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# BON-ACCORD

March 5, 1908.—Price One Penny.

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Vol. XLIII.—No. 10.

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Admission, - ONE SHILLING

# Bon-Accord.

Published every Thursday by the Proprietor, HENRY MUNRO,  
10 Crown Street, Aberdeen.

Annual Subscription (including postage), 6/6, payable in advance.

## Our Penal Purgatory.

(A Commentary on the series of Articles concluded in last week's *Bon-Accord*.)

Up by the storm-swept Buchan shore a gloomy fortress rears  
Its frowning front, with hard, impassive stare that sears  
And blights the morn : for aye outstretching stony, unresponsive  
arms

To yon glad East where sweet Aurora, blushful of her charms,  
Uplifts, with rosy finger-tip, the curtains of the night,  
Bids Phœbus smile, and fill the wondering world with light.  
Nature, exultant, leaps to hail the summons of the East :  
Sweet birds respond in song, fair flowers with fragrant feast,  
And man, with rest rejuvenant, his eager eyelids ope  
To greet the clear-eyed Dawn, enrobed in all her radiancy of  
hope !

Yet in this grim abode, gloom-wrapt 'mid scene so fair,  
Poor mortals hopeless wake, to face but dark despair ;  
Here, warden-watched and wan, resume the heavy, joyless toil  
That girds their lot, till th' curbed heart and brain recoil  
In fierce revolt ;—or, bully-cowed, th' suff'ring spirit sighs  
Its last revulsive breath, and shudd'ring manhood, beaten, dies !  
Then marvel not those poor dumb souls, denied the boon  
Of humanising speech, should sullen brood : that soon  
The treasured sweetness of hope-lusted years but turn to gall,  
And demons dark, revengeful, unchallenged hold them thrall !  
Poor, tortured serfs ! We'd hoped those cruel days had passed  
When the vile, gore-glutted "cat" its loathly shadow cast  
O'er prison walls : when the vague terrors of a single night  
Of Bastille horror-gloom might turn dark tresses white.  
*Who'll* mete the contrite thrill, the chastened hopes afresh,  
That in dark bosoms swell, as th' poor flayed, resentful flesh  
Spouts forth its crimson'd protest, till hands—yea, th' accursed  
cell—

Reek with their hideous incense to the altar-gods of Hell ?  
If in *our* ears but rang those dread, despairing cries  
That pelt the pitying Heavens, we'd marvel not that eyes  
Glow red with hate intensity, nor doubt that murder horrid  
Must lurk in lair so leprous, air so fiercely torrid !  
Can these things be ? Does such a foul Inferno stand  
Within her gates, and Christian Scotland not demand  
Its cleansing ?—that land, so full of care for pagan souls,  
She ships them loads of Gospel-gifts, soul-curators in shoals !  
Messieurs, tho' loud the Congo-Cry comes echoing o'er the foam.  
'Twere well to recognise the "white man's burden" nearer  
home !

That surely must be system coarse, degradingly insane,  
Which seeks, in crucible so cruel, to clarify crime's stain ;  
That strips from frail humanity Heaven's charismatic cloak :  
But left to pity's gaze the poor insensate, battered block !  
Condemned it stands, with crudities of cant, reformatives run  
mad,

Rude reft the Pauline Charity that's "patient with the bad."  
Was e'er a soul to goodness won by cruelty's blistering rod,  
Or erring feet thus planted on the upward path to God ?  
It cannot be ! Each stinging cut, each curse, each burning blow  
But brands the Cain-mark deeper—God and man one common  
foe !

Repellent, cruel, debasing, dark, all souls who enter there  
Resign the sovereignty of Hope for the thralldom of Despair.

Oh for the flame-tipped, quivering pen that fired the festering  
"Fleet,"

The tongue that lashed the Bumble brood, and left the Work-  
house sweet :

Is there no Dickens voice to-day, like Heaven-ignited brand,  
To purge such human horror-haunts, or sweep them from the  
land ?

G. B. H.

## FAD LEGISLATION.

PARLIAMENT is the last resort of the faddist. In most matters our grandmotherly legislators are out of touch with the mighty mass of human experience and sentiment ; the law-making machine is out-of-date, creaky and useless. The Government's latest essay in temperance legislation has gratified a small and, fortunately, a diminishing body of cranks who still believe that Britain may be dragooned into teetotalism. Rank Socialism, but dishonest Socialism, is at the root of the Bill. Over 30,000 licensed houses will be extinguished, compensation being paid out of the pockets of the survivors, who themselves will have to hand their property over to the State, without compensation, at the end of fourteen years. An acknowledged Socialist Government would have treated the matter differently, by asking a price and taking instant possession. That would be understandable, but this "slow poison" process of the Liberal Government is cowardly and destructive. The introduction of the Bill has had a disastrous effect upon brewery shares and such stock. On Friday brewery investments dropped £30,000,000.

People are soberer to-day than they have ever been, but the credit is not due to teetotal fanatics or temperance legislation. The refinement of public taste and manners is something which develops outwith the scope of legislative enactment in the same way as true religion is healthiest outside the narrowing influence of church life. "Licensing legislation," says one able critic, "accelerated the growth and increase of drinking clubs, incited to whisky hawking and shebeening, and created monopoly value of licensed property. No perceptible moral improvement, no decrease in drunkenness, and no increase in general sobriety followed, although these were the avowed objects of the legislation." The genesis of the drinking club was the Licensing Bill introduced by Mr. Bruce in 1874. "When the working man found in his club the freedom which was denied on licensed premises, he availed himself of his privileges to the full. Throughout England clubs arose where wrestling and boxing competitions, variety entertainments, and pantomimes take place on Sunday ; where drink, often of doubtful quality, was supplied in unlimited quantity during prohibited hours. In these clubs the policeman doesn't trouble, and the exciseman is at rest."

The neo-Puritanic Chancellor of the Exchequer has now shown a bold front, however, in proposing more thorough police supervision of clubs, conscious as he is that the "little good" his Bill aims at will be followed by a greater evil. Why, in the name of common-sense, will our legislators not let human nature work out its own salvation ? The public-house, with rational amusements and ordinary police inspection, might actually be a factor for social improvement : a thing that the drinking club with its hidden illicit allurements can never be. We are almost tired preaching the obvious, but there is little hope for us so long as intelligent men will insist in legislating, not according to their own consciences, but in craven acquiescence to the loudest-tongued fanatics.

\* \* \*

### The Late Mr. David Carnegie.

The late Mr. David Carnegie, who died in London recently at the age of 63, was for some years sailors' missionary in Aberdeen. He also frequently held forth at the Sunday meetings of the Y.M.C.A. in the Alhambra Music Hall. His style of oratory was fluent but thin, like that of the majority of the good men who orated ecclesiastically in that building. Personally, however, the deceased possessed a good deal of salt-water breeziness, which made him popular with the class among whom he primarily "laboured." His removal from the local "vineyard" was due to a difference with his directors, in which it is alleged he was treated very shabbily. That is not surprising, as the peculiarly pious often answer to Dean Swift's description of being "nice people" with "nasty thoughts," and it might be added, with "nasty underhand ways." Probably the mission "bosses" thought they had squeezed the orange dry, so to vary the metaphor that as judged by results the labourer was no longer worthy of his hire. In their action they were possibly inspired by the example of the partners of the great Commercial "Gospel" House of Moody and Sankey, whose benignant system it was to "fire" an employee as soon as his "book" showed a "falling-off" in the "takings." Mr. Carnegie went to London about twenty years ago. While in Aberdeen, one of his sons, after a successful career at Woolwich Military Academy, passed into the Royal Artillery.

## THE SOUL OF A LION.

I am a Lion—one of the largest in captivity, I believe—but my dignified demeanour is becoming less and less pronounced every day. Just fancy a Lion of my distinguished breed being caged alongside an infernal squad of monkeys, and little boys and girls offering ME ginger-snaps, and other rubbish of that description! It's enough to make me turn my face to the wall for the rest of my unhappy days. My father and mother were honourable and highly respected inhabitants of the Upper Zambesi, and the former seldom failed to bring in a man or two for supper. What times these were! One day, however, I, along with my brother and sister, were having a nice little picnic all to ourselves some little distance from home, when a few bold, bad men of the district trapped and captured us without a single shot being fired. On that unlucky day my sorrows began; I am now perpetually bored, and I believe the most melancholy animal in existence. My brother and sister fared much better. The former tours about the world with a few bosom friends, always seeing something new, and my sister, as far as I am aware, lives the life of an aristocrat in the Dublin Zoological Gardens. I was extremely pleased to learn quite recently that my old "pals" in Tropical Africa were still as cute as ever, for some sportsman or other of the name of Churchill was reported day after day as having "bagged no lions." I am indebted to a casual and disinterested visitor for that interesting piece of information, and I have no doubt it is substantially correct. I should have been better pleased, however, if I had been told that they had all been captured, though that is perhaps the way that tyrant, man, would have looked at it! With staying so long with my enemy I have taken to some of his wretched little ways of thinking, and that, perhaps, above everything else may explain my loss of dignity and general mental dejection. But enough of this gloomy moralising! Do you hear that Babel of screeching, hooting, howling, shrieking, cooing and chirping? It reminds me of a good-going Gramophone! How it gets on my confounded nerves! And I, the King of Beasts, now perfectly impotent and powerless! What a dinner I could make of that cageful of monkeys, with a few of the parrots for tea! But a ginger-snap held out in a tiny little hand is considered quite good enough for me. Does the well-intentioned little brat know I could pick my teeth with his thigh-bone? And is the little maid, who offers me a jujube, aware I could wash her down my throat with a mouthful of water? I attribute this atrocious ignorance and appalling want of respect for my dignity to the pernicious lessons learnt in present-day school books. Only the other evening I heard a brazen-faced youngster ask his father if I was the lion that the mouse enabled to escape by undoing several knots in a rope—a story he said which his school book contained. You can take it from me that this lion in the school books was considered by his companions as a half-witted fellow, and it is much to be regretted that this silly tale was ever allowed to be brought to the notice of little boys and girls, who of course believe everything they read. Poor things, they are not old enough to know that this palpable tale was only concocted by some old fool, who wished to demonstrate the value of trifles, a thing he might easily have done with much more veracity without dragging a lion into the business. Another ridiculous story deals with a certain man named Androcles, who is reported to have extracted a thorn from a lion's paw! Do you think a real live lion would so far forget himself? No self-respecting lion of my acquaintance would ever condescend to such unspeakable mollicoddling.

There are several bright moments, however, in a captive lion's career which have no exact parallel in the life of a lion at freedom. Almost every Saturday night (I know it is Saturday as the following day, Sunday, is invariably a day worth living) a young man and his lady-love come to see me. Their treatment of each other amuses me greatly. They were wont at one time to come like other folks, with a varying space between them, but now their arms seem to be hopelessly intertwined, and sometimes the young man's arm is round his lady-love's waist! Do they think I am not looking at them and their antics? They must have some suspicion that I am "weighing them up," as I never fail to look in another direction when our glances meet. The maiden must be a cold-hearted vixen as the only good point she sees in me is my skin, which I heard her say "would make a nice rug for the ben-fire!" Just imagine my skin "at the ben-fire!" Her young man, however, has a considerable amount of sense, for instead of offering me sweets or fruit, he puts these things into her ladyship's mouth. How

funny they seem to me these infatuated darlings! Do all men feed their women-folk in this amazing fashion? I have no means of knowing, as I am never outside, but my rambling brother could no doubt tell me. I heard a visitor say, too, with a smile upon his face, that I was one of the "lions" of the city. This wicked jest is made, I think, on an average twice a day in winter, and four times a day in summer. How the would-be wags beam all over, but the joke is abominably stale! Moreover, I am somewhat at a loss to understand what they mean. Are there other lions in this same city? It is only two or three times a year that I smell them, and then for a day or two only. The Lord Provost is occasionally mentioned in my hearing, but I am entirely ignorant of his whereabouts. He may be a lion, but, if he dwells in this city, he does not hail from the Upper Zambesi.

It is now my feeding-time, when I fancy I shall be annoyed, as usual, by the presence of staring, open-mouthed multitudes. How would they like a crowd of onlookers around their dinner-table, watching every mouthful with impertinent curiosity? They would doubtless crowd to see me at my morning bath, but the show is happily not open at so early an hour. Such conduct has always been considered bad taste among the denizens of the jungle, but apparently men think nothing about it. But I must be off to my evening meal, so—"Toorle-oo!"

J. W. O.

### The Finances of Winnipeg.\* \* \*

Aberdeen no longer enjoys the distinction of being the only city of importance in the British Dominions which went bankrupt and, after settling with its creditors, started afresh with a new and vigorous lease of life. Winnipeg is at present in the same condition. This is not due to "bad trade," but to the heavy expenditure necessitated by the rapid development of the city, which, within a few years, has risen from a mere prairie shanty township to the position of metropolis of the North-West. For some time back the Corporation has been struggling against adversity. Now, however, the Bank of Montreal has come forward and relieved the pressure with an overdraft for £400,000. The management of the financial affairs of Winnipeg thus becomes temporarily vested in the bank. The directors of that institution will see themselves out all right, as a million and a half of the inscribed stock, which is expected to be snapped up eagerly, will be placed on the London market shortly.

### The Scottish Salon.\* \* \*

Considerable interest continues to be manifested in the Scottish National Salon, which is being held in the Art Gallery. The novelty of the exhibition is the colour photos by the new process, which were taken by Messrs. G. A. Wilson & Co., Aberdeen, and while there are many photographs of distinct merit in landscape, portraiture, and architecture, there is a most interesting display of natural history subjects. On Saturday evening the Art Gallery was crowded, when a splendid concert was given under the direction of Mr. Arthur Collingwood, F.R.C.O. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed to the programme:—Misses Wallace, M'Dougal, Helmrich, Mitchell; and Messrs. Gauld, Cameron, Cooper, Henderson, M'Kay, and Pope. The exhibition closes on Saturday.

### Agricultural Study in Aberdeen.\* \* \*

Comparatively few, except a small but choice band of agriculturists, will remember the "North of Scotland School of Chemistry and Agriculture," which was the precursor in the city of the "Aberdeen College of Agriculture." The institution appears to have been established in 1876. As he mentioned in his highly-interesting speech, at the Newton Short-Horn display last week, Mr. James Macdonald, the Secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Association, was one of the original instructors. The lectures were delivered during the winter. These were always fairly well attended by farmers and farmer's sons. The subjects of study included the Fordyce Lectures, and courses in Agricultural Chemistry, veterinary hygiene, agricultural botany, and the management and breeding of farm stock. The Society was in existence for at least three years. Its history should be well worth the writing.

"I wish to pay you for five cakes," said a traveller to a restaurant-keeper. "But you had only four—a sponge cake, a cocoanut cake, an almond cake, and a currant cake." "And a stomach-cake," added the traveller.

# THE PASSING SHOW.



## CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson. 7.30 p.m. "Jeanie Deans."

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert. Twice nightly, 7 and 9 p.m. The pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," &c.

THE WINTER "ZOO." Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Sinclair. Open all day. Special Performances. 7.45 and 9 p.m. White Siberian Camel, &c.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder & J. Montague. 7.45 p.m.

HUMBER'S WAXWORK.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. Humber. Open all day. Snake charming and Rifle-shooting exhibitions in the evening.

MUSIC HALL.—Director, Mr. Archie Hamilton. 8 p.m. Hamilton's "Excursions." Matinees on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3 p.m.

ART GALLERY.—Scottish National Salon. Photographic Exhibition.

PITTODRIE PARK.—Match on Saturday. Aberdeen v. Motherwell. Kick-off, 3.30 p.m.

\* \* \*

## The Late Baillie Booth.

Sir Alexander Lyon, on Monday afternoon, expressed, in language charged with real sentiment, the sympathy of the Town Council at the death of one who so recently filled an honoured place at the Civic Board. Baillie Booth was a municipal representative of unquestioned ability. He was breezy in speech and bearing, and had a happy manner that made many friends. The Lord Provost spoke with a just appreciation of the work the late magistrate did in several convenerships, positions which permitted of him displaying his characteristic energy. Baillie Milne also paid tribute to the worth of his late colleague, and Mr. Charles Esson, as the late ex-Baillie's successor at the Council, referred to the regret that was felt over the whole of Rosemount Ward.

\* \* \*

## Ploughing the Sands.

It is not the case that Lord Rosebery will be invited to gaffer the squad which will be turned on to clear the sand off the slopes of the Esplanade at the Sea Beach. Other unemployed than his Lordship will be put on the job, and the work will be done under the supervision of the Corporation officials. The Distress Committee will not get its hand in.

\* \* \*

## Show Cases.

The Streets and Roads Committee is again on the war-path—or, more correctly speaking, the pavement. The attempted raid on show cases has somewhat ignominiously failed, and Mr. Charles Esson has at last covered himself with glory. Hip! hip! — The position of the Committee was utterly preposterous, and indicates the predatory nature of municipal rulers—if they can get off with it. The threat to impose a charge of sixpence per square foot of wall space occupied by show-cases found little support in the open council. Mr. Latto appeared confident that the thing was right, but Mr. Taggart, who seconded the Convener's proposal, had evidently his doubts. Mr. Esson protested against this extra levy being imposed on shopkeepers anxious to push trade a bit in these hard times, and Mr. A. R. Duncan carried the house with him in declaring that it was below the dignity of the Town Council. The vote of 18 to 12 showed that the Council had an eye on its dignity.

## Stick no Bills.

There was no mistaking the Council's mood in regard to the application for permission to put up posters on the empty gable wall at the top of Market Street. This conspicuous space, it was maintained, would, if covered with posters, become a disfigurement to Market Street, and Union Street as well. Perhaps in a general sense the Council is right, as a heterogeneous display of bills would be an eyesore, but that only half answers the case. In the first place, the big blank wall is not an architectural adornment to the vicinity, and it is conceivable that a portion of the space given over to pictorial posters would be an improvement.

\* \* \*

## Taste in Posters.

We have got past the days of protest against wall "clichés," and as poster art is a thing that has come to stay, we must confess to a feeling that many of the pictures now seen on hoardings in out-of-the-way places would actually enhance the appearance of the best streets. That seems a strong remark to make, but our point of view is that with a Committee of Public Taste, with a forceful man as Arbiter of Elegance, it would be possible to make an ordinary hoarding-board a source of artistic pleasure. That, however, is not the principle on which our billposters act. The advertiser has the first and last say in the matter, provided he does nothing to offend public decency, and the hoarding is plastered with all sorts of coloured bills, with the result that a bizarre and objectionable effect is frequently got. Our idea would be that only one or two large pictorial posters should be allowed at a time on a prominent wall space, such as the one in Market Street, and the advertisers, we have no doubt, would be ready to pay an exclusive price for the privilege. But, as we say, it would be necessary to have an expert to determine whether the artistic merit of the poster justified this conspicuous display, and we have not yet advanced to that stage of public artistic development. The day may come!

\* \* \*

## Medical Socialism.

An important step has been taken by the Town Council in approving of the recommendation of the Watching Committee that, in cases of accident or sudden illness on the streets, the police constable on the beat should, in future, be authorised to obtain the services of the nearest medical practitioner, if necessary, and that the doctor should receive a fee of half-a-crown for a day visit and five shillings for night services. Now we are getting on towards Socialism! It has frequently been said that the first profession to be nationalised or municipalised will be the medical, and here we have a move in that direction, when the Corporation undertakes the remuneration of the doctor.

\* \* \*

## Strong Adjectives.

Dirty, dilapidated, disgraceful! These are some of the adjectives employed by Baillie Coutts in his description of the present condition of the Corporation Lodging-house. The new superintendent has his work cut out for him, if the picture of the Baillie be accurate. The "dossers" deserve our sympathy, and it will be a matter of satisfaction when we hear from the Public Health Committee that they have once more been put in possession of an "'appy 'ome."

\* \* \*

## The Historic Pageant.

The Town Council has willingly extended its patronage to the Aberdeen historic pageant, to be given in the form of tableaux by the members of the Northern Arts Club in the Union Hall in the beginning of next month. The club is fortunate in numbering among its members many young enthusiasts, and they have taken up the idea of the pageant with splendid spirit and heartiness. Spectacularly, the "entertainment" is sure of success, different artist members of the club having undertaken the arrangement of the various tableaux, which will be based on the outstanding events in our civic history.

\* \* \*

## Straight from Prison.

The Suffragettes appear to have a fondness for Aberdeen. Immediately after her liberation from Holloway Prison, Mrs. Pankhurst will visit the Granite City. The founder of the Women's Social and Political Union has suffered in health during her incarceration in this old, foul, decaying prison, which is a disgrace even to the abominable penitentiaries of England. She has written to the *Daily Telegraph* an exposure

of the filthy conditions under which prisoners are housed, and her bitter acquaintance with the regimen of the unfortunates driven within these walls may be the means of compelling urgent reforms.

\* \* \*

#### The Election to the West Parish Church.

As was generally anticipated, that extremely able young cleric, the Rev. Alexander Stuart Martin, B.D., of Scone, has been elected to the pastorate of the West Parish Church. The appointment was all but universally popular. As the voting, however, was held on Monday, one of the dreariest and stormiest days of the whole season, the poll was very meagre, under 600 of the parishioners, who number 2500, taking the trouble to come up to "scratch." This vote shows that many of the West Kirk people are mere "umbrella Christians," but it by no means expresses the full strength of congregational opinion in his favour. Only 31 of the members declared against the Committee's nominee, so that the election was practically unanimous. I have already stated, I think, that the pastorate of the West is one of the "plums" of the Church, the stipend being £600, with an annual allowance of £70 in lieu of a manse. Consequently, unlike the majority of the clergymen of the Establishment, the new minister will not start his career in Aberdeen "ill-aff."

\* \* \*

#### An Eloquent Preacher.

Mr. Martin is undoubtedly one of the most eloquent preachers in the Scottish Church. He made a deep impression at both diets of worship last Sunday, perhaps more so in the evening than in the forenoon. The West Church people are to be congratulated on their choice. When a minister possesses eloquence, scholarship and amiability, nothing more can be expected or asked for. The wonder is that Mr. Martin has remained so long in such a comparatively unimportant parish as Scone. Certainly his light has taken a considerable time to burn through the bushel in which it was obscured, but now it has, the newcomer will probably be encouraged to take the place that is his proper due in the councils of the Church and in literature.

\* \* \*

#### Return Visit of the Rev. Andrew Brown.

Through the death of Mr. M'Corquodale—in the vernacular of his meaner parishioners, Mr. M'Crocodile—emeritus minister of Queen's Park, Glasgow, his colleague and successor, the Rev. Andrew Brown, now "steps into his own," and a stipend of a thousand a year. Mr. Brown has not had long to wait for his promotion. Since he went to Glasgow this distinguished exponent of pulpit oratory has been preaching to "crowded houses" every Sunday. Indeed, on some occasions it would save intending "worshippers" considerable inconvenience if the notice, "house full," was timeously hung up at the church doors. I understand Mr. Brown will occupy the West Parish Church on Sunday, the 15th March. Without doubt the house will be crammed that day by his friends and admirers, as well as a big representation of the host of "sermon-tasters," who are as plentiful locally as gulls on the sea-shore.

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#### Tribute to Major Forbes-Sempill.

A very fine tribute was paid to the memory of Major the Hon. Douglas Forbes-Sempill by the Rev. Matthew Don in the parish church of Fintray last Sunday. I was somewhat surprised to see that the deceased officer was a member of the Church of Scotland, having been under the impression that his father, Lord Sempill, verted to Episcopalianism, and also professed another political faith than that of his father, Sir John, who was one of the few county gentlemen to occupy a seat on the platform at the great demonstration on Aberdeen Links in favour of the first Reform Act. The major's uncle, the late Hon. James Forbes of Corse, always remained steadfast to the National Church, in which, indeed, he held the office of elder. In the course of his tribute Mr. Don said: "It is a coincidence of local interest, and more, that the same week in which the honourable member of the family of Forbes fell on these forbidding hills far away, there died, in the peaceful village of Hatton of Fintray, the old precentor, for no one regretted more than the deceased the introduction of instrumental music into the church, and the passing of the precentor, which marked, indeed, a parting everywhere from the Scotland of the past."

#### Lord Linlithgow.

Lord Linlithgow was a good specimen of the safe men of exalted rank and fair ability, of whom little else is required except tact, who, after filling minor posts at home, are frequently sent out to "govern" the more important colonies. The deceased, however, possessed one distinction which will always entitle him to a respectable place in political biography. He was the first Governor-General of the new Commonwealth of Australia. His Lordship, who was only 47, succeeded his father in the Earldom of Hopetoun at the age of 13. On his return from Australia in 1892 he was "translated" to the Marquisate. I observe that, in their obituaries the local papers repeat the fable that the first of the Hopes in Edinburgh came over from France in the train of Magdalen, Queen of James V. There is not a scrape of evidence to show this was the case. The name Hope, otherwise written Houpp, and sometimes Howpp, is as old in the south of Scotland as the "Hills of Birse." For several generations the Hopes were merchants in Edinburgh. Their position was then no more exalted than that of their brother traders or "cramers," who kept open booth in and around the High Street and Cannongate of Edinburgh, and stood at the door shouting out the nature of their goods, and haling in likely customers. The first eminent man of the family was the famous Lord Advocate, of the Charles I. period, Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, who, while occupying that position, had no less than three sons sitting above him on the bench.

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#### The Hopetoun Wealth.

Lady Linlithgow, whom the deceased Marquis married in 1886, was the Hon. Hersey Eveleigh de Moleyns, a daughter of the fourth Lord Ventry, a "Union" peer of considerable estate in Co. Kerry, who descends from an English family named Mullins, and a niece maternally of Major-General Andrew Wauchope of Niddrie Marischal and Magersfontein celebrity. The wealth of the Hopetoun Hopes may be ascribed to the marriage of Lord Advocate Hope's younger son, Sir John Hope of Hopetoun, with the heiress of Robert Foulis, the proprietor of the richly mineral'd estate of Leadhills. The Earldom, which is now endowed with a 42,600 acreage, dates from 1702. Lord Linlithgow is succeeded by his eldest son, Lord Hopetoun, who is now a youth of twenty.

\* \* \*

#### King Leopold of Belgium.

That hoary-headed old miscreant, King Leopold of Belgium, whose life has been the most evilly notorious of any European Monarch of the century, is said to be afflicted with an incurable disease, which developed first in a gangrene of the heel. A whole volume would be required even to epitomise the scandals of Leopold's life. Probably once he is dead he will be made the subject of many volumes. For a parallel to his career of sensuousness one has to go back to the days of Charles II. His mistresses included nearly all the most notorious "beauties" of the Paris boulevards within the last generation, of course, including Cleo de Merode and Liane de Pougny—and more recently after the decease of his Royal Consort, who probably died of a "broken heart"—he made a morganatic marriage, with a woman of gutter extraction, who is the mother of his illegitimate children. Leopold, it will be remembered, behaved most villainously to his daughters, whom he deprived of the fortune to which they were entitled through their mother. In this country his name has become justly infamous through the atrocities committed by his representatives in the Congo Free State. This "estate" is the King's "private property." As soon as it came into his hands he gave his agents warning that if they could not make the country pay they would have to go. Hence the atrocities and the millions with which Leopold is credited. A good deal of the illgotten wealth, however, has been squandered on prostitutes.

\* \* \*

#### Another Carnegie Gift.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie is to give £6000 to the Corporation of Forfar for the erection of Public Baths on conditions. What these conditions are is at present unknown. It is to be hoped, however, that when they get the Baths the people of Forfar will keep themselves cleaner than is the donor's money, which was principally acquired by the theft of other men's patents, and the wholesale plunder of the steel-using part of the public, and is, moreover, stained with the blood of thousands of his employees. The latter, who had been tempted into the Carnegie Works by the lure of big wages, were always ruthlessly thrown aside as soon as their physical and mental powers began to ebb. That, owing to the high pressure, was only a matter of a few years.

### The Millionaire's "Generosity."

Carnegie, in his time, has given away many millions to a multiplicity of objects. There is, however, nothing of open-handed generosity in the man's nature. Every cent. was bestowed with an object—to advertise the steel works or the man himself. In fact, though he squanders thousands annually in promoting worthless follies, Andy would not give a shilling to a beggar in charity. A million times rather than do that he would give the beggar in charge. His parsimony or meanness, however, is most clearly shown in his dealings with his tenants and tradesmen. All claims against him he beats down to the last penny. Skibo, his residence, is a "model," but the same cannot be said of the farm-houses and crofters' cots on the Skibo estate. In many cases these are "models" of nothing except what every good landlord does his best to avoid.

\* \* \*

### Presentation to Mr. Henry James Ross.

The members of the Burgh Surveyor's Department met in the Imperial Hotel last Thursday evening under the presidency of Mr. J. D. Ledingham, chief clerk, on the occasion of the leave-taking of Mr. Henry James Ross, C.E., a member of the staff who is about to proceed to Canada. In presenting Mr. Ross with several treatises on modern engineering, the chairman referred to the marked ability he had shown during his training in the office, and the excellent use he had made of the opportunities afforded him of acquiring a knowledge of his profession in all its branches. Mr. Ross, in acknowledging the gifts, referred to the spirit of camaraderie that had always existed between the members of the staff, and in appropriate words thanked his colleagues for their kindness and good wishes. A few pleasant hours were spent, the toasts and speeches being interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Mr. Ross, who is a son of the late Councillor John Ross, possesses high literary and artistic abilities. Most of his articles and sketches were signed "Henry James."

\* \* \*

### Caledonian Railway Infirmary Fund.

The majority of the servants on the Northern Section of the Caledonian Railway have been contributing fortnightly to a fund for the infirmaries in the district from Montrose and Brechin to Aberdeen, since 1903, and this fund has been the means of raising a sum of over £140 for these institutions which has been distributed annually. The collection for the year ending 31st January, 1908, amounted to £26 15s., and this sum has just been allocated as follows, viz:—

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	...	£20	0	0
Brechin Infirmary	...	3	0	0
Montrose Infirmary	...	15	0	
Aberdeen Ophthalmic Institution	...	1	0	0
Aberdeen Sick Children's Hospital	...	2	0	0

The Staff at one or two of the stations contribute direct to the various institutions, but an effort is about to be made to get them to join the rest of the Staff, and so make a representative contribution to those deserving charities. Mr. Geo. C. Minty, Goods Cashier, Aberdeen, who has taken a prominent interest in the Fund since its inception, has been nominated an Annual Manager of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, in view of above contribution of £20 to the funds of that institution. Mr. Wm. Greig, Booking Clerk, Aberdeen, has acted as Treasurer to the Fund, and the Secretarial work is carried on by Mr. Alex. C. Marnoch, Correspondence Clerk for the Goods Department, Aberdeen.

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### Mr. P. M'Hardy's Catalogue for 1908.

Mr. P. M'Hardy, seed specialist, 30 Guild Street, has just issued his catalogue for the coming season. The book is beautifully produced, the illustrations in particular being absolutely "life-like." Since starting business on his own account, Mr. M'Hardy has been successful in acquiring a first-class connection. As he is completely a master of his business, customers can absolutely depend on the high quality of all the seeds and bulbs that he supplies, while his prices will compare favourably with these of any other firm in the trade. Mr. M'Hardy makes a special feature of catering for amateurs. His packets of the leading varieties of vegetable and flower seeds at a penny, two-pence and threepence now sell in thousands. The "Amateur price list for 1908" should be obtained by every householder with a small garden.

## EXIT HUME.

By the time what is here written meets the eyes of the readers of *Bon-Accord*, the rope will be taut round the neck of Joseph Hume. Another "Bottom Dog" will have passed out into the darkness, and will have personally presented his petition at the Mercy Seat. Justice down here will be satisfied. How many this time are on the side of justice? We take the liberty of claiming to speak on behalf of the intelligence of Aberdeen—a privilege that the daily papers of this city, with astounding cynical brutality, have failed to avail themselves of—when we say that the execution of Hume will be regarded as a retrograde step in our social advancement. We have no desire to expend distorted words of sympathy over the fate of the man—society-made ruffian as he may be. At the best, his life was of little value, but even on the heathenish Mosaic principle on which the Law has acted, the man has paid the price, even before the drop has fallen. A life for a life! Has not "Society" had more than its *revenge* in the mental torture the murderer has undergone in these days of waiting for the final decision?

"The wretch condemned with life to part,  
Still, still on hope relies,  
And every pang that rends the heart  
Bids expectation rise."

Did Smith suffer so? No, from the mere revengeful point of view alone justice has already got her own back.

\* \* \*

But, as we have said, the community is concerned not so much with the criminality of Hume as with the necessity for the abolition of capital punishment. It is absurd to believe that those who have shrieked in letters to the evening papers for Hume's blood represent the sober judgment of the city. Their language puts them out of court. We are, however, surprised to read this comment, almost the only one authoritatively made by the *Evening Express*—"And yet, on account of divided opinion in regard to capital punishment, this purely legal question is made a political one, Members of Parliament being guided in their conduct by their impressions as to how they will best please their constituents in the matter." The imputation is unworthy. But even the writer must see that he is giving his case away when he implies that all the members for the north-east of Scotland have correctly gauged the actual sentiments of the responsible citizens of the district.

\* \* \*

### Reminiscent of Youth.

A hardheaded old shipbuilder, who made his fortune, as he expresses it, "with his coat off," was induced by his daughters to accompany them to a Wagner concert, the first he had ever attended. The next day he met a musical acquaintance, who had seen him the night before. The latter asked: "I suppose you enjoyed the concert last night, Mr. Smithson?" "Yes, it took me back to the days of my youth," the old man replied, with a reminiscent sigh. "Ah! summer days in the country, girl in a lawn dress, birds singing, and all that." "No; the days when I worked in a boiler shop."

\* \* \*

### Morality for Motorists.

The motorist has had much to put up with in this country, but the periodical fits of severity and unctuousness indulged in by our transatlantic cousins must be extremely irksome, says *The Motor World*. In the no doubt important township of Colorado Springs (we trust we are not exhibiting an undue amount of ignorance in disclaiming any previous knowledge of this enlightened centre of civilisation), we learn that the would-be motorist must furnish proof, to the satisfaction of a board of three examiners, that he is of good moral character and of steady, temperate habits. Of course we know that motorists, without exception, fill all these requirements; but we have always imagined Colorado to be one of the unsophisticated States of the "woolly West," populated chiefly by cowboys of the approved type, with bowie knives, tomahawks, and six-shooters, etc., of whom we used to read in our boyish days. But good moral characters, steady and temperate habits—alas! another of our few remaining illusions shattered.

## Plays and Players.

### "Jeannie Deans."

This drama, so powerfully humanistic and admirably adapted from Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Heart of Midlothian," is proving a real solid attraction to play-goers this week. Mr. John Clyde's fine personation of Rob Roy is still fresh in our minds, and he lends the weight of his good stage presence and faultless elocution to the dual parts of the Counsel for the defence and the Duke of Argyll in this week's play. The court scene at the trial of Effie Deans for the crime of infanticide is most realistic. The inexorable Covenanting uprightness of David Deans, and the stern rectitude of Jeannie Deans, who could not let a lie pass her lips even to save her sister from the gallows, although she immediately sets out on foot for London to beg her sister's life from the Queen's Majesty, are well portrayed. The parts of Jeannie, Effie and Madge Wildfire are excellently played by Miss Gracie Murielle, Miss Isobel Falconer, and Miss Jessie Glenn. Miss Gladys Brandon-Gower plays the part of Queen Caroline with great dignity and feeling, and Miss Jeannie MacIntyre is very successful in the part of the old hag. Both the last-named ladies are locally connected, and we are glad to welcome our young townswomen in their histrionic achievements.

\* \* \*

### Madame Butterfly.

There is lively interest in the town about the week of Grand Opera which begins on Monday first, and musical people are looking forward to a feast of harmony and a revel in the concord of sweet sounds. The "stories" of the various operas to be enacted are more or less familiar. Most of us have sufficient culture to appreciate the musico-poetic-scenic genius of Wagner, although we may not all be the perfect Wagnerites that G. Bernard Shaw would have us to be. The very important place that Puccini's Opera, "Madame Butterfly," has taken recently in the repertoire of Covent Garden productions, coupled with the fact that it will be produced next Friday for the first time in Aberdeen, warrants our giving a short outline of the plot. "Madame Butterfly" is a tragedy in three acts. The scene is laid in Nagasaki, amid all the sunshine and blossoms of Japan. Lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton of the American gunboat quartered in the harbour has decided to enter into a marriage with Cho-Cho-San, commonly called Butterfly, which has been arranged through the marriage broker, Goro. To Pinkerton the incident is a sportive adventure; to Butterfly this marriage is a serious, all-absorbing love match; so much so that she secretly renounces her relations and her religion in order that she may come over entirely to the thoughts and feelings of the man she loves. Immediately after the marriage ceremony, her uncle, the priest, appears on the scene, and curses her for her acts of repudiation. Pinkerton turns the whole crowd out of his beautiful little home, and Butterfly has nobody in the whole world but her lover and her faithful maid, Susaki. So ends Act I.

Then three years pass, and Pinkerton has gone back to America with a promise to return "when the robins nest again." And Butterfly, pathetically trusting, waits the return of her husband and the father of the child that Pinkerton has never seen. Daily, hourly, she looks over the flowery terrace into the bay for any sign of the returning steamer. At last the day comes when she does see the smoke of his ship, and joy fills the pretty menage. The house is turned into a flower garden, and great preparations are made for his home-coming. Pinkerton, meanwhile, has sent news to Sharpless, the Consul, of his return, asking him to see Butterfly, and tell her he has married his own countrywoman, Kate Pinkerton, and is bringing her with him to Nagasaki. Sharpless pays a visit to Butterfly, and, at the sight of her child, and all the touching tokens of welcome, his courage evaporates, and he goes out without breaking the news of the letter he carries with him. At the moment of most joyful expectancy Butterfly learns the truth in a scene that is almost too tragic in its pathos. She hears it all with sweet submission, and even

agrees to give up her baby to them if they will return for it in half-an-hour. When Pinkerton and Sharpless enter it is only to find Butterfly in her death agony. She has killed herself with her father's sword, because "it is better to die with honour when one cannot live with honour." It is a simple, all too common tale, and therein lies its realism, and its appealing pathos. The music is beautiful, and the scena is now vivid and grand, and now of surpassing loveliness.

\* \* \*

The younger writers for the halfpenny papers, says the *Era*, have been discovering that Miss Constance Collier danced at the Empire. She only posed as Cleopatra, and magnificent indeed did she look. It was her mother who danced—not at the Empire, though, but at the Metropolitan.

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Parks' Eton Boys and Girton Girls, who recently appeared with much success at the Palace, returned to London on Monday. They opened at the Holborn Empire and the London, Shoreditch.

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## MUSICAL GOSSIP.

By "Vox."

### Moody-Manners Opera Week.

Next week will be a red-letter one in the musical annals of Aberdeen, when the Moody-Manners Opera Company occupy the stage of His Majesty's Theatre, in a series of operas so well chosen as to please the ultra-musical in respect that such novelties as "Aida" and "Madame Butterfly" will be heard, while lovers of the better-known operas of "Maritana" and "The Bohemian Girl" will be no less satisfied. Madame Fanny Moody will appear on Monday in "Tannhauser" and on Friday in "Madame Butterfly," and Mr. Charles Manners is billed for three operas—"Aida," on Thursday; "Lohengrin," on Saturday afternoon; and the "Bohemian Girl" on Saturday evening.

\* \* \*



Madame Fanny Moody.

### Madame Fanny Moody.

Madame Fanny Moody was born at Redruth, in Cornwall, in 1866, and came of an exceptionally musical family. At twelve years of age she was singing at concerts, and when she reached her eighteenth year she went to London, where she studied for three years under the famous contralto, Madame Sainton Dolby. At the end of those three years she was singing one evening at

the house of the late Sir Morell Mackenzie, where the late Mr. Carl Rosa heard her, and she was immediately offered a three years' engagement, which she accepted. Miss Moody appeared straight away as a prima-donna, her first rôle being Arline in the "Bohemian Girl," which she played at Liverpool. Mr. Manners joined the Carl Rosa Company about the same time as Madame Fanny Moody, and remained with it for three years, during which time they became engaged. At the end of the three years' engagement with the Carl Rosa Company she was married to Mr. Manners, from Lady Mackenzie's house, and she was given away by Sir Morell Mackenzie.

When they returned from their honeymoon, the pair started singing at concerts for a time, and then went to America, touring all the principal cities, and then through Canada. On their return to England, they organised a concert party of their own, when they gave one hundred concerts in less than six months. It is 11 years since they formed the Moody-Manners Opera Company, and with the exception of five London seasons—two at Covent Garden, one at Drury Lane, and two at the Lyric—they have toured the provinces ever since. During those eleven years the career of Madame Fanny Moody and Mr. Charles Manners has been one long series of successes. Wherever they have appeared enthusiastic audiences have greeted them. Apart from Madame Fanny Moody's beautiful voice, she owes a great deal of her success to the quality of thoroughness. When rehearsing a new part she incessantly goes over the whole play in her own mind; each scene stands out clearly; the tiniest movements are rehearsed mentally over and over again. Nothing seems to escape her quick observation. She sometimes designs her own stage dresses. For instance, two of the costumes she wears in "Madame Butterfly" were made entirely after her own design. The dress she wears in "Tannhauser" is also her own design. Madame Fanny Moody, like most artistes, has a favourite rôle, which is considered to be "Madame Butterfly."



Mr. CHARLES MANNERS.

**Mr. Charles Manners.**

Mr. Manners was born in 1862, in the neighbourhood of Tipperary, the son of Colonel Mansergh, formerly R.H.A., a squire belonging to one of the most prominent Anglo-Irish families. He was educated at Hoddesdon Grammar School,

At one time he intended to follow his father's profession and enter the Army, but instead he proceeded to Dublin, and went in for stockbroking—only for three months, however. He was then apprenticed to civil engineering on an Irish railway. But neither stockbroking nor civil engineering were destined to make him famous. Dr. Power O'Donoghue, a Dublin music teacher, discovered that Mr. Mansergh had a voice, and, hearing that the Albert Scholarship, giving free tuition for a year at the Dublin Academy, was going to be competed for, the youngster went forward and gained it. He then went to London, and entered the Royal Academy; then to Florence, in Italy, where he studied Italian, returning to London with a repertoire of fifteen operas, and about twenty oratorios. He secured a chorister's position, under the stage-name of "Charles Manners," in "Claude Duval," a comic opera, which ran for three months. Then he went to the provinces as a choir member in "Pinafore" and the "Pirates of Penzance," and after five or six months got a little part to play in a curtain-raiser.

Step by step he advanced. Mr. D'Oyley Carte offered him "The Sentry" in "Iolanthe" to create in London. After that he played "Falka" in the country, and also created General Bombardos in "Pepita." Hanking after grand opera, Mr. Manners had been several times to the late Mr. Carl Rosa offering his services for the chorus. Successful at last, he signed as a principal bass for two years. For the Carl Rosa Company he created Cardinal Brogni, in "The Jewess"; Bertram, in "Robert the Devil"; Pietro, in "Masaniello," etc. At the end of the two years Mr. Rosa wished Mr. Manners to sign for other two years, but as the latter wanted to sign only for one year, there was a difference, and they separated. Then he toured with Mr. Sims Reeves throughout the country for a year, finally launching out into the now famous Opera Company.

\* \* \*

**Queen's Cross Orchestra.**

The concert by this orchestra on Monday was only fairly well attended. It is an enthusiastic body of instrumentalists—their enthusiasm, however, sometimes leads to indiscretion. While they gave, on the whole, a very capable performance of Schubert's "Symphony in B Minor," this much cannot be said of some of the other pieces. The strings were the best part of the orchestra, the wood winds the worst, there being frequent untunefulness and injudicious obtrusiveness. In the orchestral accompaniment to Mr. A. Kidd's song, "Eleanore," one wondered which was the solo and which the accompaniment! Mr. Kidd had a much better opportunity of showing his good voice (with Mr. Clemens' tasteful piano accompaniment) in Schumann's "Devotion." Miss Liza Garden's pianoforte solos were thoroughly pleasing; her best work was a "Ballad" of Greig's and Bach's "Præambule in E." To revert to the orchestra again, I did not like the "Suite Venitienne"—it was a carnival of sound, with little music, especially in the final movement. Mr. Clemens conducted with ability; it was unfortunate, however, that he did not always get the desired result from his forces.

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### Empire Music Hall.

The performance at the "Empire" this week is really unusually good. Mr. Dan Fraser is in remarkably fine form, and he is as successful in sentimental ballads as in riotously humorous Scotch ditties. For a comedienne, Miss Marie Rose possesses a voice of more melodiously high compass and flexibility than I have heard for a long time; and she is also an exceedingly expert dancer. Professor Montague is "up to his tricks again," that is, well up to his conjuring tricks; in fact, he is over the stage the whole of the evening; and Mr. Arthur Bright is popular alike as a vocalist and sketch artist. A number of very amusing sketches are played in the course of the evening. The Professor is fairly proved a "swick" by his victims in the "Billy Smith's Last Bite" act; and the "Era-graph" incident is likewise intensely funny. The "Who Died First" sketch is cleverly acted by Messrs. Montague, Fraser and Bright, and Miss Rose; and much interest is shown in the fine series of Cinematograph pictures which are thrown on the screen by Mr. William Calder, junr. Miss May Calder, the accompanist, shows a touch on the piano which is singularly firm and mellow for so young a lady.

### Humber's Waxwork.

There is no abatement of public interest this week in the snake-charming exploits of Miss Golden and the rifle-shooting feats of Mr. Carl Callenoe. Performances are given repeatedly in the course of the evening, and on each occasion the house is crowded. Both turns keep the audiences in a pleasant state of thrill, but as the lady and Mr. Callenoe have the snakes and the rifle completely under their mastery, the most nervous of sight-seers need not fear to patronise the interesting show.

### Ferryhill Club Concert.

To-morrow evening the members of the Ferryhill Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club will give a concert in the Ferryhill Parish Church Hall. All the entertainments organised by this energetic body have been crowned with success, and a similar result is again assured with a programme to be contributed to by such artists as Miss Isobel Mearns, Misses W. and Una Wyness, Miss Janet Wallace, Miss Minnie Garrow; the Rev. J. W. Coutts, Mr. W. M. Johnston, Mr. G. O. Robertson, and Messrs. Allaway and Riach. Mr. Dove Paterson will also exhibit cinematograph pictures.

### The Winter Zoo.

The camel, "Mary," has now settled down comfortably in her new sphere of existence. Nothing seems to disturb her equanimity except the prospect of being called out to work, but once erected on her feet she raises no protest against the "common curse" of existence which affects camels as well as mankind. Possibly Mary's sense of humour is not strongly developed, although it is alleged a twinkle came into her eye the other evening, when a prominent citizen might have been seen slipping over her tail, and at the same time trying to save a fall by clutching desperately at one of her humps. Although not a particularly heavy feeder, the "Bactrian" has to be groomed every morning by a special attendant. Mary's toilet, in fact, is one of the special attractions to early visitors at the Zoo.

In the variety section, Messrs. Duggan and Willon, who dance very smartly, and blend their voices harmoniously in song, again appear with success. Mr. Joe Diamond is an exceedingly expert sand-dancer, and the heartiest applause greets Mr. Will Sheridan's performance on the Japanese violin. This artist's skill is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that he has only one arm. On Monday night he rendered "Aileen Alannah" and "Auld Robin Gray" most delightfully. Other entertainment managers should hear this most accomplished player. The little girls, Misses Hendry and Thomson, are also worthy of special mention as highly graceful step-dancers.

Mr. Dove Paterson shows quite a number of new films this week. All of them are well up to the high standard of merit which he sets himself. Chief among them is the series entitled "The Fountain of Eternal Youth." All the others are almost equally worthy of appreciation. Mr. A. Bannerman continues to play the accompaniments very tunefully.

### Hamilton's "Excursions."

This attractive entertainment has now entered successfully on the third and concluding week of the present run. In spite of the bad weather and the opposition of the other local opposition shows, the attendance continues to be well sustained. The performances are wholly satisfactory to the audiences, whose applause is frequent and whole-hearted. There is no change in the variety part of the programme this week, the artists, Mlle. Florence, globe-walker; the Carlsens, acrobats; Eugene and Willie, musical acrobats; and Abex, the "strong man," all appearing with their usual success. We shall be glad to have the "Excursions" back again before long.



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## THE PALACE THEATRE.

Though it is getting somewhat late in the season for pantomime, a large audience turned up on Monday to see the "Babes in the Wood," as staged by Mr. Herbert Darnley's Company. Perhaps pantomime is a little too long drawn out for a miscellaneous crowd like that which patronises the Palace on Monday nights, but those who follow the libretto and the music closely will find the performance most enjoyable. The dialogue of the piece is full of clever "patter," the music is agreeably sprightly, and the members of the Company, without exception, act and dance with commendable vivacity. Miss Zena Pana makes a very dashing Robin Hood; Miss Bessie Benson, a first-rate exponent of the sand-dance, is a charming Maid Marian; and Miss Mollie Russell throws much humour into her portraiture of the nurse. Miss Annette Sellens, formerly of the Moody-Manners Company, sings with admirable taste as "Fairy Firefly"; and Miss Emily Delevanti and Miss Clara Bell are also highly successful in their parts of Little John and Polly Pye. The dancing interludes by the Moonbeam Girls form one of the most attractive features of the performance. Among the male members of the Company are such experienced actors as Mr. Darnley, the librettist, and Messrs. Mark Sheridan, jun., C. H. Bell, E. Stanley, L. Leslie, and S. Crossley; but in fact, if it were not for consideration of space, all the members of the combination deserve mention, and no notice would be complete without a reference to the dainty dresses of the ladies, and the highly artistic degree of care with which the production is staged.

I do not think I shall be accused of undue severity when I say that, owing to the constant fire of interruptions and the boisterous enthusiasm of the baser section of the audience on Monday, neither the artists nor the pantomime received the attention to which, on their merits, both are fully entitled. This complaint applies only to the "first night." Possibly it will not have to be made during the rest of the week.

In addition to the "Babes," three enjoyable variety turns are provided by Miss Lil O'Gorman, a piquant comedienne; Miss Margaret Ruby and Mr. Ernest Laws in a picturesque Irish vocal sketch, "Old Madrid"; and Mr. Bert Danson, a resourceful eccentric comedian. The orchestra, under Mr. Shepherd, opens the performance with the melodious march, "Emancipation Day," which is executed with much spirit.

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Also it does not spot or discolour the scone.

### Mrs. Hyne on the Stage.

Mrs. Hyne, the wife of the eminent bigamist, Arthur Hyne, commenced her stage career by appearing at the Bristol Music Hall last week with her two children and a gramophone. In an interview she stated that she was going to appear also at New Cross, where her parents live, likewise at Brighton and Aberdeen, with the gramophone. After that she has a twelve months' engagement with Mr. Barrasford.



## FOOTBALL.

### The League International.

Scotland has a pretty long leeway to make up in this series of Internationals, which were inaugurated in season 1892. They have suffered ten defeats in all, so that success on Saturday was badly wanted, to make amends for previous failures. The weather, for Birmingham, was bad at the start, blinding snow showers, following hard frost, accompanying the teams as they took the field. Experimental as the Scotch side was classed, it proved much more so than the selectors imagined. While the opening exchanges favoured the visitors, there was a want of somebody to finish the good work accomplished by the wings. The Falkirk pivot was a failure, good as he is at inside, against such a burly half as Wedlock; he had neither weight, height, nor speed to elude him. Fortunate were England in one of their incursions, when Warren scored with a low shot, following a corner from Hall, the Villa forward. The next slice of luck came when Agnew was penalised for handling, and Hillsden put his side two up, at which the score remained to the finish. Many chances fell to the Scotch side, but they were met by a sturdy defence, combined with the weakness already indicated. At no time during the play did the English side look like being two goals better than the visitors, but such was the case. The League selectors were soundly rated for their unwisdom before the team travelled, and they will receive no compassion from the critics when they return.

\* \* \*

### The Association Team against Wales.

The first of the Association Internationals is to be played, at Dundee, next Saturday, on Dens Park. With a view to watching the team selected by the League, the Association Committee entrusted with this particular duty were all at Birmingham last Saturday, and met immediately after the game. They have made quite a number of changes from the Birmingham team, being, evidently, not impressed with the League selection. The following is the first Association representative team for season 1907-08:—

Goal—H. Rennie (Hibs.);  
*Right.* Agnew (Kilmarnock), *Backs—* Chaplin (Dundee); *Left.*  
*Half-Backs—*  
 M'Nair (Celtic), Thomson (Hearts), Gault (Rangers);  
*Forwards—*  
 Walker (Hearts), M'Coll (Queen's Park),  
 Bennet (Celtic), Spiers (Rangers), Lennie (Aberdeen).

This team ought to combine a strong defence with cleverness and experience in attack. On club form each individual deserves recognition, though we have heard murmurings of displeasure at the selection of Walker and M'Coll, who are considered beyond the stage when they are useful or effective in international games.

\* \* \*

### Lost by a Penalty.

The Aberdeen team which did duty on Saturday at Kilmarnock had only a semblance of itself from the former week at Pittodrie. So many new faces appeared in the front line that they were scarcely recognisable from the team that has been going so well. The Ayrshire people have a strong fancy that they will meet Aberdeen in the final, and this had a great attraction for them; for, though the weather was anything but tempting, and plenty of snow round about, they came out in their thousands, certainly more than ever they did to Aberdeen on their previous visits. Nor were they disappointed, for they saw a splendid game of football, many stirring incidents occurring which kept the excitement up till the whistle blew.

Aberdeen were uppermost at the start, and but for hanging too long on the ball ought to have opened their account early. Following this some fine defensive work was shown by the visitors, Coleman twice preventing Templeton from getting in his kick, while Macfarlane dealt with some capital shots. Wilson swung across a capital centre which Murray very nearly got through with, Young being hard pressed for a time. So on the

play went, from end to end, a punishing first-half ending with a clean sheet. Play was not long begun ere a penalty was granted, it being alleged that Hume was too forcible in his attentions to Walker. Templeton scored. Not long after this a shot from Muir, we thought, was sailing beautifully between the posts, when it was fisted out by one of the backs—another penalty. Murray did not put enough pith behind his shot, and Young just got it and rolled it behind. The succeeding corner being cleared, Aberdeen worked hard to equalise, and nearly succeeded several times, but the whistle sounded with "Killie" victors by 1-0, the same score that divided the teams at Pittodrie.

\* \* \*

#### Play and Players.

The game was value for a draw, for we could not see that either side had very much the pull over the other. Macfarlane was great in goal, and dealt with some shots that appeared impossible to save. Coleman and Hume were both reliable, but the heavy ball seemed to bother them a bit. The halves were tip-top; Drain, who had another try with the first team, doing very well against such an experienced player as Templeton. The forwards played well but for their attempting to run the ball through, instead of shooting within range of goal. Murray, Muir, and Simpson were best. Templeton was the star of the home side, and led the forwards on at a great pace. Anderson was energetic and watchful to a degree, while Young in goal excelled himself, and satisfied the home crowd better than ever he has done.

\* \* \*

#### The League.

A full list of League fixtures was gone through on Saturday. Great was the interest attached to the meeting between Dundee and Falkirk at Dens Park. The meeting aroused considerable enthusiasm, and the spectators were treated to a hard game with honours even at the finish. The scoring was all done in the opening half, Langlands, the Forfar centre, figuring for the first time in senior football, his goal being a lively one. To square matters in the running for honours, Celtic were only able to draw with Third Lanark, which is a point dropped that was not calculated on. The Celts scored in the first period, and the "Warriors" got level in the second half. This result will satisfy both Falkirk and Dundee, who have still to be reckoned with in the championship. Rangers beat Hearts at Ibrox by 2-1, while the Hibs got a bit of a fright from Port-Glasgow, the Easter Road team winning on the post by 2-1. Partick Thistle and Motherwell had goals galore, the former winning by the odd goal in seven. Morton and St. Mirren drew 1-1, and the same result was registered between Hamilton Academicals and Airdrieonians.

\* \* \*

#### A Draw at Pittodrie.

Brechin City put up a good fight with the Aberdeen reserves on Saturday. There were considerable alterations in the home eleven, which were only known at the last minute. Collins was unable to play through illness, and Wilson, Drain and M'Kinley were assisting the first eleven. Ross of the 'Varsity stepped in for Drain, and M'Eachran and Paterson from the same club formed the right wing, with Paterson from the Gordon Highlanders as centre. Play opened favourably for the home side, but they missed several easy chances; in fact the whole game might be summarised in lost opportunities. The goal which John James Simpson opened Aberdeen's account with was a beauty and worked for, richly deserving the plaudits it evoked. Even with two penalties thrown in, Brebner failed at the first and Davidson

at the second. In the open Brechin made a good show, but they were seldom allowed to trouble Mutch. In the second period, though Aberdeen tried to press home the advantage they held, the visitors from a penalty equalised and the scores remained unaltered to the finish, Brechin carrying away a valuable point to them. Play was good and bad by turns. M'Eachran played a rattling game but was poorly supported by Paterson, while the centre, though quick in stopping the ball, roamed too much from his proper place. The left wing were only fair. The halves and backs were the mainstay of the side and put in a lot of grand work, and what little Mutch had to do was done well. Lyon put in a lot of work for the visitors, especially in covering up, but we thought Campbell the cleanest kick of the two. In goal they were very well served indeed, and the halves were a hard-working trio, with the extreme men the best in the front line.

\* \* \*

#### Chatty Bits.

Our congratulations to Willie Lennie for the honour he has received in being capped against Wales.

We are sure Aberdonians will wish him good luck, and that he may receive a similar honour against England.

Lennie and Secretary Philip journeyed to Birmingham last week and spectated at the League international.

They had rather a cold journey out and home.

Trainer Simpson had quite a small accident ward at Pittodrie last week. His patients have made excellent recoveries.

So many absentees made the trainer a bit anxious as to how the others would fare at Kilmarnock.

They got on better than was expected, and proved themselves capable substitutes for those they displaced. It is gratifying to hear this.

Aberdeen seems to have become famous all at once in the football world. Charlie O'Hagan has been selected again to represent his country against Scotland on the 14th, in Ireland.

Better still, Charlie is to captain the team, an honour which he had to forego by deciding to play against Dundee in the cup ties.

We are sure that Aberdonians wish O'Hagan every success, and if his team does not win, may they make a good show.

The rumour circulated by a Dundee paper that Aberdeen were to play their tie at Hampden is entirely without foundation.

Such a thing must have originated in the fertile brain of some disappointed Dundonian. The rumour has caused great annoyance to the officials at Pittodrie.

The first international is due at Dens Park on Saturday. It will have an attraction for Aberdonians, who have a representative in the team.

There will be cheap fares to Dundee by the North British Railway with the ordinary morning trains.

The storm on Saturday was worse in England than in Scotland. Only Rugby games were postponed on this side of the border, but many League games were cancelled on the other side.

The struggle to keep out of the bottom places in the English League is going on apace, and as yet there is no certainty as to the last two.

Saturday is Cup tie in England, and some of the ties have great possibilities attached to them.

Fulham have Manchester United, and are eager to repeat the same dose that they gave the City at Craven Cottages.

Aberdeen will have to look out for a permanent penalty kicker in both teams. On Saturday they had three chances to score off these gifts, and failed at every one of them.

We have advocated more than once that something in this line should be done, but still another is added to the list of failures.

# ARCHIBALD M<sup>C</sup>KENZIE.

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McEachran, of the University, gave a fine show at outside right. We should like to see him tried in the first team.

He has a fine turn of speed, centres accurately, and knows where the goal lies.

Another player who deserves another trial is K. Ross, at half. He seemed in want of training in the second period, but his work at the start was really good.

Owing to Cup ties, Dalgarno, of Mugiemoss, assisted his club in preference to playing at Pittodrie on Saturday.

Nothing definite has been decided on as to the celebration of the majority of the Aberdeenshire F. A.

The final for the Aberdeenshire Cup should be settled this month if a date can be found. Aberdeen A and Peterhead are the contestants.

Clubs should remember that the season is curtailed this year. The playing season finishes on 30th April.

It seems that the fee for internationalists will form the subject of debate at the International Board meeting in June.

England pay their players £10 and a cap, but none of the other countries have shown what they are to do yet.

The Scotchmen will know on Saturday after the Welsh game at Dundee.

\* \* \*

**FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.**

The test set last week was too difficult for all the coupon-senders, although eight of them are no further out than one goal. The eight will each receive the consolation shilling. Their names are :—

- Thomas Horne, 19 Devanhu Gardens.
- James C. McKerron, 332 Hardgate.
- Alex. B. Watson, 543 Holburn Street.
- Harold Kitson, 101 Leslie Terrace.
- William Wallace, 33 Nellfield Place.
- C. Masson, 4 Victoria Buildings.
- V. G. Creber, 75 Bonnymuir Place.
- Alex. Palmer, 50 Urquhart Road.

Mr. W. McDonald, Culter, sends a rhythmical expression of his rejoicing over the downfall of Dundee, which does the utmost credit to his patriotism. His heart and brains, if not always his rhymes, are in the right place.

Next week, as before—4 prizes of 2/6.

	GOALS
SCOTLAND - - - - -	
International.	
WALES - - - - -	
ABERDEEN - - - - -	
Scottish League (First Division).	
MOTHERWELL - - - - -	

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The Coupon to be cut out.

**CONDITIONS.**

- 1.—Correct scores must be given in every case to win the prizes. The goals on each side have to be noted in figures.
- 2.—The competition will be decided by ballot. **Four** of the correct guessers will receive **2/6** each this week.
- 3.—Coupons will not be received later than two o'clock on Saturday of each week, and must be lodged at the offices, 10 Crown Street, in an envelope, marked "Football Competition."
- 4.—The decision of the Editor in all matters of dispute will be final.

**This Week's Programme.**

Motherwell pay their first visit to Aberdeen this season. This has been a most successful season for the Fir Parkers, who occupy a much better position in the table than they have done for several years. They are coming north at full strength with a view to wiping off that defeat which they sustained at Fir Park in the first part of this season. Fortunately Aberdeen expect to be at full strength, with the exception that Lennie will be at Dundee assisting his country to beat Wales. Aberdeen are badly in want of points just now, and it is a good job their cripples are practically recovered, for there were too many of them altogether at one time. The following is expected to turn out :—Macfarlane ; Coleman and Hume ; Halket, Macintosh and W. Low ; Macdonald, Muir, Murray, O'Hagan and Simpson.

\* \* \*

An effort is being made to get St. Johnstone to play Aberdeen A at Perth, but confirmation of this had not been received when we went to press. If this fixture does not come off the probability is that the A team will have a day off on Saturday, unless any north team is anxious for a fixture, which they will get rather than let them be idle.

\* \* \*

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL.**

BY "THE ROVER."

The second round of the Duthie Cup ties was decided on Saturday. A great sensation was created at Haudagain Park, where Mugiemoss, in the replay of their tie with Woodside, disposed of the home team by 7 goals to 1.

At Central Park East End were rather unlucky to lose to Shamrock, who qualified for the semi-final by a goal to nil.

St. Andrews had a great tussle with Culter, but came out on top by 2 to 1.

Favourites were at Inverurie, where they proved to be at the top of their form, and defeated the Thistle by 4 goals to 0.

A League surprise falls to be recorded from Central Park, where North End triumphed over a full team of Parkvale by 3 goals to 2.

The League matches for Saturday are, at Central Park :—

- Favourites v. Inverurie Thistle.
- St. Andrews v. Mugiemoss.
- Parkvale v. Shamrock Athletics.
- Culter u. Woodside, at Culter.
- Inverurie Loco. Works v. Shamrock, at Inverurie.

\* \* \*

**Bon-Accord League.**

Richmond had revenge for their cup tie defeat from Morison Thistle, and in a game in which they were easily the better side, won by 4 goals to 2.

St. Nicholas had their best win of the season, defeating Melrose to the tune of 7 goals to 1.

Crescent effected a draw with Argyle—2 goals each.

In the second round of the cup ties, the Donside-Stanley match ended in a draw of three goals each, which was what the game was worth.

Hawthorne had little difficulty in disposing of Bridge of Dee Athletics, as the score of 6-2 indicates.

The League matches for this week are :—

- Melrose v. Balnagask, at Links.
- Albert v. Morison Thistle, at Links.
- Bridge of Dee v. St. Nicholas, at Brig' o' Dee.
- Argyle v. Rubislaw, at Craigshaw.
- Stoneywood v. Hawthorne, at Stoneywood.
- Cup tie replay—Donside v. Stanley, at Craigshaw.

\* \* \*

**Granite City League.**

The only league match last week was that between Glenlivet and Thistle, which ended in a win for the former by 3 goals to 1.

This week's matches are :—

- Garfield v. Clyde, at Links.
- Glenlivet v. Orion, at Craigshaw.
- Norwood v. Ashfield, at Links.
- Corinthians v. Victoria, at Links.
- Bon-Accord v. Thistle, at Links.

The draw in the semi-final of the Hunter Cup competition is :—

- Ashfield v. Bon-Accord.
- Glenlivet v. Clyde.

## SWIMMING NOTES.

At the annual meeting of the Northern Counties' Amateur Swimming Association, which was held on Monday week last, the new swimming organisation, the Aberdeen Amateurs' Swimming Club, was unanimously admitted into the Centre, and several of the members were appointed to various offices for the next year, in particular the following:—Representative to the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association, Mr. J. Mearns; time-keepers, Messrs. J. Mearns and R. T. Brock; and auditor, Mr. J. A. Cruickshank. From this it is evident that the Association consider the new club to be a strong organisation.

No doubt the Club will do a great deal in the coming season to further the interests of swimming and athletics in Aberdeen. The members are very busy in the meantime, and have been for some little time past training very hard at Professor Inch's system of gymnastics and boxing. In the Gym. every Tuesday or Thursday evening the members are to be seen hard at work, and they look a very smart lot. Some exciting boxing bouts have taken place lately.

\* \* \*

From the list, which I extract from the membership card, it will be seen that all the officials at the head of the A.A.S.C. are swimmers of experience—President, Mr. J. A. Cruickshank; Vice-President, Mr. W. Campbell; Captain, Mr. F. Brew; Vice-Captain, Mr. Victor Norrie; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John Henry, 11 Orchard Street; Trainer, Mr. Adam Barclay; Swimming Instructors, Messrs. J. Mearns and R. Hendry; Diving Instructor, Mr. R. Hendry; Auditors, Messrs. J. A. Cruickshank and G. Hendry; Delegates to N.C.A.S.A., Messrs. J. Mearns, J. A. Cruickshank, and R. T. Brock; Handicappers, Messrs. J. Mearns and R. T. Brock. The General Committee consists of:—Messrs. G. Walker, W. Kelman, A. Barclay, R. Hendry, J. Gordon, and J. Campbell.

\* \* \*

The Inverness Club have broken their connection with the N.C.A.S.A., and have, I hear, been conditionally admitted into the Perth Centre.

The  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile championship of Scotland is to be decided at Aberdeen in September next, the Northern Counties' Amateur Swimming Association's offer having been accepted by the S.A.S.A. A gala is to be run by the Centre on that occasion, and there is no doubt it will prove a great success.

LEANDER.

\* \* \*

## CRICKET.

### Fixture Meeting.

We beg to remind Secretaries that the meeting for arranging fixtures will be held on Saturday, in the Trades Hall Buildings, Belmont Street. As cup tie and league fixtures will be arranged prior to this meeting, Clubs might apply to the Secretary for the dates fixed up. We trust there will be a good attendance.

\* \* \*

Scotland has had many kind critics and otherwise. Hackenschmidt is shocked by the drinking habits of our countrymen. "I have been all over the world, and never saw anything like what I have seen in Dundee, Glasgow, and Edinburgh." Aberdeen will not complain that it has been omitted from this category.

# THOUSANDS OF POUNDS— THROWN AWAY.

SPEND SIXPENCE IN BUYING  
VI-COCOA, AND MEDICINE  
WILL BE FOUND UNNECESSARY.

The proper assimilation of the food they eat is of paramount importance to every man, woman, and child.

DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA taken regularly at breakfast and supper will do more to assure this than any medicine ever invented.

For VI-COCOA is not only self-digesting in itself, it also assists in the digestion of other foods.

Though thousands of pounds are thrown away every year on drugs they cannot replenish the system after the daily wasting of tissues. But VI-COCOA, which is neither a medicine nor a mere thirst-assuager, will do this when taken regularly. In this respect VI-COCOA has gained a world-wide reputation, and is undoubtedly unsurpassed by any other Food-Beverage.

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# "BLACK BOTTLE" WHISKY.

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He Gets Out of the Maze.

DEAR MAISTER EDITOR,

I'm truly happy t' report that sin' last week th' clouds ha'e liftit, an' that I'm noo weel oot o' th' maze o' embarrassments that at a'e time threit'n't t' encompass m' bodily an' speeritual destrucshin. That I owe entirely t' th' shrewdness an' circumspeshin o' m' ain advocat', Maister Bickers, an' I here register a solemn curse never ageen t' attemp' th' transacshin o' ony important maitter o' business itherwise than oonder his advice. I bitterly realise noo that in tryin' t' get th' better o' m' enemy, Grabbe, I possess't a

FEEL FOR A CLIENT.

M' interview wi' Bickers wis cert'inly nae o' th' pleesantest descripshin. Ye see, he belongs t' th' aul' squeel o' practeeioners, an' never hesitat's t' say, in th' braidest o' braid Scotch, exactly fat he thinks o' eyven his most vailu't clients, amo' whom I may noo fairly claim t' number. In fack, his tongue, fin he lats't fairly go, cuts like th' strokes o' a rhinocerus' hide-whup. Awat he gied me a pretty kaimin'-doon, but I winna preten' that it wisna fully deserv't.

I call't at Bickers' office immedi'tly eftir m' staggerin' recepshin fae Grabbe. At th' time I wis feelin' as limp as a weet dish-cloot. There wisna an unce o' fecht left in me. Trowth t' tell, th' threit o' th' persecushin for blackmail hid a' bit terrifeit me oot o' m' wits.

"Hullo, Birse," said th' lyar, fin I wis usher't in. "Ye look as if ye'd jist seen a ghaist."

"I've seen an infernal scoon'ril," I brok' in tremulously, "an' he's landit me in a pretty pickle."

"I thocht as muckle," answer't Bickers sarcastically. "I never ha'e th' exquisit' pleesure o' a veesit fae you unless ye div happen t' be in a pickle. Fae yer gash appearance I can see it's something mair than bye-ordinar' seerious this time. Jist sit doon in that cheer there an' tell me th' haill story—nae lees, ye oonderstan'; th' haill trowth, athoot gloss, an' naething bit th' trowth."

Bickers' bruske, hearty wye never fails t' lift m' speerits, sae I did as I wis bidden, an' unloadit mysel' o' a complete narrateev o' m'

RECENT PAINFU' EXPEERIEENCES.

Lang afore I'd feenish't, th' lyar stoppit prompin' me, an' mair nor aince glower't at me vera blackly fae oonder his bushy eye-broos. At th' conclushin o' th' story there wis silence for twa-three meenits.

"Aye, Birse," said Bickers at last, "I thocht I kent ye fairly weel b' this time, bit I never dream't ye were raily a dam't scoon'ril at boddam."

"Eh, fat!" I ejaculat', astonish't beyond measure at this unexpectit onslaucht.

"I mean exactly fat I say," answer't th' advocat'. "Ye've actit disgracefully in this maitter fae first t' last. In fack, I'm dootfu' whether I'll ha'e onything t' dee wi' you an' yer case. Indeed, it's only because yer an aul' client that I dinna order ye fae th' office."

"Michty me, man," I criet, "I dinna ken fat yer drivin' at. Surely I'm entitl't till an explainaishin."

T' this th' lyar made nae immediat' answer. Syne, eftir lookin' me up an' doon contemptuously for some seconds, he growl't oot:

"Were ye leein' or speakin' th' trowth fin ye representit yersel' a frien' o' Grabbe's t' John Galashan?"

"I wis leein'," I answer't, somewhat shamefacedly.  
 "Wisna th' story ye taul' th' cebinemaker a fabricaishin fae start t' feenish?"

"I'm obleeg't t' admit it wis," I repliet in a laich v'ice.  
 "An' fat d' ye think o' yersel', ye bald-heidit, perjur't deil's buckie?"

"Jist that I wis only meetin' guile wi' guile. Th' eyen wid a' justifeet th' means," I protestit, pluckin' up courage.

"Imphm," wis Bickers' sardonic comment; syne purshooin' his relentless catechism, he addit: "Ye assertit t' Grabbe that ye pey'd feifty poun' for the I.O.U. Is that th' case?"

"I canna deny't," I reluctantly admittit.

"That means ye taul' anither confoonit lee?"

"Jist about that."

"Is it true or no that ye pey't sax poun' five for the dockyment?"

"That's perfity true," I answer't gledly.

"An' that's th' first wurd o' trowth ye tell't i' th' haill coorse o' th' business."

"Oh, fie, na," I interjectit feebly.

"Oh, fie aye, tho'. Ye lee't thro'oot, baith t' Galashan an' Grabbe."

"Mebbe I did, bit I hinna lee't t' you."

"That's th' a'e sma' stray bit o' savin' grace i' yer conduc', ye tricky rascal."

"Ca' me fat ye like, Maister Bickers," I cudna help cryin' at this pint. "Ill names br'ak nae banes; bit if ye hae ony mercy, relieve me o' m' tortur, an' tell me if ye think Grabbe his ony haud on me for blackmail."

"I'm sorry, in view o' th' fraud ye triet t' perpetr' on th' lad," repliet Bickers, judeeshily, "that I dinna think he has."

"Thank goodness," I criet, wi' a deep sigh o' relief.

"An' fat about the libel case?" I speir't, an instant later.

"Grabbe hisna ta'en ony steps as yet," wis th' reply, "an' eftir's fiasco owre th' O'Murphy claim, it's highly improbable that he will."

Ageen I enittit an audible sigh o' relief.

"Noo, Birse," said the lyar, sternly, risin' as if t' dismiss me, "I warn ye t' abandon a' yer trickery in futur'. Like Jock Maitlan', that wis hung for forgery, ye're owre clever b' hauf, an' if ye dinna amen' ye'll probably discover some day that ye've brocht yer pigs till a pretty market. Awa' wi' ye th' noo, an' nae bather me mair th' day."

I didna stop t' bather th' irritable breet, bit immedi'tly steppit oot t' th' street wi' m' he'rt veritably singin' for joy.

Yours truly,—PETER BIRSE.

Nota Bene.

When Brown & Polson's "Patent" Corn Flour is used with milk, either as Milk Soup, Blanc-mange, Custard or Baked Pudding, the milk itself is prevented from curdling in the stomach, and is made easier of digestion.

This is only one good reason why

Brown & Polson's "Patent" Corn Flour

is to be preferred for the making of dinner sweets and invalid fare.

Its delicate flavour, its great purity, strength and economy are other points which experienced housewives always keep in mind.

## By the Way.

Illustrated advertisement is now all the order of the day, and the London and North-Western Railway have adopted the popular plan of issuing a splendid series of half a dozen sets of beautiful pictorial post cards depicting, by fine colour printing, the beauty spots within the special province of this powerful railway corporation.

\* \* \*

Father:—"You children turn up your noses at everything on the table. When I was a boy I was sometimes glad to get dry bread to eat." Tommy: "I say, pa, you're having a much better time of it now you are living with us; ain't you?"

\* \* \*

The teacher was reproving a scholar for being late at morning lessons, and the latter excused himself on the ground that he had slept in and had only ten minutes in which to dress. "But," said the master, "I can dress comfortably in that time." "Yes, sir," answered the boy, "but I wash."

\* \* \*

"Weel, that settles it," remarked the prisoner, whom the baillie had just sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment. "Settles what?" asked the Bench curiously. "I wis jist win'erin' if I'd bide in Aiberdeen or haud sooth. Noo I'll dae nayther."

\* \* \*

An angler was trying the water near a lunatic asylum when he noticed a dark object floating down the stream. As it neared him he saw, to his great astonishment, that it was a man, nearly submerged beneath the water. "Hi!" he shouted, "What are you doing there?" "Sh-s-sh," came the reply. "Don't touch me; I'm a submarine."

\* \* \*

Wife—"Have you any secrets you keep from me, dearest?" Husband—"None, darling." Wife—"Then I am determined I will have none from you, either." Husband—"Have you secrets, then?" Wife—"Only one, and I am resolved to make a clean breast of it." Husband (hoarsely)... "Go on!" Wife—"For several days I have had a secret—a secret longing for a new dress, with hat to match, for my birthday." That fetched him.

### Houses to Let.

**OFFICES TO LET.**—1 Adelphi, 2 or 4 Rooms, windows to Union Street.  
Apply to **GEORGE FALCONER**, advocate, 31 Adelphi.

**SUPERIOR FLOOR TO LET.**—Cherryvale, 62 Skene Street, 5 Rooms, Bathroom, moderate rent.  
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**TO LET**—1 Adelphi—Superior Half-Floors, 4 Rooms.  
31 Adelphi—Half-Floor, 3 Rooms, and Attics, 2 Rooms.  
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8 Orchard Place—Attics, 2 Rooms.  
648 King Street—3 Rooms.  
4 and 6 Links Street—2 and 3 Rooms.  
46 Dee Street—3 Rooms.  
Apply to **GEORGE FALCONER**, Advocate, 31 Adelphi.

**UNION STREET**, 74—3 Rooms, suitable for Office (First Floor).  
Union Street, 74—3 Rooms, do. (Second Floor).  
Union Street, 74—2 Rooms, do. (Second Floor).  
Market Street, 37—Desirable self-contained Flat, 5 Rooms; every convenience.  
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Mid-Stockel Road, 50—Half-Floor, 3 Rooms.  
Apply **SINCLAIR-SPARK, MEFFET, & TAYLOR**, 245 Union Street, Aberdeen.

**TO LET**—16, 12, and 28 Carmelite Street—3 Rooms and 2 Shops.  
536 Great Northern Road—2 Rooms.  
124 Union Street—Office, 1 Room.  
60 Rose Street—3 Rooms.  
29 Prospect Terrace—2 and 3 Rooms.  
47 Broad Street—Shop.  
36 Guestrow—5 Rooms.  
610-612 Holburn Street—2 Rooms.  
15 and 17 Kingsland Place—3 Rooms.  
63 Murray Terrace—Self-contained Floor, 6 Rooms, all conveniences. For Sale or To Let.  
100 Crown Street—House.  
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PRICES—2/-, 1/6, 1/- and 6d. 2/- Seats can be booked at Messrs. Macbeth's.

Early Doors at 7 o'clock, 3d. extra to all Seats.  
Ordinary Doors at 7.30.

**TO LET**—House, 56 Dee Street—10 Rooms.

Flat, 375 Union Street—5 Rooms, Bathroom, electric light.  
Floors, Forest Avenue—4 and 5 Rooms; Bathroom and Scullery.  
Shops, 131-133 Hardgate—Small Rents.  
Shop, 26 Queen Street—Double front window; cellarage.  
Shop and Warehouse, 38 Hardgate—Extensive floor space; low rent.  
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Cottage, 12 Belmont Road—6 Rooms.  
Stable, Skene Square—4 Stalls, loose box, hay loft, and coach house.  
Shop, 200 George Street—Double front window, commodious back shop.  
Half-Floors, 2, 3, and 4 Rooms—in various localities.  
Shop, 3 Rosemount Viaduct.  
Shop, 276 Rosemount Place.  
Shop, 280 Rosemount Place.  
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**Properties for Sale.**

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**BUCHANNESS LODGE,** Aberdeenshire, ¼ of a mile from Boddam Railway Station, 3½ miles from Peterhead, and 4½ miles (or ten minutes by rail) from Cruden Bay. The Lodge contains 3 Public Rooms, 8 Bedrooms (including Servants' accommodation), Kitchen, Scullery, Larder, Bathroom, W.C.'s, etc., etc. (h. and c. circulation throughout). There is a 3-stalled Stable, Coach House, and accommodation for 2 grooms. The Ground extends to about 3½ acres.

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## TO LET:—

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HOUSE, 11 Springbank Terrace,  
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COMMERCE STREET, 62.—HALF-  
FLOOR, 4 Rooms.

Union Grove, 159—HALF-FLOOR, 4 Rooms  
Union Grove, 165—HALF-FLOOR, 3 Rooms  
Union Grove, 125—HALF-FLOOR, 3 Rooms  
Union Grove, 127—HALF-FLOOR, 3 Rooms  
Union Grove, 123—AREA FLOOR, 2 Rooms  
Union Grove, 281—HALF-FLOORS, 3 Rooms  
Holburn Street, 562—FLAT of 6 Rooms.  
Holburn Street, 355—FLOOR of 4 Rooms.  
Walker Road, 36—FLOORS, 3 Rooms.  
Orchard Street, 63—FLOOR, 2 and 3 Rooms.  
Dee Village Road, 17—HALF-FLOOR, 2  
Rooms.  
Marquis Road, 38—HALF-FLOOR, 2 and 3  
Rooms.  
George Street, 389-401—HALF-FLOOR, 2  
and 3 Rooms.

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Apartments.

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BENNETT, Advocate, 214 Union Street,  
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## TO LET—

HALF-FLOOR, 3 Rooms—9 Raeburn  
Place.

HALF-FLOOR, 3 Rooms—6 King Street.

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## TO BE LET—

WAREHOUSE or SHOP, Imperial  
Place and Exchange Street; Ground  
Floor; about 900 square feet, with  
large cellarage and lavatory.

WAREHOUSE, 8 Bridge Street; about 640  
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Large Saloon behind and Cellarage  
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DOUBLE SHOP, 53 Belmont Street, with  
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LARGE SHOP, with Cellar, 42 Bridge Street.

Large SHOP with Cellar, 44 Bridge Street.

SHOPS, 8 and 16 Hardgate.

SHOP, with Cellar, 29a St. Andrew Street.

SHOPS, 51b and 53c Loch Street.

HOUSE, self-contained, 16 Union Row.

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