

HENRY GOULET, CARTE NOIRE. HIGHEST CLASS CHAMPAGNE, 1892 and 1893 Vintages. SOLE MONOPOLY—S. WOLFF & CO., 124 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

THE GAZETTE AND NEWS CONDUCTED BY JOHN McLEOD, M.P.

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No 759. FIFTEENTH YEAR. INVERNESS, SATURDAY APRIL 16, 1898. TWELVE PAGES. PRICE ONE PENNY.

CHURCH NOTICES.

Gaelic Parish Church, Church Street—Tomorrow, Gaelic at 11 A.M. English at 6.30 P.M. Fraser Street Free Presbyterian Church.

Crown Free Church, Sabbath (to-morrow), April 17. Preacher—Rev. George Davidson, B.Sc., of Free St Mary's, Edinburgh.

Young Men's Christian Association, Men's Sabbath Afternoon Bible Class from 3 to 4 P.M. All Young Men cordially invited.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

Oddelews—Full Attendance requested on Wednesday First. Special Business. W. M.P., N.G.

Inverness Farmers' Society, Field Turnip Competition, 1898—Prizes will be given for Best Three Acres of Yellow Turnips for which Sulphate of Ammonia used as Fertilizer.

Information is hereby given, in terms of Section 4, Sub-section 2, of the Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Act, 1895, that a Public Inquiry will be held within the Sheriff Court, Inverness, at Stornoway, on the Twenty-Second Day of April, at Eleven o'clock forenoon, in regard to the deaths of Donald Fraser, Alexander Fraser, Angus MacLeod, Kenneth Murray, Alexander MacLeod, and George MacLeod, all fishermen, Aird of Tong, in the Parish of Stornoway.

Charles Innes, Sheriff Clerk of Ross and Cromarty, Sheriff Clerk's Office, Stornoway, 13th April, 1898.

Inverness Burgh Liberal Association, James A. Duncan, Esq., (Ex-M.P., for Barrow-in-Furness), will deliver a Political Address, Under the Auspices of the above Association, in the Music Hall, Inverness, on Tuesday, 19th April, at 8 p.m.

Provost Maclean in the Chair. Side Galleries Reserved for Ladies.

Book Debts for Sale, For Sale, by Public Auction, within the Warrick Chambers of Francis Squair, Solicitor, Lombard Street, Inverness, on Monday, the 18th April current, at 12 o'clock noon, the BOOK DEBTS belonging to the Trust Estate of David Miller, Merchant, Lochcarron, amounting as per Inventory, to £100 or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply to Mr Francis Squair, or to Alex. Macpherson, Trustee, 16 Inglis Street, Inverness, 14th April, 1898.

Deposit Interest, The undersigned banks hereby intimate that, from and after this date, and until further notice, the RATE of INTEREST to be allowed by them on MONEY LODGED on DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, at their Head Offices and Branches in Scotland, will be TWO AND A-HALF per Cent. in respect to all allowed unless the Money has been lodged not less than Thirty Days before the date.

For the Bank of Scotland, James A. Wemyss, Treasurer. For the Royal Bank of Scotland, D. B. W. Hill, Cashier. For the British Linen Company Bank, H. A. Hutton, Manager.

For the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, and Aberdeen General Manager. For the National Bank of Scotland, Limited, T. H. Smith, General Manager.

For the Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, Robert Blyth, General Manager. For the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, David Wilson, General Manager.

For the Town and County Bank, Limited, Thomas Cochran, Manager. For the North of Scotland Bank, Limited, George Anderson, Manager.

For the Caithness and Sutherland Bank, Limited, E. H. Macmillan, Manager, 7th April, 1898.

Entertainments, &c., Frame "Comes to Inverness" Next Saturday and Monday, 23rd and 25th April. Previous to visiting Canada and America.

Frame's Farewell Concerts, Music Hall—"Two Nights," by desire, Saturday and Monday. "A Company of Star Performers" On 23rd and 25th April.

Frame visits Tain on Tuesday, 28th April. Frame's Farewell Concerts, Music Hall—"Two Nights," by desire, Saturday and Monday. "A Company of Star Performers" On 23rd and 25th April.

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SITUATIONS WANTED AND VACANT.

To Farmers—Experienced GRIEVE wants situation. Has two strong lads for work. Good references. Cattleman wanted at once, and also good Grieve on Books; and all Classes Outdoor and Household Servants, Hotel and Private, wanted at SKINNESS ROSSRY, 73 Academy Street.

Drapery—Smart YOUTH Wanted. Apply personally to JOHN FORBES, 57 High Street. Apply personally to JOHN FORBES, 57 High Street.

Message Boy Wanted. Apply to WILLIAM MACKENZIE, Clothier, 37 Church Street.

School Board of Harris, Certificated Male TEACHER Wanted for the Kyles of Scalpay Public School. Salary, £60 per annum and One-third of Government Grant earned on Inspection of Day School. Allowance will be made both for Sewing and Cleaning if undertaken by Teacher. Free House. Applications, with copies of Testimonials, to be lodged with Clerk to the School Board, Taster, Harris, N.B.

Wanted, at once, Nurse; also, General Servant for Country; also, Two Good Generals for South; also, Dairy-Landress Wanted. SKINNESS, 73 Academy Street.

Connachie's Registry, 49 Academy Street—Wanted Generals for Town; also farm Generals well up to dairy work. When applying must bring copies of references.

Connachie's Registry, 49 Academy Street—Nurse and Housemaid wanted Situations in South. 34 and 24 years in present employment.

May Term—Servants, Male and Female, requiring Situations in Noblemen or Gentlemen's Establishments can meet with ready Encouragement in Scotland, England, Ireland, or abroad by applying to Mrs DODD, 1 Charlotte Place, Edinburgh. Details on application. All letters must contain a stamped-Direction envelope.

Capital chance offers itself to a trustworthy man. The remuneration will be good to a reliable person. Address Box 1178 Office of Advertiser.

5 Daily upwards (Additional Income) easily obtained. RETURN 500. Samples, & Co. return if desired GUARANTEED. EVANS, WATTS & Co., (p. 341) Merchants, Birmingham. Genuine.

Golden Canada, Klondike's Gold for Miners. Golden Harvests for Farmers. Free Land for all. Farm Labourers and Domestic Servants wanted. For Tickets, Free Pamphlets, Maps, apply FRASER'S DRAPERY, Canadian Pacific Railway, 67 St Vincent Street, Glasgow.

Houses, &c., to Let, A Few Houses to Let. Apply ADAM MURDO 12 Grant Street.

To Let, STEPHEN'S BRAE COFFEE-HOUSE. Apply Wm. CORNIE, 44 Castle Street.

To Let, Commodious HOUSE, at Island Bank, nine Apartments, Servants' accommodation, Garden, &c.; beautiful view up River Ness. Apply, ALEX. FRASER, solicitor, Inverness.

Culcabock Village—Rooms to Let on King Duncan Street and in Dalmore Cottage, Dalmore Village. Apply to Messrs MACFARLANE & GIBSON, Solicitors, Lombard Street, Inverness.

Nearly, Crown Drive, Inverness, to Let. Nine Apartments; Bath (hot and cold); two W.C.s, &c. Apply, Messrs. MACFARLANE & GIBSON, Solicitors, or A. MACDONALD, bridge Street.

To Let on Crown Lanes—One Self-Contained Villa 10 Apartments, 2 W.C.s, out-houses, &c.

One Self-Contained Villa containing 12 Apartments and out-houses, 2 W.C.s, Good Garden. Apply, Mr James MACDONALD, Crown Lands, Inverness.

Photographic Studio, 21 Inglis Street—The above to be let, with Entry at Whitsunday; is in first-class order, and splendid situation; may be used for other purposes. Apply, HENRY STREET, 2 Union Street.

To Let, Furnished or Unfurnished, the Commodious Family Residence, VIEWMOUNT, Culcabock Road, Inverness. Full particulars and cards to view the House can be obtained from Messrs MACFARLANE & GIBSON, Solicitors, Lombard Street, Inverness.

Furnished Room to Let, with all conveniences, suitable for a young couple. Apply No. 756A Highland News Office.

Furnished Lodgings—Young Lady wants Lady Companion to share Large Furnished Room. Apply, No. 47D, Highland News Office.

Property, &c., for Sale, AERATED WATER BUSINESS FOR SALE.

A First-Class AERATED WATER MANUFACTURING BUSINESS in Inverness, with large Wholesale Beer Bottling connection, which could be largely increased. Satisfactory reasons for disposal. Full particulars on application to the Subscribers, who are authorised to accept the first satisfactory offer. AND, J. & J. MACMILLAN, Solicitors, 62 High Street, Inverness.

Villas in Midmills Road for Sale, There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the Writing Chambers of Messrs DAVIDSON & SCOTT, Solicitors, 42 Union Street, Inverness, upon Thursday, the 21st day of April, 1898, at Twelve o'clock noon, unless previously disposed of by private bargain, Three four-emi-detached Villas recently erected in Midmills Road, opposite Victoria Circus Road, containing one public room, three bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, bathroom, w.c., napery closets, and hall. Rent, £25; and feu duty £2 6d per house. For further particulars apply to Messrs DAVIDSON & SCOTT, 42 Union Street, Inverness, with whom are the title deeds and articles of roup.

Tenders Invited, CONTRACT FOR COAL AND SHELL LIME.

The INVERNESS GAS COMMISSIONERS are prepared to receive Tenders for 7500 Tons of GAS COAL, also 320 Tons of SHELL LIME. Tender Forms may be had by applying to the CLERK to the Gas Works. Offers, accompanied by "Tender for Coal or Lime," and addressed to "The Gas Works, Inverness," and to the Commissioners, KENNETH MACDONALD, Esq., Clerk to the Commissioners, Gas Works, Inverness, 8th April, 1898.

Inverness Gas Corporation, The INVERNESS GAS CORPORATION are prepared to receive Tenders for the TAKING DOWN and REBUILDING, a CHIMNEY STALK at the Gas Works. Plans and Specification may be seen by applying to the Manager at the Gas Works. Offers, endorsed "Tender for Chimney Stalk," and addressed to KENNETH MACDONALD, Esq., Clerk to the Commissioners, will be received up to Thursday, the 20th inst. Gas Works, Inverness, 8th April 1898.

Stornoway, NEW COAST GUARD BUILDINGS. OFFERS (with terms) to Build and Lease to the Admiralty a HOUSE for the use of the Coast Guard at Stornoway, N.B., will be received by the Director of Works of the NAVY up to noon on Friday, 6th May, 1898. Further particulars will be supplied on Application to this Office. Director of Works Department, Admiralty, Avenue House, Northumberland Avenue W.C.

Books for Sale, in Good Condition, Keltie's Highland Clans and History of Scottish Highlands, 6 vols., for 2s.

Mackenzie's History of the MacLeods, 16s. Campbell's Popular Tales of the West Highlands, 30s for 15s (new).

Mackintosh's History of Civilisation in Scotland, 4 vols. (new), 84s for 20s. Goodwin's Works, 12 vols., 10s 6d.

Scottish Nation, 3 vols., 50s for 12s 6d. Chambers's Eminent Scotsmen, 8 vols., 54s for 12s 6d. Geo. Young, New Markets, Inverness.

"The Northern Evangelist" for April completes Second Volume, and full of interesting reading. One Penny. Messrs BROTHERS, Inverness.

Literature on Socialism and the Labour Question may be obtained from S. Gordon, 35 Wells Street, Inverness.

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KLONDYKE AND ALL ABOUT IT WEALTH AND WISDOM TRAVEL TOGETHER.

WE CAN'T ALL OF US BE WEALTHY BUT WE CAN BE WEALTHIER THAN WE ARE.

WEALTH CONSISTS OF WHAT IS SAVED—NOT WHAT IS EARNED.

"SAVING" MEANS FINDING THE MARKET WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE SAME QUALITY FOR LESS MONEY THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

It may take a little time and trouble to find the right place—but it will pay in the end. The Public are not grateful for mere cheapness unaccompanied by quality. Those Houses who advertise the shadow without giving the substance are LOSING GROUND VISIBLY. On the other hand, those who rely on good quality alone, but act consistently on the principle that good Wine needs no bush, do not gain it. The race is visibly for those who advertise

GOOD VALUE AND HONESTLY GIVE IT.

This has been our aim all along, and the Public find that at the KLONDYKE DRAPERY STORES IT IS EASY TO BUY, FOR THE PURCHASING POWER OF MONEY IS INCREASED.

Dresses.—We are still in the front rank as leaders. Our first line is a Cheviot Serge, in Spring Colouring, Double Width, 2 1/2 yd per yard. Second line a beautiful All-Wool Foulie Cloth, Double Width, 3 1/2 yd per yard. A grand thing in a 48-inch Serge, in lovely Spring Shades, 1 1/2 yd per yard. A new thing at the price, only 1 1/4 yd per yard, beautiful Vicuna Cloths in the NEW Lovat Shades, at 18 1/2 yd. Our Vicuna ALL-WOOL SERGES, Double Width, in all Shades, is a marvel, only 1s 0 1/2

1s 0 1/2

Ladies desiring a nice Spring Costume should not fail to see our Extra Wide Cloth, in 1 1/2 yd per yard, lovely Colourings. Also our range of New Worsted Coatings, at 18 1/2 yd and 18 1/4 yd per yard—PURE WOOL—Something to Remember. ALL-WOOL Double-Width French Coating Serge, Beautiful Colourings, 18 1/2 yd per yard; a regular 2 1/2 cloth. Four special lots in French Fancies, in Dresses, at 18 1/2, 15 1/2, 14 1/2, 13 1/2, 12 1/2 yd per yard, Double Width. Beautiful House Cloth, Double Width, 9d per yard.

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ROBERT MURRAY, FAMILY GROCER AND WINE MERCHANT, FORT-WILLIAM.

Having acquired the LICENSED BUSINESS of the late Mr JOHN WALKER, I would respectfully call attention to the large and Varied Stock of GROCERIES, WINES, SPIRITS, &c., in my Warehouse, which, from long connection with Manufacturers and the best Wholesale Houses, I am in a position to supply at Very Moderate Prices.

While selling all Goods as Cheap as possible, QUALITY WILL NOT BE SACRIFICED, but every endeavour made to maintain a High Standard of Carefulness.

All Orders receive careful personal attention, and are Promptly Delivered.

A Fair Trial will be Esteemed.

ROBERT MURRAY, BEN-NEVIS BUILDINGS, FORT-WILLIAM.

AUCTION SALES. SPECIAL SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, of Superior Quality, in Macdonald's Hall, Chapel Street, on THURSDAY, 19th inst., at 12 Noon. J. K. DAVIDSON, Auctioneer.

SALE OF RARE BOOKS. MESSRS A. FRASER & COY., HOUSE FURNISHERS, UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

Begin to announce the SALE, by Public Auction, of the LIBRARY of SCARCE and VALUABLE BOOKS and PAMPHLETS, collected by the late JOHN NOLAN, Castle Street, which will take place on APRIL 15th and following days.

THE CATALOGUE, containing over 6000 Volumes, Price 3d, post free. A. FRASER & CO., Auctioneers, Inverness, 9th February, 1898.

SPECIAL SALES BY AUCTION, EVERY EVENING, EXCEPT WEDNESDAYS, or A LARGE STOCK OF TWEEDS Purchased from the Local Mills, Being the accumulation of last year's Slack Trade. (Made purely to keep machinery going). GUARANTEED. No Union or English Tweeds kept or bought at.

THE NESS MILLS TWEED WAREHOUSE, 54 EASTGATE (Corner of Victoria Road), INVERNESS.

Open Cheap Sale and Inspection of Goods daily, when no reasonable offer will be refused.

ENGLISH LIME. The Subscribers have a Cargo of Best English LIME due at INVERNESS HARBOUR in the course of a week. Apply early to M'GRUTHER & MARSHALL, 16 LOMBARD STREET, INVERNESS.

FOR GOOD WHISKY OR RUM TRY THE CORNER SHOP IN GREIG STREET.

SPRING FASHIONS. YOUNG & CHAPMAN beg to announce the return of Mr Young and Buyers from LONDON, with a MAGNIFICENT ASSORTMENT of the LEADING FASHIONABLES in EVERY DEPARTMENT for the Coming Season.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN respectfully invite the Ladies of Inverness and surrounding District to pay an early visit to their Establishment, where they can always rely on being supplied with ORIGINAL and EXCLUSIVE HIGH-CLASS GOODS at exceedingly moderate prices.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN would like to record their best thanks for the many favours they have received in the past, and beg to assure their Customers that no effort on their part shall be wanting to make their Establishment in the future more even than in the past, the LEADING FASHION EMPORIUM of the North.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN will be assisted in their Saloons and Workrooms by the following well-known Heads of Departments:—MILLINERY.....Miss Shackleton. MANIFACTURES.....Miss York. OUTFITTING.....Miss Begbie. DRESSMAKING.....Miss Macpherson. MANTLEMAKING.....Miss Maclean.

Letter Orders promptly attended to. 5 per cent. Discount for Cash on Parcels of 20s and upwards. Closed at 4 on Saturdays. Open all day Wednesday.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN, 25 AND 29 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS. 16th March, 1898.

WATCHES.—The Cheapest Shop for all kinds of Gold and Silver Watches, Jewellery, &c. Clocks from 2s upwards. Ladies' Silver Watches at 4s 6d. Our Gent's Surprise Hunting Watch, 12s 6d. Open-faced, 14s 6d. Free per Registered Post. THE RAILWAY WATCH COMPANY, Inverness.

WHEN you can get such extraordinary value in China, Tea Sets, Dinner Sets, Bedroom Sets, and all necessary Household Requisites in Glass and Earthenware at TOWN'S SALEROOM, 23 Academy Street, first shop from the East Church Inverness.

JACK'S Half-Crown Invalid Port, guaranteed Pure and Mellowed, strongly recommended as nourishing and invigorating Wine. JAGS, Exchange.

SEWING MACHINES REPAIRED from 1s. Needles and parts for any kind. Belts 6d. 4d. L. MACKENZIE, 57 Argyle Street, Inverness.

Have you a Perambulator or a Mail Cart? You can have one from 35s upwards, at 2s per week. Agent—MACKENZIE, 57 Argyle Street, Inverness.

Does your Grocer supply you with the PASTURE CREAM BUTTER? If not, why not? WANTED, every Lady to write to the Bradford and Manchester Warehouse Coy., Halifax, Yorkshire, for Patterns of our New Spring Dress Materials. 6 yards double-width for 3s 11d.

CUT FLOWERS.—Large Assortment to be had at moderate prices. Mrs JENOR, 6 New Market.

MURRAY & CO.—This Week for Bargains in Beef, Mutton, and Pork. O come and see the Warrages. The cheapest that has ever been sold in Inverness.

RARE Bargains of Prime Beef, Mutton, and Pork, at MURRAY'S, 42 Church Street. See Window Tickets for Cash.

READ THIS.—Dress Stands 11s 6d, Baskets from 1d, Clothes Baskets, Egg Baskets, Wash Boards, 6d, Clothes Stools, 4s 6d. Miss WALK.

TOILET WARE—JUGS, Half Prices, Traveller's Sashes, 3d sponges for 1d, Hair Brushes 4d. 4 NISS WALK.

PAINTS 4d, Stains 5d, Joiners' Pencils 4d and 9d down, Straw Hat Polish 3d and 6d. 4 NISS WALK.

GIVE A CALL. It will Pay you. Cheapest Shop in town for Household Goods. 4 NISS WALK.

INDIAN CLUBS, Dumb Bells, Bar Bells, &c., best make, at COX'S.

WHEN VISITING THE HIGHLANDS TOURISTS SHOULD STAY

ALBERT HOTEL, INVERNESS.

Where every Comfort and Attention will be supplied to them, at very moderate charges.

The "ALBERT" is the CYCLISTS' HEADQUARTERS, and Gentlemen on Tour will meet with a hearty welcome.

HIGHLANDERS RE-VISITING the NORTH will find the "ALBERT" a "Home from Home," where "Cead Mille Faidhe" is the motto.

Dining, Smoking, and Billiard Rooms.

Wines, Beers, and Spirits of First-class Quality only kept.

Boots attends all Trains and Steamers.

JOHN W. SINCLAIR, Proprietor. (Late Manager, The Cosmopolitan, Leith.)

360.460. THIS IS A RECORD. CURES TOOTHACHE & NEURALGIA KAOSITE.

HANDSOME PORTRAIT FOR 4s 6d.

Send Photo of a friend and have in return BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVING of same.

JAMES WHITE, Photographer, 37 JAMAICA STREET, GLASGOW.

ESTABLISHED HALF-CENTURY. JAMES ADAMS & COMPANY TIMBER MERCHANTS.

BUY FROM THE CHEAPEST GROCERS IN THE WORLD.

NOTE SPECIAL PRICES: Ground Rice, 14d per lb.; Rangoon Rice, 14d per lb.; Semolina, 2d per lb.; Corn Flour, 2d per lb.

SEND YOUR EGGS TO US. CASH OR GOODS SENT BY RETURN. ANY QUANTITY TAKEN.

FURNITURE.

ANNUAL SALE.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND FURNITURE, CARPETS, BEDDING, BEDSTEADS, ETC.

R. B. PAUL & SON,

102 RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW.

ALL GOODS STORED FREE TILL REQUIRED. LETTER ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

It is your own fault

if you pay extravagant prices now-a-days for Groceries and Provisions

W. Hadow,

THE PEOPLE'S STORES, 172 CROOKSTON STREET, GLASGOW.

- TEAS.....None better than Hadow's at 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 8d per lb. BUTTER.....Choice quality at 10d and 11d per lb. MARGARINE.....Always fresh, 4d and 6d per lb. HAMS.....Selected Smoked Hams, 6d per lb. BACON.....Boiled Bacon 8d per lb. CHEESE.....Finest Canadian 6d per lb. JAMS.....Scott's Apple Jam 4d (jar returned). MEAL.....New Season's 1s 6d, 1s 8d per stone. FLOUR.....Special value in Flour. BREAD.....All prices 1s 6d, 1s 8d per stone. SALMON.....Finest, flat tins, 6d per tin. MILK.....Condensed milk 2d, 3d per tin. SOAPS.....4-lb bars xx soap only 8d. TINNED GOODS.....Roast Beef, 2 lb, 7d; Roast Mutton, 2 lb, 10d; Rabbit, 2 lb, 9d.

GLASGOW NOTES.

GAELIC SERVICES. Some time ago a somewhat vague and mysterious paragraph appeared in one of our daily papers regarding efforts that were to be put forward for the evangelisation of Glasgow Highlanders.

THE CLAN DONALD.

The quarterly "Journal" of this clan for April has made its appearance, and is full of interesting matter affecting the Clan Donald.

PARTICK AND WHITEHORN HIGHLANDERS.

A Gaelic and English concert under the auspices of the Partick and Whitehorn Highland Association is to be held in the Burgh Hall, Whitehorn, on Thursday first, 21st inst., under the presidency of Mr Henry Whyte.

OBAN AND LORNE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday evening the annual business meeting of this Association was held in the Waterloo Rooms—Mr A. Macdonald, the president, in the chair.

LONDON ARGYLLSHIRE ASSOCIATION

The Association held the last of this season's dances in the Portman Rooms on 2nd inst. There was an excellent attendance of natives of the county and their friends, and the meeting was altogether most enjoyable.

SHOULD HIGHLANDERS ENLIST?

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS."] SIR,—Now that noble lords and Glasgow-born Highland "Chiefs" are boiling over with effervescence after donning their war paint over a subject that was done ample justice to by the Glasgow Sutherland and kindred Associations some little time ago, I may here, perhaps, be permitted to have my say in the controversy that is now raging.

A CAMERON'S DEATH.

Duncan Cameron, who died at Humberston, Dingwall, at the age of 29, had a very unfortunate career as a soldier. He first joined the Cameron Highlanders, but when that gallant regiment was over its strength he was one of the Volunteers who went to fill up the ranks of the Royal Artillery.

UNITED PRESBYTERIANISM.

LECTURE BY THE REV. A. E. NICOL, NAIRN.

An instructive and interesting lecture on the above subject was delivered on Sabbath evening by the Rev. G. E. Nicol, pastor of the Nairn U.P. Church. After referring to the anti-evangelical spirit which prevailed in the beginning of the seventeenth century, the lecturer said—Here and there amid the dreary wastes the people could still find a few oases of spiritual religion, with fountains of pure evangelical truth.

A SAD SWATCH

of the spirit that prevailed. When Moncrieff of Abernethy remarked in the Presbytery that there was nothing of Christ in a young student's discourse, a minister replied "And must Christ still be the burden of the song?"

A THREE-FOLD UNION;

but we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that the Erastianism against which our forefathers testified is still the main principle of the Established Church. Let her slip her leash, and free herself from that which she is open to unite with her as with the Free Church. If the Established Church is content to remain in its nursery state, where it requires Kings to be its nursing fathers and Queens its nursing mothers, we are glad to have its nursing mothers, we are glad to have its nursing fathers, and to be able to stand, not by the power of Caesar, but by the power of God. Union with the Free Church is an entirely different matter. The Churches are similar in almost every respect. Loyalty to our principles almost demands union, but it is in my humble opinion that, in these northern regions especially, the Free Church ought to do a great deal more of the wooing in this matter.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

In this, our Jubilee year, we are lifting up our hearts in gratitude to God for the rich and effectual blessings that Union has been fraught with, and for the uninterrupted progress our Church has made. The three sister Churches were united in the walls of salvation to the Scottish people for nearly 100 years by men so unprejudiced as Thomas Carlyle and Thomas Chalmers.

NOT A CLERICAL MOVEMENT;

it was a movement of the people. Our Church has been the Church of the humbler and middle classes, the Church of devout fishermen and humble shepherds, of long-headed tradesmen and shopkeepers. In the great works of temperance reform and in home and foreign mission work our Church has done much.

GAMANACHD.

LONDON V. EDINBURGH.

These teams met last Saturday and played a friendly match at Inverleith Park, the ground of the Edinburgh Club. The London team arrived in "Auld Reekie" early on Friday morning, and spent that day and the forenoon of Saturday in visiting the various places of interest in and round Edinburgh.

GLASGOW UIST AND BARRA ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The annual general business meeting of the members of the Glasgow Uist and Barra Association was held on the evening of Tuesday of last week in the Waterloo Rooms.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE PURITY OF FOOD. Beware of Mixtures. "We cannot imagine that our ideal pure Cocoa—a perfect food in itself—can be improved by such additions (as Kola and Hops). In fact we are of opinion that its dietetic value would be altered, and that it would become a medicinal preparation."—Guy's Hospital Gazette. "Kola is a Drug, pure and simple."—Epicure. "Kola is not harmless."—Medical World. CADBURY'S Cocoa is Absolutely Pure. Cocoa stands among the highest, if it has not attained the first place for its purity. According to analysis it stands head and shoulders above all other Cocos. "The name of Cadbury may always be accepted as an unimpeachable guarantee of excellence." Happy Home. "CADBURY'S Cocoa knows no superior as a perfect food, and is absolutely genuine."—Gentlewoman. When you ask for CADBURY'S Cocoa see that you get it, as commoner and mixed qualities are often pushed for the sake of extra profit.



TO THE DEAF—A Gentleman who cured himself of Deafness and Noises in the Head after fourteen years' suffering will gladly send full particulars of the remedy post free.—Address—F. CLIFTON, Amberley House, Strand, London.

THE CREAM OF BEN-WYVIS.

THE LEADING HIGHLAND WHISKY, As Supplied by us to Royalty. A combination of the very Cream of Highland Malts, matured in bond in sherry wood for seven and ten years respectively. Soft and mellow to the palate, it possesses a peculiarly rich flavour which cannot be imitated.

THE DOCTOR'S SPECIAL. THE PEOPLE'S FAVOURITE. THE CONNOISSEUR'S DELIGHT. GUARANTEED SEVEN AND TEN YEARS OLD.

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

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.

HAMS. HAMS. TO ALL HOUSEWIVES WHO PRIDE THEMSELVES ON HAVING THE BEST OF EVERYTHING FOR THEIR MONEY, MESSRS HAMILTON BROS. RECOMMEND THEIR FAMOUS HAMS.

FURNISHING THE HOUSE. A RARE OPPORTUNITY OF SECURING ARTISTIC FURNITURE, HIGH-CLASS CARPETS, GRETONNES, CURTAINS, &c., AT THE PRICE OF INFERIOR GOODS.

MESSRS A. FRASER & CO., HOUSE FURNISHERS, UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Beg to announce a SALE of unusual dimensions.

FANCY GOODS FOR BAZAARS, &c. About £1000 worth of FANCY GOODS, suitable for House Decoration, Bazaars, &c., will be offered at half-price. Offers will be received for the whole or part of the Fancy Goods.

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.

JACK, EXCHANGE, INVERNESS.

THE HIGHLAND JEWELLERY ESTABLISHMENT. BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES HIGHLAND AND CAIRNGORM JEWELLERY. All the Old Patterns, and many Registered Novelties New Season.

FERGUSON & MACBEAN, CORNER OF UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

HENRY WHYTE BOOKSELLER, 4 BRIDGE STREET, GLASGOW. LARGE VARIETY OF GAELIC AND CELTIC WORKS Gaelic Songs with Music, &c. ORDERS BY POST.

ENGLISH LIME. The Subscribers have a Cargo of Best English LIME due at INVERNESS HARBOUR in the course of a week. Apply early to M'GRUTHER & MARSHALL, 16 LOMBARD STREET, INVERNESS.

MONEY. THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND HERITABLE INVESTMENT COMPANY. OFFICE—No. 44 CASTLE STREET, INVERNESS.

LOANS GRANTED ON HERITABLE PROPERTY and for BUILDING PURPOSES, repayable by Instalments or otherwise, as may be arranged. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS up to 3 per cent. A PAYMENT OF ONE SHILLING Weekly will entitle Investors to receive £50 at the expiry of Fourteen and a half Years.

BIRKBECK BANK. Southampton Bldgs., London, W.C. TWO AND A-HALF PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand. TWO PER CENT. ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS, on the minimum monthly balances, when not drawn below £10.

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY.—The CHARGING CROSS BANK (Established 1870), 2 BEDFORD STREET, CHARGING CROSS, LONDON, W.C. Assets £512,475 1 2 Liabilities 299,475 18 2 Capital and Reserve £203,000 0 0

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

STEAMER NOTICES. THE SWIFT STEAMERS "EARN-HOLM" and "JAMES HALL" will sail as under, weather &c., permitting:— FROM LEITH TO INVERNESS.

INVERNESS, THE WESTERN ISLES AND GLASGOW. VIA CALEDONIAN CANAL. SWIFT STEAMERS—THROUGH SERVICE. INVERNESS TO BANAVIE—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 7 A.M. From FORT-AGUSTUS, 10.45 A.M., arriving about 2 P.M.

LOCH NESS SERVICE. INVERNESS FOR FORT-AGUSTUS "Lochness," Daily (ex. Sun.) at 3 P.M., arriving at Fort-Agustus about 6.45 P.M.

CARGO STEAMERS. INVERNESS TO GLASGOW—"Caledonia" or "Eritza," Monday and Thursday, at 6 A.M., Fort-William and Oban same evenings. GLASGOW TO INVERNESS—Every Monday and Thursday at 11 A.M. Train to Glasgow, 2.30 P.M., from Banavie Wednesday and Saturday morning, arriving Inverness same afternoon.

NOTICE—SPECIAL SAILINGS. For the convenience of the traffic the "Tea," or other steamer is intended to sail from Glasgow every Friday until further notice at 10 A.M., with goods, calling at Oban, Tobermory, Arisaig, Mallaig Harbour, and any other place on the route that may be agreed upon.

OBAN AND MULL MAIL SERVICE.—Mail Steamer leaves Tobermory daily, at 8 A.M., and Oban daily, not before 12.30 P.M., proceeds to Salen (Loch-Sunart) Tuesday and Friday, returning Wednesday and Saturday mornings. OBAN (RAILWAY PIER) TO CASTLEBYE, LOCHBOIS DALE, LOCHMADDY, AND DUNVEGAN.—Mail Steamer leaves Oban daily, at 8 A.M., (ex. Sun.) at 6 A.M. (For particulars see Sailing Bills).

FURNITURE, CARPETS, LINOLEUMS. Parties intending to FURNISH are invited to inspect our Large and Varied Stock of DINING-ROOM, DRAWING-ROOM, HALL AND OFFICE FURNITURE. SUPERIOR QUALITY AND FINISH, AT LOWEST PRICES.

MACIVER & COY., 68 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS.

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

FURNISHING IRONMONGERY of every Description at Lowest Possible Prices. China, Glass, and Earthenware in Large Variety.

GILBERT ROSS, IRONMONGER, ACADEMY STREET, INVERNESS.

SUTHERLAND & MACKENZIE, GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHIERS, HATTERS, HOSIERS, AND GLOVERS, Corner of UNION STREET (Opposite Station Hotel and Railway Station), INVERNESS.

COATINGS, SUITINGS, TROUSERINGS, SHIRTS, HOSIERY, RUGS, WATERPROOF COATS & CLOAKS, &c., at Moderate Prices. NEWEST AND BEST SELECTION.

Our POPULAR TWEED SUIT At 6/6. In a Large Range of Shades. Unequalled for Price, Fit, Style, and Finish. MARRIAGE & MOURNING ORDERS Executed Promptly.

IT IS EASIER to imitate than to originate, but it is not so easy to successfully imitate a specialty in which eminent Food Experts have developed the latest achievements of modern science.

BOVRIL is the most perfect form of concentrated nutriment, unequalled for its strength, energy, stimulating, and nourishing qualities.

BOVRIL LIMITED, Food Specialists, LONDON. Chairman: The Right Hon. Lord PLAYFAIR, G.C.B., LL.D. Consulting Chemists: Professor Sir EDWARD FRANKLAND, G.C.B., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.M., 40 years Food Analyst to H.M. Government.

The Highland News INVERNESS, Saturday, April 16th, 1898.

THE BATTLE OF ATBARA.

Another battlefield has been added to the already too long list of the battlefields of the world. Particulars are to hand of an important engagement between what is described as the Anglo-Egyptian Army and the forces of the Kalifa at Atbara on the River Nile. It will be remembered that in 1884 the then Liberal Government resolved to abandon the Sudan. This in our opinion, was a wise step, and notwithstanding recent successes, we believe that time will justify the soundness of the attitude adopted at that time by the Liberal Government in regard to that portion of the Sudan which had at one time been nominally under the sway of the Khedive of Egypt. But last year the Government suddenly announced their intention of sending an expedition up the Nile. How far it was to go or for what purpose it was sent they would not say. That, they said, would depend upon circumstances. Well, this expedition found its way to Dongola, and then little was heard of it till it appeared some time ago near the junction of the Atbara with the river Nile. There the Kalifa's army was strongly fortified under Osman Digna and Mahmoud. This position was attacked and stormed at the end of last week. Four thousand Dervishes are reported to have been slain. Mahmoud, one of the leaders, has been captured, but Osman Digna, the other leader, has escaped. The whole engagement is described as a brilliant victory, and there is the usual jubilation over the prowess of the British Army, and in this jubilation the Cameron Highlanders hold a first place. In common with the rest of the country, we are proud of the gallant deeds of our fellow-countrymen; but as was the case in regard to the recent war in India, we are not able to convince ourselves that the objects to be gained by this Nile Expedition is a sufficient justification for the loss of life and expenditure of treasure which has already resulted from the reversal of the Liberal policy of 1884. Who can tell what may happen before the Egyptian Government? And even after it is brought under the rule of Egypt, of what value will it be to this country? It may be all very well just now in the flush of victory to rejoice over the avenging of the destruction of the

Egyptian Army and the death of its leader, General Hicks (known as Hicks Pasha), near El-Obeid in November, 1883, and the murder of the Gallant Gordon at Khartoum in 1884. But a wiser policy on the part of this country would have avoided all the previous entanglements which had led to the sad and regrettable events of these years. Regarding the recent victory, we fear it may be said of it as was said by Southy of Blenheim, one of the greatest victories of the Duke of Marlborough, in the war of the Spanish Succession— "And everybody praised the Duke 'Who this great fight did win; 'But what good came 'fit at last; 'Quoth little Peterkin— 'Why, that I cannot tell,' said he— 'But it was a famous victory!'"

THE FAMINE IN IRELAND.

Notwithstanding the many Land Acts that Parliament have passed for Ireland during recent years, it would appear that the root of the evils arising from the Irish lands system have not yet been eradicated. Of late the public mind has been so engrossed with foreign affairs that the present condition of the Western Counties of Ireland have been receiving but scant attention. Last autumn it was announced that, owing to the failure of the potato crop, there was sure to be great destitution in certain districts of Ireland during the winter and spring. Immediately on the opening of Parliament the Irish representatives directed the attention of the Government to the alarming condition of the western counties of Ireland and the distress that was certain to ensue unless effective and timely measures were taken to meet the calamity that had overtaken the people by the destruction of the entire potato crop. The Government gave it as their opinion that the reports made regarding the failure of the last year's crop were grossly exaggerated, and that if there was any special need the Government were prepared to take such measures as would be found necessary. The view taken of the situation by the Government was very generally supported by the English press, with the result that up till lately very few people had any idea of the extent of the destitution that exists over wide tracts of that unfortunate country. But happily one of the English leading newspapers took the question up in right earnest, and the reports which it has recently published leave no manner of doubt that the West Coast of Ireland is at the present moment in a condition of famine. It is quite heartrending to read the reports of eye-witnesses of the deplorable condition to which hundreds if not thousands of families have been reduced during the past few months through the utter want of the necessities of life. Appeals have been made to the public to come to the aid of those who are, at their own doors, starving for want of food. Two things are necessary. Seed must be supplied for this year's crop, and those in destitution must be provided with their immediate wants. Of English towns Manchester has nobly led the way, and but for the princely liberality shown by its citizens, the state of Ireland would be much worse than it is. Glasgow is moving in the same direction, and has sent 250 tons of seed potatoes, and when the case comes to be generally understood by the citizens of Glasgow, they are sure to contribute to their distressed brethren in Ireland with their well-known generosity. But to come nearer home, this surely is a subject that should appeal to the town of Inverness, and to the people of the Highlands generally. Many districts of the Highlands have, unfortunately, in times not so long past, gone through similar sufferings arising from similar causes as are at present being borne in Ireland, and they are therefore in a better position to understand and sympathise with the Irish people in their now impoverished condition than any other part of the country. But we should hope they will not rest content with a mere expression of their sympathy. Sympathy, however good, cannot feed hungry wives and children. Sympathy in such a case, to be of any practical value, must be changed into hard cash. It may be said that the Highland people have little to spare. That we know well is in too many cases too true. But men are not responsible for what they have not but for what they have, and we certainly think that the people of the Highlands have a call to do something to help to alleviate the undoubted distress which exists at present among their kinsmen in Ireland. If any sums are sent to us for this deserving and urgent object we shall be glad to acknowledge the same, and have them transmitted to the proper quarter.

SHINTY.—The final for the Tain Macdonald & Muir Cup was played between Lairg and Caperthly (Strathpeffer) at Tain on Saturday. Dr Gilles, Tain, acted as referee, and the day being mild there was a big crowd of spectators. The result of the match was—Caperthly (Strathpeffer), 16; Lairg, 0. The Strath therefore carried off the cup in great triumph. Murdoch Mackenzie, scored 14 of the goals. The Shinty Club met at Strathpeffer on Saturday in the semi-final of the Macintosh Trophy contest. The Lovat team were minus two of their best men, one of these being Angus Maclean, the crack centre forward. Portree had a strong team forward, being much heavier than their opponents. The game ended with Lovat pressing the score being Portree 4, Lovat 1. Mr D. Macpherson, of the Beauly Club, refereed the game to the entire satisfaction of both clubs. On Wednesday Foyers Shinty Club played a return match with Fort-Augustus. Mr C. Grant, Fort-Augustus, refereed. The result of the game was a win for Fort-Augustus by 5 goals to nil.

BIRTHS. At F. J. Rank, Caldwell Road, on the 10th inst., the wife of WILLIAM A. MACKAY, Contractor, of a daughter. At 29 Marlborough Street, Fulham, London, S.W., on the 1st inst., the wife of GEORGE MACDONALD of a daughter. At Broadmore, Colorado Springs, U.S.A., on the 10th inst., Mrs FRANCIS CHISHOLM of a daughter. At 17, Riverside Villa, Union Road, Inverness, on the 12th inst., the wife of ROBERT PATRICKSON of a daughter. At 19 Ardross Street, Inverness, on the 14th inst., the wife of JOHN STEWART of a son. At Uig Villa, Union Road, Inverness, on the 14th inst., the wife of W. J. BETHUNE of a daughter.

MARRIAGES. At the house of John Bain, 6317 LaSalle Street, Chicago, on Monday, 20th March, by the Rev. Mr Green, KENNETH BAIN, fourth son of Kenneth Bain, mason, Stronachy, and LOUISA SMITH, fifth daughter of Murdoch Smith, Joiner, Stronachy. At National Bank House, Nairn on 13th inst., by the Rev. Mr Martin, Free Church, Nairn, DOUGLAS, solicitor, Nairn, to ANNIE LAMB, third daughter of the late J. D. Lamb, solicitor, Nairn.

DEATHS. At 23 Tomahawk Street, Inverness, on the 10th inst., CURSTRA, youngest daughter of Mr Alexander Macphail. At 139 Townhead, Kirkcubright, on the 8th inst., MARY DAVISON, aged 83, widow of James M'Lennan, Telegraph Linesman, Dingwall. At Francis Place, Dumfries, on the 9th inst., MARGIE, youngest daughter of the late Capt. M. Munro, Inverary. At 71 Keith Street, Stronachy, on the 9th inst., LIZIE, daughter of the late Archibald Nicolson, age 29 years. Deeply regretted. At the residence of his brother, Ross Cottage, Huntly, on Saturday, 13th March, DONALD MATTHEWS, Strathport, Ontario, Ross-shire.

IN MEMORIAM. In Loving Memory of my Beloved Husband, CHARLES R. FALCONER, of Island Bank House, who died at Ben-Nevis Cottage, Ballyfern, 17th April, 1896. A kind and loving husband and talented father. Sadly missed.

HEALTH OF REV. MR FRASER, PETTY.—On Wednesday the Rev. Mr Fraser, Petty, accompanied by Miss Fraser, left for North en route for a three-months' holiday in America. He has been in somewhat indifferent health of late, and it is hoped that the trip across the Atlantic will fully restore him to his usual strength and vigour.

MARRIED MEN'S FEELING MARKET.—The annual market for the hiring of married farm servants was held in Inverness yesterday. The weather was wet, a drizzling rain falling all day. There was a large attendance of farmers and servants, and numerous engagements were effected at the following rates:—First ploughmen, £14 10s; second do., £13 to £14; third do., £12.

WORK IN INVERNESS CIVIL COURT.—Yesterday was box-day in the Inverness Civil Court. Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff presided. No fewer than 130 summonses were called. Ninety-six of these were new cases on the small debt roll, while eight were continued cases. Thirteen were debts recovery cases, and 13 were ordinary cases. After disposing of this plethora of business, the Court adjourned till the 5th and 6th of May.

ACCIDENT ON THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—Yesterday morning, on the Suspension Bridge, a baker's boy carrying a basket of breakfast rolls was knocked down by a passing milkcart, and the milkcart came along at right angles from the Bridge Street end. From the poise of the boy's body in balancing the weight of the basket, his eyes were naturally turned away from the approaching vehicle, and he does not appear to have heard it.

DEAD, at KENNETH COTTAGE, Kenneth Street, Inverness, on the 15th inst., GEORGE FERGUSON. Deeply regretted. For funeral arrangements see Courier of Tuesday first.

IN MEMORIAM. In Memoriam Cards.—New, Chaste, and Beautiful Designs. Large Selection. Samples and prices on application to the MANAGER, "The Highland News," Inverness.

MEMORIALS of all Kinds in GRANITE, MARBLE, and FREestone, may be had from Messrs J. A. FRASER, Sculptors, Inverness, who give best value in Memorials to be got in the North.

QUEEN'S GATE (Opposite the Post-Office). Designs and Prices on Application. Send for Patterns and compare Prices.

POLITICAL ADDRESS.—As will be observed from our advertising columns, Mr James A. Duncan, ex-M.P. for Barrow-on-Furness, is to deliver a political address in the Music Hall on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Inverness Burgh Liberal Association. Provost Macbean will preside.

FRAME THE FUNNY.—As will be observed from our advertising columns, Mr W. F. Frame, the celebrated Glasgow comedian, is to visit Inverness on Saturday, 23rd, and the following Monday, when performances will be given in the Music Hall. The company, in addition to Mr Frame, who is a power in himself, include Miss Jane K. Ford, soprano; the Little Sisters Lecky, comic songs and dances; the Bros. Harlows, The Motramos, musical entertainers, &c.

THREATENED STRIKE.—A special meeting of the painting trade was held on Wednesday evening in the Bridge Street Hall, when there was a good attendance of members. We understand that the chief matter of the deliberations had reference to a dispute with one of the employers, which may result in a strike. We believe that a communication was sent to the master complained of, and that in the event of his returning an unfavourable answer, the men in his employ will cease work to-day.

THE ETTLES LECTURES.—We understand the Ettles Trustees have appointed Dr Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., &c., to be the lecturer this year under the auspices of the Trust. Dr Wilson's first lecture, which will be delivered on the 26th of April, will be on "The story of the heart and its work in the circulation of the blood." The second lecture, on the following evening, is entitled "The story of lungs and air; a lesson in personal and public health." The third lecture, on the evening of the 28th April, will have for its subject "The story of brain and nerve: their work." The lectures will be illustrated by limelight views.

VITAL STATISTICS.—From the Registrar-General's returns, we find that in the Inverness registration district with a population at the 1891 census of 24,186, there were 711 births, 598 deaths, and 224 marriages during the past year—the natural increase amounting to 123 persons. This gives a death-rate of 20.4 per thousand per annum, as compared with a rate of 20.03 for the other large town districts of Scotland. These figures thus bear out the contention of the Town Clerk that Inverness is at least as healthy as other towns of a like size. In the county, population 85,535, there were 2001 births, 1616 deaths, and 431 marriages; while in Ross-shire with a population in 1891 of 78,727, there were respectively 1,765 births, 1450 deaths, and 280 marriages.

CLOSING OF THE THEATRE.—The Theatre Royal closed on Thursday evening for the season with Mr Sidney Grundy's play, "A Bunch of Violets," which had a successful run during the previous three evenings. During the past season play-goers have had submitted to them by the enterprising managers, Messrs Burgess and Macswaid, a most interesting series of first-class entertainments, the companies brought to the theatre all being of a high order. Many good things are promised for the coming season, and we are sure that in the future the public will appreciate, as they have done in the past, the efforts made for their amusement, and by their presence and patronage encourage the directors to maintain the high standard of excellence which has been attained during the winter which has just closed.

FAREWELL ENTERTAINMENT TO MR D. G. MACPHERSON.—A large and influential party of Inverness citizens assembled in the Union Hotel on Monday evening last to bid farewell to Mr D. G. Macpherson (of Messrs John Davidson & Co., Inverness, and Macpherson Bros., Grantown), and to present him with some tangible evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by them. Mr D. M. Cameron, merchant, Dempster Gardens, presided, and after the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, Mr Cameron proposed the toast of the evening, "The health of Mr D. G. Macpherson." In doing so, he said that they were met to speed the parting guest, but they all hoped to welcome him back again in a few years with a fortune. He thought Mr Macpherson had excelled himself in the profession to which he belonged, and it was the best certificate of the hearty and sympathetic farewell now given to him that his brothers-in-trade had assembled there in such large numbers to present him with a mark of their esteem. He called upon Mr A. Lindsay, grocer, Baron Taylor's Lane, to make the presentation. Mr Lindsay expressed the great regret that he felt in parting with Mr Macpherson, and the cordial wishes of all his friends for his future welfare. As some slight token of their friendship, he had much pleasure in asking Mr Macpherson's acceptance of a purse of sovereigns, gold appendage, and dressing-case, and hoped they would always remind him of the friends he had left in the Highlands of Scotland. Mr D. G. Macpherson in a few eloquent phrases returned thanks for the handsome presents handed to him, and thereafter, by request, favoured the company with a song. Various members of the party made speeches expressing the general good wishes for Mr Macpherson's welfare, while many others contributed songs, and an evening that altogether will live in the memories of all as one full of good fellowship and pleasant social intercourse was brought to a successful termination with the usual votes of thanks. Mr Macpherson left Inverness on Tuesday last for Bulwagay, and returned a large assembly of friends at the Railway Station seeing off the train which carried him on Thursday afternoon.

TEMPERANCE TEACHING IN THE SCHOOLS.—The Burgh School Board on Thursday had before them a report, prepared by the Clerk in accordance with the remit from last meeting, on the teaching of Temperance in the public schools under the Board. He reported that the Board's instructions of January, 1896, were being carried out by all the headmasters. In the High School (Elementary Department) and Merchich School special text-books were used. In addition, every advantage is taken of dealing with the subject of Temperance during the regular work of the classes. It was agreed to transmit the report to the Secretary of the local Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association, who had sent a deputation to the Board on the subject.

MARRIAGE PRESENTATION.—The workmen in the employment of Messrs Noble & Burgess, plumbers, met in the Commercial Hotel on Monday, with Mr Andrew Noble as their guest. Mr Dunbar, who occupied the chair, said he had pleasure, in name of the staff, in presenting Mr Noble with a token of their heartfelt wishes on the occasion of his marriage. Every member esteemed him as an employer, and respected him as a man. It was their sincere wish that Mr and Mrs Noble would enjoy a long and happy wedded life (applause). The present took the form of a handsome silver and oak inlaid, with inscription shield. Mr Noble said he accepted the gift with heartfelt thanks, and would continue to hold the members of the staff in high respect (applause). The inlaid was supplied by Mr J. Mackenzie, jeweller, Inglis Street.

RATEPAYERS AND THE PETTY CUSTOMS.—At the monthly meeting of the Ratepayers' Association on Wednesday evening—Councillor George Young in the chair—the question of the Petty Customs was again discussed. Mr Gill, in view of the apparent need for inquiry in the subject moved that it be a recommendation from the Association to the Town Council that that body appoint a committee to inquire into the amount and the methods of collection of Customs. Mr Grant seconded. Mr Littlejohn moved a direct negative, holding that, as everyone admitted that the tax was an unjust one, the Council in opposing its abolition, was in the main of raising the money. The amendment was not seconded. Other matters under discussion were alleged nuisance caused by dust and ashes being blown from the town carts in the public streets, the Public Health Act of 1892, and electric lighting—the Committee recording their approval of the action of the Council in opposing the application of a private company to lay down an installation of electricity in the town.

THE SPRING HOLIDAY.—Wednesday was observed in Inverness as the annual spring holiday. The weather in Inverness was very favourable, but in the country districts surrounding Inverness it was of a somewhat erratic character, local showers of rain in many places having been exceptionally heavy. The number who travelled by rail and steamer showed a decrease as compared with last year. The Highland Railway Company arranged a special trip to their new terminus at Kyle, with a short steamer sail up Loch Duich. The fare to Kyle was 4s, and 6s for the entire journey. 128 left by the special train in the morning. Large numbers took advantage of the Railway Company's reduced fares to make visits to the cities of the South. No fewer than 113 booked for Edinburgh, 72 went to Glasgow, and 35 to Aberdeen. The Great North Railway Company booked 14 for stations on their system south of Aberdeen. Nairn was visited by 334 excursionists, Elgin came next with 198, Fort-George 103, Forres 71, Fortrose 97, Strathpeffer 59, Dingwall 122, Beauly 135, Muir of Ord 61, Inverpord 25, and Tain 49. The latter included a scratch team of the Celtic, who played the team representing that city. The game was a tight one, but resulted in a victory for the Clachnacuddin boys by 3 goals to 2. A number of the members of the Inverness Golf Club also journeyed to Tain to engage in a friendly contest with the St Dunns players. The conditions were unfavourable for good play, and naturally the visitors sustained defeat. The number of passengers booked by the Highland Railway Company was 2173, as compared with 2214 last spring holiday—a decrease of 41. The Great North booked in all 120, 30 of the tickets having been taken out at the recently opened town offices in Queen's Gate, thus proving that the new offices are a convenience to the travelling public. Several hundreds of passengers took advantage of the excursion fares up the Caledonian Canal to Fort-Augustus and the Loch Ness piers, the stormy nature of the elements probably deterring many more. A few indulged in a sea trip by the a.s. "Earnholm." Several driving parties also left the town, and quite a number returned out on their cycles, despite the strong head wind.

LIPTONS LIMITED.—We are requested to announce that due notice will be given through the press when the share certificates of Liptons Limited are ready for delivery against allotment letter.

FIRE IN INVERNESS PRISON.—Early yesterday morning fire was discovered to have broken out in a small building used as an oakum store inside the Inverness Prison Buildings. The Fire Brigade were promptly on the scene, and after being admitted, they soon had a copious supply of water playing on the burning material.

CHEAP TRIP TO STRATHPEPPER.—The Highland Railway Company announce an excursion from Inverness to Dingwall and Strathpeffer at cheap fares on Wednesday next. A special train will leave Inverness at 2.50 p.m., returning the same evening.

DINGWALL NOTES.—At a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee of the Ross and Cromarty County Council on Thursday, Mr Gordon, Chief Constable, was granted an extension of leave of absence for one month.

NAIRN-COUNTY COUNCIL.—The Standing Joint Committee of the County Council met on Thursday. Colonel Clarke presided. The Chief Constable was instructed to carry out the rabies order issued by the Board of Agriculture.

ACCIDENT IN CASTLE STREET.—A fishmonger's assistant, named George Mackenzie, lies in a critical condition at his home in Castle Street, Inverness, owing to a strange accident that befell him on Wednesday evening.

NAIRN NOTES.—We understand that Lochmacee Villa, Thurlov Road, has been bought by a Glasgow lady.—Bazaar.—A sale of work took place yesterday in the hall of the Free Church on behalf of the Zenana Mission.

THE GREAT BOOK SALE.—On Monday the sale of books belonging to the late Mr John Noble, bookseller, Inverness, will be commenced in the Music Hall, Inverness.

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES.—Yesterday a meeting of the Works Committee of the Inverness Parish Council was held in the Parish Council offices.

LOCHIEL PRESENTATION.—The presents subscribed for by the feuars, tenants, and crofters on the Lochiel estate in connection with the recent coming-of-age of the young Chief, and which are to be presented to him next week, have been on view for the past few days in the window of Provost Macfarlane's shop.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

HALF-YEARLY REPORT.

The following is a summary of the report by the Directors of the Highland Railway Company for the half-year ending 28th February last, which will be submitted to a meeting of shareholders to be held in the Board-Room, Inverness Station, on Wednesday, 27th inst.:

Table with columns for Revenue and Expenses. Revenue includes Passenger Traffic, Parcels, Carriages, Horses, and Dogs, Mails, and Less Expense of Collection and Delivery of Goods. Expenses include Total Working Expenses, Depreciation, Government Duty, and Parliamentary Expenses.

The traffic receipts, compared with the corresponding half-year of 1897, show the following increases:—Passengers, £2433 15s 3d; fish and parcels, £298 6s 6d; mails, £15 6s; goods and minerals, £7726 14s 10d; live stock, £81 19s 3d—total increase, £11,244 9s 9d.

The expenditure has been increased as under:—Maintenance of way, £253 12s 10d; locomotive power, £3362 8s 7d; carriage and wagon repairs, £1566 5s 6d; traffic expenses, £1271 12s 11d; mileage of carriages and wagons, £1053 17s 4d; compensation for accidents and persons injured, £471 11s 6d; rates and taxes, £422 11s 3d; feu duties, £92 5s 8d; Parliamentary expenses charged to this half-year, £3000—total, £11,494 5s 7d; less decrease in general charges of £1187 18s 3d; law charges, £1584 16s 9d; Government duty, £47 9s 10d—total, £2820 10s, showing a net increase in expenditure of £8674 6s 9d.

The extension from Strathpeffer to Kyle of Lochalsh was opened for traffic on the 2nd November last, adding 10½ miles to the Company's mileage. The portion of the Aviemore Line from Daviot to Inverness is expected to be completed and opened for traffic during the summer months of this year.

Mr Steel, general manager, has resigned his position, having received a similar appointment on the Great Northern Railway; and Mr T. A. Wilson, of the North Eastern, has been appointed his successor. The following Directors, viz., the Earl of March, Lord Colville of Culter, Sir Kenneth Matheson, Mr Baillie, M.P., and Mr Yool retire by rotation at this meeting, and being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

Mr Grant, one of the auditors, also retires, but is eligible, and may be re-elected. INVERNESS AND AVIEMORE DIRECT RAILWAY. Mr Murdoch Paterson, the engineer, reports upon this line as follows:—Notwithstanding several periods of stormy weather during the winter months, viz., frequent alternations of gales, rain, snow, and frost, satisfactory good progress has been made with the works on the remaining portion of the Aviemore Line, extending from Inverness to Daviot Station, a distance of 10½ miles, all of which may be a double line. On the Inverness contract of this portion, extending from Inverness to Culdoich, 7½ miles, Messrs Brand & Sons, the contractors, have laid, adjusted, and ballasted 4 miles 720 yards of double line, leaving 3 miles 406 yards of double line still to be laid and ballasted.

Messrs John Ross & Son are the contractors for the remaining portion of the line, viz., from Culdoich to Daviot Station, about 2½ miles, being the northern end of their May contract. It is found that the quantity of materials required for bringing the line to the standard of 2½ miles of double line to their full width and height for the permanent way is about 8000 cubic yards; that the permanent way has been laid on all the "down" line, and bottom ballasted for half its length; that materials are being laid down for half-a-mile of the permanent way on the "up" line, and that the total length of ballasting of double line still required is four miles. The bridges still to be widened for the double line are a 20-foot arch over the public road at Culdoich and a 4-foot culvert. The masonry wall of the "up" platform at Daviot Station has been wholly built, but the projecting cop of cement concrete has to be put on for its whole length of 270 yards, including a ramp of 1 in 6 at each end. All the ballast above required will have to be taken from a gravel hill 2 miles south of Daviot Station, as there is no ballast to be had between there and Culdoich. Every effort is being made to have this portion of the line from Daviot to Inverness completed and ready for opening at the earliest possible date for this season's traffic.

At the annual dinner of the Glasgow Highland Club, which was held in that city on the 4th inst., and presided over by the Chief of the Club, Mr Walter James Douglas Campbell, of Blythwood, the Chairman, in his speech, said he was told for a fact that there was more Gaelic spoken in Greenock than in any part of the Highlands. The "sin" of the Highlanders is a chieftain—na tha e fionn.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF CULLODEN.

CEREMONY AT THE CAIRN.

To-day being the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, a number of wreaths and other floral decorations are to be placed on the memorial cairn. A party, amongst whom will be Mr Theodore Napier, Edinburgh, are to leave Inverness in the forenoon, and on arrival at the Cairn will deposit these various floral tributes. The Legitimist Jacobite League are sending a wreath, and Mr Napier brings with him a wreath from the newly-formed Scottish Anniversary and Historical Society, the decoration being in the form of a Highland harp, covered with heather, laurel, &c., and the words, "Honour to the Brave," thereon.

Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., the Chief of the Clan Menzies, has sent, through the hon. corresponding secretary of the Menzies Clan Society—Lieutenant D. P. Menzies, 4 Holyrood Quadrant, Glasgow—a beautiful wreath in memory of the brave men of Clan Menzies who fell fighting for Scotland and Bonnie Prince Charlie. The wreath is made of stag horn club moss, gathered on the hills of the Menzies country and estates, the evergreen winter badge of Clan Menzies, and is about 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. At the under side of the wreath is a large bow of red and white Menzies tartan, and at the top is a white ribbon with the following inscription written in red, the principal letters being Celtic in character:—

From Sir Robert Menzies, Baronet of Menzies, on behalf of the Clan Menzies Society.

In Memory of 200 Menzies who fell at the Battle of Culloden, 16th April, 1746. Many a Menzies at Culloden fell; For their country their lives did sell, And to the last their mottoes held—"God will I shall"—death before dishonour "Gael S'Dearg Gu Brath!"

Lieutenant D. P. Menzies, Hon. Secy., In the Highland charge at Culloden the Clan Menzies regiment was led by Colonel James Menzies, the father of Sir Walter Scott's character in "Waverley," the "Vich Jan Vhor." The cairn is to be photographed with the aid of the camera, and it is expected that all the contributions will be sent there before mid-day.

INVERNESS LICENSING COURT.

There was a full house when business was opened at the Burgh Licensing Court in the Court-House on Tuesday, and when Provost Macbean, and Bailies Macdonald, Snowie, and Maclean took their seats only standing room was available. The great majority of those present were connected with "the trade," and a keen interest was manifested in the proceedings.

A number of renewals having been granted without comment, the Chief Constable, on the application of Alexander Matheson, for renewal of a grocer's license at Waterloo Place, pointed out that there was

A SUSPICIOUS SIDE ROOM. In the shop. If the partition were taken down and the room added to the premises it would be an improvement all round. There were too many facilities of the kind in Inverness shops, and he thought the occasion of a change of tenancy, as in this instance, should be taken advantage of to make desirable improvements.

His honours were of the same mind as Mr Macdonald, and the license was granted on condition that the partition is taken down. Mr Thomas Macdonald's, Castle Street, premises were in a similar position, and although Mr William Mackay, solicitor, argued that the "other" side of the partition was invaluable to this client for storage and bottling purposes, the Magistrates resolved to give Mr "Jerry" all round, and granted renewal only on condition that the shop be opened from end to end. For the premises at 45 Huntly Street there were

TWO APPLICANTS.—John A. Munro, who was the tenant of the trust estate of the late Joseph Macdonald, 63 Tonnalburgh Street, owner of the property, Mr Macdonald, of Messrs Morrison & Macdonald, who appeared for Mr Munro, contended that, under lease, his client was the only reliable tenant of the shop, but the Magistrates decided that, as there seemed to be a dispute about it, the applicants had better settle the point first, and then they would consider the question of a license. Mr Wm. Mackay, who appeared for Mr Macdonald, thought the question of tenancy was one that did not concern the Court, but the Court held by their decision, and granted the license to neither applicant.

D. W. Call, accountant, as trustee on the sequestrated estate of J. P. Brodie & Co., Neil Mackintosh, a public-house licensee for New Market Entry, Donald Robb, 74 Castle Street, a grocer's licensee; Donald Fraser, wine merchant, East Gate, a public-house licensee; and William Wallace, Lochalsh Road, a grocer's licensee—all as new tenants.

Alex. J. Stewart, grocer, Union Street, applied for a PUBLIC-HOUSE LICENSE, but he didn't want to run the place as a "pub." On his behalf Mr W. C. Macbean, solicitor, stated that his client wanted the full license to facilitate the carrying on of a family wine merchant's business. There would be no bar, and no accommodation for drinking on the premises. On this understanding the license was granted, the Provost remarking that he preferred licenses such as this to the grocer's variety.

A petition signed by twenty persons was introduced by Mr Ross, solicitor, as an objection to the granting of a full license to Robert Munro, 19 Young Street, who presently is entitled to dispense porter and ales. Mr Mackay, who appeared on behalf of the applicant, said his client was

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED MAN, who, when he erected the present premises, had put them back and widened the street without asking the town to pay for the improvement. Of course he didn't advance that as a reason why the license should be granted. The license was granted, Bailie Maclean being the only dissenting Magistrate, and the decision of the Bench was greeted with applause.

Roderick Cameron, 46 Kingsmill Road, was not so fortunate. He applied for a public-house certificate for premises in Grant Street, and was represented by Mr A. S. Fraser, solicitor, who made an eloquent appeal on his behalf. The Chief Constable objected to another license being granted at that quarter, because it was so far from the Police Office. He didn't mind an additional license in the vicinity of the Castle, because then they would not have a great distance to convey offenders, but he was afraid that if another license were granted in the Merchants' district he would have to ask for the erection of a sub-police office there also. Bailie Snowie said he knew the people in Grant Street were against another license; and with this pronouncement the application was doomed, the license being refused "by a majority."

This was all the business before the Court, the net result of the deliberations of the Magistrates being the increasing of two licenses to the full limit and the reduction of grocer's certificates by one.

Nairn and Tain Licensing Courts will be held on Page 3.

FREE SYNOD OF GLENELG.

RELIGION AND MORALS—THE PULPIT AND THE PRESS—CHURCH UNION.

The Free Synod of Glenelg met at Portree on Wednesday last, and, judging from the small attendance, it would appear that this, the second highest Court of the Church, does not command the same interest amongst ministers and people as it did in past years. The following members were present:—Presbytery of Lochcarron—Revs. William Sinclair, Plockton; Angus Galbraith, Lochalsh; and Mackinnon, Gairloch. Presbytery of Skye—Revs. J. Macrae, Duirinish; Jos. Lamont, Snizort; Norman Macleod, Portree; D. Fraser, Braemar; W. Fraser, Sleat; and J. Macdonald, Raasay. Presbytery of Lewis—Rev. Peter Macdonald, Stornoway. Presbytery of Uist—Rev. Mr Nicolson. Presbytery of Abertarf—Nona Rev. Mr Macrae, Kilmorack, corresponding member from the Synod of Ross; and Messrs Macowan, Cameron, and Macleachlan, representative elders for Sleat, Strath, and Portree.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. Mr Kennedy, Mannish, Harris, was, through illness, unable to be present, and the Rev. Jos. Lamont, in the absence of Mr Kennedy, preached in English in the Coffee-Room of the Caledonian Hotel from Philippians, 1st chapter, 21st verse; while the Rev. Angus Galbraith preached in the church in Gaelic from St John's Gospel, 10th chapter, 27th and 28th verses.

Thereafter the Rev. Jos. Lamont opened the Synod proceedings with prayer. Rev. Mr Sinclair, Plockton, the venerable Clerk of the Synod, proposed, and Rev. John Macdonald, Raasay, seconded, that the Rev. P. Macdonald, Stornoway, be elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

Mr Macdonald having taken the chair, the Clerk of Synod proceeded to receive the financial statements from Presbyteries; but as returns from all the Presbyteries had not been sent in, detailed and accurate statements could not be submitted. Seeing it is a law of the Church, it seems a pity that Presbyteries do not make a better effort to supply the Synod with returns, and that the Church has more complete information. The Committee on Bills and a Visiting Committee having been appointed, the Synod adjourned at two o'clock, to meet again within the Free Church at five p.m.

At five o'clock the Moderator, having taken the chair, the Synod proceeded to receive the reports on Presbytery records from the Visiting Committees. The reports were satisfactory, and were adopted.

The Synod unanimously resolved to recommend the appointment of Professor Salmon to the Principality of the Free Church of Scotland. If the Council would appoint its committee and give it definite instructions as to its duties, and the Council's recommendations to the county, something might after all come out of the question.

The Provost—is it the decision of the Council that a committee be appointed? Bailie Dallas—We are all agreed upon that.

The Provost—is it now for the Council to consider what instructions they will give to the committee.

Councillor Mann—First name your committee here who would say that they would like to know what the instructions are before they would go before the County Council.

Bailie Dallas said that, as to the suggestion that they might go into the matter with more freedom if they were by themselves, he would not hesitate to state his own opinions in public. Still, he thought they might discuss the matter in private. At the same time, he was quite free to discuss the question in public if the Council preferred it.

The Provost thought that too many private meetings, but still he thought it was a matter that might be better arranged in committee than in public.

Councillor Fletcher—Hear, hear. Bailie Reid said he quite agreed with Bailie Dallas that more freedom could be obtained by a private discussion.

Councillor Mann differed from Bailie Dallas and Bailie Reid. He thought the public were quite able to judge the question, and it could be quite as well dealt with in public as in private. There was nothing about it. The County Council had their meeting in public. It was reported in the newspapers. Their procedure was quite frank and open, and he thought there was nothing suggested that would hamper the action of the Town Council in the matter.

Why, he asked, should they have terms that would not carry out the suggestions made by the public? Bailie Dallas—I have no objection. Councillor Mann—We have nothing to be afraid of or ashamed of.

Councillor Fraser said the present position of the question had perhaps not been fully thought out by the members. For himself, he did not dissent from the paragraph which had been derived from the paragraph which appeared in the newspapers.

Bailie Baillie said they were taking a new departure on the question, and he was strongly of opinion that it would be for the public interest that the deliberations of the Council should be made in committee. He was not afraid of public criticism, but it was his opinion that it was almost impossible to consider the question from all points of view with advantage to themselves in public. He would accept that the matter be discussed in private.

Ex-Provost Gordon seconded Bailie Baillie's motion. It was then agreed to discuss the question in private, and Provost Donaldson, the public, and the reporters withdrew.

We understand that the following members of Council were then appointed a Committee to meet with and confer with the County Council, viz., Bailies Reid and Dallas, ex-Provost Gordon, Treasurer Macrae, Councillor Mann, and Mr Laing. A good deal of discussion took place, but no definite course was resolved on. Later in the week the Committee again met, but were unable to come to any satisfactory conclusions on the subject of the conference. It was agreed, however, to ask the Town Council to submit the proposals which the Committee should lay before the County Council. The question now stands over for a week.

IMPROVEMENT OF CROFTERS STOCK.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

SIR.—In the last two issues of your paper I have noticed a letter from Mr Black, Gruids, and one from a correspondent signed "C," anent the utilising of money given by Government under the control of the Cougested Districts Board. Seeing that part of this money is available for the procuring of sires, &c., for the improvement of the crofters' stock, it is desirable that crofters should not let the chance slip, but avail themselves of the means of bettering their stock.

To-day it is a notable fact that many crofters have stock of an inferior order, and which, for market purposes, fetch a low price. It is also the case that many crofters endeavor to graze as many head of cattle as possible, and these of an inferior kind. On the other hand, were less numbers kept, and the same of a good class, the market price of these would be much above the average. We now live in an age of improvement, and it is not "quantity" but "quality" that pays. Hence the necessity for immediate action. Each district should at once move in the matter, and apply for the money available. In my opinion, it would have been better for the Highlands if the money granted by the Cougested Districts Board were placed in the hands of the County Councils, which are elected and representative bodies. The Councils would see that the money would be spent within the financial year, and that to the best advantage.

It is the duty of the County Councils to enquire into the matter, and find out the requirements of the people they represent.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

PROGRESS.

At the present time, and negotiations with that view are proceeding between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, it is hereby humbly overtured by the Free Church Synod of Glenelg that our distinctive principles, and especially the principle of a national establishment of religion, be fully conserved in any proposed union.

The Rev. Mr Kennedy, Mannish, Harris, appealed to the Synod against the finding of the Presbytery of Uist in connection with repairs to the church buildings at Mannish. The Synod recommended Mr Kennedy to again submit the case to the Presbytery, and, if not satisfied with the finding of the Presbytery, to subject to the Synod in the proper manner.

It was agreed to meet at Lochalsh on the second Wednesday of April next year.

NAIRN AND ITS BOUNDARIES.

IN THE VALLEY OF INDECISION.

An adjourned special meeting of Town Council of Nairn was held on Monday evening to consider as to the proposed conference with the County Council on the water and drainage questions in the county and the proposed enlargement of the burgh boundaries. There was a considerable attendance of the public at the meeting.

The Town Clerk (Mr Laing) said he had communicated with the Clerk of the County Council, and he replied that the County Council had agreed to the proposed conference. They entertained the hope that the burgh representatives would be able to submit suggestions for arrangement, and suggested that if that could be done beforehand it would be so much the better. The County Council, he (Mr Laing) understood, had appointed six of their number to meet with the Town Council representatives.

Provost Donaldson said it was for the meeting to consider what action they should take now that they had the reply of the County Council before them. If it was the feeling of the meeting that they should enter into conference with the county, it might be desirable to instruct the deputation as to what position they should take up. He did not think it was, in its present phase, a very suitable subject to be discussed in public, and it occurred to him that they might wish to do so in committee or in private. In any case he did not propose to take any part in it. His own feeling would be to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Town Council.

Treasurer Macrae moved the appointment of a committee of six members of Council to meet and confer with the County Council, and, if possible, come to some arrangement.

Councillor Mann in seconding the motion reciprocated the feeling as to the desirability of coming to some mutual understanding on the subject. If the Council would appoint its committee and give it definite instructions as to its duties, and the Council's recommendations to the county, something might after all come out of the question.

The Provost—is it the decision of the Council that a committee be appointed? Bailie Dallas—We are all agreed upon that.

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Bailie Baillie said they were taking a new departure on the question, and he was strongly of opinion that it would be for the public interest that the deliberations of the Council should be made in committee. He was not afraid of public criticism, but it was his opinion that it was almost impossible to consider the question from all points of view with advantage to themselves in public. He would accept that the matter be discussed in private.

Ex-Provost Gordon seconded Bailie Baillie's motion. It was then agreed to discuss the question in private, and Provost Donaldson, the public, and the reporters withdrew.

We understand that the following members of Council were then appointed a Committee to meet with and confer with the County Council, viz., Bailies Reid and Dallas, ex-Provost Gordon, Treasurer Macrae, Councillor Mann, and Mr Laing. A good deal of discussion took place, but no definite course was resolved on. Later in the week the Committee again met, but were unable to come to any satisfactory conclusions on the subject of the conference. It was agreed, however, to ask the Town Council to submit the proposals which the Committee should lay before the County Council. The question now stands over for a week.

At the present time, and negotiations with that view are proceeding between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, it is hereby humbly overtured by the Free Church Synod of Glenelg that our distinctive principles, and especially the principle of a national establishment of religion, be fully conserved in any proposed union.

The Rev. Mr Kennedy, Mannish, Harris, appealed to the Synod against the finding of the Presbytery of Uist in connection with repairs to the church buildings at Mannish. The Synod recommended Mr Kennedy to again submit the case to the Presbytery, and, if not satisfied with the finding of the Presbytery, to subject to the Synod in the proper manner.

It was agreed to meet at Lochalsh on the second Wednesday of April next year.

The Town Clerk (Mr Laing) said he had communicated with the Clerk of the County Council, and he replied that the County Council had agreed to the proposed conference. They entertained the hope that the burgh representatives would be able to submit suggestions for arrangement, and suggested that if that could be done beforehand it would be so much the better. The County Council, he (Mr Laing) understood, had appointed six of their number to meet with the Town Council representatives.

Provost Donaldson said it was for the meeting to consider what action they should take now that they had the reply of the County Council before them. If it was the feeling of the meeting that they should enter into conference with the county, it might be desirable to instruct the deputation as to what position they should take up. He did not think it was, in its present phase, a very suitable subject to be discussed in public, and it occurred to him that they might wish to do so in committee or in private. In any case he did not propose to take any part in it. His own feeling would be to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Town Council.

Treasurer Macrae moved the appointment of a committee of six members of Council to meet and confer with the County Council, and, if possible, come to some arrangement.

Councillor Mann in seconding the motion reciprocated the feeling as to the desirability of coming to some mutual understanding on the subject. If the Council would appoint its committee and give it definite instructions as to its duties, and the Council's recommendations to the county, something might after all come out of the question.

The Provost—is it the decision of the Council that a committee be appointed? Bailie Dallas—We are all agreed upon that.

The Provost—is it now for the Council to consider what instructions they will give to the committee.

Councillor Mann—First name your committee here who would say that they would like to know what the instructions are before they would go before the County Council.

Bailie Dallas said that, as to the suggestion that they might go into the matter with more freedom if they were by themselves, he would not hesitate to state his own opinions in public. Still, he thought they might discuss the matter in private. At the same time, he was quite free to discuss the question in public if the Council preferred it.

The Provost thought that too many private meetings, but still he thought it was a matter that might be better arranged in committee than in public.

Councillor Fletcher—Hear, hear. Bailie Reid said he quite agreed with Bailie Dallas that more freedom could be obtained by a private discussion.

Councillor Mann differed from Bailie Dallas and Bailie Reid. He thought the public were quite able to judge the question, and it could be quite as well dealt with in public as in private. There was nothing about it. The County Council had their meeting in public. It was reported in the newspapers. Their procedure was quite frank and open, and he thought there was nothing suggested that would hamper the action of the Town Council in the matter.

Why, he asked, should they have terms that would not carry out the suggestions made by the public? Bailie Dallas—I have no objection. Councillor Mann—We have nothing to be afraid of or ashamed of.

LATEST NEWS.

SPAIN AND AMERICA.

WAR INEVITABLE.

New York, Thursday.—The consensus of opinion in the New York press this morning upon the reports submitted to Congress yesterday by the Foreign Committee is that war will ensue unless Spain yields.—Reuter.

Madrid, Thursday.—The latest despatches from Washington have caused a profound sensation throughout Spain, and the press now regards war as inevitable.

The whole country protests against the insinuation that the blowing up of the Maine was due to the agency of Spanish officers.

The "Liberal" considers that war cannot be avoided, and declares that the last peaceful illusion is disappearing before the decision of the Senate's Committee announced yesterday. The "Liberal" warns the country of the danger of delay and of placing further confidence in America. It openly accuses President McKinley of prosecuting annexation under the nose of the Powers, in a manner similar to that of the British occupation of Egypt.—Reuter.

Madrid, Thursday.—Senator Silveira, the Conservative leader, in an interview to-day, said Spain had made every concession consistent with her national honour in order to preserve peace. Senator Silveira pledged his party to support any proposal for settling all pending questions by arbitration.—Reuter.

STRANGE STORY FROM GAIRLOCH.

ADVENTURE WITH A MERMAN.

A strange tale of the sea reaches us from Gairloch, and we give the story for what it is worth. A correspondent writes that on the 4th inst, while a boat from Dibaig was crossing to Gairloch, the attention of the crew was attracted to what they took to be the body of a man floating in the water, only the head being visible. They steered in the direction of the supposed corpse, but on drawing near, to their surprise, it raised itself waist-high out of the water, and after remaining in that position for a minute or so, dived out of sight. The men had a good look at the strange animal, and they describe it as greatly resembling a man, having an abnormally large nose and long black hair. The crew (says our correspondent)

WERE GREATLY FRIGHTENED at the strange sight, and returned home. This point, "An Rudha Lachdreine," he says, "seems to be frequented by strange creatures. A man I knew myself, but who is now dead, while swimming from the rocks, held the side of a fishing boat, dragging it over until the men in the boat cut the hand off. The crew of the boat, he adds, are still to the fore, and can testify to the correctness of his statement.

LOCHCARRON SCHOOL BOARD. On Friday last a meeting of the Lochcarron School Board took place. Present—Messrs M. Mackenzie, D. Polson, and J. Morrison. The first business before the Board was the hearing of the explanations of a large number of defaulting parents, each case being dealt with on its merits. The Board endeavoured to impress upon the parents the incalculable loss the children suffered from irregular attendance, as well as the loss the parish sustained from the loss of Government grant caused by irregular attendance. It was pointed out that it might be necessary to increase the school rate unless parents and guardians kept the children more regularly at school. In each case a promise was given that the Board's instructions would be carried out. It was also intimated that unless this was done proceedings would be taken against them without further notice.

A letter from Mr Grant, factor for Achmasheach, was read stating that a 99 years' lease would be given of the site of the Craig School. In connection with this it was resolved to carry out the suggestions made by Mr Bainbridge, M.P., of Achmasheach, to the effect that the Board should enclose a piece of ground round the school, which is to be laid out as flower plots by Mr Bainbridge's gardeners, plants and flowers to be given by Mr Bainbridge for said ground, and prizes are to be given by him for best kept plots the children to have charge of the plots. This is a kind of education much neglected in the Highlands. Letters from the Education Department were read referring to the examination for leaving certificates, which examination is to be held at Lochcarron this year for the first time. The Rev. Mr Haggart was suggested as a suitable examiner. Schedules from the Highlands and Islands Education Trust were submitted and ordered to be filled up and returned. It was resolved to appoint a monitor for the Kishorn School, Mr Bainbridge, M.P., of Achmasheach, to resign. The name of Master Donald Macrae, Kishorn, was suggested and approved of, and the Chairman and Clerk were delegated to draw out a form of appointment. A letter from Mr Macleish, teacher, Attadale, was read calling attention to certain repairs which were necessary; also one from Miss Milton, teacher, Lochcarron, requesting certain repairs to be made on her house, and one from Mr Mackenzie, headmaster, Lochcarron School, asking the Board to put blinds on the western windows of the schoolrooms. It was resolved to attend to all these matters as early as possible.

ADDRESS.—TESTIMONIAL TO MR CUTBERT.—Great regret is being expressed by Lord Churston's tenants in Devon and Cornwall at the departure of the agent, Mr Cutbert, for another appointment. Mr Cutbert has been agent on the Churston property for two and a-half years, which he is now leaving for the Address estate, Ross-shire. On Saturday, 26th March, the members of the Churston Reading-Room and villagers presented him with a marble timepiece and address. The certificate in charge, the Rev. C. E. Ward, presided, and spoke in grateful terms of the kindly interest Mr Cutbert had taken in the village, and of the regret they felt at his leaving. Mr Hooper, the senior tradesman, in a touching little speech, made the presentation. Messrs Warren, Tonkin, and Lewis also spoke of Mr Cutbert's active and generous disposition, and of the many ways in which

SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS.

BRODA-SALE OF PROPERTY.—The building known as the Commercial Hotel, which late Mrs Matheson bequeathed to the parish as a doctor's residence, has been purchased by Mr Macaulay, Golspie, for £460.

LAIRG—CONCERT.—A very successful concert in aid of the funds of the Shinty Club came off in the Drill Hall on Friday evening of last week. Mr J. R. Campbell, Shinty, presided. The programme included songs, &c., by leading artists from Tain, Ardgay, Bonar, Rogart, and Lairg.

SPYINGDALLS—THE CREICH VACANCY.—On Sunday evening the Rev. Mr Macmillan, probationer, preached in the Public Hall to a large audience. This is the sixteenth candidate before the Free Church congregation of Creich, and there is all probability that a few more will be heard before the unwieldy Committee of fifteen will be able to bring a suitable man forward.

LAIRG—MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.—The weekly meetings of the Mutual Improvement Association were brought to a close on Thursday evening, when Mr Munro, president, delivered a most interesting lecture on "A Trip to the Continent." Mr Macleod, M.A., presided, and there was a good attendance. The following gentlemen have been appointed office-bearers for the ensuing session:—President, Mr R. Munro, merchant; secretary, Mr D. Mackay, Rheanbreck; assistant secretary, Mr J. Watson, The Village; treasurer, Mr J. Macleod, Bridgend; vice-presidents, Mr M. Grant, Sava; Mr W. Murray, Gourds; Mr R. Matheson, Lairg; Mr A. Cameron and Mr D. Munro, Railway Cottage; Mr W. Ross, Mr James Mackay, and Mr J. Campbell.

BRODA—THE NEW ASSISTANT.—Mr John Ross, M.A., who is presently assisting the Rev. Mr Murray, has just finished his Divinity course in the F.C. Hall, Aberdeen. Mr Ross is a native of Rogart, and received his early education there. In 1894 he entered the F.C. Divinity Hall, Aberdeen, as 4th bursar, and soon distinguished himself for ability and diligence. At the beginning of his second session he took charge of a mission, which he conducted with such success that when he retired two men were appointed to fill his place. He was also president of the F.C. Students' Society and of the St Columba F.C. Fellowship Meeting, which is composed of Highland students. Though thus hampered with work outside his College, he at the same time carried off the Foot Scholarship for Hebrew. Mr Ross is an eloquent and impressive preacher.

REAY COUNTRY NOTES

[By OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] The schools of this district were examined during the week in religious knowledge by the local ministers.

Influenza of a bad type is very prevalent, and hardly a household escapes it. The death-rate is unprecedentedly high.

The weather, from an agricultural standpoint, is very unsatisfactory. Sowing only began on Monday.

The election by ballot of the Executive of the Tongue Literary Society came off on Tuesday. Fourteen candidates were nominated for the nine seats. The following were the successful candidates:—Rev. D. Lundie, 21 votes; Alexander Macglashan, 21; James Campbell, 14; Peter Manson, 14; Donald Mackay, 14; John Murray, 14; John Campbell, 12; George Robertson, 12; Alexander Reid, 8. Owing to the influenza epidemic, many members were prevented from being present. After the election Rev. Mr Lundie and Mr Macglashan were unanimously re-appointed President and Secretary respectively.

TAIN NEWS.

The services in the Free Church to-morrow are to be conducted by the Rev. Mr Grant, Nigg.

SALE OF PROPERTY.—In the Royal Hotel on Thursday the block of old houses in King Street belonging to Councillor James Robertson were exposed to public roup at the upset price of £100. At £101 Baillie Ross was the successful offeror. Although the property is old, the annual rental is good, and the Baillie made a profitable investment.

INVERGORDON—DISORDERLY VAGRANT.—Before Honorary Sheriff Ross at Tain on Monday, Elizabeth Reid, vagrant, pleaded guilty to behaving in a drunken, violent, and disorderly manner in Saltburn lodging-house on Saturday night. Sentence of 10s, or seven days, was passed, and accused went to prison.

EASTER.—In the Episcopal Church on Sunday there were special services for Easter, and there was a large gathering in the evening from all denominations. The first services of the day were, however, early in the morning. Tain Royal Academy was this week closed for Easter holidays. The banks were closed on Monday.

LITERARY SOCIETY.—The immediately past session of Tain Literary Society has been a very successful one. As will be remembered, the former Society after going into abeyance when the Free Church was re-established, resolved to hold a weekly meeting for intellectual improvement. This soon developed into a regular Literary Society, and during the session there were twenty meetings, eight of which were open to the public, and thoroughly appreciated. There were three debates of a very interesting nature, and a magazine night, an essay night, a mimic Town Council election, a "Night with Burns," a symposium with Invergordon Literary Society, and a discussion on the leaders of the "Scotsman" of 24th February. On Thursday evening the proposed site for a social meeting and concert, which was largely attended, notwithstanding the outdoor attractions of fine weather.

TOWN COUNCIL.—The quarterly meeting of the Town Council as Police Commissioners was held on Monday evening.—Baillie Munro presiding. The Sanitary Inspector reported that there was no complaint of any nuisance or any case under the Infectious Diseases Act during the quarter, and that the health of the burgh was very satisfactory. Mr Fowler, however, wished to direct his attention to the state of a back court in Scotsburgh Road. The state of additional repairs on Fondom Road—where the "woody braes" are slipping—is £5 7s 10d, and it was resolved to claim this from the Kirkcaldy Trustees, along with the amount already intimated. On a report of the Slaughter-House Committee, it was resolved to improve the depot there by a concrete basin with a view to improving them and keeping it for three months in the summer time. By the new plan of mixing the blood and manure, all complaints of smell have been removed, and there is not nearly so much smell now when the manure is being removed as there used to be. The Links Committee reported that they had now pegged off the piece of ground proposed to be given to the Shelter and Gymnasium Committee, and that members of Council could examine the site before next meeting. The proposed site is on the south side of the Gallow Hill, and close to the railway fence opposite the Goods' Shed. The Volunteers propose to unite with the Building Committee, but in that event the area will have to be increased from 40 feet by 25. The new erection, when completed, is to be handed over to the Town Council.

LINSEED CAPSICUM PILLS.—digestive, corrective, and aperient, 9d, 194d. All of Chemists.

U.P. CHURCH SACRAMENT.—The Communion will be observed in this church on Sabbath first (to-morrow), and the Rev. Mr Hutchinson will be assisted by the Rev. G. Erskine Nicol, Nairn.

FOOTBALL.—The tie between St Duthus (Tain) and Victoria United (Dingwall), in the Tain Pattison Cup final, is to be played off on the Tain Links to-day. Interest in the game is likely to be keen, especially as the Saints are expected to win.

INVERGORDON—AN ANGRY TRAMP.—William Maclearen, pedlar or umbrella-maker, was refused a bed in Saltburn lodging-house early on Sunday morning, and became so enraged in consequence that he broke eight panes of glass in the front windows and committed a breach of the peace. He then went his own way, but information was given to Sergeant Mackay, Invergordon (who went to Tain on Monday with another prisoner), and in the afternoon Maclearen was found on going through Tain. Accordingly he was taken before Honorary Sheriff Ross, pleaded guilty, and got sentenced to 10s, or seven days. He went to prison.

GOLF MATCH.—A match was played on St Duthus Golf Course on Wednesday between Tain and Inverness. There were sixteen players on each side. The weather was showery, with a steady east wind. Tain, however, won by twenty-three holes, and the following are the individual scores:—Tain—D. Macphail 0, W. J. Bicknell 0, A. Innes 6, J. A. Mackenzie 3, Rev. R. Hutchinson 0, J. Macleod 2, A. Blair 7, J. Munro 0, W. J. Munro 6, H. W. Graham 0, B. Mackay 5, W. G. Green 1, A. Maclean 0, Dr Gillies 2, James Urquhart 0, W. J. Munro 0. Inverness—D. Young 2, J. Bagnie 4, R. Ritchie 0, A. Macchardy 0, J. Macgregor 1, L. Macrae 0, J. Allan 0, R. Poole 0, J. Bookless 0, R. Paterson 0, David Ross 0, D. F. Mackenzie 2, Major Ferguson 2, Major J. C. Finlayson 0, Fred Campbell 2. Refreshments were supplied by Mr D. Macleod, Tain, on the ground. When the match was over Captain Macchardy, Tain, spoke of the kindness of Inverness in coming down so often and playing Tain, and giving them so much encouragement since golf was started here. Inverness had been beaten this time, but he wished Tain heartily to drink their health, which was enthusiastically done. In reply, Captain Macchardy, Inverness, said they were up and down since Tain started, but this time Inverness had got their heaviest beating. The St Duthus course, he said, was good in all respects, and perhaps the best-going in the North. In conclusion, he hoped that when Tain came to play them at Inverness, they could not beat them, they would at least guarantee them a good game. Afterwards several foursomes were engaged in.

TAIN GAELIC CLASS.—The fact that the Royal Burgh of Tain is possessed of a Gaelic Class, with a membership of over 60 pupils, is a thing of which the town has good cause to be proud, and which other towns ought to emulate. Not only has this class been a success, but it has been a most enthusiastic one at first could possibly expect. While some had a knowledge of the tongue, the majority were quite ignorant, yet the whole class is now able to read and translate, literally, three exercises, the Lord's Prayer, and the 100th Psalm. This speaks well for the own industry, and reflects the greatest credit on their teacher, the Rev. W. D. A. Mackenzie, Free Church assistant, Tain. The class began in January, and closed on Monday evening. On Monday week, however, Miss Finlayson and Miss Euphonia Ross, and Messrs T. Campbell and W. Grant, were appointed collectors to get up a testimonial in recognition of Mr Mackenzie's gratuitous teaching. After voting 7s 6d to "The Highland News" Mod Fund, the remainder of the £2 odds was devoted to the testimonial. No one but members of the class was asked to contribute, and the result was collected, and with this a 15-carat gold Albert chain and pendant were purchased and presented to Mr Mackenzie on Monday evening, when there was a full and enthusiastic meeting of the class. The Rev. Thomas Grant, F.C. minister, Tain, made the presentation, and expressed the most perfect satisfaction it gave him to do so. In reply, Mr Mackenzie said he would ever wear the chain, which would always remind him of the great kindness with which he had been treated by the Tain Gaelic Class. Mr Mackenzie, Town Clerk, Councillor James Robertson, Mr James Urquhart, painter, Mr William Munro, blacksmith; Mr T. F. Campbell, Castle Brae; Mr D. Macleod, High Street; and the Rev. Mr Macmillan, formerly F.C. assistant in Tain, also spoke in very complimentary terms of the class and its teacher. Next session is to be begun in the first week of October as an Evening Continuation Class under the School Board. Thus a Government grant will be obtained for attendance. On Friday of last week Miss Yule, Tarradale House, Muir of Ord, called on Mr D. Macleod, secretary, and congratulated the class on their grand Highland spirit manifesting the old language. She further offered a grant of 12s for three years for prizes. This gift the class gratefully accepted, and in recognition of such spontaneous kindness, unanimously resolved to record a most hearty vote of thanks to Miss Yule for this lady is, we understand, to give one or two Gaelic books of special value to the Tain Library, so that those who wish to perfect their knowledge of Gaelic will have every opportunity of doing so.

FREE CHURCH ACCOUNTS.—The financial statement of Tain Free Church for year ending April were submitted to the congregation on Tuesday evening, and unanimously approved. The amount collected for the Sustentation Fund was the record sum of £259 19s 10d, which is almost £10 more than last year. The foreign missions collection amounted to £17 14s 3d, and the Sabbath School collection to £10 19s 3d. For schemes of the church £31 12s 11d were collected. Ordinary church-door collections amounted to £193 5s 7d, seat rents to £129 4s, grant for assistant £40, received for services of assistant £23 3s, and for other rents £9 10s. A donation of £5 was received for the Sabbath School. For extraordinary collections £56 1s 8d was received. The amount of the annual collection for the building fund in 1897 was £53 0s 6d; donations to this fund amounted to £13 10s, and £3 were carried forward from last year, and £3 0s 9d were taken from the congregational account to reduce the debt on the fund from £700 to £600. At the close of the year there was, however, a debit balance on current general account of £37 19s 3d while £5 16s 6d were due to the treasurer. The interest on loans (of £600) is only 2½ per cent. In addition to the various collections remitted a number of items were paid. In submitting the accounts Mr John Mackenzie, treasurer, said that when they entered the new church the debt stood at £1700. Last year he (Mr Mackenzie) said that, without any outside aid, the debt could be wiped off in seven years. He was found fault with for being so sanguine, but he still adhered to it, with the qualification that it rather over-shot the mark—(laughter)—as the debt will probably be wiped off in less time—(applause). It was worthy of mention that during the last eight years the congregation had raised—for purposes—the large sum of £10,977. Deacon of Guild Munro, seconded by Councillor H. Cameron, moved the adoption of the statement, which was unanimously agreed to. Mr W. J. Macdonald, treasurer of the Sustentation Fund, explained that the increase was general, and spread over all the district—(applause). Mr Jas. Macleod, superintendent of the Sabbath School, gave an interesting sketch of the past year's work. The Rev. W. D. A. Mackenzie, assistant, delivered an appropriate address on church work and Christian life. The Rev. Mr Grant moved votes of thanks to the collectors, office-bearers, and other workers of the church. Mr Baillie Watson moved a vote of thanks to the choir, and Mr John Mackenzie a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr Grant for presiding. Hymns were sung by the choir during intervals, and all through the meeting proved a very agreeable one. After all was over the benediction was pronounced, and the meeting broke up.

THE SERVICES IN THE FREE CHURCH TO-MORROW (Sunday) are to be conducted by the Rev. Mr Grant, Nigg.

SHOOTING.—Shooting with the new Lee-Metford rifle commenced, under the auspices of the St Duthus Rifle Club, on the Mhorich Moore range on Saturday, when the wind was steady and the day fine. The ranges were 200, 500, and 600 yards. The following are the scores:—Corporal A. Douglas, 29, 33, 34—96; Sergeant Shivas, 30, 30, 33, 33—126; Sergeant Mackay, 31, 29, 33—93; Colonel Sergeant R. Mackay, 31, 21, 28—80; Sergeant-Instructor Arthur, 23, 33, 32—89; Private J. Nicol, 31, 24, 28—81; Lance-Sergeant J. Macrae, 27, 27, 27—81. The scores, as will be observed, are all high, and this is to be attributed both to the effectiveness of the new rifle and the good day. Higher averages are, however, expected all over the year owing to the greater precision of the Lee-Metford.

BLACK ISLE NEWS.

The Mackenzie Institute, Avoch, is presently closed for a short Easter vacation.

AVOCH—WELFARE OF YOUTH SCHEME.—Among seven competitors from the Congregational Church Bible Class, who passed in the Welfare of Youth Scheme examination, held lately, two (Jane Sutherland and Isa Patience, Avoch) took second-class certificates.

FORTROSE—SYND MEETING.—The Free Synod of Chanonry meets here on Tuesday, the 19th inst. The Synodical sermon will be preached by the Rev. J. Johnstone, Strathpeffer.

FORTROSE—ECCLIASTICAL.—The Rev. J. E. Houston, B.D., of Cambuslang, missionary of the Church of Scotland, officiated in the Parish Church on Sunday night. The church was crowded with an attentive and appreciative audience.

AVOCH—YOUNG MEN'S GUILD.—Having received an appointment in the South of England, Mr J. Braid, Rosehaugh, has resigned the secretaryship of the Young Men's Guild, and is succeeded by Mr Henry Gordon.

AVOCH—ECCLIASTICAL.—On Sunday afternoon, at the Fellowship Meeting of the Young Men's Guild in the Parish Church Hall, the Rev. A. M. Philip, B.D., gave an interesting and instructive lecture, entitled "St Paul and Athens." Mr J. Henderson, Limekilns, presided.

FORTROSE—SUCCESSFUL STUDENT.—We are pleased to observe that Mr A. R. Junor, a native of Fortrose, son of the late Mr D. Junor, farmer, has passed the qualifying examination for chemist and druggist of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Mr Junor was very pretty. The Rev. J. E. Houston, B.D., of Cambuslang, has a singularly young style, and made himself immensely popular with his juvenile audience. The services occurred most appropriately during the Easter vacation.

FORTROSE—CHILDREN'S SERVICES.—A series of unusually attractive children's services have just come to a close in the Parish Church. The preacher, Rev. J. E. Houston, B.D., of Cambuslang, has a singularly young style, and made himself immensely popular with his juvenile audience. The services occurred most appropriately during the Easter vacation.

FORTROSE—EASTER SERVICES.—The observance of the Easter Festival was inaugurated in St Andrew's Church by late service on Saturday (Easter Eve). On Sunday the services were choral, and there were large congregations. The floral decorations were very pretty. The Rev. J. E. Houston, B.D., officiated, and Mrs Spence Ross presided at the organ. The offertories were devoted to the "Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund." On Monday and Tuesday of Easter week early celebrations were held in St Andrew's Church. Rev. Spence Ross was celebrated. On Wednesday Rev. Spence Ross travelled to Nigg and took service there.

DINGWALL NEWS.

Mr and Mrs Brook and party passed through Dingwall on Tuesday en route for Fearn Lodge.

To-day (Saturday) the Victoria United Football Club journey to Tain to play the St Duthus of that town in the replayed tie for the Pattison Elder Cup.

On Monday the Rev. Mr Wilson, St James' Church, left for a holiday in Italy. During his absence Rev. Mr Royle, Rector of Burford, Huntingdonshire, will officiate in his absence.

THE REPRESENTATIVE ELDER.—Mr Wm. Paterson, Gowanfield, has been elected to the Dingwall Town Council as burgh representative elder to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

A LABOUR DISPUTE.—An action was recently raised in the Din-wal Sheriff Court by Mr John Munro, baker, against John Asher, baker, Strathpeffer, for damages for alleged wrongful dismissal. Sheriff Hill found in favour of the pursuer on the point of engagement, but dismissed the action on the ground that the pursuer's conduct was such that the defender was justified in dismissing him. An appeal was made by pursuer's agent, and Sheriff Johnston now adheres to Sheriff Hill's decision.

TOWN COUNCIL.—The monthly meeting of this body was held on Monday—Baillie Macrae, in the absence of Provost Stewart, presiding. Baillie Macrae drew attention to the report of the Parks and Roads Committee on the question of the alleged encroachments at Greenhill and Station Road. Baillie Robertson, as Convener, stated that Mr Mackintosh, salesman, was instructed to put the fence on the old line. Instead of altering it as desired, he had put up a barbed wire, and left it where it was. After discussion, it was agreed on the motion of Mr Frew, to insist on the fence being removed to its original site. A communication was read from Mr Mackintosh, salesman, in regard to the water assessments on the Guie lands, stating that he was charged a special water-rate for these lands, which was contrary to the Police Act of 1892, and he desired repayment for the years 1897-98, and to see the charge discontinued for the future. After discussion, the matter was committed to the Finance and Water Committees for consideration and report. A letter was read from a Knockfarrel resident explaining that he and his brother came to Dingwall with a horse and cart along the Knockfarrel Road. Mr Mackenzie, tenant of Knockfarrel, told them that they were not to take that road going back, but offered no objection to their going to Dingwall by that way. On their way back the gate was locked and other obstacles were placed in their way. Mr Grigor stated that Mr Innes, Inverness, had given instructions to Mr Mackenzie not to hinder passengers on that road. It was agreed to send the letter to Mr Innes. A letter was read from the Harbourmaster drawing attention to the fact that an obstruction of boulders of a very formidable character was being erected in the entrance to the harbour by the tenants of the Conon salting fisheries. The matter was committed to the Harbour Committee. Baillie Macrae next drew attention to the Shambles finances for the year. He stated that the gross receipts for last year, 1896-97, were £75 12s 2d, while the total expenditure, including the instalments for the cost of £37 2s 6d, amounted to £76 16s 11d. The receipts for the current year from Whit-sunday last to date were £101 19s, and the expenditure down to 15th March last, inclusive of £32 8s, being the principal capital expenditure, amounted to £104 18s 3d. The keeper of the subjects recorded the probable income for the remainder of the year at £20. The total income was, accordingly, £121, and the total expenditure £105 10s, thus leaving a substantial balance to credit. It was moved and seconded that the Council continue to retain the dues in their own hands. This the meeting agreed to do. Several minor matters were also disposed of.

HOLIDAY FOOTBALL.—Two junior football matches took place on the Jubilee Park on Wednesday between the Dingwall Academy and Merkinch School, and the 2nd Victoria and Napoleon Schools. In both matches the Dingwall teams were victorious, the former by 6 goals to 2 and the latter by 8 to 3.

PRESENTATION.—On the evening of Saturday Mr T. C. Hockley, late supervisor of the Inland Revenue, was met by the officers of the Dingwall district at the Inland Revenue Offices and presented with a handsome marble timepiece as a token of esteem on the occasion of his removal to Dorchester. Mr Fullerton, successor to Mr Hockley, presided, and Mr Mackintosh, Ord Distillery, made the presentation. Mr Davis, Dalmore, and Mr Aston, Dingwall, briefly spoke.

BURGH LICENSING COURT.—Provost Bench on Monday at the Burgh Licensing Bench on Monday at the Burgh Licensing Bench. Thirteen applications were submitted for renewal of certificates, and these were unanimously granted. An application by Mr William Macmillan, Wishaw, for a transfer of the license held by Mr Jack Grocer, who is retiring from business, was submitted. Mr Gunn, solicitor, made a statement on Mr Macmillan's behalf. Several certificates were also read from several leading gentlemen in Wishaw in favour of the applicant. The application was granted. The Bench then turned to the license-holders, and hoped that they would strictly adhere to the terms of their licenses in conducting their business.

NAIN NEWS.—The Nairn Glee Choir will give a concert in the Public Hall on Monday, 25th April, on behalf of the Nairn and County Hospital.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS.—The ordination of six elders and eight deacons took place in the Free Church last Sunday. Rev. Mr Martin officiating.

U.P. CHURCH.—The following gentlemen have accepted office in the Session of the U.P. Church.—Alex. Ralph, fisherman; Alex. Main ("Duggie"), do.; and John Main, do. Rev. Mr Kerr, Moyness, occupied the pulpit in the forenoon last Sunday, and Mr Miller, missionary, officiated in the evening.

GOLF—PULLAR MEDAL.—On Saturday last the monthly competition for the Pullar Medal took place. The weather being fine, there was a good turnout of golfers. The successful winner was Hamish Cruickshank, with a score of 96, 18-78; 2 G. S. Clarke, 100, 18-82; 3 Ian Macgregor, 85-83; 4 James Mill, 92-83; 5 K. K. Clarke, 104, 18-86; 7 W. J. Browne, 99, 10-89; 8 D. Cruickshank, 101, 12-89; 9 H. T. Donaldson, 101, 12-89.

ACETYLENE GAS FOR ALDUBARN.—At a meeting of the Street Lighting Committee, which was held on Monday last, a remit from last meeting as to the introduction of acetylene gas was considered. Two schemes were before the Committee:—(1st) To light the streets alone; (2nd) to provide for the lighting of the streets and houses. After discussion it was agreed to adopt the latter, if necessary funds could be raised. On the motion of Sir Alex. Dunbar, it was agreed to hold a concert on behalf of the scheme.

NAIN ACADEMY.—The quarterly meeting of the Academy Governors was held on Monday, when the secretary submitted his quarterly report. It showed an attendance of 270, and a collection of £43 10s. The junior, making a total of 111. It was intimated that Professor Storm had been appointed to conduct the examination of the school. Three applications were received for the Grigor Bursary. Two were granted, namely, William Main, Belivat, and Alex. Mackintosh, Achnacloch. The subject of physical drill was submitted to a small committee to see what could be done in regard to it. The other business was unimportant.

THE HARBOUR WORKS.—Dr Duguid, Buckie, and Mr Milroy ex-Provost of Rothesay, representing the Scottish Fishery Board, visited Nairn on Wednesday for the purpose of inspecting the harbour. The visit was the outcome of repeated applications by the Town Council for a grant from the Board in aid of the harbour. The representatives of the Board were met by Sir Robert Finlay, M.P., and the members of the Pier Committee. A preliminary conference took place in the evening. A visit to the harbour was afterwards made, and the party having returned to the Court-House, it was intimated by the Board's representatives that a report on the subject would be remitted to the Fishery Board.

THE LICENSING COURT.—A meeting was held in the Waverley Hotel on Monday evening for the purpose of bringing before the Licensing Bench the necessity of reducing, if possible, the number of licensed houses in the burgh. There was a fair attendance. Mr Alex. Macpherson, 1 Portland Terrace, was called on to preside. The meeting agreed to draw up a petition, in which attention was drawn to the evils which strong drink was working in the community, as the Magistrates, in their official capacity, well knew. The hope was expressed in the petition that the Court might see its way to reduce the number of licenses, or, at any rate, that these should not be increased. The petition was afterwards signed by several ratepayers, and forwarded to Mr Laing, Clerk to the Licensing Court.

U.P. CHURCH MISSION.—Mr Miller, missionary, who has had charge of the U.P. Church Mission in the Fishertown for the past six months, delivered his farewell address before a large audience on Sunday last in the Seaman's Hall. He made touching reference to his work, and in doing so thanked the people for the frankness and heartiness they had shown him during his visitation. He afterwards gave an impressive discourse from Hebrews. A deputation waited on him last Saturday evening, and presented him with a beautiful gold Albert. The presentation was subscribed to by friends throughout the town. Mr Miller left on Monday for his new sphere of labour in Wick. He takes up similar duties there as to those he had to perform while in Nairn.

FREE CHURCH FINANCES.—The annual congregational meeting of the Nairn Free Church took place in the Church Hall on Wednesday evening to consider the financial statement of the congregation. Rev. Mr Martin presided, and there was a good attendance. The Treasurer, Mr Rose, submitted the financial statement of accounts for the year, which showed the total amount of receipts for the year to amount to £1074, as against £1120 last year, which is a decrease of about £46. The amount collected for the Sustentation Fund was £290, as against £295 for the previous year. The general funds of the church amount to £64, while the previous year they were £99, but as two additional special collections were taken, at which about £40 was collected, the amounts for the two years are about the same. The congregational funds of the church also show a slight decrease, owing partly to arrears in the seat rents. Mr Riach proposed the adoption of the report, and congratulated the congregation on the splendid state of the funds. Mr Asher seconded. Mr Riach proposed the following motion with regard to the introduction of hymns into the church:—"That this meeting of the Free Church congregation respectfully recommend to the Kirk Session that steps be taken to ascertain the minds of the congregation with respect to the introduction of hymns into the church." Mr Macleannan seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. Mr Macleannan moved the following motion:—"That this meeting of the congregation is anxious that instrumental music be introduced, and urges upon the Kirk Session the necessity of at once ascertaining by vote the mind of the congregation in regard to this matter." The motion was not seconded. This being all the business, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Treasurer.

LINSEED COMPOUND (Trade Mark) for Coughs and Colds, 9d, 194d. Sold by Chemists only.

POLICE COURT.—At the Burgh Police Court on Monday, before Baillie Dallas, George Alexander Balph, fisherman, pleaded guilty to assaulting Alex. Mackintosh, seaman. He was fined 5s, with the option of five days in prison. A lad named Macchellan was brought up at the same Court, and fined 2s 6d for riding a bicycle after sunset without a light.

PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday ex-Constable John Main, of the Nairnshire Police, who has just retired on pension, was presented by his brother officers with a handsome easy chair. Mr Stirling, Chief-Constable, Nairn, made the presentation, and referred in complimentary terms to ex-Constable Main as one of the most capable, efficient, and energetic officers who ever joined a police force, and assured him that though all greatly regretted his departure from the force, he was leaving with the best wishes of everyone connected with it, and of the general community. He expressed the hope that he would be long spared to use the chair with which he had just been presented and enjoy the pension he had so richly earned. Mr Main suitably replied. He had completed over thirty-six years in the police, three in the Glasgow Police and thirty-three in the Nairn Police.

BEAULY NEWS.

FISHING.—The river is now in excellent condition for angling, and fish are now more plentiful. Mr J. May Somerville of Bids-ton Hall, Oxtou, Cheshire, along with Dr Stevenson, who are both residing in the Lovat Arms Hotel, had good sport this week.

ONWARD AND UPWARD ASSOCIATION.—This Association finished the winter session with a highly successful social meeting in the Public School. The Rev. J. R. Macrae occupied the chair. Addresses were given by Rev. Messrs Beaton, Urray; Wilson, Beaully; and Mr Pollock, schoolmaster. There was a large attendance. Mrs Mackenzie, Glen-torran, President of the Society, is to be congratulated on the success of her able management.

PRESENTATION.—On the evening of Thursday a large gathering of the friends of Mr George Gordon, who has been chemist in the establishment of Mr W. J. Hepburn, Beaully, for the last few years, met in the Lovat Arms Hotel, Beaully, to present him with a token of their esteem before taking his departure for the South. Mr Simon Macdonald, banker, on being called to the chair, stated that they were met for the purpose of doing honour to Mr Gordon, who was leaving Beaully. He said his departure was very much deplored and extremely regretted by the people of Beaully and district. Mr Gordon was courteous, civil, and genial to everybody, and was a universal favourite. In the absence of Dr Macdonald—who was called away on the evening, but who attended later on the presentation was made by Mr Birnie, farmer, Wellhouse, who handed to Mr Gordon a gold English lever watch, which bears the following inscription:—"Presented to George Gordon by friends in Beaully and district as a token of esteem on leaving Beaully. April, 1898." Mr Gordon, in modestly replying, was deeply moved, and expressed his regret in leaving Beaully, where he found everyone so kind to him. He sincerely thanked the friends for their beautiful and handsome present. Dr Macdonald, Mr John Paterson, ironmonger, Mr Chalmers, and Mr Mitchell spoke in complimentary terms of Mr Gordon, who took a great interest in the Choral Union during the winter, and for which he acted with much appreciation as secretary and treasurer. Mr Donald Macleannan proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Committee, who carried out so satisfactorily the arrangements for the evening. Mr Mitchell, Beaully, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr James Campbell, who was the moving spirit in the matter, and to whom much praise was due for his indefatigable efforts in advancing all social matters. A pleasant evening was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DISTRICT NEWS.

GRANTOWN—THE FIRST TOWN COUNCIL.—The first election of Councillors of the recently-constituted burgh took place on Wednesday. A vigorous canvass of the electors had been carried on by the candidates for the preceding ten days, and great interest was manifested in the contest. The weather was delightful, and a large percentage of the electorate recorded their votes. Polling opened at eight o'clock, and proceeded quietly till the dinner hour, when a large number of workmen recorded their votes. At 270 out of a possible 400 had recorded their votes. The result of the polling was as follows:—Andrew Grant, 206; Dr Barclay, 191; Dr Grant, 189; George Anderson, 186; William Duncan, 173; George Harvey, 164; George Sinclair, 151; Affleck Macpherson, 143; Jas. Winchester, 142; James Grant, 142; Daniel Fraser, 103; John S. Grant, 79. The first nine are the successful candidates.

BURGHREW—ANNUAL CONCERT.—On Friday evening of last week a very successful concert was held in Kirkton School. There was a very large attendance, and Rev. Mr Bentinck was an acceptable chairman. The programme included contributions from such well-known singers as Mr R. McLeod, Inverness; Mr G. A. Cameron, Central School, do.; Miss Macrae, Bogry, do. The first item was a selection of Highland music on piano and violin by Miss K. Macglashan and Mr J. Fraser, Blackpark, and the lively dance music was much appreciated. Mr McLeod sang "March of the Cameron Men," and "Macgregor's Gathering" in fine style, and, being loudly enoored on each appearance, gave two delightful Gaelic songs. Later on Mr McLeod gave a humorous rendering of "Hame cam' our Guidman," and was again enoored. Mr Glasgow, Knockbain, gave an account of himself in "The Shipper," and was loudly applauded for a splendid rendering of "Anchored." As an encore Mr Glasgow sang "The Banks of Allan Water" very tastefully. Miss Macrae contributed "Cam' ye by Athole?" and in response to a hearty cheer further delighted everybody with her charming singing of "The Bonnie Briar Bush." "When the Lights are low" was very sweetly sung by the same young lady later in the evening. Miss E. Mackenzie played a pianoforte solo with much success, and Mr Miller, Inverness, contributed a Scotch fantasia, which was much admired. "The Smuggler" was rendered in capital voice by Mr Cameron, who also gave "Martin-ma-farms," and as an encore "The Auld Quarry Knowe." Mr Lindsay, Inverness, sang "Sound the Bibroch," and made a good impression with "Let me like a Soldier fall" and was loudly applauded for a splendid rendering of "Anchored." As an encore Mr Glasgow sang "The Banks of Allan Water" very tastefully. Miss Macrae contributed "Cam' ye by Athole?" and in response to a hearty cheer further delighted everybody with her charming singing of "The Bonnie Briar Bush." 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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: Date of Month, Morning, Evening, H.M., P.M. Rows for April 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

STORNOWAY.

On page 3 will be found articles dealing with Stornoway Burgh Commission and Shawbush Evening School.

SCHOOL BOARD.—There was no business of importance before the Stornoway School Board at its monthly meeting on Monday.

LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF EGGS, &c.—Some idea of the business done in the exportation of eggs from Stornoway may be gathered from the fact that the firm of Kenneth Macdonald & Co., North Beach, shipped in one consignment 41 cases. This enormous shipment—representing a total of 69,000 eggs—beats all previous records by a long way.

TONG DISASTER.—SUBSCRIPTION FROM THE S.M.S.—The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, through their hon. agent, Mr. J. B. Ingram, have sent £12 to be distributed among the widows, orphans, and dependants of the fishermen lost from the boat "Boys Delight" of Tong. None of the crew were members of the Society.

THE POST OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS.—"Messenger" writes:—"The public of Stornoway are put to occasional inconvenience by the uncertainty of the delivery of the mail to callers at the Post-Office in the evening. If a fixed time were named before which the doors would not be closed it would remove any cause of complaint. Frequent delivery is given up at 10.20 p.m., while perhaps the next evening the door is shut at 9.55, and callers expecting to get their letters are disappointed if after that hour, true, an almost illegible notice is affixed to the window a short time before the delivery, but this necessitates a double visit to the office.

LITERARY SUCCESS.—Messrs Levor Brothers, of Sunlight Soap fame, offered in their 1898 year book substantial money prizes for essays, stories, &c. As the year book was gratuitously scattered broadcast over the world thousands entered for the various competitions, but very few prizes seem to have come to Scotland. Among the most successful are Mr. A. Polson, Cromore, Stornoway, who gets a first prize of £10 for a short paper on "Our Homes and Surroundings of 1898 as compared with those of our ancestors in 1793," and Mr. James Gowans, North Tolsta, Stornoway, who gets a second prize of £1 for a romance introducing Sunlight Soap and entitled "A Friend in Need." In the children's competition, Master Ronald Mackinnon, Woodpark, Portree, gets a third prize of five shillings.

BALALAN—PRESENTATION.—On Monday afternoon of this week Mr MacCallum, teacher, on the occasion of his leaving Balalan to take charge of another school in the neighbourhood of Inverness, was waited upon by a few friends and made the recipient of a purse of sovereigns and a Gaelic Bible, the gifts of his well-wishers in this district. Rev. Mr Mackay, Kilmoch, in making the presentation, spoke of Mr MacCallum as a high qualities both as a Christian gentleman and as a successful teacher. In accepting the presentation, Mr MacCallum said he valued it highly, not only for its intrinsic value, but also for the fine kindly feeling it conveyed. He affectionately spoke of the happiness he enjoyed in his work among the children, whom he found exceptionally intelligent and obedient, and also of the pleasure he had through the kindness and friendship of his neighbours. Dr Macnaughton, Keose, and Mr Kenneth Mackinnon, Balalan, also spoke in high terms of Mr MacCallum and his estimable wife. Several of the children who had come to bid goodbye to their respected teacher, were visibly affected in parting. Mr MacCallum and his family carry with them the best wishes of the community.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE.—The quarterly statutory meeting of the Lewis District Committee was held at Stornoway on Wednesday. Councillor J. N. Anderson presided, and there were also present—Councillors Eneas M. Mackenzie, J. M. Morrison, Donald Mackenzie, Dr Macdonald, J. G. Macdonald, Alex. Macdonald, Roderick Martin, and the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector. The bye-law with regard to the building of crofters' houses were submitted and finally adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to the County Council for their approval. A report was submitted by the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector with regard to the wells in the Shader district of Point, recommending that one of the present wells be closed and a new one opened on a gravel pit referred to in the report. It was explained that the water of the proposed new well is of exceptionally good quality. The Sanitary Inspector was instructed to prepare a specification for the enclosing of the new well, and to have the old one closed up. The Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector were asked to visit Bayle and report on the wells in that district. Mr Robert Hunter, Bayle, was appointed to inspect the construction of the Shader Bridge, the terms of remuneration to be arranged with him by the Chairman and the Clerk. The Road Surveyor's annual report was read and considered, and a copy directed to be sent to the County Road Board. Councillor J. M. Morrison drew attention to the condition of the road in his constituency, which, he said, was unsatisfactory. Dr Macrae's annual report as Medical Officer was submitted to the meeting, and was considered very satisfactory. A letter was read from Mr A. Polson, teacher, Cromore, suggesting, on behalf of the inhabitants, that the Committee should take steps to form a formal requisition is presented. Mr Polson also sent a copy resolution with reference to the roads required in that district. The Clerk was instructed to reply that the needs of the Park district have already been laid before the Council. Districts Board. Copy resolutions passed at Gravoy, and the surrounding townships on the same subject were similarly disposed of. Mr Louis Murray, teacher, Duncaulway, wrote complaining that it is very dangerous for the school children to pass at the lower end of Loch-a-Bhaile for the want of a footpath. The Clerk was directed to reply that it was owing to the opposition of a crofter that the footpath was unable to continue the road. The point complained of, and to suggest that Mr Murray should use his influence with the crofter referred to to remove his opposition. A letter from Mr A. M. Morrison, Malbost, with regard to the gravel pit on his croft was committed to the Road Surveyor and Clerk to dispose of.

STORNOWAY TOWN HALL.

SITE GRANTED.

Provost Anderson, as Convener of the Town Hall sub-Committee of the Burgh Commission, has now received a definite reply from the Chamberlain with regard to a site. During the negotiations in connection with this matter last autumn, Mr Orrok writes, "the yard attached to Carn House was mentioned as the most desirable site. Mr Matheson, having examined the ground referred to, expressed to me his willingness to feu it to the town, and a feu-duty of £5 10s per annum has been fixed for the ground, including the buildings, which embrace the coach-house, stable, and coal store. The ground proposed to be feued does not come up quite close to the office buildings. It is understood, however, that the ground and buildings referred to are not to be handed over until such time as the town is prepared to commence to erect the proposed Town Hall. The feu-duty is made up as follows:—£1 for the ground and £4 10s representing 3 1/2 per cent on £150 for the buildings."

It is contemplated, as already stated in these columns, to build a Public Library on the same site as the Town Hall, and Mr Carnegie, of Pittsburgh, has promised to contribute £1000, to be expended in the purchase of books after the building is completed. It is intended to assess the town in the way for the proposed building, but to collect the required amount by subscription from natives and friends of Stornoway and the Lewis at home and abroad. Notwithstanding its insular disadvantages, Stornoway is aware of the times in most things, but in the case of a Town Hall we have allowed ourselves to get a little behind. Quite a number of places which, compared to Stornoway, either as to size or commercial importance, are but villages, have got their own municipal buildings, and now, with the introduction of a railway system in prospect, bestirring themselves, and meeting this want with their customary thoroughness. Here's an opportunity for some of the loyal sons of Lewis with some money to spare for a good object to display their patriotism.

STORNOWAY HARBOUR RATEPAYERS.

LIVELY PROCEEDINGS.

The annual meeting of the Harbour ratepayers of Stornoway to elect three Commissioners was held within the Fish Market on Thursday night of last week. There was a fair attendance, including a number of East Coast curers who had been present at the bailie of curing stations earlier in the day. Bailie J. M. Morrison was moved to the chair. The Chairman thought it was patent to them all that the town had passed through a year of more or less misfortune in connection with the fishing, and they had reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that the fishing had improved so much as not only to increase the general welfare of the town, but of the harbour as well—(applause). As a Harbour Trust they had been doing their best to reduce the amount of their borrowings, which was a pretty large sum. In this way they had paid during the past year to the Public Works Loan Commissioners £295, and to the Life Association of Scotland £750, or over £1700—(applause). He explained that at the election last year they failed to find a third candidate, so that only two Commissioners were elected instead of three. These two—ex-Provost Smith and Mr Peter Macleod—who now retired, were both eligible for re-election.

The following gentlemen were nominated as candidates, viz.—Ex-Provost Smith, Mr Peter Macleod, baker; Mr Kenneth Macleod, merchant, North Beach; and Mr Angus Bain, fish-seller. Mr Macleod, however, withdrew in favour of Mr Bain, and the other three were accordingly elected without a contest. Mr Provost Smith, in returning thanks, would simply endorse what the Chairman had said with regard to the prosperity of the harbour. They were threatened a few years ago with something very different from what they experienced last season, and he thought the appearance of herrings on the coast this spring for the success of the fishing during the coming summer—(applause). As a Commission they had, he said, been able year by year to pay the working expenses of the harbour and also to meet the repayment of their loans both principal and interest—(applause). He quite agreed that the facilities for landing and shipping herrings admitted of improvement. Some days last season there was a block, especially on Saturdays. It was a very difficult thing to overcome this, but with a little engineering and a few more men it was possible to effect an improvement—(applause). It was, however, impossible for the Harbourmaster to do this unless the Commissioners supported him and supplied him with men. After the speaker had explained what better arrangements could be made, questions were invited. In answer to Mr Eneas M. Mackenzie, he said he was aware that the harbour of Stornoway was not a Provisional Order, and that this order did not cover the town of the Harbour Commission to show partiality to one trader over another.

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STORNOWAY HARBOUR RATEPAYERS.

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NOTICE.—The LEWIS DISTRICT COMMITTEE hereby give Notice that, in consequence of the Shader Bridge having to undergo repairs, the Public Road leading to the Ferry in the Parish of Barvas will be CLOSED to Vehicular Traffic from 25th April, until further notice. By Order. C. G. MACKENZIE, District Clerk. Stornoway, 7th April 1898.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ROSS AND CROMARTY. LEWIS DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The Lewis District Committee are prepared to receive TENDERS for the Repair and Maintenance, for Two Years from Whitsunday first, of certain Branch Roads in the Parishes of Stornoway, Barvas, Uig, and Loch. The specification of the Works can be seen in the hands of the Undersecretary, and each Offer must subscribe the Form of Offer attached to the Specification. Printed Specifications, with relative Form of Offer, will be supplied by the Subscriber to Intending Offers, and no Offer will be entertained unless on the Printed Form. Offers to be lodged with the Subscriber not later than 6 p.m. on Monday, 9th May next. The lowest, or any Offer, need not necessarily be accepted. By Order. C. G. MACKENZIE, District Clerk. District Committee's Chambers, Stornoway, 14th April, 1898.

FOUND in Town a SUM of MONEY, POCKET BOOK, SCARF PIN, FUR, &c. Apply SUPERINTENDENT of POLICE, Stornoway.

WANTED, a CROFT, near Stornoway, with entry at Whitsunday or Earlier. Apply "Crot," Highland News, Stornoway.

TO LET, SHOP, 6 Bayhead; also YARD and SHED at Back. Apply, MACKENZIE & BAYHEAD, Stornoway.

TO LET, Commodious HOUSES in Plantation Road, containing Three and Two Rooms respectively, with Bathroom. Apply, ALEX. MORRISON, 9 Plantation Road, Stornoway.

TO LET, Desirable SHOP in Messrs Russell's Property, South Beach Street. Suitable for Draper or Milliner. The Shop is in good condition and in splendid locality. Rent moderate. For further particulars, apply to Messrs MATTHEW RUSSELL & SONS, Francis Street, or to Wm. G. ROSSIE, South Beach Street.

GLEBE TO LET. GLEBE of Uig, Lewis, consisting of good arable and pasture ground, to Let for such period as may be agreed. Apply, Rev. JOHN MACPHEAL, the Manse, Uig, Lewis.

VALUABLE PROPERTY IN STORNOWAY FOR SALE. There will be exposed to Public Roup and Sale, within the SALEROOM of Bain & Morrison, auctioneers, Stornoway, on Friday, 25th April, at noon, that valuable BLOCK of BUILDINGS, extending from the corner of North Beach Street along Castle Street and Point Street, presently occupied as Dwelling-Houses, Shops and Offices. Further particulars can be had on application to C. G. MACKENZIE, solicitor, Stornoway. Stornoway, 7th April, 1898.

FOR SALE, Large, black COLLIE; one year. Trained to work sheep. Apply "Collie," Highland News, Stornoway.

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 view.

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A Modern Story of the West Highlands, by HANNAH B. MACKENZIE (Mrs. Webb), author of "After Touch of Wedded Violets," "Crowned Victor," &c., &c. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co. Edinburgh: John Menzies & Co. Inverness: The Highland News Publishing Company.

SOME TRADITIONS AND PLACE-NAMES OF EIGG.

[By DARGO DUNGANSON.] PART III.

In the larger Ordnance Survey map of Eigg there are about 125 names of places, of which about one-fifth are of Norse origin. Four of the latter contain the Norse word dala, a dale, viz., Cleadale, Glen Charadale, Galmisdale, and Cnoc Smeordail. Cleadale, written Clatland in 1498, has been explained above. Cleadale means Cope-dale, from Norse kjarr, copewood or brushwood. Galmisdale, written Galmast in 1498, suggests the Norse galm or galmr, found only in local names, e.g., Galmar-strönd, probably so called from the roaring of the surf; a comparison with the Anglo-Saxon gælm, din, has been suggested. Smeordail, which means "Butter-dale," from smjör, butter, must have got its name because good pasture was found there. The name of another dale which does not appear on the maps is retained in Clach Hósdáid, the name of a large stone in Grulin. Hósdáid probably means Cairndale, from haugr, a burial mound or cairn, of Icelandic Haugnes. The name hóc, which is found several times in Skye, has been derived from haugr, and there is a haugr, or cairn, in the neighbourhood of Clach Hósdáid. Nearly all the names of townships are Norse. The first part of Sandavore is the Norse sandr, sand. There used to be two Sandas, Big Sanda and Little Sanda, or Sanda-mhor and Sanda-lheag. A document written in 1498 mentions the five pennylands of Sandamore and the four pennylands of Sandabeg. The latter appears in the larger Survey map in the name "Sandavegur burn," situated to the north of Sandavore. Laig, pronounced Láig, probably means Surf-bay (Norse lág-vík), notwithstanding that it was written Dargy in 1498. It is a peculiarity of the bay that waves break on the beach both with and without every wind except a breeze of not less than two days duration from the north-east. The word vík occurs also in the names Sgaathaig and Sgathaig, in the maps Sgeithaig and Gama Sgeithaig. The former, like Smeor, is a low bay, or notch, or bay, or cove. There is also an Eilean Sgeithaig off Muck. Sgeithaig appears in Skye in the name Bornaiktaig, and is explained as Disision-bay, from skipti, division. Hólin, also called Tólin, may be compared with the Shetland name Hólin, which means at or under the hill, Norse hól, a hill, a knoll, or a big stone, from Houland (1498) suggests rather hól-land, meaning hill-land. Tóalinn, in Muck, is probably the same. Talm, with Eilean Thulm and Bealach Thulm, is the Norse hólm, a holm, a small island, which appears also in Duntulm, in Skye. Halasgar or Halasgar, or Halasgar, is also Norse, and is to be explained by háltr, a big stone, a boulder, and skar, a rift in a rock or precipice; Gaelic sgar, English scar. The place is a very chaos of fallen rocks. The Norse sker, a skerry, an isolated rock in the sea, appears in the form Speir, in which it has been borrowed into Gaelic in several names which, apart from the name Speir, are such as Sgeir Mhor, Dubh Speir, Garbh Speir, Flod Speir, however, is wholly Norse, probably Raft-skerry, from floit, a float, raft, rather than Flat-skerry, from flat, flat.

There are two instances of the Norse ness, a ness, a point. Eskernish is referred to askr, an ash (tree), a spear, a small ship, but askr, meaning, hollowing, is a possible derivation. There are Speir Mackernish and Mac Eskernish, maol meaning the brow of a hill or rock. Breac-naish, with Bogha na Breac-naish, in maps Sgeir Breacinnis, is from brekka, a slope, cogn. English brink. Brekka seems to form the latter part of Seabhrich, which is not found in the maps. The first part may be seif, a sedge or yellow water-lily. The Norse gard, an enclosure, yard, &c., cogn. English yard, garden, garth, forms the last part of Slocalligearaidh, as the ravine is called through which Abhainn a Cham Lóin tumbles down towards Laig fields. The first part of the name is, of course, the Gaelic sloe, a ravine or chasm; the second part, all, is for form a hill or a hill, or being named, and may be referred to Slocalligearaidh, an hanging mountain, a beetling crag. The only feasible explanation of the name Thangaraidh makes the latter part of it also the Norse gard, and the former part Norse thang, kelt, Scotch tang, English tang. There are Leac Thangaraidh, the flat, tide-washed rock here, a flat stone, Thangaraidh, as Bogha Thangaraidh, the bow-shaped rock or skerry of Thangaraidh. Between Struith and Kildonan there are two small lochs, one of which is called Lochan a' Ghriuth, pronounced Griuth (Dhrí 'ri). There is a Norse word griuth, a domicile, home, but whatever it means, the presence of the Gaelic (a) goes to show that Griuth is a Gaelic word, perhaps from ghruth, the root of grioth, a pebble, and of ghruthach, gravel. Not far off is "Bealach Sgriuthu," pass or opening of the landscape; Norse sgrida, a laudslip. Another name evidently from the Norse is Grulin, pronounced Grulainn, in 1629 Gröwlin, of which there are two, viz., Thangaraidh, as Bogha Grulin, in 1498 Grulding-etnach, and Grulin Uachdrach of Upper Grulin, probably the Gruldingneydalene of 1498; perhaps Stoneyard, from grot, stones. Near the foot of Sgor an Fháraidh, on the Survey maps, are the names Laegronn, and further north Guala Aoinne, which may be Norse, but are at present unexplained.

Most of the remaining names are plain and easy Gaelic, but those that are more obscure may be mentioned. Rudh 'an Aiseidh of the maps is pronounced Rudh 'an (Phyasaidh). Macleod and Dewar give obsolete aeadh, anchoring, resting, settling, which comes from fose, the old form of fós, rest. Not far off is Poll Duachail, written in maps Poll Duca and Poll a' Dubhachais. Ducaill seems to be for Dubh-ochail, Black-wood. Near Laig is Bealach Airdh Léir. There is an old word leach, which means sea, but possibly the word is the old léir, conspicuous. Cnocan Druisich, in Cleadale, is explained as Cnocan Druisich, Thorny hillock. Struith, pronounced Strothu, Bealach, Asa, Fóirnagran, Cnoc, Ghroeamain. Ceann Duilinn, An Tuil-eid, (iu nasal) have still to be explained.

[THE END.]

The Rural World might very well be a very household. It contains thoroughly practical and up-to-date information on every conceivable subject connected with the occupying or the owning of land, and is priced at a penny weekly. It is fully illustrated, and it has, moreover, a capital scheme for offering its readers. Numerous prizes are, we see, also given, and, what is more, the manager, 110 Strand, London, offers to send a specimen copy free. We believe that a good thing cannot be too well known.

THE GESTO COLLECTION.

We are glad to learn that Dr Keith N. Macdonald has issued a new edition of this collection of Highland Music with an interesting appendix. The first edition contained some 265 pieces, while the appendix now added consists of some 78 airs, making in all a collection of 343 Highland melodies. In many instances the Gaelic words are printed along with the music. Where this is done it is of considerable importance that the tunes should be written in a key that would bring the melody within the range of ordinary voices. We notice that in many cases the compiler has not done so, but makes it necessary for the singer to skip up to A, and even B in some cases. We can account for this by the fact that Dr Macdonald is a noted violinist, and of course the upper reaches of the fiddle are the best, but he should not have overlooked the fact that when the words are given the melody should be adapted to ordinary vocal capabilities. We did not expect to find that in all cases the versions of the melodies would be those with which we have been familiar, for each district has its own particular way of rendering these airs, but we had certainly thought that such songs as "Mo rinn geal dileas" and "Bha mi dé in Deim-Dorain" were fixed in Highland ears and rendered very much the same in every district. In this collection, however, we find settings of these melodies that sound quite foreign to us, and not at all so pleasing as those to which our western ear has been long accustomed. We only call attention to these matters because the excellencies of the work are such that a further edition may be called for, and the compiler may be able in some cases to remedy the defects we have indicated. In addition to the vocal airs we have quite a number of pipe tunes arranged for piano and violin, as well as many favourite reels and strathspeys similarly treated. The Celtic public are under deep obligation to Dr Macdonald for collecting and preserving many airs that were supposed to have been lost beyond recall, and his "Gesto Collection" is, without doubt, the largest and most interesting miscellany of Gaelic melodies which we possess.

*The Gesto Collection of Highland Music, compiled and arranged by Keith Norman Macdonald.

SUTHERLAND: ITS EARLY HISTORY AND NAMES.

[By ALEXANDER MACBAIN, M.A.]

THE MACKAYS.

The clans outside Sutherland proper—those of Strathnaver, Durness, Eddrachillis, and Assynt—did not in olden times comprise any great variety of names. This region is the cradle of one great clan, the Mackays of Strathnaver and Reay. The Mackenzies, with their dependents the McIvers, and the Macleods, with the Morrisons and other Lewis sept, are outsiders, comparatively speaking. Like all the other northern clans—the Macleods, Mackenzies, Mackintoshes, Camerons, &c.—the Mackay clan begins its history really at the end of the 14th century—at 1400. True, historians do tell us that Alexander Mackay, hailing from Galloway, the seat of the similarly named sept of Mackie and McGhie, or from Aberdeenshire and the lands of the Forbeses there, settled in Strathnaver in 1196, he having, of course, helped King William to expel the Norsemen. Of course his son (or himself) married the Bishop of Cathness's daughter (as did the ancestor of the Morrisons of Durness, &c.), and got from him Church lands in Strathnaver. Equally of course, Magnus, the 4th from Alexander, fought for Bruce at Bannockburn, as did 18 other Highland chiefs included in the Macphersons. The first Mackay chief is Angus Dubh Mackay, who in 1411 barred Donald of Harlaw's path at Dingwall, and got well "thrashed" for the same. From him the descent can be followed easily to the present Lord Reay. The Mackay chiefs got their first charters only in 1490.

Sir Robert Gordon calls them Clan Woragan, that is, Clan of Morgau; and, though this title has been refused by the clan historians, it is interesting to note that the invention of the enemy, it is the usual Gaelic name in literature for the Mackays of Sutherland, distinguishing them from the Mackays of Kintyre and "Mac Aoidh na Ramna" inIslay. In the famous "arming" piece in the Red Book of Clanranald they are called Clanna meramomnacha, masgalacha, mor-tionach Morguinn agus Catuigh—"The heavy-hearted, courteous, great-bestowing Mackays, the Clans of Morgau and Catuigh," written before Sir Robert's time, as we may infer from Niall McVurich says that Donald Duval Mackay O'Manus was "Morbhair Megrtha na cheann a Mhorgannaibh"—The Mormaor of Moy-va (Lord Reay) was the chief of the Morgans.

The name Morgan has puzzled and annoyed the historians; it is Welsh, they thought. Now, the name is a good Pictish one, common in Aberdeenshire now, and especially in olden times, appearing in the roll of Earls of Mar and other dignities. It is also in the Book of Deer (circ. 1100). It is the old Celtic name Moricantus, "Sea-bright." Its preservation in Aberdeenshire and Strathnaver is interesting, and the fact shows that there is more in the Forbes myth, as common wise historians think. The name Mackay is Gaelic; MacAoidh, son of Aoidh, and this in old Gaelic was Aed, the Celtic Aoidh, which was the word, declension and all, for "fire." That it was once a longer name—such as Aed-gal, Aed-gin, Aedh, &c.—is possible; but in historic times it has been Aed, and means "fire," neither more nor less. Cesar's Aedui, whose name is directly from Celtic aedus or aoidus, were the first Mackays!

ANTIQUITIES.

I have no intention in dealing with the purely physical antiquities of Sutherland, such as the cairns and stone circles of the Stone Age or the brochs (of which there are 60) and earth-houses of the Bronze and Iron Ages. I will deal only with the literary monument left by early Christianity, the Gospels in the shape of an Ogam-inscribed monolith usually known as the "Golspie Stone," now in the Dunrobin museum. The inscription on this stone has received much attention in late years from Mr Nicholson, of the Bodleian Library, and from Professor Blayds. Both have written largely on the so-called "Pictish Inscriptions" in the Ogam character. The Ogam letters are a very character—a sort of proto-telegraphic system where the letters of the alphabet are denoted by so many strokes—from one to five—above, through, or under a stem line respectively. The letters are easy to inscribe, but often difficult properly to read.

Professor Rhys has spent many years deciphering these Ogam monuments, but Mr Nicholson "came, saw, and conquered" all at once. As he says himself, it was on a visit to Golspie in 1893 he came "by chance" to study the Pictish inscriptions of Scotland, and two years later he gave his "chance" to the world, as astonished, Celtic world in the pages of the "Academy." Since then he has put the articles together in book form, under the title of the "Vernacular Inscriptions of the Ancient Kingdom of Alban." Celtic scholars have not thought it worth while to confute Mr Nicholson's views; his

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There is no more delightful companion than a musical clergyman. Though they are not very numerous, they are well represented at the present day by the Rev. Mr 'Rory,' of North Skye, one of the ablest Gaelic scholars in the island, who has published the "Life of Christ in Gaelic," and has contributed numerous papers to Gaelic Societies, most of which have been published. The Rev. Mr Lamont, of South Skye, an extremely able preacher, is also an able Gaelic scholar, and author of a very fine poem on his visit to the Highlands; and the Rev. D. Maclean, of Durnish, is not only an excellent Gaelic scholar, but is in possession of the best private library of Gaelic works in Britain.

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—Gur MacRath thu a Chinnthail, Bha thu marbh le dhèanamh trèill, Sio! Mhic Coinnich, gheillidh for oimneachd Dh'aoindeigh saighdear tha fo 'n Rìgh." —I am, Sir, yours, &c., KINTAIL, 10th April, 1898.

THE NEW LEMONADE.

TWO GALLONS FOR 4d. Many people suffer from extreme thirst during the hot weather. Messrs Foster Clark & Co. have supplied the want that has so long been felt by making a concentrated lemonade, which is far more economical than the ordinary lemonade. It is made from the finest lemons, and the great advantage is that it is partly manufactured in Italy, in the midst of the lemon orchards. The lemons are taken direct from the trees to the factory to commence their transformation into the Eifel Tower Lemonade. You can get thirty-two tumbler (or two gallons) for fourpence half-penny. If you cannot get it from your grocer, send sixpence to G. FOSTER CLARK & CO., No. 519 EIFFEL TOWER FACTORY, Maidstone. Sole manufacturers of "EIFFEL TOWER LEMONADE."

the old," &c. For "Rory the Witty, who succeeded his father, Iain Mòr, in 1669," read "1649."

Part II.—For "An Cuiran Maphach, son of Sir Alexander Macdonald, 16th Baron of Sleat," read "natural son of Sir James Macdonald, 9th Baron of Sleat," some say a son of Donald Gorm O' 8th Baron of Sleat.

Part III.—Under the head of Alexander Nicolson, for "Died suddenly on 13th January, 1873," read "1893."

Part IV.—Paul Crubach and William Ross have been omitted by accident from these papers. Under the head of Archibald Macdonald, for "Edinburgh," read "Edinburgh;" for "Sleagh," read "Sleat;" for "Java," read "India." Near the bottom of first column, for "Tokabaig," read "Tokavaig;" for "Uird," read "Uird" (Ord); for "Sproul," read "Sproulay." Under John Macpherson, last paragraph, for "Knack," read "Knack." In same paragraph, for "absence of patronage and courage," read "all absence of patronage and encouragement."

HIGHLANDERS AND THE ARMY.

[By JOHN MURDOCH.]

The boast of the Pict that he had found in the previously turbulent Highlanders the best materials for a regular army seems to have become worn out; and the oft-respected story of the glory won by Skye and Sutherland soldiers, who rushed to "the defence of their country," as the saying was, has become "sound and fury, signifying nothing." The lament has gone abroad that Highlanders don't enlist, and that the so-called Highland regiments are manned chiefly from England, Ireland, and the Lowland towns. Worse than all, there has been a threat and boast indulged in by Highlanders that they did not mean to offer themselves any more as food for powder! Some attempts have been made to prove that the Highland regiments are not the shams alleged, but the utmost that has been proved is that some of these regiments had a given percentage of "Scotch" on their rolls; but the most strenuous upholders of the fiction that we have positively Highland fighting while we enjoy comfort and safety in our offices. The fact seems to be that, having nothing, they are the more appropriate defenders of the goods of those who have; and Mr Mackay actually leaps over the questions of right and wrong and fitness and the poor fellows that pay in the army is better than that of many labourers, and that he had hundreds of fine strong young men to reckon with. But the dread in England that it might be invaded by the man who was knocking feudal lords of the goil about on the Continent as if they were ninepenny articles—an excuse, and recruiting parties—re-enforced by estate officials, so-called "ministers of the Gospel," and tacks-men—seems set out to get the natural defenders of the people's homes inveigled into the army. One of the most serious defects used to be the assurance that if the sons went, the families would enjoy their lands as long as grass grew and water ran. The young men went, and they were not long away when their families were swept out, their lands given to strangers, and their houses to the flames! A contrast with this is afforded by Valtos, in Skye, whence the crofters were to have been evicted when the strong men were away at East Coast fishing. But the young men, thinking it their duty to be where the weak needed help, stayed at home to meet the evictor. The evictor thought better of it, and did not go; the people are there still, and that without striking a blow, while the intending evictor has not a cloud of the estate to-day! There is, perhaps, a better illustration against soldiering from Grunds. A body of soldiers from Fort-George, with the Sheriff at their head, was sent to carry out an eviction there. The soldiers were tired, hot, and covered with dust when they reached, and their needs rather than their prowess struck the young women of the township, who came out with trenchers of bread and bowls of milk. The soldiers ate and drank, and thanked the maidens. The officer whispered to the Sheriff that, after what had passed, he would not like to ask the men to do what they had been brought there for. The Sheriff agreed; the soldiers were marched back, and the eviction did not take place. These young women set an example to the whole world in carrying out the divine policy of heaping coals of fire upon the heads of their enemies by giving them food and drink. And even among the tribes of Israel, in punishment for their sins, were sometimes allowed to get into war, the Highlanders at home know that every care was taken—as in the case of Gideon and Midon—that when they were victorious they could not ascribe their success to their own prowess; the fundamental law was always kept before them that it was righteousness which established a nation, and not might nor power. Mr Mackay thinks that evictions seventy years ago should not tell now against enlistment; and yet he seems to suggest that the divine policy is rather against their restoration to the lands of their fathers, and this is meant to at least lay the mind open to the thought that if Highlanders were once more to enlist in great numbers there would be a greater likelihood of their getting back to the land. But what ground is there for the belief that the evictions of Highlanders had written promises that if their sons enlisted, they would never be removed; yet, as soon

as the sons were away, the evictions began. What faith, then, are we to have in the feeble suggestions of generous Mr Mackay? The facts are all against his suggestions—remember that neither he nor Lord Archibald can give any positive promise on the subject. And was it not when Highlanders enlisted in their greatest numbers that the most extensive and cruel evictions took place? And it is in these later years, when they refuse to enlist, that those of them who possess any land have the nearest approach to justice and security of tenure they have ever had. Fighting was against God's law—"Thou shalt not kill." It is never against safety of life, but that which kills the sword and kills by the sword; and the less our friends in the Highlands have to do in connection with the votaries of Mammon and Mars, who now rule in

THE AFFAIRS OF THE NATION.

the better chance they have of the protection and encouragement of the Great Father, who, however remotely, still rules in the affairs of men! Thanks to a kind Providence, Highlanders, as a race, have risen far above the level of carnal warfare; they are proving themselves to be modern warriors in a suit which is so much needed to prevent the total decay of this body politic. They have taken a great step forward and upward in getting at the head of the land movement, and now they are acknowledged to have taken another great step in the same direction in refusing to defile their hands in the blood of their fellows. As a result of this moral power they will rise, even physically, above the peoples of this country—indeed, they are arising in their houses, in their stock, in their social habits; and I trust that no low pleading for the use of the sword will take them down the smallest degree.

LITERARY NOTES.

A selection of the "Tompkins' Poems, which are still appearing in the "Daily Chronicle," is to be published shortly by Mr John Lane. Nearly all Mr Barry Pain's poems which have appeared in the paper, whether under the signature of the philosophic costermonger or anonymously, will be included. With respect to Mrs E. Rentoul Esler, the author of "Youth at the Prow," just published by Mr John Lane, it may be interesting to mention that Mr John Esler, Esq., was one of the first to accord the writer a foremost place in the delicate and difficult art of the short story. The welcome he gave her first volume of "Village Idylls" in the "Illustrated London News" was as generous and cordial as it was unexpected and unsolicited.

Youthful aspirants to literary honours may take heart of grace from the experience of the late Mr James Payn. It is said that in the beginning of his literary career he had 26 articles returned to him in one year. Yet he ventured to marry, soon after he had graduated at Cambridge, in reliance upon his pen for a living. It is not an example we should recommend to be followed by every one. "Come along with us, we are going into the ranks to fight as patriots and to win glory." That is not their way. They say in effect, "You poor fellows, who are denied all participation in the wealth of the country, go and do the fighting while we enjoy comfort and safety in our offices." The fact seems to be that, having nothing, they are the more appropriate defenders of the goods of those who have; and Mr Mackay actually leaps over the questions of right and wrong and fitness and the poor fellows that pay in the army is better than that of many labourers, and that he had hundreds of fine strong young men to reckon with. But the dread in England that it might be invaded by the man who was knocking feudal lords of the goil about on the Continent as if they were ninepenny articles—an excuse, and recruiting parties—re-enforced by estate officials, so-called "ministers of the Gospel," and tacks-men—seems set out to get the natural defenders of the people's homes inveigled into the army. One of the most serious defects used to be the assurance that if the sons went, the families would enjoy their lands as long as grass grew and water ran. The young men went, and they were not long away when their families were swept out, their lands given to strangers, and their houses to the flames! A contrast with this is afforded by Valtos, in Skye, whence the crofters were to have been evicted when the strong men were away at East Coast fishing. But the young men, thinking it their duty to be where the weak needed help, stayed at home to meet the evictor. The evictor thought better of it, and did not go; the people are there still, and that without striking a blow, while the intending evictor has not a cloud of the estate to-day! There is, perhaps, a better illustration against soldiering from Grunds. A body of soldiers from Fort-George, with the Sheriff at their head, was sent to carry out an eviction there. The soldiers were tired, hot, and covered with dust when they reached, and their needs rather than their prowess struck the young women of the township, who came out with trenchers of bread and bowls of milk. The soldiers ate and drank, and thanked the maidens. The officer whispered to the Sheriff that, after what had passed, he would not like to ask the men to do what they had been brought there for. The Sheriff agreed; the soldiers were marched back, and the eviction did not take place. These young women set an example to the whole world in carrying out the divine policy of heaping coals of fire upon the heads of their enemies by giving them food and drink. And even among the tribes of Israel, in punishment for their sins, were sometimes allowed to get into war, the Highlanders at home know that every care was taken—as in the case of Gideon and Midon—that when they were victorious they could not ascribe their success to their own prowess; the fundamental law was always kept before them that it was righteousness which established a nation, and not might nor power. Mr Mackay thinks that evictions seventy years ago should not tell now against enlistment; and yet he seems to suggest that the divine policy is rather against their restoration to the lands of their fathers, and this is meant to at least

TWO AGAINST ONE.

By CLARA MULHOLLAND.

Author of "Kathleen Mavourneen," "Lady Strathmore's Stratagem," "John Lawson's Ward," &c., &c.

CHAPTER X.

How Leila got away from the Albert Mansions she never knew. In some unknown fashion she was conveyed downstairs by Mary, put into a cab, and driven to a strange house, where, shivering from head to foot, only half conscious of what was being done to her, she was undressed and put to bed.

That night she fell ill. In a few hours she was very ill indeed, and someone she did not know came to her room and sat down quietly to nurse her.

And then poor Leila grew rapidly worse, and those who watched her thought she could never recover. But then slowly she improved; and though she lay very ill for many days and nights, she did not die. Then, by-and-by, her strength returned, light was admitted to her room, and her eyes wandered in silent wonder over this strange apartment, so fresh and airy, so spotless and neat; and over the slight, graceful girl in soft blue serge, who stole noiselessly round, seeming to know by intuition everything she required.

For some time after Leila realised all that was being done for her she did not speak. She felt deeply grateful, but knew not what to say.

One afternoon, after having set out a pretty tea-table with a few delicacies likely to tempt the invalid's jaded appetite, her kind nurse bent forward to raise her on her pillows. "You must try a little of this jelly," she said, smiling. "I made it for you myself."

Leila looked at her silently. Then suddenly she drew her head down, kissed her upon the lips, and said, "I don't know who you are, but you are an angel."

The girl smiled and blushed. She was past twenty-six, but looked younger, so fresh was her complexion, so sweet the expression of her deep blue eyes.

"I am Jenny Oakleigh," she answered. "Mary brought you here very ill, and mother sent for me to come and nurse you. I am a hospital nurse, and know what to do for people when they are ill."

"You have been an angel to me. But do you know my story? Do you know that I have been laid up for a long time? And that I have been very ill? And that I have been very ill? And that I have been very ill?"

"Yes, he thinks I have found my relations, and am with them, and till I hear where he is I cannot deceive him. And Jasper said that until— But," blushing deeply, "I—you do not know about that."

"I have no wish to pry into your affairs, dear. You shall tell us just what you please."

"Thank you. But tell me who has paid the expense of my illness? Did you find the cheque?"

"Yes; but could not change it without your signature. However, that will be easily done now."

"And then, when all is paid, I shall never ask Sir Oswald for a penny—I shall work."

"Not just yet, dear. But you will have enough to keep you for a long time. It was obliged to go to your trunks for your clothes whilst you were ill, and I saw that you had jewellery of considerable value. And this thing, touching the beautiful half-pearl and diamonds and sapphires that Harold had put upon the girl's finger when they were first engaged, is worth £50 at least."

Leila's pale face grew crimson. "Everything else may be sold, but this never," she said, decidedly. "I'd rather starve than part with this."

"Very well, you shall keep your ring. Mother will get your cheque changed, and when the hundred pounds are gone, you can sell the other pretty things in your jewel-case. So you will have money enough to go on with for a long time."

"You have made me very happy. I could not bear the thought that I was costing you money, you who have been so good to me. Mary said you were poor now."

"Well," said Jenny, laughing, "we are not as rich as we used to be, but I think we are all the happier for that. My father is a colonel in the Hussars, and is now in Afghanistan."

Leila started. The colour rushed again into her cheeks. "That was Harold's regiment. But she made no remark."

"Some years ago," continued Jenny, "he was a wealthy man, and Nettie and I went out a great deal. We danced, and flirted, and spent large sums of money upon our dress. But I am afraid all the time we were not thoroughly happy. The more excitement we had, the more we craved for, and somehow we felt we were spending our lives uselessly. Then, suddenly, there came a smash. Father had been speculating, and all at once he lost everything. We were reduced to living on father's pay. Balls and parties, dinners and visits, were out of the question now. So Nettie and I resolved to work. She became an artist, and is getting on well. I, a more ordinary individual, with few talents and a good deal," laughing, "of practical common sense, became a hospital nurse."

"Have you no brothers?"

"No. Mother had only three children—Nettie, myself, and a little girl, Esther, who was killed in an accident some ten or eleven years ago."

"Lucky child," sighed Leila. "She escaped much misery and sorrow."

"Come, come," cried Jenny, gaily, "you must not talk so mournfully; but cheer up, and do your best to get well and strong. When people are weak and ill everything seems black and dismal."

"Well or ill, my life can never be anything but miserable now, I fear."

"That I will not allow. I feel sure you will be happy yet. Nettie looks upon me as a prophet, and you must do the same," she said, and putting her arm round the girl, she kissed her tenderly.

"From this hour you must resolve to be brave. Nettie and I will help you to work, and you shall be to us as the little sister we have lost."

"Thank you, thank you! You are good and kind. I feel that I shall love you dearly." Tears stood in Leila's eyes as she said this. The girl was so good; her kind words expressed so much compassion and affection that she felt relieved and comforted.

"And now you are tired, I am afraid I have allowed you to talk too much," said Jenny. "Rest awhile, dear, and in the evening you shall see my mother and Nettie. They are both longing to make your acquaintance."

"And I to make theirs," replied Leila, smiling. Then, worn out and weary, she turned upon her pillow and fell asleep.

That evening, when Leila opened her eyes again, the three ladies sat together working round a small table near the window. As the girl lay looking at them from under her drooping lids, her heart

went out to them, and she thanked God fervently for having, in her hour of need, sent her amongst such good, devoted people.

Nettie was drawing, and as she bent over her work, and the light of the lamp fell upon her dark hair, her pretty pencilled brows, and rich brunette skin, Leila felt that she was a loving and lovely little creature. She was a marked contrast to Jenny, who was not handsome, but as fair as a lily, with the sweetest smile and kindest expression in the world.

Between her daughters, with her white hair simply dressed above a broad, noble forehead, her pale, clear complexion and delicately-chiselled features distinctly visible from the bed, Mrs. Oakleigh sat knitting. She was unconscious of observation, and her mind was full of sad thoughts, thoughts of her absent husband, who might even now be face to face with the enemy.

She sighed heavily, and moved uneasily on her chair. Jenny looked up and allowed her eyes to rest upon her face for a moment.

Then, kneeling by her side, she pressed her cheek lovingly against the busy fingers. "You are sad, dearest," she whispered. "Your thoughts are far away."

"Yes, Jenny. How can they be otherwise? Every day increases my anxiety. And somehow to-night an old sorrow has been revived. Something in your young patient's face recalled the image of my little Esther as I once saw her in a childish illness, and my mind went back to that terrible day when I heard of her cruel death. Oh, Jenny, the horror of that time! When we, away in India, learned that our darling, who had been left at home safe in the care of her aunt, who loved her as her own, had been killed in a railway accident as she travelled in charge of my sister's butler to spend a few days in the country, it was a shock never to be forgotten—to learn that my little one was dead—buried—and that I should see her no more."

"Poor mother—poor mother."

"And as all this came back to my mind, as freshly as though it had only happened yesterday, I thought of your father—his goodness, his sweetness at that dreadful time. Then the horror of our separation rose before me, and I seemed to see him surrounded by danger, and I, his wife, away—unable to help him."

And, bowing her head upon her daughter's shoulder, she wept bitterly.

Jenny kissed her lovingly. "Poor darling. You have had much sorrow, much anxiety."

"I have, my dear. But God has given me much to be thankful for. My children are good and loving," she said, smiling through her tears. "You and Nettie are true comforts to your mother."

"And you would not object to having another daughter?" asked Jenny, quickly. "You would be willing to welcome a third; you would learn to love her also?"

Mrs. Oakleigh glanced towards the bed. Leila's eyes were open, and as she met her gaze a sudden pallor overspread her countenance. She rose, pushed Jenny quickly aside, and, going across the room, kissed the invalid softly upon the lips.

"My child," she said, "will you be what Jenny suggests? Will you be my third daughter? I lost a little one once; will you take her place?"

Leila laid her arms about her neck. A sweet smile lit up the poor face. "If I may—I if I may, I never knew my mother. I will love you with all my heart."

CHAPTER XI.

After this Leila made rapid progress. In a week or so she was able to walk about her room, and a little later she went downstairs.

Sir Oswald's cheque had been duly cashed, and when Leila had paid her doctor's bill and other expenses incurred during her illness, she had not a very large sum of money with which to begin the world.

She was now deeply attached to her new friends, whose kindness and attention she felt she never could repay. Mrs. Oakleigh's loving invitation to live with her and her daughter she gladly accepted, but she resolved that she would work, as Jenny had done, to support herself, and so avoid being a burden to them.

But what could she do? That was indeed a question difficult to answer. However, as she was determined to find some occupation that would make her independent, her first idea, as soon as she was able to go out, was to look for work. So, unknown to Mrs. Oakleigh and her daughters, she went to several registry offices, and put her name down as a governess, willing to do anything for children from five to seven. Then she went round in search of an engagement to several small shops and millinery houses. But all in vain. And she went home tired and sick at heart to hunt through the Times and see if there was any advertisement likely to suit her.

As soon as Leila had been pronounced thoroughly convalescent Jenny had returned to the hospital, and as Nettie was away all day at the studio, and Mrs. Oakleigh was occupied with household matters, the girl was much alone. Every evening at dusk she would go to meet Nettie coming home from her work, and together they strolled back through the streets, talking over Leila's affairs. For to Nettie alone she had confided her anxiety to find employment, and all the various attempts she had made. Nettie was full of sympathy, but had rarely any suggestions to make.

Leila enjoyed these long talks. She was fond of Nettie, and admired her clever pictures. She was not as practical as Jenny, but there was something very attractive in her ardent poetical nature. One evening, after a particularly disappointing day, Nettie met Leila looking tired and dejected. "Well, dear," she said, "I am afraid you have not had any luck this afternoon?"

"None. No one will have anything to do with me," she answered mournfully.

Nettie drew her hand silently within her arm and pressed it sympathetically. Presently she stopped before a flower-shop, and looking at the graceful bouquets of sprays in the window, she said: "There! That would be charming work! I am sure you could arrange flowers beautifully."

"Yes. What a capital idea!" Leila smiled joyfully. "Nettie, you are a genius. You will speak to the people at once." So the two girls went to the shop together.

On seeing two young ladies come to the master of the shop went forward politely to greet them. "Do you require a girl to make up bouquets?" Leila asked shyly. "I am anxious to earn money, and I think—"

His manner changed suddenly. He looked poor Leila up and down with a supercilious stare.

"Know anything of the business?"

"No. But I could learn."

"Can you make up bouquets and sprays?"

"I think so. I have made many at home."

"That is not enough for me, thank you. My young women must know their work. Sorry I can't do anything for you just now. And he turned away."

So Nettie's brilliant idea came to nothing, and Leila was as far from finding employment as ever.

Some few days later Nettie did not appear at their usual meeting place, and Leila went on to the studio. When she entered the room a group of lady artists

were standing together, talking in a loud, excited manner.

"Where we are to find such a person I cannot tell," said one. "Models as a rule are not lovely—at least, not those that come our way."

"Some of the children are pretty," remarked another. "And I think you are absurdly hard to please. Kitty Sinclair would do well enough."

"Kitty Sinclair!" indignantly. "Imagine Kitty, with her fuzzy hair. A pretty goddess of youth she would make. No, no! We must try for someone more prepossessing. To my mind Hebe should be lovely."

"Certainly!" said Nettie. I fancy we are intended to think so, or why should Homer say:

Immortal Hebe, fresh with bloom divine, The golden goblet crowns with purple wine. Oh, decidedly. She must be pretty. And it's ridiculous to talk of Kitty Sinclair! I mean the first speaker. "I for one will have nothing to do with her."

"Who is that?" cried one of the group. "Look, Annie! Is she not exquisitely beautiful?" And instantly all eyes were turned upon Leila, who stood smiling and blushing at the door.

"What a Hebe she would make!" exclaimed Annie. Who is she, I wonder? I wish we could get her to sit for us."

"Nettie Oakleigh, here is a visitor for you," whispered one of the girls. "Bring her in and introduce her. Do you know her well?"

"Yes; she is my greatest friend." "Why, Leila!" hastening towards her; "how early you are!"

"No. But you are late!"

"Perhaps so. We have been talking over a very important matter. We are looking for a pretty model, and such a person is hard to get—or we are hard to please."

Leila's colour deepened, and, bending, she whispered a few words in Nettie's ear. The girl started and looked at her in surprise. "No, no, dear," she said, shaking her head disapprovingly. "I think not. It would not do."

"But why not? The models earn money, don't they?"

"A little. But—"

"Am I not pretty enough?" asked Leila archly. "Come! see what our friends think. Young ladies," she said, raising her voice, and speaking distinctly, although her lips trembled and her heart beat quickly, "I hear you want a model. I am poor—and very anxious to earn some money. Will you engage me?"

The artists came round her in delight. There were four of them, including Nettie, all studying under the same master, and sharing expenses of studio and models.

"But you would not condescend to sit to us for the paltry sum we can afford to pay?" they cried. "It is fatiguing work. You would not like it."

Leila laughed softly. "Beggars cannot be choosers. I am poor. I have tried in vain for work. If you are willing to engage me, I am willing to sit for you."

"But Leila, it is not a fit occupation for you!" cried Nettie. "You cannot imagine how wearisome it is. I don't like the idea. It seems to me—"

Leila stopped her with a quick movement of her pretty hand. "Hush, Nettie! Pray say no more. Young ladies, I shall be here to-morrow morning, and you may dress me, pose me, and paint me as you will."

Then, bowing her graceful head, she went out of the studio, followed by Nettie.

CHAPTER XII.

It was Shrove Tuesday—Carnival time in Venice. The sun had been shining all day on the city and lagoons, and the evening air was warm and balmy. The Grand Canal was crowded with gay gondolas, brilliantly lighted with Chinese lanterns, and filled with gorgeously-dressed women and men, who played their guitars and sang the well-known song, "Funiculi, funiculari," in sweet, though sometimes untuned, voices.

In a noble room on the first floor at Danieli's, Diana Talbot stood at one of the windows, looking out upon the gay scene. But it did not interest her. Her thoughts were not with the revellers, and the expression of her handsome face was anything but pleasant as she tapped her foot impatiently upon the parquet floor.

"He is late. Or does he intend to break his word and not come to-night?"

At this moment a gondola stopped at the bottom of the steps in front of the hotel, and a young man, evidently English, tall and broad-shouldered, clad in a travelling suit of rough blue serge, stepped out and entered the hall.

"A gentleman is asking to see you, miss."

Diana turned, and looked at the card presented to her by the waiter. Despite her efforts to appear indifferent, her face flushed, then paled visibly.

"Shew Mr. Lynne in here."

Alone again for an instant, she sank into a chair.

"Now I shall know her fate. Now I shall learn that I need no longer fear her; that she is precisely dead to the man I love so passionately. Ah, she cried eagerly, as the door opened and Jasper Lynne entered the room, "there you are at last. I thought you were never coming."

"Indeed? You were not always so eager to see me. How is my uncle?"

"Not very well. But tell me, Jasper—when is it to be?"

"To be? What do you mean?"

"You know quite well," she cried impatiently; "your marriage with Leila!"

"Never—she will have nothing to do with me."

He spoke gloomily. A change had come over Jasper since Diana and he had last met. His features were hard and rigidly set. He looked worried and anxious. His manner was cold, his whole person suggested disappointment and depression.

"But you must make her. You want the money I promised—"

"Badly. I am up to my eyes in debt. I know not where to turn."

"And she—she must be in a bad way? Poverty and loneliness will force her to accept you, if you persevere."

"She is poor—working as an artist's model. But she has found friends. She is out of your power, Diana Talbot. When Harold returns—"

She glared at him angrily. "What a fool you are, Jasper Lynne. Who is likely to tell Harold where she is?"

"You! You dare not, after all that has happened!"

"Pardon me, I dare—and will! You love Harold. You hate Leila. You did what you could to separate them. Fate helped you, and he was ordered abroad. Then, taking advantage of his absence, you cruelly parted the girl from my uncle and left her without a home or friends. I gave you all the assistance I could. I proposed to Leila, and was refused with scorn. I now claim my reward. I want the money I must have!"

Diana laughed nervously. "You have not fulfilled the conditions; and until that is done—"

"Then I shall tell all I know. You are completely in my power. And when I noise abroad a few stories about you, you will have to disappear from society. Your chance of winning Harold's love would be at an end for ever. Whereas, if this money is paid I will continue to help you. I will

do all I can to prevent him discovering Leila's whereabouts when he returns. When speaking of her to my uncle, I will say all I can against her. But I must have a cheque to-night!"

A pang of rage and bitterness shot through Diana's heart. She had sworn to be revenged upon Leila, and she had succeeded. But she was in Jasper's power, and as far as ever from winning Harold's love. "I will do so yet!" she said to herself, clenching her fists. "And to keep her at a distance I must by Jasper's goodwill. Oh, why does he not marry her? How gladly I'd pay then."

"Well, have you decided? Am I to have the money?"

"I will think about it," she answered, haughtily. "I will submit to no threats."

"You must submit to whatever I please." She bent forward. "And when Harold returns, what would you tell him?"

"I would convince him that his sweet Leila had been untrue; that she had been anxious to marry me, only that I am poor; that she longed one day to be Lady Lynne; that her people are the lowest; and I'd introduce him to her grandmother, Mrs. Giles. Are you satisfied?"

"Hush! Here comes uncle. Don't forget that she is happy, well-to-do, and has forgotten—"

(To be continued.)

HALTON'S

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Our Gaelic Page.

'H.N.' MOD PRIZE FUND.

Acknowledged last week

This fund is slowly, but surely, increasing. But we are far behind our record of last year. We must ask those who have had some success in collecting to intimate any subscriptions they may have received so as to hasten others in the good work.

We wish everyone who has gained any advantage either in instruction or enjoyment from this page to write without delay for a collecting slip. The smallest subscriptions are just as heartily welcomed as the largest. It is an inspiring sight to see the poor of the land contributing to the culture of the race. The big subscriptions will follow the little ones.

The object of our Fund, as all our readers know, is to give prizes to teachers who teach Gaelic. Surely there could be no better object than to encourage those who are doing the practical work of keeping an educated knowledge of Gaelic alive. The work of encouraging the teaching of Gaelic by offering prizes to teachers is not undertaken by any society or organisation known to us. We therefore appeal with confidence to Highlanders, assuring them that, in contributing, they are tilling entirely new ground.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LEADER.—A Gaelic class is taught during the winter months in the High School, Glasgow, by Mr. Duncan Reid. Apply to Mr. Reid, 3 White Street, Partick, for further information.

A MEASG TUATH NA GAIDHEALTACHD.

[Le Uilleam Mac Coinnich.]

PART II.

Facal no dha mu na fìneachan a nis.
 An t-Uasal Leathnach 's a Ceathrach Rannalach.
 "Buidheachas do Dhia is Leathnach mi."
 "God tha mi bochd tha mi usal—'s Leathnach mi."
 "Leathnach gun bhòid; Dòmhaillach gun tapadh; Cairneach gun mhòr-chas."
 Theireadh na Leathnach, "An cinneadh mòr 's an pòr tubaisdeach," riutha-fhèin 'nair thòisich na Cairneach air fhaighinn lèimh-an-uaichd' orra.

Is ann mu'n àm so a chaidh ministear a chomharrachadh air seann-chailleach do Chlann-Leathnach a bhàir leabhadh a bàis. "Am beil feagal De òirbh a bhean?" thuir a ministear. "Co am fear a tha sin?" ars a chailleach. "O tha" ars a ministear, "am fear a tha riaghailidh na h-èile ni." "Ciod e 's slòinneadh dha?" ars a chailleach. "Is Cairneach e" ars a ministear. "Fheargair a Chailleach—"Gu dearbhadh bha mi a' snuicheadh sin; cha do thòisich mi chridhe riabhris!"

"Amharrachd Cloinn-Mhic-Philip."
 "Camsronach bhoga 'n ime."
 "Iarr gach ni air Camshronach ach na iarr im air."
 "Casán tioram Chlann-an-Toisich."
 "Cha'n ann a h-èile na bhios mòd aig Mac-an-Toisich."

"Fadal Chlann an Toisich."
 "Clann-Mhic-Codrum nan ròn."
 "Cha'n 'eill Clann Mhic Neacail dioghaltach."
 "Clann Mhic Neacail 's brochean 's an droch a' ann ceana."

"Cha bhi gear air Mac-Coinnich gus am faigh e dhìot."
 "Clann Mhuirich 's brochean."
 "Cha bhi gear air Grannach gus am faigh e lite."
 "Clann Mhic Leòid na mine."

Their id an t-àm so a nis na Leòdaich bho 'n àm a chaidh Mac-an-Toisich a' cleachdadh an Asannt. Tha id a' cantuim gun d' fhuair Mac-Leòid Asannt mu ghòirt a chaidh a cheannach an Lit' mar duais, agus air an aobhar sin thubhairt Iain Loin:—

"Marbhaig ort a dhi-mheis,
 Nach ole a reic thu 'n fìrean,
 Air son na mine Lèitich
 Is da-thrian di dhìot."

"Cha robh ballach riann do Chlòinn Ghriogair, no caile do Chlòinn-an-Aba."
 "Co ris a chaidh mi dha 'ghearann 's gun Mhac-a-Ailein a' Mùideart."
 "Tha uaisle fo thuinn an Clann Laclachain."
 "Clann-Fhionghain nam faochag."

Mar thuir mi mar tha, bha latha dha 'n robh an saoghal is gun cuireadh cuid de na faicid ud fearg mhòr air daoine, ach dh' fhalbhadh sin, agus coimheadich Gàidheil ach gach àite nise, is suidhidh iad mu'n aon bhòrd mar bhrathair sibh. Bha sin an a' chas nach flada gus an tig an latha 'nair—

"Bhios coimheas, comunn, iochd is grèdh,
 Anns gach àit a' measg 'n t-sluagh,
 Eadar far a' èirich grunn,
 'S far an laidh 'n iar 's a' chuan."

Ged tha na Gàidheil gun tric ullamh air son ceartais a thoirt a mach, 's a bhios iad mu' mhalad 's gu' fhuairinn 'nair a' gheibh iad droch-chèartais a' lath a' smuicheadh gach ni beil a dhòl air bialòbh chridhe na ghnòthach cudthromach. Turus dha 'n robh mi an Ubhish-a-chime-Deas dh' fhuairinn chridhe ri seana bhean chòir an robh i riabh air Ti-mòr. "O cha robh, a ghràidh—Buidheachas do Dhia, cha robh mi riabh a' mairinn an Fhionghail-a-Thath." Bha 'n beirinnach chòir a' ciallachadh le so nach robh i riabh air chuir an Loch-nan-Madadh. Is ann air son sin a bha i 'toirt buidheachas do Dhia.

Tha cuid a bheir a mionnair mar gu'n b' ann a' gabhail duan air Oidheche Chlòinn-an-Aba. Tha cuid a' gheibh iad mar an seana Gàidheil idir. Is e ghnòthach cudthromach do dhùine sam bith a mionnair a thoirt agus cha 'n ann air uair a chumic mi seann duine ann na Larrannan Caiticeach de 'n Gàidheilteachd a' deannam comharradh na crois 'nair bha a' dol air a mionnair.

Bho cheann bialòbh no dha bha mi fhèin a' eadar-theangachadh eadar seana-mhàighidinn Gàidheil agus Chùirt an Fheanain. Cha robh i air son a lath a thogail idir, ach mar dheireadh thug i a mionnair. Na dha an dèigh sin bha mi 'gabhail an rathaid, 's coimheadich mi a' cheart t'è agus seana chailleach comharrachadh. "O" ars i, "is 's mi a' bha dùmhaich sibh 's a' bha sin a' chuir air mi mionnair mi an a' lath." "Carson a' ghabh thu iad?" ars a' chailleach. "Dh' fhuairinn an gabhail," frear-air an t'èile. "Nach bu tu an d'òimseach," ars a' chailleach. "Car son nach d' thuir thu riutha gun robh thu trom?" Tha cuid a' gheibh iad mar an t'èile a' dèigh sin bha mi 'gabhail an rathaid, 's coimheadich mi a' cheart t'è agus seana chailleach comharrachadh. "O" ars i, "is 's mi a' bha dùmhaich sibh 's a' bha sin a' chuir air mi mionnair mi an a' lath." "Carson a' ghabh thu iad?" ars a' chailleach. "Dh' fhuairinn an gabhail," frear-air an t'èile. "Nach bu tu an d'òimseach," ars a' chailleach. "Car son nach d' thuir thu riutha gun robh thu trom?" Tha cuid a' gheibh iad mar an t'èile a' dèigh sin bha mi 'gabhail an rathaid, 's coimheadich mi a' cheart t'è agus seana chailleach comharrachadh.

Is minig a chumic mi feadhainn a labhradh Beurla meadhanach math, an aghaidh fhuairis a thoirt 's a' chlainn sin. Bhiòidh eagal orra gun bhòid fhadhainn eile 'fanasid air an Beurla gun 'n deannad iad meadhanach na 'n seanchas. Tha cumhach agam air gille gasda 'fhuair deagh sgòil ach nach robh a' cleachdadh na Beurla. Thàinig e air bialòbh cuid, 's thubhairt am breithneamh ris—

"You speak English, John." Bha beagan Beurla aig Iain 's Freargair e. A few, my Lord! Thug an fear gear an iad meadhanach 's cha channad Iain said Beurla tuilleadh.

Nuair a bhios cuid do dhaoine ag eadar-theangachadh bho Ghàilig gu Beurla bheir iad 'freargairinn iongantach aig uairean. Chuala mi ionndadh nu' lagh a bha an ceannaidh àraid de 'n Gàidheilteachd mu dhèidh.

Aig coimne aig an do thuit dhoibh a bhli le chéile chuir an creitair Donnall 's a chathair, agus air a bheatha, cha rachadh Iain tuille than coimne aig an cluinnedh a' dèidh a bhli.

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TROCAIR NAMHAID.

[Le DONULL MACALUM.]

Troimh eud, aonach, agus neart an t-sluigh, 'n uair a bha urram seirbheachadh, agus foimhinn, do neach, a bhli na cheannair air Comunn an Fheanain, bha strìth a' chadair Iain Ceannaidh agus Donnall Tuathanach a' b' àird' aig am biodh dreuchd ann am meadhan Sgrìr Eidegan, agus eò a' bhòthra 'gheibheadh air an taobh, 'gan cuir gu Buird Riaghailidh na Sgrìre. Na 'n dheannadh creididh math agus dh' fhadh e cha bhithheadh a dhìth air Iain; na thubhairt an fear fèin ann nasgaidh e cha bhithheadh a dhìth air Donnall.

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COMHARRADH NAN GAIDHEAL.

[Le DONULL MACALUM.]

Troimh eud, aonach, agus neart an t-sluigh, 'n uair a bha urram seirbheachadh, agus foimhinn, do neach, a bhli na cheannair air Comunn an Fheanain, bha strìth a' chadair Iain Ceannaidh agus Donnall Tuathanach a' b' àird' aig am biodh dreuchd ann am meadhan Sgrìr Eidegan, agus eò a' bhòthra 'gheibheadh air an taobh, 'gan cuir gu Buird Riaghailidh na Sgrìre. Na 'n dheannadh creididh math agus dh' fhadh e cha bhithheadh a dhìth air Iain; na thubhairt an fear fèin ann nasgaidh e cha bhithheadh a dhìth air Donnall.

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THE Highland Home.

BY MORAG.

FROM PARIS.

THE LATEST MILLINERY AND DRAPEY.

MY DEAR MORAG.—What could be more interesting to a lady than an afternoon spent, not over the teacups, but viewing and discussing the latest in hats, bonnets, &c., and the dainty trimmings that are nowadays used upon headgear? During the past week I had the opportunity of whiling away a few hours in that capacity, but one could easily spend a whole day among such pleasing and diversified surroundings. The array of Spring novelties which the enterprising firm of Hatchen & Cameron, Castle Street, have had on view during the week attracted my admiration, and a visit to the premises proved equally interesting. Thanks to the good taste of our local drapery merchants for the exquisite assortment of material, together with the latest and most fashionable articles that they have selected. We in the Capital of the Highlands are, as regards style, quite in touch with our fashionable sisters in the South. The weather has not been on its best behaviour of late, but nevertheless the past week has been, on the whole, a little more encouraging. Showers of rain have been interspersed with sunshine, and ladies will now appear in their Spring garments. The millinery salon of Messrs Hatchen & Cameron was, at the time I visited it, ablaze with colour. All around were the choicest of bonnets, hats, and toques, while the more youthful members of the family were also remembered. The daintiest of baby boy and girls' hats and hoods were in profusion. As for trimmings, their name was legion. Everything is produced so beautiful and real-looking that one wonders what will be next. Quite a feature in trimmings is the "Geisha" chiffon, specially used for draping over vests, although it can with telling effect be incorporated into many other ways of personal decoration. It certainly looks Japanese. The show of hats—which one never tires of looking at—were really superb, and it is worthy to note that Messrs Hatchen & Cameron have an order for several of them from Russia. Whether the order came from the Czarina or not I was not informed, but I have no doubt that Her Highness's good English taste in her toilet has to a large extent been followed by Russian ladies, with the result that our local merchants are now supplying an extensive order to that country. One or two of these hats, which were just completed by Miss Melville and her staff, were chic in the extreme. No. 1 was in pale green straw, somewhat broad in both crown and brim. The latter, I observed, terminated a little behind the ear on both sides, the gap filled in with a bunch of dark heliotrope roses intermingled with foliage. The front of this elegant hat displayed two clusters of pale green and heliotrope lilac, having a large stylish bow and ends of lilac ribbon on the crown. Several brilliant ornaments completed the trimmings. No. 2 was a particularly stylish hat, and very appropriately termed "stagey." It was composed of black sequins, having Tam o' Shanter crown, and worn much tilted to the side. Underneath the brim was a wreath of pink roses, kept in place with black lace gently curled over a large bow of pink silk, with black standing plume, and osprey were effectively placed as to droop over the crown. There was a lovely hat in fancy biscuit straw which I specially admired. In front there were two clusters of wild hyacinths in pale blue and green, deftly caught with a rose standing ornament. Two rucked bows of blue and biscuit-coloured ribbon were worn on the side, while the back was slightly turned up, and displayed a bunch of dark crimson roses nestling among green ivy. One or two ornaments added the finishing touch to this charming headgear. The display of toques—which, by the way, are to be much worn during the season—especially those composed of sequin net, was in every respect

same satin would, when worn, be a soft outline to the child's face. Frills of cream lace and tiny bows of bebe ribbon were arranged upon the crown. There were many

COLOURED COATS and pelisses, which, perhaps, for everyday wear, would be preferred by some parents, also on view. The firm have an excellent stock of white and coloured silk scarfs, which are worn at present with such effect for brightening up the toilets. They can also be had in cream lace beautifully embroidered. The show of jackets and mantles was quite in keeping with the other articles to which I have referred. One very smart Russian velvet coat exhibited a high mediceo collar, which was tabbed and edged with jet, frills of gauze were worn on the sleeves and at the neck, while ornaments of jet were exhibited as fasteners in front. A belt of velvet, with jet buckles, was worn around this very elegant garment. The capes were a speciality in the warehouse, and those which I really inspected were a dream. A black glassy silk cape was draped over with French net, dotted with applique embroidery, and bordered with two crimped frills of gauze. A shorter cape, with silk foundation, was draped over with silk open-work embroidery, and was similarly bordered as the former one. My favourite one, however, was in black waved satin, edged with a deep fall of black chiffon, having a tiny edge of black satin, rucked above with a tin-ruche of chiffon. The neck of this elegant cape was elaborately rucked above with chiffon, and lined throughout with rose and heliotrope shot silk. Ever leaving this department I observed quite a large variety of feather boas in all shades. Ladies will be glad to learn that in blouse one can purchase striped pique ones, while in white in the same material, which is so serviceable, the most fastidious tastes can be suited. Many elegant ones were on view. The fashions in this article are, like the others, always improving, the latest being the Norfolk blouse in pique, well embroidered and tucked fronts can also be had. A very smart heliotrope blouse exhibited a double crimped frill in front, edged with white, and worn with white cuffs and collar. In dressing-gowns and jackets the assortment looked pretty and comfortable. One could select for themselves very smart ones in French flannel beautifully frilled with lace and trimmed with ribbon to match the colour. As I have said at the beginning of my note, one could spend a whole day, instead of an afternoon, viewing such pretty and tasteful articles.—Your affectionate Cousin,

Inverness. FIONA.

HOUSEWIFELY HINTS.

FIG LAYER CAKE.

BEAT one cupful of butter, add two cupfuls of flour, in which sift two teaspoonfuls of baking powder; stir in one cupful of sweet milk and two cupfuls of sugar; lastly, add the whites of six eggs beaten light. Bake in layers. Filling.—Boil two cupfuls of sugar with three tablespoonfuls water until brittle, then remove from the stove and stir in the whites of two eggs; add five teaspoonfuls of chopped figs. Spread between the layers of cake. This is a rich cake.

RICE MUFFINS.

One cupful of freshly boiled rice, one cupful of sweet milk, two eggs, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, one teaspoonful of sugar, two teaspoonfuls baking-powder, and four enough of salt to make a batter. Beat hard, and add the baking-powder last. Bake in muffin rings.

STEWED POTATOES.

Three and a-half cupfuls of chopped potatoes, two tablespoonfuls of flour, three tablespoonfuls of butter, two cupfuls of milk. Melt the butter in a teakettle boiler, add flour and stir constantly for a few minutes so that it will be perfectly smooth. Add the milk a little at a time and let it boil thoroughly. Then add the potatoes and let them cook until thoroughly hot. The potatoes are not to be chopped with a knife in a chopping-tan, but to be sliced lengthwise in slices half-an-inch thick, and then cut into half-inch dice.

ONIONS.

Cover the onions with water, and your eyes will not suffer in preparing them. Put them on to cook in cold water, changing to fresh boiling water after ten minutes' cooking, if strong or old; salt the water, arranging the quantity so that it is nearly all evaporated, pepper and salt, if of a mild variety; otherwise with equal quantities of cream and milk, thickened with flour and butter blended together.

HAIR SWITCHES.

To restore life and freshness to them, dip them in ammonia—the ordinary household article, not the concentrated kind bought at the druggist's. This ammonia bath will clean the hair as well as freshen it, and should be used every several weeks.

THE CHOICE OF MEATS.

In the occasional use of meat, in connection with the more healthy vegetables, fruits and grains, there is always a choice as to the kind of meat to be used. Beef and mutton are always preferable. Pork is the most indigestible of meats, and should never be allowed in the diet of those who desire to live up to health principles. Veal is an immature article, and destitute of those juices which make the mature beef so nutritious. It is very inimitable and indigestible, and should be sedulously avoided. Every home-keeper should make this subject of food a special study, and should provide herself with a good hygienic cookery book, and with its assistance aim to select and prepare the food for the family in the best possible manner.

TAKE CARE OF THE FLAT-IRONS.

It is so easy to keep the flat-irons in good condition that there is little excuse for any housewife neglecting them, no matter how busy she may be. Any woman can tell at a glance when these articles are well kept. Some housewives will have in their possession iron that have been their mother's before them, and though they have been in constant use for years, are still as firm and smooth as anyone could wish. Other women, with the same kind of irons, would, by neglect and carelessness, in a year or two render them unfit for use. Don't keep the iron on the stove when not in use, for it is sure to harm the temper of the iron, and don't have irons on the stove when cooking, more particularly when the article is one that is apt to flow or boil over, or while frying. After taking the iron from the stove when wanted for use, first rub it over a heavy piece of wrapping paper, then on the wax or salt, and afterwards wipe thoroughly on the iron-cloth before beginning to iron.

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