as you must imagine, facilities for supplying dresses direct to ladies, which, I could think, for extraordinarily good value in material, make and finish cannot be approached anywhere. I have been informed that during the past year they produced a series of masterpieces in half-guinea costumes, and this year they intend, if possible, to exceed even last year's record. Model 876 on front of cover (and page 5), and models 644 and 802, on page 6, have, I understand, met with phenomenal success and are worthy of special notice. One or two other good things have arrested my attention. There are, for instance, the 41 remnant bundles mentioned on page 59 of catalogue; the big bargains in serge costumes on pages 10 and 11; the miscellaneous costumes in mangle and fur department on page 24; and the waterproofs on page 26. I have observed that promptitude in the dispatch of orders is made a special feature in the conduct of the business.—Your affectionate cousin,

INVERNESS.

VENTILATION IN WINTER.

IT is a mistaken idea that because a room is cold the air in it must necessarily be pure, for it is as readily contaminated as a heated atmosphere; the cold simply makes it less perceptible to the senses.

An open fireplace is the most efficacious ventilator, especially when the fire is lighted, as the constant draft upward carries off the foul air continually.

Much of the illness that comes in cold weather is due to defective ventilation, as good health requires that each person should inhale a certain amount of fresh air every minute, and this amount must be supplied or the system will suffer.

The kitchen, living-rooms, and especially the sleeping-rooms, should be constantly supplied with fresh air.

HOUSEWIFELY HINTS.

HAM CROQUETTES.

ONE cupful of finely chopped cooked ham, one of bread-crumbs, two of hot mashed potatoes, one large tablespoonful of butter, three eggs, and a speck of cayenne. Beat the ham, cayenne, butter and two eggs into the potato. Let the mixture cool slightly, and then shape into croquettes. Roll in the bread-crumbs, dip in beaten egg, and again in crumbs; put in the frying basket and plunge into boiling fat. Cook two minutes, drain and serve hot.

CURRY OF MEAT.

Cut into small pieces one pint of the remnants of any cooked meat, freed from bone, fat, skin, and gristle. Cook one large onion, minced, in one heaping tablespoonful of butter until yellow, stir in one tablespoonful of curry, one teaspoonful of salt, and one tablespoonful of flour mixed. Add gradually one pint of hot water or stock (made from remnants). When it has thickened add one sour apple, chopped or baked, or some left-over apple sauce, and half-cupful of strained tomato, and the meat. Cook slowly until the meat and apple are tender. Then stir in one cupful of milk or thin cream, and when hot, serve at once with boiled rice.

CHICKEN PATES.

Chop fine some cold boiled chicken—the white meat is best—put a half-pint of new milk over the stove, and add a spoonful of sweet cream. When boiling stir in one teaspoonful of corn-starch to thicken, add two tablespoonfuls of cold butter, a little salt and pepper; have some small pate pans lined with puff-paste; bake them in a quick oven; stir the minced chicken into the milk and beat away to cool; when the crust is baked fill with the chicken and return to the oven a short time to brown. Serve hot.

HOW TO MAKE GOOD HASH.

Use any kind of cold cooked meat, beef, mutton, pork, &c. Chop cold cooked meat rather fine, remove it from the tray, then chop cold boiled potatoes and mix in the proportion of about one-fourth meat to three of potatoes. Less meat is sometimes used—that depends on the supply on hand. To cook the hash, put a piece of butter in the frying-pan, add hot water to make it thin enough, season well with salt and black pepper. Stir thoroughly and let it boil up, then cook slowly, stirring frequently until of just the right consistence—neither dry nor sloppy. If made of beef, some of the fat obtained in cooking the meat may be used, in place of butter. If of corned beef, less salt is required. Much depends on the seasoning; taste as it cooks and get it just right. If it seems to lack richness, try a little more butter. Never put milk in hash, and do not let it brown on the bottom in cooking, but serve it moist and serve it hot.

SOME BAKING-POWDER SECRETS.

OUR grandmothers did without baking-powder, and were not sensible of any difficulty in preparing quick dough. But one wonders if results were not oftentimes crude, because of the nice care necessary in using soda. In fact, there are certain legends respecting greenish-yellow or spotted biscuit, at which the present generation of housekeepers smile, thanks to baking-powder. Soda, an alkali very injurious to the stomach, should never be used without an acid to render it a neutral salt, as cream of tartar, muriatic acid or sour milk, and the proportion must be exact or the mixture will be either acid or alkaline.

Pure baking-powders are simply a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar in their proper proportions, with perhaps twice their combined weight of rice-flour, corn-starch, or plain flour to insure their keeping. If really pure they cannot be called injurious, the danger lying in the use of powders having impure ingredients, of which quantities are doubtless sold daily. So sensible have housekeepers become of these adulterations that many are going back to the use of soda and cream of tartar, the use of which, as indicated, requires both intelligence and care. If one is dependent upon the average cook a standard baking-powder is the safest reliance.

With sour milk soda alone should be used, the milk acid acting as the neutralizing agent.

In the making of quick doughs (by use either of baking-powder, or soda and cream of tartar) there are two points not given in any cook-book, so far as the writer knows, which add greatly to perfection in results. To make such doughs proceed as follows:—Into one quart of flour (measured before sifting) put a level teaspoonful of salt and two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking-powder—or one level teaspoonful of soda and two rounding ones of cream of tartar—mix thoroughly with the hands, and then sift twice; next add a heaping tablespoonful of butter (or butter and lard mixed), rub up lightly with the hands, and again put through the sieve, pressing the last, heavier part through with the fingers or hand. Now toss the mixture lightly about as when first putting in the baking-powder, and it will be found that the shortening is distributed with perfect evenness through the flour. Have ready a scant pint of sweet milk in a mixing-bowl, and into this put half of the flour. Beat hard for a few minutes, when the mixture will be as smooth as satin; add rapidly the rest of the flour, roll out quickly, cut (if for biscuits), and bake at once in a rather hot oven.

Some bakers require more wetting than others, but the rule for guidance is "a dough as soft as can be handled." A little flour, more or less, will not spoil the general result if the other directions are carefully followed. Sifting the flour after the shortening goes in, and beating the dough, produces a firmness of grain, an even lightness and whiteness not possible if these points are not observed.

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We teach the children Danish, Trigonometry and Spanish; Fill their heads with old-time notions, And the secrets of the oceans, And the cuneiform inscriptions From the land of the Egyptians; Learn the date of every battle, Know the habits of the cattle, Know the date of every crowning, Read the poetry of Browning; Make them show a preference For each musty branch of science; Tell the sermons of Sweden, And the other things we teach 'em Make a mountain so immense That we have no moment left To teach them common sense.

A rich lad, cured of Deafness and Head-aches by Dr. N. Johnson's Art. Efficacy Far from sent £100 so that those unable to procure the Ear Drops may have them free. Apply by letter to—P. N. Richardson, Bro. 9, St. Russell St., London, W.C.



Strong arms are not necessary to do the washing when
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is used; it does nearly all the work itself. Just rub a little on the clothes, roll them up and put them back in the water. Then when you take them out you will see that

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FOOD for INFANTS, INVALIDS, and the AGED.
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HALTON'S
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FINEST SOFT SOAP,
IS ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM SMELL,

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HALF-FIRKINS, ... 64 Lbs. Each Net
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In TINS—1 Lb., 2 Lbs., 4 Lbs., 7 Lbs.

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Newest Patterns and Colours for Ladies and Gentlemen.
For ordinary Wear, Cycling, Golfing, Shooting, &c.
Serge, Coatings, Trouserings, Large Portulac, Pure
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