



Vol. XXVIII.—No. 11.

McMILLAN'S
FOR
TOYS.

See Foot of Page.

[Registered as
a Newspaper.]

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LARGE SELECTION OF THE NEWEST AND MOST FASHIONABLE MATERIALS.
Fit, Finish, and Workmanship First-Class.

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EVERY Bottle of this well-known Remedy for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, NEURALGIA, SPASMS, &c., bears on the Government Stamp the name of the Inventor,

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Suppers every Night in the Large Hall till 10:45 DINNERS, "AT HOMES," MARRIAGE PARTIES, &c.,

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Balaclava Bar.

JOHN MIDDLETON, Jun.,

BALACLAVA BAR, LOCH STREET,

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Reasonable Charges and Civil Servants.

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QUAYSIDE HOUSE.

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Boots in Attendance at all Trains.

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Large Dining Hall.

Tea Room and Ladies' Room.

Also Billiard and Smoking Rooms.

Excellent Cuisine. Best Vintage Wines.

Electric Light throughout.

Catering in all its Branches. Charges Moderate.

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LONG TRIED AND PROVED

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Coughs, Colds, and all Complaints of

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Saloon, 2nd Class, & Steerage at moderate rates
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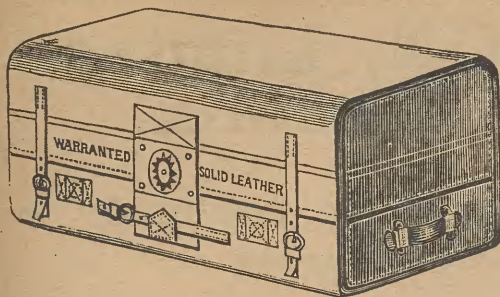
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Patterns of "IN MEMORIAM" CARDS
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PRACTICAL PAINTER, DECORATOR,

GLASS STAINER, etc.,

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Sign-writing, Decorating, & Graining a Speciality.

(Estimates and Designs prepared free.)

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WATCH and Jewellery Repairs at keen cutting prices. **DUFFUS,** Jeweller, 37 BACK WYND, ABERDEEN (late Upperkirkgate).

NOW OPEN.

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First-Class, Up-to-date

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S

HAIRDRESSING SALOONS,

216A UNION STREET,

2 Doors West of Huntly Street, ABERDEEN.

A large assortment of Wigs, Frontlets, Fringes, Switches, Plaits, and every kind of Ornemental Hair Work.

THEATRICAL WIGS A SPECIALITY.

GOLFING IRONS, CLEEKs, &c., by **ANDERSON, ANSTRUTHER,** PLAYFAIR, UNION BRIDGE.

G. R. MARNOCH'S

BOOKS of PRIVATE CHRISTMAS CARDS are now ready, and will be sent to any address. Splendid value in Packets, Boxes, etc. A splendid selection of Cards for Foreign Postage.

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GREAT RETIRAL SALE.

As we are retiring from the Jewellery Trade, and must Sell Out everything in the next few months, we are making very great Reductions on the Prices of all our Goods to effect a Clearance, and Purchasers will find this a rare opportunity for buying at very low prices high-class articles suitable for

**Christmas and New-Year Gifts,
Marriage Presents, &c.,**

VARYING IN PRICE FROM 1s. TO £50.

SOMETHING TO PLEASE EVERYBODY.

OLD STOCK AT HALF PRICE. COME AND SEE.

James Watson & Son,

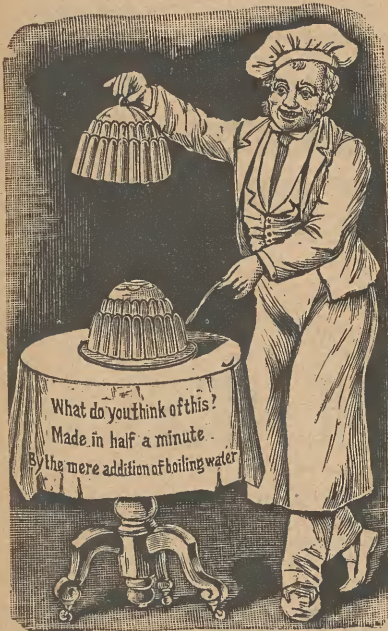
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Curr's Coffee Essence IS THE BEST

Curr's Dandelion Essence EXCELLENT TONIC & AIDS DIGESTION

JOHN MOIR & SON, Limited,

LONDON, ABERDEEN, AND SEVILLE.



MOIR'S TABLE JELLY POWDERS, in
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MOIR'S THE SEVILLE ORANGE
MARMALADE, New Season's, Now Ready.

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AWARDED 31 GOLD MEDALS.

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3
SHOPS,

1 ST. NICHOLAS ST.,
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81 WINDMILL BRAE.

I give you my  upon it that you will find an assortment of

XMAS CARDS

At my various shops such as never was before displayed in Aberdeen.
The variety is endless, and must be seen to be credited. Come one,
come all, your needs can be supplied.

PRIVATE CARDS A SPECIALTY. No delay, as
Printing is done at my own office, 18 ADELPHI.

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, & MARRIAGE PRESENTS
OF EVERY KIND.

BIBLES and HYMN BOOKS at all Prices.

SPECIAL SALOON now laid out with
ENDLESS VARIETY OF TOYS
At 127 UNION STREET.

NOTE THE ADDRESSES OF

ADAMS' THREE SHOPS

The Parisian Mantle Saloons,

87 UNION STREET,

ABERDEEN, N.B.

An Extensive Variety of the LATEST LONDON and CONTINENTAL NOVELTIES and Distinctive Features of the Season.
 Elderly Ladies' Mantles, Fur-Lined Capes, Seal Jackets Remodelled.

If you make a Present, give something Useful as well as Ornamental.

Few things will be more acceptable to a Lady than

A SMART FUR NECKLET, MUFF, or SEAL CAPE.

Little Girls' Fur Sets (Necklet and Muff) from 3/6. Umbrellas from 2/-

CHILDREN'S JERSEYS, Tidy and Comfortable, all Sizes.

Depot for the Celebrated Highland Capes.

Lot of TARTAN RUGS at Half-Price.

UMBRELLAS, Suitable for Christmas Presents, from 2/-

Smart Millinery, Velvet and Felt Hats, Tam O'Shanter, &c.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

FOR THE MILLION.

BE IN TIME.

OUR SHILLING BOXES

BETTER THAN EVER.

Postage 2d Extra.

No. 2.—20 CHOICE CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR CARDS.

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No. 4.—9 EXQUISITELY LOVELY CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR CARDS.

No. 5.—6 GEM CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR CARDS.

Nos. 3, 4, and 5 have Suitable Envelopes. The Boxes are made up entirely of Messrs RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS' Fine Art Cards.

PRIVATE CARDS by the Best Makers.

Sample Books sent on Approbation.

SINGLE CARDS from 1d upwards.

WALKER & COMPANY,

THE HOME OF THE MAGIC LANTERN AND CINEMATOGRAPH

(Under Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen),

19 BRIDGE STREET, ABERDEEN.

A RECOMMENDATION.

If you are at a loss where to buy best, or dissatisfied with your purveyor of Groceries and Provisions, Teas, Wines or Spirits, &c., try "ELFERT'S," at the Family Supply Stores, corner of Great Western Road, and 2 to 6 Chattan Place.

He can and will please you, and sells goods only which he can thoroughly recommend. Moreover, he has had over forty years' practical experience both at home and abroad, which he will be found always willing to place at your service. Give him your order once and you will go there again; and please don't mistake the address—

FAMILY SUPPLY STORES, GREAT WESTERN ROAD AND CHATTAN PLACE. ESTABLISHED 1880.

Families, professionals, and retired gentlemen, homes, institutions, and the public generally, supplied with Teas, Coffees, Groceries, Provisions, Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, Patent Medicines, Proprietary Articles, &c., to which has also been recently added a China and Hardware Depot, where general and fancy hardware requisites are sold at marvellously low prices for ready money.

From 1 PENNY to 1 GUINEA
 NOVELTIES

FOR XMAS AND NEW-YEAR.

GEO. PEGLER & CO.,

Fruiterers,

179 UNION ST.,

ABERDEEN.



Appointed 1847.



Appointed 1863.

Never be without a bottle of Symington's Edinburgh Coffee Essence in the house. All Grocers sell it. It makes delicious coffee in a moment. 1

USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Gloves. Gloves. Gloves.

Our Celebrated Lacing Gloves, 3/11 per pair.
 Ladies' Chevrete Gloves, 1/11, 2/6, 3/6 and 4/6 per pair.
 Ladies' Tan Cape Gloves, 2/6 and 2/11 per pair.
 Ladies' French Kid Gloves, 2/6, 2/11, 3/6, and 4/6 per pair.
 Ladies' French Kid Gloves, Fancy Points, 3/6 and 3/11 per pair.
 Ladies' Paris Suede Gloves, 2/11, 3/6, and 3/9 per pair.
 Ladies' Evening Suede, 2/11, 4/6, 5/6, and 6/6 per pair.
 Ladies' Evening Kid Gloves, 3/11, 4/11, and 6/6 per pair.
 Ladies' Evening Silk Gloves, 1/11, 2/6, and 3/3 per pair.
 Ladies' Kid Gloves with Lace Tops for Evening Wear.
 Ladies' 4-Buttoned Kid, with Black or Self Points, in White, Grey, or Chartreuse, 2/3, and 2/6 per pair.
 Ladies' French Eagle Buck Gloves, in Tans and Beavers, 4/11.
 Ladies' "Mocha," Unusually Soft, 3 Buttons, 2/11, 4/6, and 5/6 per pair.
 Ladies' Real Reindeer Gloves, English Made, 8/6 per pair.
 Ladies' Lined and Fur Top Gloves, 2/6, 3/6, up to 8/6 per pair.
 Silk Lined Kid Gloves, in Black and Colours, 2/6, 3/6, and 4/6 per pair.
 Silk Lined Suede Gloves, 3/11 per pair.
 The New Seamless Kid Glove, in all shades, 4/6 per pair.
 Gent.'s White Kid Gloves, 2 Buttons, 1/- and 2/6 per pair.
 Gent.'s Coloured Kid Gloves, 3/6; Tan Cape, 3/6 per pair.
 Gent.'s Lined Kid Gloves, in Black and Colours, 4/6 per pair.
 Gent.'s Mocha Kid Gloves, 2/11 per pair.

Neckware and Handkerchiefs.

Ladies' Cambrie Initial Handkerchiefs, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d each.
 Ladies' Fine Irish Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, 1/- each.
 Ladies' Plain Linen Handkerchiefs, 1/- to 5/- per Half-dozen.
 Ladies' Hem-Stitched Linen Handkerchiefs, 1/6 to 15/- per Half-dozen.
 Embroidered and Veined, from 1/11 per Half-dozen.
 Boys' and Girls' Coloured Bordered, from 1/11 per Half-dozen.
 Gent.'s Linen Handkerchiefs, 1/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 8/3 per Half-dozen.
 Gent.'s Hem-Stitched Linen, from 4/6 to 8/3 per Half-dozen.
 Real Lace Handkerchiefs, from 1/11 upwards.
 Fancy Handkerchief Boxes, from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/-.
 Fancy Glove Boxes, from 6d upwards.
 Japanese Silk Initial, 1/- and 2/6 each.
 Japanese Silk Plain, 6d, 10d, 1/-, 1/3, 1/6 up.
 Rich Surah Silk Handkerchiefs, 1/- and 1/11 each.
 Plain and Fancy Silk Handkerchiefs, from 1/- to 5/6.
 New Windsor Silk Scarves, 1/- and 1/11.
 New Silk Mufflers, from 2/6 to 9/6.
 New Chiffon Necklets, 2/-, 2/3, and 2/9 each.
 New Fancy Silk Neck Bows, 1/6, 2/3, and 2/11.
 Dainty Fichus and Jabots in Lace and Chiffon.
 New Paisley Pattern Silk Ties, 2/3 and 2/6 each.
 Crepe de Chine Scarfs, all shades, 3/9.
 Chiffon Scarfs, Fringed Ends, 4/6 and 8/6.
 New Lace Scarfs, from 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d upwards.
 New Beaded Neckbands, from 2/11 to 8/11.
 Velvet Belts with Steel Buckles, 1/9 to 4/11.
 Evening Wraps and Facinators, from 2/11.
 Black Silk and Satin Aprons, 4/6, 6/6, 9/9.
 Ladies' Fancy Aprons in very pretty Designs.
 Parlour Maids' Aprons in great variety, from 1/- to 4/11.
 Nurses' Aprons, large selection, correct Shapes.
 Parlour Maids' Caps, choice collection, from 6d.

Furs, Dresses, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF ARTISTIC FUR GARMENTS IN NEW AND BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS; FINEST QUALITIES; LOWEST PRICES.

Real Sealskin Coats, Newest Shapes, from 15 Guineas.
 Real Sealskin Capes, New Full Shapes, from 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ Guineas.
 Electric Seal Capes, from 49/6; Jackets, from £7 10/-.
 Caracul Fur Capes, from 39/6; Jackets from 5 Guineas.
 Sable Necklets, exceptional value, from 23/6 to 14 Guineas.
 Skunk and Thibet Necklets, from 5/3 to 33/6.
 Muffs in all the Leading Furs, from 9/-.
 Choice Assortment of Foot Muffs, from 8/- upwards.
 Fur lined Mantles, Opera Cloaks, etc., in great variety.
 Large Assortment of Feather Necklets and Boas.
 Dress Length, Fancy Black Dress Material, 10/6.
 Dress Length, Navy and Black Serge, 7/-.
 Dress Length, Coloured Vegogne, 11/3.
 British Striped and Checked Silks in 100 different Designs, 5 shirt Length.
 Full Dress Length, Black Merv Silk, 29/6.
 Full Dress Length, Black Poul de Soie, 56/-.
 Full Dress Length, Black Satin, 45/-.
 Special Dress length, Black la Soie Victoreuse, 67/6.
 Blouse Lengths, Coloured Broche Silk, from 46/-.
 Shirt Lengths, Coloured Striped Silk, from 6/9.
 Full Dress Length Cambrie Print, from 2/11.
 Hand Embroidered Pillow Shams and Cases, Tray, Tea and Sideboard Cloths, Renaissance Tea and Tray Cloths, Duchess Covers and Sideboard Cloths in great variety.

Skirts, Gowns, &c.

Silk Skirts, Black, White and Coloured, from 19/6.
 Muslin and Lawn Evening Skirts, Trimmed Lace and Embroidery, 10/6 to 50/-.
 Jaeger Dressing Gowns and Jackets for Ladies and Gentlemen.
 Ladies' Dressing Gowns, from 12/6 to 45/-.
 Tea Gowns, from 42/- to 4 Guineas.
 Ladies' Dressing Jackets, from 3/11 to 14/6.
 Pyrennes Dressing Gowns and Jackets.
 Japanese Dressing Gowns and Jackets.
 Silk Shawls, all Shades, 8/9; Wool Facinators, from 3/11.
 Silk and Woollen Underwear of every description.

For the Children.

Infants' Pelisses in Cream and Coloured, 12/6 to 46/6.
 Infants' Paletots, 12/6 to 38/6; Carrying Cloaks, from 28/6.
 Infants' Silk Frocks in great variety, from 13/6 to 24/-.
 Infants' Cashmere Frocks, in Cream and Colours, from 2/6 to 13/-.
 Infants' and Children's Pinafores, from 1/4 to 8/6.
 Infants' Bibs, from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 10/6. Infants' Shoes, from 1/4.
 Infants' Boots, from 2/-. Infants' Wool Infantees, from 6d.
 Booties, 1/- to 2/6. Baby Brushes, 1/-. Gaiters, from 1/- to 4/6.
 Children's and Misses' Costumes for Day or Evening Wear, large collection.
 An Immense Assortment of Children's Gloves and Hosiery in the Best Makes.
 Children's Fur Muffs and Ties.

WATT & GRANT, UNION STREET & DEE STREET.



The Royal Silvery Dee.

BY WILLIAM S. AITKEN.

THERE'S mony a river, brook, and stream,
Gets praises lood in sang and story,
But nane there be shows brighter gleam
Along its course in Autumn's glory,
Than does the bonnie, silvery Dee,
That dances, sparkles on in glee
Doon frae the Linn unto the sea
Through spots we a' adore, aye.
The Dee, the Dee, the silvery Dee,
We love it a', where'er we be.

Balnoral on it sweet looks doon
With a tint like maiden's blushes,
When ower Lochnagar, in sombre broon,
All red and gold the sunset flushes ;
Till a' the stately trees are seen
In russet, pink, and deepest green,
Instead the em'rald summer sheen
Through which soft zephyr rushes.
The Dee, the Dee, the silvery Dee,
In Autumtide is sweet to see.

Round Crathie wild flowers gaily spring
In shelter'd nooks, on grassy knows,
Blackbirds and thrushes clearly sing
From birch, and beech, and dark pine boughs.
And ower the hills, on either side,
The muirfowls' cry is heard betide,
As through the air they swiftly glide
To whaur the heather richest grows.
The Dee, the Dee, the silvery Dee,
What fairer spot than there could be ?

There ilka inch is hallowed gound,
And memories dear it makes to rise,
For loved Victoria there has found
What to her is a paradise ;
Though Time has blent days halycon
With many tears for loved ones gone,
Yet love has ever on her shone,
That like the great hills never dies.
O Dee, O Dee, O silvery Dee.
Ye chant her praise in sweetest glee.

Dear Royal Dee, the wish of all,
Lang may ye murmur blithe and free,
Lang may be heard the soft footfall
Of Queenly tread—in years to see—
Upon your banks where flow'rets sweet
Their fragrance shed, and breezes greet
With whisper soft, till you repeat,
“Right welcome are ye, dear Ladye.”
O Dee, O Dee, O silvery Dee,
Chant on the welcome to the sea.

Christmas Crackers.

At a dinner party on Christmas night, when the footman was bringing in the plum pudding, he stumbled at the top of the kitchen stairs, and the pudding slipped off the dish and rolled to the bottom. Getting impatient at the non-appearance of the principle item on her Christmas menu, the good lady of the house sent her new page boy to see what caused the delay. A minute later the page burst into the dining-room exclaiming—
“I doot ye'll get nae dumplin' the nicht, mem, for it's gane skite, skite, skitin' down the back stair !”

I've vainly sought in each neighbourhood,
For I long to sing his praise in rhyme,
The boy who doesn't try to be good
As soon as he thinks of Christmastime.

A farmer, whilst entertaining some visitors at Christmas to tea, somewhat startled the company by exclaiming to one of the guests—

“Stick in, man, stick in ; Mr Broon's hale twa scones ahead o' ye !”

We give our thanks on Christmas Eve
For the gifts we think we're about to receive.

JOHN WIGHT.



We Should Think Not.

LADY TEMPERANCE LECTURER (*recites*)—“Lips that touch liquor shall never press mine !”



Our 'Kirsty says—

That there's naething in the sea, earth, air, or Aberdeen like the Challenger.

That the Challenger is as shy as the sea serpent.

That this is about the New-Year time.

That last week the telephone bells stopped biz.

That they were ringing out the old and in the new M.P.

That they didn't ring without a wag.

That tak' awa' George Street, and far's Aberdeen ?

That somebody's been drawin' a Bailie's leg !



WHERE to send our boys and girls to, is the ABERDEEN SCHOOL OF SHORTHAND, 19 Crown Street. Write, call, or ring up Phone 875 for a prospectus. New quarter, 1st December.

SMART AND STYLISH TAN BOOTS from 5/11 to 13/6
At JOHN A. DUNN'S, 26 and 175 UNION STREET.



Our Ladies' Page.

About Muffs.

AT Viscount Castlereagh's wedding, which took place the other week, "Filomena," of the *Illustrated London News*, tells us that the Marchioness of Londonderry, the bridegroom's mother, carried a muff with centre of sable and a wide frill of violet velvet at each end, an inner frill of old lace projecting yet farther. "Muffs such as I have described," says "Filomena," "are the new fashion, and the plain round cylinder looks rather dowdy beside these smart and dainty new comers; hence the farseeing West-End shopkeepers are already having special sales of the ordinary fur tubes at sacrificial prices. These can, however, be aided to assume an up-to-date aspect by providing them with inner linings of satin, the frilled and laced ends of which project well beyond the fur edges.

Madame says that some of the smartest evening frocks are being made high to the throat, with transparent yokes and sleeves, mostly of thickly sequined net, so dense that you can only get rare glimpses of the skin underneath. This mode is a cosy and warm one, if nothing else, and is a change, and will therefore be welcomed as such.

It is said that the Princess of Wales means chiefly to wear black this winter.

SAC coats and cloaks have almost entirely ousted the tight-fitting variety.

PANNE is the smartest material of the year, says the *Illustrated London News*; its lustrous smooth surface and pliable nature are adapted for all kinds of uses. Printed Panne, with patterns in many colours, mostly in those wandering designs known as Oriental or Paisley, is in great request for toques and for trimmings on cloth dresses; and another form in which Panne appears as trimmings is as *motifs*, jetted or embroidered in outline, and laid upon cloth, or velvet or satin.

NEXT year's exhibition at Earl's Court will be of a rather different character from those of previous years, says a contemporary. Its full title, like that of a book, will be "Woman: Her Art and Her Work." Many distinguished women in Great Britain and Ireland, in the Colonies, and on the Continent have promised to support Mr Imre Kiralfy and his colleagues in dealing exhaustively with so great a subject.

THE various names which have become famous in the war are being applied to coats and costumes, and already we hear of the Winston, the Estcourt, the Dundee, and the Durban.

NOT long since it would have been considered a great error against the laws of good taste to send a child to a party in a satin frock; now, however, satin is used for the little ones, trimmed with chiffon, embroidery, or Valenciennes lace. But though fashion may change, the fact still remains the same that the more simple materials suit children best. Nun's veiling is one of the prettiest fabrics for party frocks, and can be had in all kinds of delicate shades.

THE large amount of rain we have had lately has increased the demand for waterproof coats. Some of the newest, says a contemporary, are of thin white macintosh, with collars and revers of black. The buttons are large and flat, and covered with the white macintosh. Though white has the disadvantage of showing every stain, a damp sponge is all that is needed to restore purity.

WHEN we made up our minds to adopt the bolero coat as a winter garment, says "Madame Qui Vive" in the *Westminster Gazette*, we hardly anticipated that the pretty, short, dangerously draughty little coat was going to curtail itself even more. But such is the case. All the latest boleros, even those of seal and caracal, finish several inches above the waist, but with the saving clause of a deep belt of tucked taffeta or satin, this generally, but not inevitably, black.

NEVER, perhaps, was fur more popular or more generally worn than at the present time. Toques, capes, coats, collars, boas, muffs, trimmings, and linings, are all of fur, for the cheap imitations bring it in some form within the reach of everybody.

THE Queen's spring visit to the continent is being planned. Her Majesty will probably go to Bordighera early in March.

LADY WHITE has appealed to the public to assist her in sending out useful presents to the garrison at Ladysmith, and no doubt she will have all she asks for in a very short time.

MRS SARAH ANN SMITH, better known as "Granny Hullott," of Grantham, the Lincolnshire centenarian, attained her 103rd birthday a week or two ago. The old dame is in excellent health, and adds to her slender income by some knitting work. "Granny Hullott" is not a total abstainer.

YEARS ago, when the Queen and Prince Albert attended a performance at the Haymarket Theatre, upon Mr Buckstone, who was then actor-manager, devolved the task of escorting them to their carriage. For days before their visit the actor practised the art of walking backwards to his own satisfaction. When the supreme moment arrived, however, he lost his footing in backing downstairs. "Damn!" exclaimed the poor fellow, involuntarily, in his agony. The Queen and Prince Albert, who were convulsed with laughter, relished the incident hugely.—*M.A.P.*

ONE of the sections of the Woman's Exhibition at Earl's Court is to illustrate the changes in women's fashions during the present century. What frights we have made of ourselves from time to time, to be sure! says "Madge" in *Truth*.

THE new Savoy opera, "The Rose of Persia," is a great success, says *Hearth and Home*, and is written quite in Sir Arthur Sullivan's best style. Miss Ellen Beach Yaw's high notes are marvellous, and her title of "The Eiffel Tower Soprano" is well deserved.

"They are a Treasure."

Standard.

{ "They come as a boon and a blessing to men,
The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen." }

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An Open Letter to Treasurer Bisset.

BY TIMOTHY O'TOOLE.

MY DEAR BIZZY,



ARRA, sure, you must have been very eager for some one to "tread on the tail of your coat" when you made that big "charge" agin the Irish the other week. Bedad, I should not have thought that you were spoiling for a fight, seeing that you are seldom without some little row on hand; and though you generally manage to wriggle out of a tight place either by playing leap-frog over your enemies or doing a sort of Oriental salaam, the performance generally scratches off a little more of the veneer, and works some moral and intellectual damage.

But weren't you a little too previous in assuming that Aberdeen was so free from the obnoxious Hibernian? You have rubbed up against a hornets' nest this time, my boy, and faith you're apt to find it a much larger nest than you reckoned on. Like his brother Scot, Paddy is ubiquitous, and if your yearning desire be to get to a place where Paddy is unknown, then you have my sympathy, for your is—

That settled ceaseless gloom
The fabled Hebrew Wanderer bore
That dare not look beyond the tomb,
Yet could not hope for peace before.

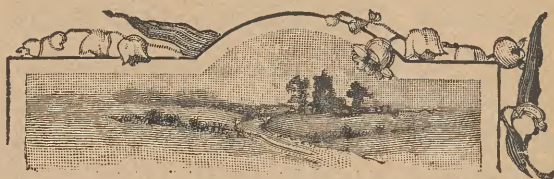
For, bedad, Treasurer, there is no nook or corner on earth or in heaven to which Paddy has not penetrated, so your only hope is to try the other place. Our grandfathers used to say that "God made the country and man made the town," but there has been a good deal of controversy as to who made the slums. Some assert that the slums made the slummers. Others contend that the slummers made the slums, but you say 'twas the Irish, bedad. It's a risky business, Bizzy, setting us up as moral censor, especially in the case of a combative people like the Irish who cry *tu quoque* and say things, and you're maybe sorry now you spoke. But you don't always mean what you say nor say what you mean, and moreover it is several days since you made the above statement, so, of course, you will have changed your mind since then, as your opinions, like certain insects and newspaper sensations, die the day they are born.

Begorra, ye sometimes puzzle me entirely wid yer quare ways. Your political jacket seems to be composed of a kind of shot silk the exact colour of which it is difficult to distinguish. When I look at you from one point you seem one colour, but as I view you from another angle you assume quite a different hue, and by the time I've got quite round you, you have simply reflected all the colours in the rainbow, not to speak of the pantomime transformation scene.

Och, sure, 'twould be a good thing if Councillor Fraser, when he becomes a bailie, would have you hauled up to Innes Street and dyed some distinct colour that would stand a shower of rain, so that your friend might be sure of you in wet as well as in dry weather. I'm sorry about your eyes, though—that they lead you to see things so awry.

But you are surely old enough to know that parochial prejudices invariably engender moral squint. The only thing capable of removing a cist of that kind is a generous application of the concentrated essence of an Irish blackthorn; and sure, as you say, "the Irish are a generous people" and will only be too pleased to help you to this cure.

But, my dear Bizzy, have you really studied the slum question at all? I hardly think you have, and I would therefore venture to give you a few hints about the way to begin. The Irish haven't a monopoly of the slums, but it is perfectly true that there are a large number of Irish in the slums of most Scotch cities, and if you take the trouble to discover how they came to be there you will be in a much better position to form an opinion as to the proper solution of the great slum problem which is now looming so large in the arena of Municipal politics. Next week, if the editor will afford me space, I will tell you a few truths about the slums, which may clear your vision somewhat.



What Shall I Sing Now?

WHAT shall I sing now, when icy winds are sighing?
Leafless the forest bough, blossomless the rose;
Bleak and bare the hillsides, where the muirfowl
crying;
Eerie and lonely the sullen river flows.

Mirth in the castle hall, sorrow with the lowly,
Feasting and laughter—but shriller sobs of woe;
Fate, that fashions all things, spins the web but slowly,
Visions gaunt and ghostly through the shadows glow.

Broken vows to bury—passions wane and waver,
Shattering the heart, hopes trampled in the dust,
Fashions ever fretful—fickleness in favour—
Mockery of madness—love enslaved in lust.

Dawnward with the remnant of the faithful-hearted;
Kind be the kindred souls sympathies to share;
Distance and time are lost—love unites the parted;
Wakeful and watchful the valour that will dare.

Winsome-eyed witchery, tuned to mirth and gladness,
Love winged shall climb the cloud happiness to spread,
Discords the muse may mar—sombre sounds of sadness:
Wailing and weeping—the dying and the dead.

Echoes from the far time—primal strains that linger,
Where the muse primeval through the forest rang;
But the gentle graces fled their haunts in anger,
When they saw the red rain—heard the 'horrent clang.

Now the way-worn muses wander wan and weary—
Formless now and faded fancies that were fair;
Barren be the birthright in the desert dreary;
Flavourless the garden, flowerless and bare.

Friendless are the old friends, lovers swept asunder,
Longing while lingering—drifting down the years;
Where now dwell the loved ones? Still we wait and wonder—
Fate the wrong is righting—dawn somewhere appears.

Fair and far the thought flies—thrilling hearts respondent,
Hearken to the whisper, tongue may never tell;
Swift the mystic motion stirs the hopes despondent,
Fancy loves to linger where the loved ones dwell.

Destiny draws nearer—days and years are creeping;
Phantoms of the firelight floating in the gloom;
Unseen wings still hover—from the darkness sweeping—
Onward with the ages dusking into doom.

Once familiar favours haunt the dying ember;
Long forgotten phantoms springing from the past;
Dim-grown dreamland faces—forms we fain remember—
Names that now are nameless linger till the last.

Brooding in the twilight—memory goes roaming
With the friends who journeyed down the path of pain;
Mysteries that madden gather in the gloaming;
Long dead aspirations—sorrows that remain.

Undismayed and onward through the shadows sombre,
Drifting on the future—dreaming of the past;
Fronted by emotions that the footsteps cumber,
Where the clouds are closing—driving down the blast,

Love and life triumphant—mystery primeval!—
While the mystic music floats toward the light;
Minstrelsy, transcendent, daunts the dool and evil—
Blazing in the vanguard, sovereign of the night.

JAMES DOWMAN.

How I Encountered the Boers.

By FANNY MOODY-MANNERS.



URING my South African tour a few years ago I naturally saw a great deal of the Boers. One particular adventure when I had the fortune—or misfortune if you wish—to come into close contact with them I shall not forget for some time to come. When travelling through Vereeinging, on the Border, I was aroused from my sleep at 6 a.m.

by an enormous man with a sombrero on his head, who asked me in broken English, "Have you any fire-arms?"

You may think of my indignation at being accosted with such a question. I did not get long to frame a reply, however, for the rude Boer simultaneously pulled the pillow from under my head. Now, Mr Editor, I am a very nervous woman, and could you fancy me putting firearms *under my pillow*!

In vain I protested my innocence; the compartment was carefully searched, and after making me place my shoes in disinfectant liquid the burly questioner departed. But I was not left long in sweet solitude. The carriage door was again flung open, and two other uniformed officials made their appearance and proceeded to search for valuables. I don't mind confessing that my eyes got dim with tearful indignation as I saw them roughly handle and then take away the beautiful diamond tiara presented me by the Cornish miners at Johannesburg, three uncut diamonds, three nuggets of gold—they were all presentations during our tour—besides all my own diamonds.

Did they really mean to return them, I kept asking myself, while the train we were in was shunted into a siding. Five—ten—fifteen—and twenty minutes passed, and woman-like, I was working myself into a perfect nervous fit.

At last the whistle sounded, and back again we steamed into the station, where I found that most of my personal luggage had not been examined at all, for the officials were much too busy admiring my treasures.

The Boers were gathered round them, lost in admiration with such expressions as "Oh, it is so nice;" and when they saw me, "Oh, are you Madame Moody?"

I was treated well after this by the scraping and bowing officials, who seemed to think that the possessor of such nice things should be treated with the *greatest respect*. All the same, I should not desire to spend Christmas at Vereeinging—at anyrate not this year.—From "*Nomad's Annual*," Belfast.



Christmas—An Acrostic.

"CHRISTMAS comes but once a year!"
 H'm, well, that is not so queer—
 RING the bells, and have good cheer!
 I n e'vry home let joy abide—
 Sorrow fly at Christmas!
 T ime of greeting, gladness, mirth,
 M ake it so "a' over the earth";
 A nd, with thanks for life and light,
 S atisfy your appetite.

IAN TWIGH.

A Bowling Match at Cults.



HEN comes the merry month o' May,
 An' lang an' langer grows the day,
 Each evenin' on Cults bowlin' green
 The rinks are fu' o' players keen,
 The matches, ties, an' single prizes,
 Result to bowlers aft surprises.

They lay the mat an' fling the Jack,
 They turn their cuffs an' collars back,
 Wi' number "one," or number "three,"
 Then at the distant Jack lat flee;
 Lang ere the ba' has reach'd the spot
 The skip will cry, "O, what a shot!
 Noo, lat your neist ba' come this way
 An' he will get a ricochet—
 O, what a beauty, noo ye'll see
 That we are lyin' twa or three."

The ither skip, "Come on the fore,
 Ha, ha! we score, an' noo encore,
 Your neebor's best bool oot ye're nippin',
 An' that's the way ye've got the pippin'.
 Again ye've missed—O, what a pity!
 But never min', I'll lift the kitty."

Among the skips frae hame wha played,
 Were Lumsden, Lawrence, Laing, Kincaid,
 From Queen's Cross, Ferryhill, Whiteha',
 The siller trophy took frae a'.

At matches there is muckle fun,
 But single prizes tak' the bun;
 As some crack bowler is bool'd oot
 Excitement rises, dinna doot.
 For medals, bools, cup, walkin' cane,
 Each does his best a prize to gain.

A canny bowler at these games
 Is ane they disignate as James;
 Cults' famous bowler, Mister Fowlie,
 He vanquished wi' a nasty bowlie,
 But E. R. Lumsden tripped him up
 And thus he gained the Challenge Cup.

'Twas thocht by a' that Edmund Geering
 The gowden medal wad be wearing,
 But bowlers got a gey surprise
 When Georgie Gordon gain'd the prize.

For bools an' stick an end was nearin',
 Left Lumsden, Alloway, an' Geerin';
 So Geerin' made the bools his ain,
 An' Alloway the pretty cane.

The season's o'er, the bools laid by,
 The tools are stor'd to keep them dry;
 Pavilion shut, the gatie lockit,
 Keys safely stowed in James's pocket.

But hope the members not a few
 Will come their vigour to renew;
 An' members new will come to play
 An' join the club neist month o' May.



The mistletoe is a clinger, and that is why it is so hard for those under its influence to let go.

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"We Shall Muddle Through."

—Lord Rosebery.



NOT surely since the sound of the Dutch cannon was heard in London town itself has there been such a week of humiliation as was the last. At three different times the Dutch farmers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free States have met in battle array the finest armies that Britain ever sent forth, and have beaten them—and that,

too, in such a way as not only to leave the keen sense of defeat, but a strong feeling of humiliation as well. The man in the street may not have the training to make him an altogether trustworthy critic of intricate military tactics, but the broad effect of such a trinity of disasters as has just befallen our armies is quite within his grasp, as are also the reasons annexed thereto. Time and again—in fact most times that we have met them—the Boer farmers have displayed the wisdom of the serpent; and nearly every time we have met their cunning by the innocence of the dove, and been duly plucked. In fact we seem to have taken infinite pains to ensure defeat, and yet are illogical enough to be astonished and aghast at the result.

Many weeks ago we said our troops in South Africa were being sadly mishandled, and recalled the saying attributed to Napoleon that the British soldiers were lions led by asses. The man in the street is distinctly of that opinion just now. Of course, he also went wrong, in so far as that, at the beginning of the war, he swallowed without question the predictions of our screeching Yellow Press and the breezy (and sometimes beery) let-'em-all-comes of the music halls, that after a sort of church parade our soldiers would take their Christmas dinner in Pretoria. No inconsiderable portion of them will unfortunately do so, but it will be a dismal repast indeed that they will partake of. It is not well with a nation when it forgets the advice given by

Ahab, King of Israel, to Ben-hadad, King of Syria—"Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

In South Africa there is apparently to be another soldiers' campaign, and the heroism of the rank and file is to be relied on to carry the matter through; and again, as ever before, our gallant lads are marching fearless and undismayed into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell, without asking questions. But we are thus paying a dreadful price for our system of officering our armies. The simple truth is now being forced upon the public notice that there is far and away too large a proportion of dukes' sons and sons of belted earls in the army to give the cooks' sons a fair average chance. That the squadrons of young men and boys who hold commissions in South Africa have one and all the reckless daring common to our race is but too apparent. But we fear that the rushes for Victoria Crosses is not always and altogether for the good of the army in general. At anyrate the country is getting angrier day by day at the shortcomings of our officers, and is asking more angrily still how such a state of matters has arisen.

That we will as usual, and at an awful sacrifice of blood and treasure, somehow muddle through to victory at the last need not be doubted. And now that the appalling ignorance of our rulers and the country regarding the magnitude of the task that is set before them has been thus rudely dispelled, adequate steps must be taken to carry the matter through. But for goodness sake let us not disguise from ourselves again the fact that the Boers can now only be subdued by sheer weight of numbers—just as Grant bore down the Southern armies. Before the huge levies that will be necessary for the task can be sent away, our countrymen will know much more about, and be forced, we fear, to take a livelier and more personal interest in the war than they have even yet done. Before peace is again established in South Africa there will be more pay, pay, paying, in both purse and person, than the country ever dreamed of.



For Those Left Behind.



WAY with weeds of woe! envy the slain
 Who fought and fell beneath the leaden
 rain
 For Freedom's cause, and Justice sceptred
 sway;
 Shall Britons e'er to bondage homage pay,
 Or bend their necks to ignorance
 enthroned,
 Beneath whose subtle sway they've toiled
 and groaned!

No! and the answer with their blood's been signed,
 A legacy large for "those left behind."
 The lady who weeps for her high-born boy
 With whose golden curls she was wont to toy,
 Will, with the widow in yon Highland glen,
 Rejoice that their boys to duty were men,
 And gladness will gleam through their tears of woe
 Telling of their cheer and charge at the foe—
 How when the bugle blast thrilled in their ears
 They leapt like a lion when's prey appears,
 And taught the bosoms of the Boers to feel
 That the British lion's teeth are of steel.
 Dashing through the hell-fire of rifle and shell,
 Like Gordons they fought, like Gordons they fell,
 Then why, oh! why, should ye weep for your dead
 For whom a banquet of glory's been spread.
 In vain for harvests of freedom we toil
 Till blood of heroes makes sacred the soil.
 Ye critics who carp at our honour's defence
 (With souls never soaring above th' expense),
 In ages to come your critics will find
 That the "Greater Britain" "left you behind."

WM. WATSON.



Boers and Bores.

WHEN Buller and the British troops have beat the
bearded Boers,
And collared crafty Kruger in his kraal;
When Transvaal annexation is a well-accomplished
fact,
Shall we spend a merry Christmas after all?

The thing's extremely doubtful in a city such as ours,
That's rarely quite immune from social sores;
For though the foreign article is sent to his account
A perennial scourge is left in local bores.

For instance, there's the urchin that's got turned upside down,
And rears him on his hands in every street,
But, just while you are passing, one comes quickly hustling down,
And your new pants make a door mat for his feet.

The cycling fiend's a sinner, whom we must exterminate,
Unless we'd all be bandaged up in bed,
Or send him with all scorchers to that cinder track—the moon,
Not excepting those with cycles painted red.

The traveller in tramcar, of whatever sex or size,
Who stolidly sits anchored to the seat,
Instead of moving upward when a passenger steps in,
Should be doomed to walk from henceforth on their feet.

The orange-eating maniac who haunts the busy street
Some punishment to fit his crime should feel;
The atmosphere he taints with most unsavoury perfume
And the pavement strews with slippery orange peel.

The encore crank at concerts who must have his money's worth,
Is a bore of quite superlative degree!
He knows as much of music as the average tomcat,
And the compass of his own voice is Haw-he.

A section of our public men might also well be spared,
Who vote for deputations with such zest;
All such should just be furnished with but single journey fares
To prevent return of such a serious pest.

Another social excrescence, I think you will agree,
Demands a quick, if not a decent burial;
I mean the rhyming humbug who writes doggerel for the prints,
Amongst whom, of course, is yours sincerely, ARIEL.

In its "gossip" column the *Express* of yesterday is foolish enough to incite the soldiers of our local garrison to "chastise" a few roughs who have been mean enough to taunt several of the Gordons about our reverses in South Africa. We hope that the Gordons will not do anything so stupid. Insults coming from such a quarter will not hurt them. It is "patriotism" of this sort that is making several of our papers a laughing-stock. The *Express* apparently thinks that nothing that concerns the Gordons is too "lowly" for publication. It does not seem to have occurred to our contemporary that the patriotism of the average citizen is not of the kind that interests itself in street brawls.

At the Town Council meeting on Monday afternoon Lord Provost Fleming voiced the feelings of the Council and of the whole city when he referred in feeling terms to the terrible losses of the Highland Brigade at the Battle of Magersfontein, and to the lamentable death of Colonel Downman at the head of his regiment of gallant Gordons.

WE hear that several gatherings, festive and otherwise, have been postponed on account of the losses and defeats sustained by our troops in South Africa. Now, while we all admire the spirit that prompts such action, we cannot help thinking that the effect of our reverses is being prodigiously exaggerated. To hear some people talk, one would imagine that the British Empire was ready to fall about our heads like a house of cards.

THESE timorous creatures have surely forgotten the history of their country. A nation that survived the Napoleonic Wars on land and sea, that experienced the hardships of the Crimean Campaign, that suppressed the Indian Mutiny, that met unflinchingly terrible disasters in Afghanistan, is surely not to be "wiped off the slate," as Kipling says, by a mere handful of Boer burghers. The fact of the matter is that Press and People are getting hysterical over the war, and small skirmishes are magnified into great victories, and when reverses come, as come they will, our exaggerated elation gives place to a no less exaggerated gloom, and battles such as Magersfontein and Tugela are looked upon as the first stages of our national downfall. We should remember that France, whom our local scribes are always so ready to point the finger of scorn at, lived down disastrous defeats in 1870, in comparison with which our reverses of last week are trifles light as air.

At the Belmont Congregational Church Bazaar, Dr Stark, the esteemed pastor, did a graceful and just thing in markedly calling attention to the vast amount of good rendered both to the church at large and to the community by Mr William Macintosh, treasurer to the congregation. Markedly, the share Mr Macintosh took in resuscitating Broadford Works was referred to, and there can be no doubt that in acting as he did he averted a calamity in Aberdeen. And Mr Macintosh's conduct is the more to be commended, as Dr Stark said, when it is kept in mind that some of our civic leaders, so called, not only refused to help, but actually threw cold water on the new scheme. Mr Macintosh's head as well as his heart was, however, in the project, and everyone rejoices that Broadford Works is to day in the position it is—and that mainly through his instrumentality.

We think Mr M'Intosh should again take up municipal work. It's a long, long time since he was a Police Commissioner under the old regime that had its headquarters in St Nicholas Street, in front of the Flour Mill there, with its big wheel driven by water that meandered along from Gilcomston dam, down the Leadside, round by Maberly Street (doing service at Broadford Works, as it still does) Spring Garden, Loch Street, and along the back of St Nicholas Street (working for sundry dyers thereabout), below Union Street and the Market, doing work again at the Maut Mill, and finally falling into the harbour more like liquid mud than the clear water that gathered in the country by and beyond Oldmill. Cities are the eternal enemies of streams. Our pen runs away with us—and with difficulty is prevented from carrying us further. What we mean is that the citizens should see that at first opportunity Mr M'Intosh is sent to the Council Board, for we are sure he would do further excellent service to the community.

A CONTEMPORARY says that the tramway conductors and drivers are not to be supplied with their new overcoats till the Woodside electric route is inaugurated. We hope for the sake of the men that this is an erroneous report. The poor fellows may have to wait till next Christmas!

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS } You are respectfully invited to visit the long-established display of Goods suitable for Christmas Presents for



LIEUTENANT BARRON.

A Successful Aberdeen Soldier.

ABERDEEN and district is well represented at the front in South Africa, both among the rank and file and among the officers. We have pleasure in announcing that a further honour has been conferred on the district by a commission being just given to a gentleman who joined the ranks at Castle Hill Barracks some twenty years ago. Lieutenant Barron, who was gazetted on 21st November, left Aldershot on the morning of the 24th, with forty-one men of the Army Service Corps and ten men of the Military Foot Police, and sailed in the afternoon of the same day on board the s.s. "Gaul." We are sure that Lieutenant Barron's friends in Aberdeen will be glad to hear of his well-deserved promotion, and will wish him all success.

The lieutenant, if not literally a town's bairn, is the next thing to it—having come to reside in Aberdeen about the time he began to toddle. He was born in Kintore, and when in his teens enlisted in the 91st Highlanders, he being an apprentice printer, and having early given evidence of becoming a capable workman. He was sent to Stirling to join his regiment—where quickly followed £20 of "smart" money to relieve him—which sum the authorities promptly returned, as they preferred the sturdy, well-knit lad in preference to his parent's money—and no one has in the long run regretted the decision of the authorities. His advancement was rapid. Barron enlisted in May, 1879; was a lance-corporal within a month; corporal before the end of the year; lance-sergeant in June, 1881; sergeant in the following month; colour-sergeant in 1884, quarter-master-sergeant staff-clerk in the War Office in 1890; and was specially promoted over about fifty others to a position in that office in April, 1895—the corps order stating that the appointment was an extra one, the recipient occupying a particular position in the War Office. His first-class army educational certificate testifies that, in addition to the ordinary subjects, he had qualified in tactics, military topography, fortification, French and German. In 1890 the Duke of Montrose strongly recommended him for a combatant commission, but

looking to his age, the Commander-in-Chief could hold out no hope of promotion to a lieutenancy; and, in the circumstances, it says much for the value placed by the authorities on Lieutenant Barron's services that the commission has now been granted.

Lieutenant Barron has served abroad in Cape Colony, St Helena, Mauritius, Natal, Zululand, the Transvaal and Ceylon. In pursuance of the policy of encouraging the use of shorthand in the army, he was, some years ago, one of the first to be awarded a money prize for phonography—a certificate for which he received in Aberdeen in 1877. And in this connection he drew extra pay as a shorthand writer to Sir Evelyn Wood, who had freed himself from the trammels of pen and ink, and wisely dictated all orders and correspondence. Lieutenant Barron is yet a young man, and we trust that his career is still far from completion. In concluding this brief review of the lieutenant's life, we are sure our readers will agree that Aberdeen, Kintore, and the districts of Echt and Skene, where his former forebears resided, have every reason to be proud of the honour conferred on him. The portrait given of Lieutenant Barron was taken a few years ago.



At the meeting of the St Nicholas Ward Committee, held on Monday night, the chairman, Mr Murdo Robertson, stated that though he strongly objected to such a large deputation as seven members of the Lunacy Board going to Germany, he was not against the sending of a small deputation. He further stated that "had two of the members originally proposed not withdrawn, he believed that the Board would have prevented them from going even on the night before the departure."



AND this is the true reason why the German deputation could not say, with Wordsworth's maiden, "We are seven!" We are glad to think that the strong protest made in *Bon-Accord* against the sending of such a uselessly large deputation resulted in the cutting down of the number by two. Our only regret is that the Board did not go further in the cutting-down process. A deputation of three was more than enough to send so far afield at the rateayers' expense.



WHEN Lord Rosebery said that in less than ten years the great political party of the future would be the Imperial Party, he never dreamed that an Aberdeen bailie and two faithful henchmen would be the first to raise the standard of "Imperialism" in Aberdeen. Unthinking politicians were inclined to smile when they heard that the "meeting" which sent forth the challenge to Mr Bryce and the Universe in general was composed of three men—Alexander the Lyon and two cronies. There was a fourth man present, we understand, but he came in at the end, and was no Imperialist in the wide sense of the term.



AND if the fourth party smiled, as well he might, it must have been into a glass, darkly, for the Chief of the Imperialists was in no mood to be trifled with. "His mind was ta'en up wi' affairs o' the State," and though his political following was somewhat attenuated, he determined that his manifesto should be all the larger on that account. So with the help of a few stock phrases about Queen and Country, Imperial Destiny, and such like, strung together with a plentiful sprinkling of capital I's, the great "Challenge" was drawn up, and was duly swallowed by the local press, who took the bailie as seriously as he takes himself. But the Man in the Street was exceedingly hilarious, and looked upon both the bailie and his challenge as vain things.



It is said that at the meeting of the "Imperial" party one of the audience offered to send a barrel of soft soap—his own make—to Pretoria as a Christmas present to President Kruger.

Other local notes on page 25.

Warehouse of **JOHN SEIVWRIGHT**, 111 UNION ST., Aberdeen, and see the choice Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, and for School Prizes and Christmas-Tree Gifts.

THE Rev. James Smith, B.D., F.R.G.S., F.S.A.Scot., Minister of St George's-in-the-West Parish Church, has received a letter from the Queen's private secretary at Windsor Castle, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Bigge, K.C.B., intimating Her Majesty's acceptance of a copy of "A Pilgrimage to Italy," the latest volume from the pen of the talented minister of St George's-in-the-West. This is the third time that the Rev. Mr Smith has been paid this high compliment, Her Majesty having previously accepted copies of other volumes on "Palestine" and "Egypt."

MR G. FIDDES WATT, the clever young Aberdeen artist, is to be congratulated on his success in securing the important commission to paint the portrait of ex-Provost Smith, of Peterhead. Mr Watt has been studying at the Edinburgh Art School for the last few years, and has been one of its most successful students.

LAST week the Rev. Dr James Stark, of Belmont Congregational Church, delivered a lecture in Peterhead, under the auspices of the Peterhead Congregational Association, on the impressions he had formed during his recent visit to America to attend the great Church Conference in New England. Dr Stark evidently made a good impression on his north-country hearers, for, commenting on the lecture, our ably-edited contemporary, the *Peterhead Sentinel*, says—"The tone and attitude displayed in Dr Stark's lecture on America, as delivered on Tuesday night, were both excellent. Dr Stark has long been noted for sound and liberal instincts and for a certain epigrammatic impressiveness and dignity in his way of putting things."

AT the formal opening game on the firemen's new billiard table, taken part in by Bailie Lyon and Mr John Thomson (of the Royal Hotel), the Bailie had the better of the encounter. True, the Bailie's opponent conceded him 100 points, but it was evident from the knowing way in which the redoubtable Bailie went about the game that he knows more about billiards than he does about Imperial politics, a certain famous manifesto notwithstanding!

IN a short notice of the career of the late Major-General Wauchope, *The Outlook* says—"You had only to look at his face in Sir George Reid's portrait—keen, calm, relentlessly Scottish, with its high cheekbones and firm mouth—to see here was somebody. Truly to-day a prince has fallen in Israel."

A NUMBER of well-meaning people are calling upon the churches to set apart a day of humiliation in consequence of our reverses in South Africa. For our part we do not see the need. We have surely had too many days of that sort already "without benefit of clergy."

COUNCILOR BOOTH is desirous of getting the Rosemount tramway service accelerated. He might put in a word for the other districts of the city at the same time. Now that the Woodside electrical service is completed, there should be some attention paid to the tramway service generally.

MUSIC hath charms—especially at this season of the year, and those who desire to secure this charm at a moderate cost should pay a visit to Messrs J. & A. Marr, piano makers, organ and music sellers, 184 George Street, in whose saloon is just now displayed a great variety of all kinds of musical instruments.

W. M. BRECHIN,

COAL MERCHANT, Maritime Chambers, 156 MARKET STREET (Opposite Fish Market), ABERDEEN. CASH PRICES—Best English House Coals 24/-; Best Scotch Coals, 24/-; Large Treble-Screened Nuts 22/-; Best Scotch Coals, 24/-; Delivered by own Carts Free into Cellars at above prices. Orders Promptly Executed. TELEPHONE No. 630.

Our Citizen Soldiers.

OUR Citizen Soldier for this week is Sergeant Peter Edward, who joined A Company 1st V.B.G.H. in 1889. Having served for a few years as a private, he was made corporal in 1894, and Lance-Sergeant in 1895, and was next promoted, in 1898, to the rank of sergeant. Since he joined the Gordons ten years ago, Sergeant Edward has been a member of the Bugle team and also of the volley-firing team. As a member of the Garrison League, he has taken part in nearly all the whist matches; and, for the past two years, he has filled to the satisfaction of the members the important post of treasurer of the Sergeants' Mess. At one time Sergeant Edward was attached to C Company, 6th V.B.G.H. (Keith). It may be added that Sergeant Edward is an M.A., B.Sc., of Aberdeen University, and is at present Assistant Science Master in the Grammar School.



Photo by [J. Ewing, Crown St.]
SERGEANT PETER EDWARD.

attached to C Company, 6th V.B.G.H. (Keith). It may be added that Sergeant Edward is an M.A., B.Sc., of Aberdeen University, and is at present Assistant Science Master in the Grammar School.

IN the *Educational News* of December 16, appears the first part of Mrs Skea's paper on "Women Teachers' Pensions," which the able headmistress of St Paul Street School read to the Dundee Branch of the Educational Institute of Scotland. The Pension Question is of importance to all sorts and conditions of teachers just now, and we strongly advise our teacher friends to read what their colleague has to say on the subject.

How should the patronymic of the general commanding the Kimberley relief column be pronounced? asks the *Westminster Budget*. Meth-u-en, Meth-u-en, Meth-yoon, and so on are all in vogue. In Ireland, in which Lord Methuen's family attained its present rank, the pronunciation is Methven, the archaic style of spelling, when *u* did duty for itself and *v* as well, having been retained by the family, which claims connection with the Scottish Methvens.

ONE of the best equipped shops in Aberdeen this season is Mr Alexander Murray's Fancy Goods Warehouse, 271 Union Street. The large premises is simply brimful of choice goods suitable for Christmas and New-Year presents, including such articles as leather goods in the shape of handbags, travelling bags, purses, etc. Mr Murray's warehouse also contains a fine assortment of albums, photo frames, books suitable for presentation, and all the illustrated annuals so popular with the children. As usual, Mr Murray has given up an entire department to children's toys of every description, and this season his stock of toys should please the most fastidious. Mr Murray has also stocked a large assortment of Christmas and New-Year cards of all kinds, and also a variety of seasonable games suitable for indoor playing, such as Wheeling, etc.

TO GOLFERS.—Golfers should see our stock of Clubs, Balls, Carriers, etc. Clubs, 4s 6d; Balls, 6s, 7s 6d, and 9s 6d per dozen; Carriers, with ball pocket and handle, 6s 6d. We hold the largest and best selected stock in town. Campbell & Co., India Rubber Manufacturers, 18 Bridge Street, Aberdeen.

At Pratt & Keith's.

PRATT & KEITH'S Christmas Show is a show indeed this season. In the Furniture floor a toy bazaar is laid out, which for size and completeness, and wealth of articles displayed, is simply marvellous. Everything is there that heart could desire, and the prices range from the popular sixpence upwards, so that all purses are provided for. Mechanical toys are a great show, some driven by steam and others by clock-work; there are dolls that speak, and dolls that don't; braying and other donkeys; a *newsical* kitten party that sing so sweetly and beat the tambourine so neatly that you cannot choose but listen and laugh; armies of tin soldiers, of gallant Gordons, and magnificent Lifeguards go marching along, by farm yards full of all manner of animals, and carts and carriages galore. Games and picture puzzles are in profusion, and other things too numerous to mention, as the saying is. On the drapery floor is laid out a display of a higher class of articles. In a section of the wareroom many useful and ornamental articles are on show, such as standard lamps, fancy stools and chairs, smokers, cabinets, Japanese draught screens, etc. In the front shop no end of useful articles may be seen, as inkstands, purses, hand bags, writing desks, stationery cases, workboxes, ladies and gentlemen's fitted dressing cases, fans, perfumery, etc. Besides the seasonable fancy goods, there is an uncommonly large drapery display; and special lines in gloves and silk and linen handkerchiefs. Fancy needle-work goods are abundant and various, and useful as well as ornamental samples are shown. One feature in the drapery department deserves special mention—a "Christmas Present" line of full dress length serge, priced at 7s 3d, 8s 9d, and 10s 6d, a most exceptional gift for any lady, and the pieces are selling rapidly. Altogether Pratt & Keith's is just now a sight worth seeing and a place worth visiting; and the public seem to be of that mind also and are calling in crowds.



Aberdeen Musical Institute's Concert.

AN appreciative audience assembled in the Music Hall on Friday last to listen to the recital of the popular opera, "Maritana," given under the auspices of the Aberdeen Musical Institute. The solo vocalists engaged by the Institute were the principals of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, comprising Madame Fanny Moody (Maritana), Miss Lily Moody (Lazarillo), Mr John Child (Don Cæsar), Mr Dillon Shallard (Don Jose), and Mr Charles Manners (the King), and these capable artistes gave a finished interpretation of the various parts assigned to them. Madame Fanny Moody has always been a great favourite with Aberdeen concert-goers, but she has never met with a heartier reception than she did on Friday last. Her rendering of "Scenes that are brightest" met with an enthusiastic encore, and in the duets with Mr Shallard her fine voice was heard to the best advantage. Miss Lily Moody's singing of "Alas those chimes" was heartily applauded, and Mr Child's fine tenor voice was heard at its best in "Let me like a soldier fall," and "There is a flower that bloometh." Mr Shallard acquitted himself well in the various duets, trios, and quartettes in which he took a part, and was deservedly encored for his rendering of "In happy moments." Mr Charles Manners met with a most hearty reception from the audience, and delighted everybody with his singing of "Hear me, gentle Maritana." The members of the Institute, under the careful conducting of Mr Lister, gave a good account of themselves in the various choruses; Mr T. H. Noble made a thoroughly efficient accompanist, and Mr Burwood Nicholls presided at the organ with his usual ability.



YOU'RE another of those folks who turn up their noses at Johnston's advertisements, and would not go the length of your foot to see him. Just for once have one look at his prices. Then you'll open your eyes. There's nobody in this town sells watches and jewellery so cheap. 198 Rosemount Place.

We'll Beat the Boers—

WHEN there are fewer Dukes' sons in the British army.
 When the Cooks' sons are not led like lambs to the slaughter.
 When our generals stop manœuvring their men "in the dark."
 When General Muddle is superseded by General Ability.
 When our officers think less about Victoria Crosses and more about their men.
 When we have a greater respect for the fighting qualities of the Boer farmer.
 When there are fewer absent-minded beggars among our officers.



IN MARKET STREET.



At his three shops, 1 St Nicholas Street, 127 Union Street, and 81 Windmill Brae, Mr John Adams, bookseller and fancy goods dealer, has laid in an immense stock of seasonable goods suitable for Christmas and New-Year gifts. The stock comprises all the latest novelties in leather goods, fancy goods, presentation books, electro-plate, jewellery, etc. At his large warehouse, 127 Union Street, Mr Adams has a great variety of children's toys displayed in a special saloon. In all three shops a choice selection of Christmas and New-Year cards is kept, including new designs in private cards.



To Bailie Lyon.

A FALL's preceded oft by hide-bound pride;
 Although an ass a lion's head may wear,
 The ass within the hide will still abide
 Ev'n should he occupy our civic chair. W. W.

Her Majesty's Theatre,
GUILD STREET, ABERDEEN.

TO-NIGHT at 7.15. Last Nine Nights of
MR ROBERT ARTHUR'S NINTH GRAND
PANTOMIME,

ENTITLED—
DICK WHITTINGTON.

SPECIAL DAY PERFORMANCES

SATURDAYS, 23rd and 30th December.
Doors open at 2 o'clock. Commence at 7.15.
Box Plan at Messrs Marr, Wood, & Co.'s, Union St

New Palace Theatre,
BRIDGE STREET, ABERDEEN.

General Manager, . . MR ERNEST SHELDON.

MONDAY, 25th December.

Xmas Holiday—Special Programme.
SAXON TRIO,
The Strongest Men on Earth.

Miss Minnie Ray,
The Champion Lady Dancer of the World.

Ross Combination,
In their Celebrated Sketch, introducing Comic
and Scientific Boxing.

Immense Success

BIO TABLEAU,
New War Pictures and the Cinderella
Pantomime.

WATSON FAMILY,
In their High-Class, Vocal and Instrumental
Entertainment.

THREE CASTLES,
Variety Artistes, Vocalists, and Dancers.

Expensive Engagement for one week only of
MR H. M. IMANO,

The famous Baritone Vocalist (late of D'Oyly
Carte's and George Edwards' Opera Companies),
who will sing each evening Rudyard Kipling's
great song, with music composed by Sir Arthur
Sullivan, "The Absent Minded Beggar."
This is the first time Sir Arthur Sullivan's music
has been sung in a Variety Theatre in the
Provinces.

One Third of Mr Imano's large salary will be
devoted to the "Daily Mail" War Fund.

Mr Litster's Juvenile Choir
"The Sleeping Beauty,"

BY
MR LITSTER'S JUVENILE CHOIR,
In the MUSIC HALL,

Thursday, 28th December, Friday,
29th December, 1899.

Admission 2/-, 1/-, 6d.

Tickets to be had from Mr JAMES MACBETH and
Mr G. M. MOIR, Musicians, Union Street.
Numbered Tickets from Mr MACBETH only.

NOTE.—For Reserved Seats a Free Juvenile
Ticket will be given for every purchase of Six
Shillings worth of Tickets; and Two Free
Juvenile Tickets for every Ten Shillings worth.
In making this concession no notice can be taken
of Tickets already purchased.

Opera Glasses

FOR

Christmas Presents.

Magnificent Stock to choose from.

Prices from 5/6 to £8 15s. od.

A. & J. SMITH,

191 Union Street,

and 23 and 25 St. Nicholas Street,

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PORTRAITURE.

Of a highly artistic character.

Styles for all subjects and all incomes.

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And the most moderate fees in Aberdeen.

FLASH-LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS taken of
Dinner or Evening Parties, Concerts, etc., etc.
Photographic Xmas Cards in various Choice
Designs.

Fred. W. Hardie,
416 Union Street, Aberdeen.

1st Volunteer Battalion Gordon
Highlanders.

BATTALION ORDERS BY COLONEL
DOUGLAS DUNCAN, V.D., COMMAND-
ING 1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION
GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

Members of the Battalion over 20 years of age
who are willing to serve in South Africa,
Abroad, or Home Stations should send their
names to the ORDERLY ROOM without delay.

By Order,

HECTOR MACNEAL, Captain,
Adjutant, 1st V.B. Gordon Highlanders.
Headquarters, 19th December, 1899.

J. W. MCCOMBIE, Aberdeen's Greatest
Scotch Comedian and Dancer, now book-
ing Engagements. Concert companies supplied.
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PRESENTS ?

Will be the all-absorbing question in the
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BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,

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DEGS to state that he has such a variety in
BOOKS, FANCY GOODS, and USEFUL
ARTICLES that no one need be at a loss, in
visiting his Establishment, to find something
suitable for young or old. He therefore respect-
fully invites inspection.

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POETS AND OTHER BOOKS,
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CHILDREN'S BOOKS, Immense Variety,

From 1d to any Price.

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Work-boxes, Clocks, Penknives, Purses, Pocket-
Books, and Hundreds of Most Suitable Presents.

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Dolls, Drums, Trumpets.

Toys, Games, in endless variety.

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**XMAS AND NEW
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NOW READY.

IT CONTAINS—

7^S WORTH OF MOST **1^{S.}**
LOVELY CARDS,
ALL DIFFERENT,
FOR

IF SENT PER POST, 2D EXTRA.

N.B.—It is necessary to apply early for this
most popular packet of Xmas and New Year
Cards as it is soon SOLD OUT. The cards are
all quite different from last year's ones.

36 ENVELOPES, various Sizes, **6d**
to Suit the Cards, price
IF POSTED, 1³D EXTRA.

Orders by Post carefully attended to.

ALEXANDER MURRAY,

271 UNION ST.,

ABERDEEN.



At the Play.



Her Majesty's Theatre.

THE SECOND WEEK OF THE PANTOMIME.

THE pantomime, I am told, is fairly popular. It is the only one we have, and children are pleased with a rattle tickled with a straw. Amongst my acquaintances I find general agreement that the best of the performers are Mr Vincent and Miss Ruby Forrest. That is my own opinion. Mr Benson's fun is not without merit, and Mr Handel deserves more praise than he has got from the newspapers. There should be more dancing, and too much of the pantomime is performed with the lights down. People like plenty of brightness in December. There will be a matinee on Saturday at two o'clock.



IRVING AND THE AMERICAN STAGE.

Sir Henry Irving is going to desert London for America. Not altogether, I am glad to say. The latest piece of gossip about the distinguished actor, which the *Sketch* was fortunate in getting exclusively, is that Sir Henry is to play a five months' season every year in America. It is a condition of contract that he is to produce a new play ever year. After Sir Henry Irving has played his hundred nights' season in London, there will not be much time left for the provinces. This is really significant news. It means that Irving, to a great extent, becomes an American actor, like Mr Willard and Mrs Kendal. The truth is that the management of a London theatre becomes more and more expensive. The future of the English stage is the future of Mr Martin Harvey and Miss Irene Vanbrugh and Miss Lena Ashwell, of Mr H. B. Irving and Mr Haviland.



Miss Cissy Saumarez plays the fairy in "Sinbad the Sailor" at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

Miss Julia Kent is playing in "The Snow Man," the fairy story at the Lyceum, which was produced last evening.

Mrs Langtry's husband has gone to fight the Boers. The struggle is no more severe than the struggle for life on the stage.

"The Geisha" and its latest successor, "San Toy," will be at the Theatre early in the New Year.

Nomad's Annual contains portraits of many players, who are more or less popular. The Countess Russell's story is too good to be true.

By a slip last week, I mentioned Miss Lil Hawthorne as the principal boy in the pantomime at the Court Theatre, Liverpool. I should have said Miss Nell Hawthorne.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be played at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, by a very strong cast, which includes Mrs Tree, Mr Waller, Mr MacLeay, and Mr Tree himself.

Some of the best critics say that Mr Stephen Phillips's tragedy, "Paolo and Francesca," contains magnificent passages. The play is the property of Mr George Alexander, who may present it at the St James's Theatre.

Mr Forbes Knowles has been engaged to play the juvenile part in a piece called "The Guiding Star." At the end of January he will play a part in one of Mr Scudamore's melodramas, called "Ups and Downs of Life," which will be played, for the first week of a tour, at Morton's Theatre, Greenwich.

Irving may prolong his American tour. Instead of playing in Philadelphia, he is to pay a second visit to New York. A number of Chicagoan speculators are following him all over the country in order to buy up seats which they afterwards sell at exorbitant prices.

PLAYS OF JEWISH LIFE.

The Jew has been seen a good deal on the stage of late. I do not mean the Jewish actor, whom we have with us always. I mean Jewish plays. Mr Israel Zangwill's play, "The Children of the Ghetto," which he adapted from his own clever novel of that name, has failed at the Adelphi Theatre. It wasn't human enough to please either the audience or the critics. And yet it must have been very interesting, because very novel. At the Standard Theatre, in Bishopsgate, they are playing just now a series of Jewish plays. And Mr John Lawson is still playing his famous Jewish piece, called "Humanity," and is going to play it for several years. By the way, pieces in Yiddish are sometimes performed at the Standard Theatre, which I have already mentioned. Bishopsgate is a Jewish quarter.



The Palace Theatre.

THERE are almost always good houses at this music hall. Very many of the best people who appeared at music halls are at present engaged in pantomime. However, the Palace Theatre is not left without resources. This week the pictures of incidents in the war are more painfully interesting than before. The most amusing turn is that of the Grotesque Military Band of nine persons. Each member comes on the stage mounted on a bigger pair of stilts than his predecessor. Nothing else about this turn is stilted. Mr Jess Verno takes his ditties, which are nothing in themselves, at a rapid pace, and he is very popular with the audience. Other turns are the Riarde Pantomime Company, Messrs Macdonald and Lundi, Miss Nellie Gertine, Mr J. H. Hartley, Mr Frank Maura, and Messrs "Tony and Tiny." The pictures representing the pantomime of "Cinderella" are excellent.



Mr Eugene Stratton is to play a special part in the pantomime at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

One of the best pantomimes is to be seen at the Empire Music Hall, Edinburgh. Several actors are playing in it, including Mr Harry Kilburn and Mr Arthur Whitby.



McMillan's Bazaar.

McMILLAN'S, LIMITED, is a household word to the community—and at this season is specially so, and more also. As is well-known, anything and everything can be had at all times in their gigantic warerooms, and so their Christmas Bazaar now open can be truly characterised as' McMillan's Unlimited, for the samples of every seasonable article with which their rooms are crowded is just past cataloguing. Here are purses, all manner of dressing cases and bags, and leather goods of all sorts, useful and ornamental, mirrors that you never tire of looking at, writing cases, handkerchief sachets, paper shades, card cases, perfumeries from Arabia, and from places further away and not so far. About toys, what can one say? It will be a more than imaginative child that could even conceive of the wealth that is spread out for them to admire. Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like the lady and gentleman dolls that are here in such profusion; and Noah never dreamed of the variety of animals that McMillan's have in their showyard. And the prices of goods range from the popular penny just to what one can afford to give for their purchases. Of silver goods the display is magnificent—and the variety endless. Chairs and stools, plain and otherwise, lamps and shades in all sizes and styles. There are corners and shelves full of Japanese and other eastern metal work, and ornaments of other material. The windows alone are a show and a temptation. But as we have said we can only hint at what can be seen at McMillan's Bazaar, and just advise our readers to go and see for themselves—and we guarantee they will not be disappointed.



WAR calendars are the order this year. One of the best in this line is a fine full-length portrait of General Hector Macdonald, which Mr Forsyth, Ayrshire Boot Warehouse, is presenting to his customers. This is sure to be a popular calendar in Aberdeen, where the General has such a host of admirers.



At the Town House.

For ELECTRIC LIGHTING, Wiring, Fittings, Lamps, and Motors, etc.,
Go to PRATT & KEITH



SOUTH AFRICA

A Lesson in 'Tactics.

AT JOUBERT'S MODERN MILITARY ACADEMY.

If you want your House or Office Fitted up with ELECTRIC LIGHT
Consult PRATT & KEITH'S Electrical Engineer.



The Northern League.

	Plyd.	Won.	Lost	Dwn.	For.	Agst.	Pts.
Wanderers...	7	5	2	0	19	14	10
Aberdeen....	8	4	3	1	18	17	9
Vic. United..	7	3	2	2	19	18	8
Arbroath....	6	2	1	3	17	11	7
Forfar Athl..	7	3	3	1	21	18	7
Orion.....	8	2	3	3	16	18	7
Montrose....	6	2	4	0	17	28	4
*Lochee Utd..	6	1	3	2	11	14	0

* 4 points deducted for infringement.



The Orion have once again disappointed their followers. On this last occasion there may be a slight excuse for their failure—the want of Strang and Stewart being badly felt. The ground was more fit for water or mud polo than football, and how the teams agreed to play a league fixture passed the comprehension of all the spectators. What the loss means to Aberdeen football will be seen from the table. Had they beaten the Wanderers the first three places would have been occupied by our three clubs; but in virtue of their win the Wanderers go up top, with every prospect of remaining there for some time, while the Orion have to be content with sixth place. If the Wanderers play up to the form they have lately been showing it will be long-odds on their being crowned League Champions for 1899-1900. The play was fairly evenly divided. In the first half the Wanderers had easily the best of the play, but in the second half this was reversed. The game was won and lost during the first half-hour. It was the Orion forwards that lost the game, their play in the first half being miserable. However, football in Aberdeen has reached such a low level that we, like all followers of the game, have ceased to have regrets when a local team loses.



It was with regret that footballers in Aberdeen heard that Sergeant Hickie, of the 1st Battalion of the Gordons, had been wounded at the battle of Magersfontein. Previous to going on foreign service, Sergeant Hickie took a prominent part in Aberdeen football. Sergeant Hickie at one time played at half-back for the Victoria United, and later on for the Aberdeen F.C.



CLERK—You ought to communicate with the Secretary of the Aberdeen F.C., Pittodrie Park, King Street. There is also a capital gymnasium in Crown Street, the secretary of which is Donald Sinclair, solicitor, Adelphi.



Junior Football Notes.

BY SPORT.

Saturday's weather made a sad mess of most of the junior club fixtures. This is not to be surprised at for few clubs who make the Links their home on an afternoon, care to leave their clothes lying in the wet for two hours.

We are still looking for that deputation to the Links and Parks Committee.

The cricketers in the Duthie Park get a handsome pavilion to meet their requirements. Is it asking too much of the Town Council to erect a building on the Links to allow hundreds of players to dress comfortably?

The East End and Melrose met in the semi-final of the "Figaro" Cup on Saturday in miserable weather, and before a mere handful of spectators. The East End had the advantage

of playing with the wind during the first half, and how they appreciated this is best shown by the score of 4-1 in their favour at half-time. On resuming the Melrose took matters in hand, and it looked as if they were to repeat what the East End did in the first half. In this they very nearly succeeded, for they managed to score thrice, and had the defence of the East End shown the least weakness at critical times there is no saying but what the Melrose would have won. The East End deserved to win, and had the day and ground been dry we believe they would have won by a larger score. Bruce, of the East End, scored three goals for his club, Gauld and McKenzie scoring the fourth between them. Kemp, in goal, was in grand form. Bissett scored the Melrose's first goal from a penalty, the other two being scrimmaged through.

We hardly expected the Balmoral Thistle to go down before Hatton's Wanderers by such a big score as 7-4. There must have been a screw loose somewhere.

The White Rose (they were black before the finish) just managed to beat the Ashfield by 1-0 after a stiffly contested game. The losers were as good a team as the winners.

It was the Abercorn and not the 2nd Aberdeen that defeated the Junior Yallaroi on Saturday. The score was only 2-1 against the Yallaroi, and the game was a good one.

The Strathdee just managed to overcome the Holburn Thistle and no more. Little would have given the Thistle victory. They played surprisingly well.

Another close game was that between Seaton Thistle and Aulton Rovrs. The score in this case was 4-3 in favour of the Seaton. The Rovrs will have to "buck up" a little before they are anything like their predecessors.

Gray Street was a warm place on Saturday afternoon when the Stafford Thistle and Bon-Accord met to play a friendly fixture. The Bon-Accord did well in winning by 5-3.



The Rugby Game.

All local matches were abandoned last week owing to the weather.

On Saturday Aberdeen University journey to Edinburgh to play their fellow-students. The team is as follows:—A. J. Milne, W. Bell, J. W. Milne, G. O. Gauld, J. Robertson, C. Kerr, K. W. Mackenzie, W. Alexander, H. Varty, J. Fraser, H. Davidson, A. Macbean, J. Taylor, A. B. Butchart, and A. N. Other. With such a strong representation, the North men may safely be trusted to give a good account of themselves in this important fixture.

Nomads v. Panmure, at Duthie Park.

Grammar F.P.'s v. Dundee High School, at King's.

2nd Nomads v. Grammar School, at School Grounds.

South of Scotland v. Anglo-Scots, at Edinburgh.

The F.P.'s bazaar passed off very successfully, close upon £280 being realized, and it is expected that about £30 (in addition) will be forthcoming from the subsequent sale of work left over.



Famous Footballers at the Front.

Second-Lieutenant W. Gordon Neilson, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, wounded at Modder River, is a member of the football family of Neilsons, who occupy the same position in the football world as the Graces and Walkers do in cricket, and the Brayfords in the rowing world. The last named have for three generations supplied an oar in the Cambridge Eight, but the Neilsons have furnished four brothers of one generation, who have obtained places in the Scottish Rugby team. Of these four brothers, two, Gordon and William, obtained their places while still schoolboys. Another famous footballer, Captain Jack Orr, of the Imperial Light Horse, was wounded at Elandslaagte, and L. B. Bradbury, of the Edinburgh Academicals, who was killed at Elandslaagte, had also been marked out for international honours.—*Westminster Budget*.

GYMNASIA. An increasingly popular form of recreation for the long winter evenings is that provided by Gymnastic Clubs. Such Institutions are rapidly multiplying. One of the leading manufacturers of Gymnastic Apparatus is the firm of GEO. G. BUSSEY & Co., London, contractors to the War Office, Admiralty, India Office, London County Council. Apply to the local Sports Dealer for G. G. B. & Co.'s Catalogue. If not procurable apply to 36 & 38 Queen Victoria Street, or 213 Regent Street, London. Factories—Peckham, London, and Elmswell, Suffolk.

Swimming.



MR JOHN TAYLOR,

Secretary Thistle Amateur Swimming and Athletic Club.



Scottish Amateur Swimming Association.—The quarterly Council meeting of this Association was held in the Burgh-Courtroom, Perth, on Saturday. Mr J. F. Johnston, Glasgow, presided, and there was a large attendance of delegates. The treasurer's report showed the balance to be £20 1s 7d. There were, however, outstanding accounts to the amount of £30. The following records were passed:—50 yards, W. L. Russell, Glasgow, 23 2-5 secs.; 500 yards, W. L. Russell, Glasgow, 7 3/4 mins.; 1000 yards, J. A. Jarvis, Leicester, at Paisley, 13 min. 43 3-5 secs., the previous best being G. Tyres, 15 min. 2 secs. Messrs Johnston and Duncan were appointed delegates to the Glasgow Exhibition Athletic Committee. With regard to Frank Petrie, Belmont, Dundee, the S.F.A. have reinstated him as an amateur. It was agreed to withdraw the suspension passed by the Swimming Association.



The Thistle Swimming and Athletic Club held a most successful smoking concert in the Bon-Accord Hotel last Thursday night. There was a large turn out of members and friends. The genial president, D. M. Bridgeford, was in the chair, and Mr R. Stewart presided at the piano. The hit of the evening was the laughing song of "What oh." The same gentleman also showed promise as a ventriloquist.

Cricket.

Several important meetings have been held at Lord's during the past week. First, in the pavilion on Monday, the Board of Control elected last year to govern the test matches, overhauled the accounts relating to the five England v. Australia matches. After paying all expenses and allowing the various clubs upon whose grounds the test games were played 20 per cent. of the net gate, it was found that £180 remained for disbursement among the various first-class counties and the M.C.C.

Later on, Mr W. E. Denison (Notts) presided at a gathering held to consider the advisability of exercising some control over the funds accruing from the various matches played for the special benefit of different professionals. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting is strongly of opinion that the counties should reserve direct control over the investment and disposal of all benefit monies.

Mr F. E. Lacy, secretary of the M.C.C. presided over Tuesday's proceedings, when the list of fixtures for 1900 were carefully mapped out. The season opens on April 16 (Easter Monday), when London County will oppose Surrey at Kennington Oval, but a start will not be made in the County Championship until May 7, on which date Surrey will play Warwickshire at the Oval, and Yorkshire will entertain Worcestershire in Yorkshire.

Fixtures have been arranged for the South Africans and West Indians, Lord Hawke having charge of the latter tour, while Mr Frank Mitchell will be responsible for the arrangement relating to the visit of the Cape Colonials.

At a meeting of the secretaries of the Minor Counties it was resolved: "That an attempt be made to obtain an official recognition by the first-class counties and M.C.C. of the Minor Counties Competition as the second division of the County Championship Competition; and further, that an attempt be made to have a recognised system of promotion by merit."

Cricketers all over the country will rejoice to learn that Briggs is making splendid improvement, which, if maintained, will enable him to take his place in the Lancashire team in the early part of next season. In a recent interview with Arthur Mold, and others of his cricket colleagues, he congratulated the famous fast bowler on his forthcoming benefit, and expressed his intention of being present to take part in the proceedings.

Mr L. G. Wright, the well-known Derbyshire amateur, has announced his intention of quitting the cricket field for good at the close of next season. His loss will be keenly felt by the county for which he has played continuously since 1883.



Golfer (*new to the links*): "A splendid stroke! Did you follow the ball, caddie?" Caddie: "No, sir, but I think that gentleman with the red coat on can tell you where it struck. He's feeling his head."



A Zulu on a visit to England in connection with a Missionary Society was shown a collection of photographs. "What is this?" he asked, gazing wonderingly at one of them. "That is a snapshot taken during a scrimmage at a Rugby football game." "But has your church no missionaries to send among these people," he demanded.

ABOUT THAT PRESENT

You intend to give at Xmas. You will save yourself a lot of worry and perplexity by calling and inspecting our stock of

Engagement Rings, Brooches Bangles, Alberts, Studs, Pic-Macs
of Various Descriptions. Quality may be thoroughly relied on.

HUTCHEON, 6 SCHOOLHILL.

Cycling.



The annual smoking concert and presentation of prizes in connection with the Granville C.C. took place in the Bon-Accord Hotel, on Saturday night, Mr A. Arthur presiding. There was a large and representative gathering, about one hundred being present. The chief event of the evening was the handing over, to Mr E. D. Styles, of the McKinnon Challenge Cup and gold medal for the championship of the club. The health of the winner was enthusiastically pledged, and Mr Styles, in a neat speech, returned thanks. The other prizes were for attendance at club runs, the winners for Saturdays being—1. A. Cruickshank and A. J. Thomson, equal; 2. G. Morrison. Wednesdays—1. J. Macintosh, 2. A. Cruickshank, 3. W. Henderson. Songs were rendered in fine style during the evening by Messrs Thomson, Munroe, Bryden, Barron, Fraser, Barclay, Ross, and Duncan; while selections were given on the piccolo and concertina by Messrs Brown and Neil. Mr R. Stevenson presided at the piano with much acceptance. Mr A. F. Macintosh, who had charge of the arrangements, is to be congratulated on the result of his labours, the smoker being undoubtedly the most successful ever held by the club.

On Saturday evening the Bon-Accord C.C. held a smoking concert in the club room, the occasion being the presentation of prizes to the successful winners for the season. A most enjoyable evening was spent under the chairmanship of Mr Adam A. Smith. The following is the prize list—Saturday runs, 1st T. Cowie, 2nd A. Mavor, 3rd and 4th R. Forbes, C. Booth, 5th J. Paterson. Wednesday runs, 1st T. Cowie, 2nd A. Mavor, 3rd J. Innes, 4th G. Cromar. Two special prizes were presented by T. Cowie and Captain Forbes, and were gained by Messrs K. Alexander and J. Williamson.

On Saturday afternoon a General Council Meeting of the Scottish Cyclists' Union was held in the Alexandra Hotel, Edinburgh, Mr Inglis, president, in the chair, representatives being present from Aberdeen, Dundee, Dumfries, Glasgow, and many other important centres. Mr Richard Johnston submitted his secretarial report, showing that 193 clubs were affiliated to the Union, whilst there were 962 individual members, the Western District leading the other five centres, they having 80 clubs and 354 individual members. The district secretaries reported as follows:—Western District, balance on hand £25; Eastern District, £142; Central District, £20. Southern and Northern Centres did not send reports. Mr Rennie, Glasgow, objected to reports from districts being made verbally, and moved accordingly, but the question was left over.

You can drive a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. It is the same with a man, but if you change his drink from clear water to whisky you can't keep him from it.

BEFORE PURCHASING ELSEWHERE, CALL AND SEE OUR STOCK OF LADIES' AND GENTS.'

**HAND-KNIT, HOSE, SOCKS,
AND UNDERWEAR.**

G. STOPANI & SON, 7 Castle Street,
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Speciality—Wools.

NORMAN'S TEETH INSTITUTE, 89 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN.—Single Tooth, 2s 6d; Complete Set, One Guinea. Five years' guarantee. Painless Treatment and Gas Extractions Free when Teeth are supplied. PAINLESS GAS EXTRACTIONS, 3s 6d. Mr Norman guarantees complete satisfaction.

Harriers.

The Aberdeen Thistle Harriers were to hold a three miles handicap race on Saturday, but owing to the bad condition of the roads the race was postponed till Saturday first.

The members of the Argyll Harrier Club hold their annual Christmas handicap on Saturday first, on the Esplanade. The events are, 100 yards, 4 heats, and final; 300 yards, 2 heats, and final. Four prizes are to be given, and twenty-two men have entered. Mr J. Sangster will act as starter, Mr J. Porter as timekeeper.

The first of the two foot races between Harry Cullum, of Cardiff, and Joshua Fielden, of Bradford, was decided on Saturday afternoon over a quarter of a mile. Fielden was the picture of fitness, while Cullum was lacking condition, and had been suffering from a sprain in his leg. Long odds were laid on Fielden, but by dogged determination, when the outlook was hopeless, Cullum won very cleverly by two yards.

The old Cavendish Harriers are well represented at the front in the Transvaal War, says *St James's Budget*. Corporal D. Donoghue, of the Army Post Office Corps, who, when on duty at the Vere Street branch of the Post Office, was hon.-secretary of those ex-champions, and his co-workers and ex-Cavendish Harriers, H. C. Monk and B. A. Gardiner, are among those who are in South Africa, serving their country and Queen.

The following remarkable coincidence occurred at the Battle of Elandslaagte. A nephew of Dr E. B. Turner, of the N.C.U., came across a wounded Boer, who, while lying in agony and parched with thirst, pleaded for water. Dr Turner's nephew took his flask and promptly complied with the disabled Boer's request. Then came a mutual recognition. The nephew referred to was a well-known English athlete who had competed on the cinder path along with P. J. Blignaut, and that identical P. J. Blignaut was the wounded Boer.

TOYS ARE NOW ON.



TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!

Our windows and our shop are full of the most wonderful assortment of unbreakable Rubber Toys ever shown in the city. All tastes and all purses can be accommodated.

ELRICK & MCPHERSON,
52 Guild Street, ABERDEEN.

REID & BAIN

INVITE INSPECTION OF THEIR DISPLAY OF MATERIAL FOR
EVENING WEAR.

RICH BROCHE SILKS, SHANGHAI SILKS, MOIRE SILKS, MERV SILKS,
In all the Fashionable Light Shades as now worn.
PLAIN LUSTRES, FIGURED LUSTRES, FIGURED MOHAIRS, CASHMERES, NUNS CLOTH,
MERINOS, CREPONS.
OPERA CLOAKS, EVENING WRAPS, SILK AND FABRIC BLOUSES, FICHUS, &c.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR PRESENTS.

UMBRELLAS.
PERFUMERY.
SATIN APRONS.
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CUSHION COVERS.
SILK-LINED GLOVES.

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PURSES.
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SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.
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LEATHERETTE HANDKERCHIEF BOXES.
LEATHERETTE GLOVE BOXES.

LEATHERETTE TIE BOXES.
LEATHERETTE COLLAR BOXES.

LEATHERETTE CUFF BOXES.

All with Lock and Key, truly wonderful, 1s each.

FUR NECKLETS in Sable, Kolinski, Skunk, Thibet, Marmot, Fox, and Hare.
MUFFS in Sable, Skunk, Thibet, Marmot, Opossum, and Bearina.
ELECTRIC SEAL CAPES, a very choice Marmot Cape.

DRESSES, MANTLES, MILLINERY, BED AND TABLE LINEN, &c.

LOCHEND HOUSE,

78 and 80 GEORGE STREET, and 30 and 32 LOCH STREET, ABERDEEN.

Christmas and New-Year

SPECIALITIES.

Whiskies—2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 3/6 per bottle. Spey Royal, oldest procurable,
4/- per bottle.

Brandies—3/6, 4/, 4/6, 5/- and 5/6.

Gilbey's Ports and Sherries from 1/- to 4/- per bottle.

Champagnes—2/6, 3/6, 4/- per bottle.

SUNDRIES.

Table Rasins, Figs, and Jellies, Christmas Cakes and Fancy Biscuits,
Christmas Crackers and Santa Claus Stockings, Variety of Coloured
Candles.

Agent for W. & A. GILBEY.

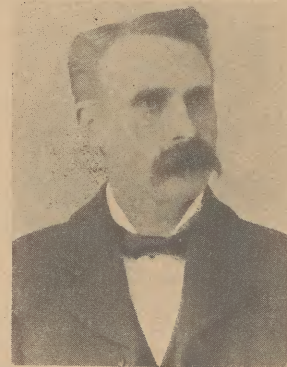
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8 Exchange Street.

My Cafe is always neat and clean,
The smartest place in Aberdeen,
Skink soups, to make you strong and well,
Kidney, brown, likewise ox-tail.

Suppers, balls, and even teas,
I cater for, and sure to please;
Look in to-night and do not pass,
You'll say yourself it is first-class.

The prices, just you ask your friends,
I charge so little for my vends,
I soon relieve your unbelief
If you scan my tariff leaf.

Come citizens from far and near,
Step in, you're welcome, never fear,
I'll make you cheerful, you will cry
Splendid, glorious, beefsteak pie!

JAMES A. GAIR.

**Warehouseman's Stock
OF
TRIMMED FELT HATS.**

HENRY GRAY

OFFERS TO-DAY

300 TRIMMED FELT HATS.
[ALL NEWEST SHAPES, HALF-PRICE.]

Gigantic Purchase of MANTLES, JACKETS,
and FURS, at Discounts varying from 25 to 75
per cent. See Windows.

About 400 Pairs SCOTCH and ENGLISH
BLANKETS, bought when Wool was at the
lowest point touched. Worth 25 per cent. more
TO-DAY.

FURNITURE, BEDDING, AND
CARPETS.

The Stock in these Departments was bought
before the great advance in prices. Term
Buyers should inspect the Stock.

MEN'S READY-MADE CLOTHING.

In this Department will be found a Magnificent
Variety of

OVERCOATS, TWEED SUITS,
WORSTED SUITS,
AT VERY SPECIAL PRICES.

BOYS' CLOTHING
OF ALL KINDS A SPECIALITY.

PARCELS SENT ON APPROBATION.

HENRY GRAY

BROAD STREET, ABERDEEN.

NOTICE.

JOHN BROWN, Butcher,
37 CHATTAN PLACE,

BEGS to intimate that he will OPEN on
THURSDAY, 21st December, 1899, SHOP,
No. 8 CHATTAN PLACE, when he hopes to
be favoured with part of your Custom.

FOR
**CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR
PRESENTS.**

WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, &c.

Fresh Stock. New Designs.

Inspection Invited.

Special Attention given to all kinds of Repairs.
SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP.

MODERATE CHARGES.

Country Orders Receive Personal Attention.

J. F. LESLIE

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WATCHMAKER AND JEWELLER,

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Two Minutes' Walk from the Railway Station.

I INVITE comparison of Prices and
Qualities.

SPECIAL LINE in KID GLOVES just now,
50 dozen, from 1s 11d to 3s 6d; very slightly
damaged, 1s per pair.

WORSTEDS.—5-ply Fingering, 5d and 6d per
cut.

Best Value, Best Selection, and Keenest
Prices in STOCKINGS, SOCKS, PANTS,
VESTS, and all KNITTED GOODS. UNDER-
CLOTHING and BABY OUTFITTING to be
had in the city.

RE-FOOTING STOCKINGS, and Special
Orders promptly attended to.

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CENTRAL WAREHOUSE—19 GEORGE ST.

BRANCHES—48 JUSTICE STREET.

177 ROSEMOUNT PLACE.

185 GEORGE STREET.

29 GALLOWGATE.

FACTORY—CONCERT COURT.

Terms—Ready Money Only.

Geisha Quadrille Party

(SELECT).

Every Saturday evening at 7.30 in NORTH
SILVER STREET HALL.

ADMISSION—Gent.'s 1/-; Ladies by Ticket.

NOTICE.

THE CITY'S COSY CORNER,
BALACLAVA BAR,

WILL BE CLOSED

As usual on

NEW-YEAR'S DAY.

JOHN MIDDLETON, JUNR., Proprietor.

JOSEPH JOHNSTON,

695 GEORGE STREET,

HAS much pleasure in intimating to
the Public that he is now equipped to
cater for PARTIES, AT HOMES, etc., and to
supply ICES, JELLIES, CREAMS, SOUFFLES, and
all kinds of FANCY DISHES,
My selection of Fancy Tea Cakes is still being
increased with all the latest designs and
novelties.

CAKES of every description suitable for the
festive season at the most satisfactory terms.
WEDDING CAKES A SPECIALITY.

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Try the Bon-Accord Press,
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Ball

Programmes

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PERFUMES. PERFUMES. PERFUMES.

In Fancy Bottles and Cases from 6d to 18/6.

MILITARY BRUSHES, in Cases from 5/- to 22/6 per pair.

PEARL AND SHELL HAIR BRUSHES, 8/6 each.

XYLONITE HAIR BRUSHES, 6/6 to 8/6.

DRESSING CASES from 7/6 to 54/- etc., etc., all at low prices and suitable for
presentation.

S. G. PRESSLIE,

PERFUMER, HAIRDRESSER, AND HAIR MERCHANT,

10 Bridge Street, Aberdeen.

Ask for "EILSSERP," the Finest Perfume on Earth.

Grammar School Notes.

THE debate on last Friday night was "Is Duelling Justifiable?" Affirmative—T. Gray; negative—B. Wright. The attendance was very poor, and the few that turned up did not take much interest in the debate. Both papers were well read, and indicated a great deal of trouble in searching for arguments. Those who spoke were very enthusiastic. When the vote was taken, it was found that 10 voted for the affirmative and 11 for the negative.

The F.P.'s Bazaar was well attended on Saturday last.

The concert held in the Art Room took up a considerable part of the evening. It commenced at 8, but a large audience had gathered before that time. The songs and selections were received by the audience with great applause. The little comedy was well played both by the lady and the gentlemen.

The decorations of the hall were very tasteful, and the ladies are to be complimented on the way in which they attended to their stalls.

It is very seldom that so many F.P.'s come together, and many a good story of former days was told.

The subject for the Debating Society next Friday is "Impromptus."

The school breaks up to-morrow for the Christmas holidays.



ARE you in doubts where to go for your Christmas presents? If so, try Brown's Book-Stall, 83 and 85 Union Street, where you will find one of the best and most varied selections of fancy goods in the city. The large and handsome shop is brimful of the choicest leather goods, and beautiful albums and presentation volumes of all kinds and at all prices are stocked in abundance. The Book-Stall has been long and favourably known for its fine collection of Bibles and church hymnals at prices to suit the purses of all sorts and conditions of men and women. Brown's Book-Stall is also making a speciality of a new and lovely ware from the Foley Poteries in Staffordshire, called "Intarsio" ware, and one of the windows contains some beautiful examples of vases, jars, clock-stands, etc. In the spacious fine art saloon a large number of engravings and etchings suitable for presents is also displayed.



WE congratulate our brightly-written contemporary, *Nomad's Weekly*, on its Christmas Number, which has just been published under the title of *Nomad's Annual*. The editor, Mr Alf. S. Moore, has been able to enlist the services of several special contributors, including, among others, the well-known author, Mr F. Frankfort Moore, who writes a story entitled "The Lady of the Tulips." A large number of actors and actresses have also sent articles, and among them we notice the names of Miss Marie Studholme, the Countess Russell, Madame Fanny Moody-Manners, Arthur Roberts, Dan Leno, Charles Collette, etc. The result is that *Nomad's Annual* is brimful of lightsome reading, both in prose and verse, and does not contain a dull page from cover to cover. The *Annual* is profusely illustrated. A clever cartoon by "Matt," entitled "The Sorrows of Chamberlain," is presented as a supplement.



THIS is the season for parties and presents. If you are going to the first or thinking of giving the second, Messrs Reid & Bain, drapers, Lochend House, George Street, can accommodate you to a nicety. They are now showing some charming things in evening wear, and have also a fine display of dainty Christmas and New-Year presents—all at wonderfully cheap prices.



MR ALEXANDER THOMSON, grocer and wine merchant, 212 King Street, has got his Christmas display well in hand, and to all appearance it will prove as big an attraction as did his last year's show.



DON'T let your Christmas and New-Year arrangements worry you, but just go along to Mr James Shirras, the city draper, George Street, where a clearing sale on a large scale is now proceeding. Everything in the sale is seasonable and up-to-date and you only need to go and see what you want—the prices will do the rest.

A CORRESPONDENT communicates with us, alleging that in the advertisement for Librarian to succeed Mr Robertson, no mention is made of experience being a necessary qualification; and says that if experience is not necessary on the part of the new librarian how comes it about that the salary is to be the same as the present librarian began with? When he was appointed, Mr Robertson was a man of great experience in library work, a most unusual knowledge to possess at that time. He had arranged and catalogued the library (5000 vols.) of Sir William Forbes, Bart. of Craigievar; organised and prepared catalogue for the Anderson Library, Woodside; arranged and catalogued the Duke of Fife's library (15,000 vols.) at Duff House; and was for five years assistant librarian at Aberdeen University, and had under his immediate charge the medical and law sections, together with a general collection of literature embracing 25,000 vols. which was daily being added to. Of course, says our correspondent, there is now no end of experienced librarians to be had for such a post as is now vacant in Aberdeen; and he considers it somewhat curious that if experience was necessary the advertisement did not state so, and if no experience was required, that the salary is to be the same as Mr Robertson received on his appointment.



IN its report of the speech delivered the other day by the chairman of the Liberal Association, the *Free Press* makes Mr John Leith say "that it (the war) was so repugnant to the Queen that she had abandoned the idea of going to Ostend for her Christmas." Is this one of our contemporaries flights of fancy? We are not exactly certain in what "end" of the earth the Queen delights to spend her Christmas, but it is assuredly not Ost-end. The Queen will give the "Continong" time to recover from its attack of Anglophobia before venturing to pay it a visit. We surmise that "Osborne" is the missing word.



MR WALKER, Jun., awoke on Tuesday morning and found himself famous. He had a leader all to himself in the pages of the *Aberdeen Journal*. His fame is now known, we suppose, outside the confines of Footdee. What did he do to deserve such an honour? Well, at a meeting of Footdee fishermen, this intrepid gentleman proposed a vote of no confidence in Mr Pirie, M.P., stating that "his reason for doing so was that Mr Pirie, although he had volunteered and went out to assist the Greeks against the Turks, had never come forward to assist his own country against the Boers!" We need say nothing about the questionable taste which prompted such a statement, but if Mr Walker, Jun., is so very anxious to get people to go out and fight the Boers he should set the example himself. By volunteering "for the front," he would take the sting out of the word "coward" which was flung in his face at the meeting.



A LARGE audience assembled in the Music Hall on Wednesday last to welcome the Kruse Quartet, who appeared under the auspices of the Philharmonic Society. The members of this talented quartet are Professor Johann Kruse, and Messrs A. E. Ferir, Charles Schilsky, and Herbert Walenn, and as this was their first appearance in Aberdeen, musicians had looked forward to their visit with the greatest interest. Local lovers of music fully expected a musical performance of no ordinary kind, and it is not too much to say that their high expectations were more than realised. The programme included Beethoven's string quartet in C Major, Mendelssohn's "Canzonette," and Schubert's quartet in D Minor. Herr Johann Kruse also gave a fine rendering of Bach's "Chaconne." The two part songs—"Ave Maria" (Smart) and "The Wood Minstrels" (Mendelssohn) were sung by the Philharmonic Choir under the leadership of Herr Reiter. The arrangements for the concert were carried out by Messrs Marr, Wood, & Co. Ltd.



Mr and Mrs Durward Lely's Forthcoming Tour.

MESSRS J. MARR, WOOD, & Co., Royal Music Saloons, have completed the arrangements for Mr and Mrs Durward Lely to give a series of Scottish song recitals in several towns north of Aberdeen early in January. The tour commences at Maud on the 4th prox., after which concerts will be given at Peterhead, Inverurie, Banff, Buckie, Cullen, and Inverness. Visits will also be made to Laurencekirk, and Mr Lely's native town of Arbroath. During this tour, Mr Lely will produce his new recital, entitled "At Hame and Far Awa'; or, Songs and Stories of Exile and Hame." It will no doubt prove as attractive as any of his previous programmes.

The Pipe and the Poet.



WHEN you haven't got a notion in your head,
And your sense of originality is dead,
When your intellect is slow,
And you feel, because you know,
That the feet of all your lines will be like
lead—

Take some paper and a pencil in your hand,
You can sit, or you can lie, or you can stand ;
If you have sufficient hair,
You can frantically tear,
Just you do so—not too hard, you under-
stand !

Next you light a pipe, or else a cigarette ;
If there's not the ghost of an idea yet
You watch the blue smoke rings,
And you think of lots of things ;
And very soon you'll find you cease to fret.

Soon you think you'll try and write a little sonnet
Upon—anything you like—a lady's bonnet ;
Then you heave a little sigh
And softly whisper, "I
Must find a title first to put upon it."

Then you bother very much about the rhyme,
And at last you think it certainly a crime
To perpetrate a sonnet
Upon any lady's bonnet ;
And you grumble then about the loss of time.

Then you find you're just exactly where you were ;
And you suddenly begin to think you err
In smoking such a lot,
When you find the symptoms not
Dissimilar from what's called *mal de mer*.

If you think there's any moral hidden here,
Gentle reader, then it's very, very clear
That it is your duty to
Take that moral home to you ;
Which I hope you've done ere this, my reader dear.

UNCLE REMUS.



On the Run.

MISS REDBUD—"My mother tells me, Colonel, that you
are a great traveller.

COL. ALPENSTOCK—"Yes, Miss Redbud, since the war I
have done little else."

MISS REDBUD (*impressively*)—"I presume that was what
started you off.



PROOF v. BUNKUM. It's quite an easy matter claiming
to be such and such, but proof is wanted. See Johnston's
window and judge for yourself if my claim of being the cheapest
jeweller in Aberdeen is just. 198 Rosemount Place.



MR JAMES STEPHEN.

Successful Citizens.

STANDING at the Wallace Statue, and looking northwards
towards the Royal Infirmary, the first object that catches the
eye of the visitor doing the sights of the city is the large
glittering sign of Messrs James Stephen & Sons, carvers, gilders,
picture frame makers, artist colourmen, and fine art publishers,
Woolmanhill. And many citizens will recollect that it was in
a small shop on the site now occupied by the Free South
Church, directly opposite the Wallace Statue and adjoining the
Free Library, that the business was started some 22 years ago.
From the outset Mr James Stephen worked on his own
resources and kept the control and supervision of the business
in his own hands, with the result that it has continued to
flourish with unvarying steadiness, and is now the largest
concern of the kind in the north of Scotland—if not in all
Scotland. The immediate scope of the firm extends from
beyond Edinburgh in the South to Orkney and Shetland in the
North (an area covered regularly by their travellers), and some
idea of the volume of trade may be gathered from the fact that
up to last year (when the business reached its majority) orders
had been executed for home and abroad to the extent of nearly
half a million frames of all sizes and styles, requiring about 400
miles of framing, and at present the average number of frames
made and dispatched weekly is 600. Of late, the great demand
for engravings and etchings from all parts of the country for
school decoration has caused quite a boom in this branch of
the firm's business. Mr James Stephen, who still controls the
business, looks quite young yet, and he seems to feel that way,
too, as he said to the writer the other day that it seemed but
yesterday since he begun business.

FELT SLIPPERS In Great Variety, 7d., 1/-, 1/3, 1/6, 1/9, 2/6.

LADIES' DRESS SLIPPERS,

1/6, 1/9, 1/11, 2/3, 2/6, 2/9, up to 7/6.

GENT.'S DRESS SHOES, 3/3, 3/9, 5/-, 5/6, 6/6, 7/6.

JOHN RAFFAN,

9 Market Street and 441 Union Street.



Dauvit Daw draps into Poetry.

MAISTER EDITUR,

DE may ken' at there's a gey kurn poets in oor S.A.L.A., an' we fa' in wi' some gey queer stuff noos an' than's i' the circulatin' MS. magazines an' ither amateur periodicals. There's that big ane the *Scottish Herald*—a magazine a' in manuscript. Weel, ye see, sir, it cam' my wye the ither day, an' to gie ye a swatch o't's contents I may mak' some extracks frae its pottry pages. Here's a pome on "An Unpusyability" nae less. It runs thus :—

"The auld Tam cat
Sang i' the meen's pale ray,
An' sometimes spat
In's ain mysterious way,
But a cricket bat
Dropped on's carcase gay.

"A lowly wail
Ower th' garden vainly sighed ;
He jerked his tail
Syne kicked a few and died,
Noo the lodgers feel
A long-felt want supplied."

Ay, but fat says the ownir o' the cat ? I'm thinkin' at she's nae freely sae weel pleased, an' 't wid be nae wundir edder if she feenished up by burnin' that cricket bat !

Turnin' ower the pages I come upo' an epigrammatic verse to the followin' tune :—

"An' noo the naughty little loon
To Sunda' School doth veer,
For weel he kens that Christmas time
Is slowly drawin' near."

An' sae it is ! And sae also is it true that Tammy Truant an' Dave Deukit are attendin' their Sunday Schule classes wi' mair regularity than they've deen for mony a lang. I wis thinkin' there surely wis something up.

An' oor neist quotation is rather apt, tee :—

"The melancholy days hae come,
An' wi' them comes the thocht oonpleasant,
That we maun seen begin to save
To buy the dears a Christmas present."

It's a sarious thocht, indeed, this thinkin' upo' Christmas presents, an' foo the ladies look at ye for a gift tee, to be sure ! Ay, this is fair the wye o' them, as is set furth by anither verse :—

"Oh, Christmas time is comin' fast,
Sae cheer up girls, be pleasant,
An' shak' the fellow wi' the past
For that ane wi' the present."

There, noo, as I'm tellin' ye, if ye dinna owen a gowd mine nearer han' hame than at Klondike aboot this time, ye'll be sorry for't, for the man wi' the fat pocket-buick haes aye the chance, min' ye, o' cuttin' oot his impecunious rival at Christmas. If ye canna dee that, ye may as weel gie up a' thochts o' the girl, an' jine—ay, but at onyrate jine the Scottish Amateur Literary Association an' do as weel as ye can for *Bon-Accord* an' yer auld donert freen,

DAUVIT DAW.

Wloman.

Of this world she's the music and the light,—
The home of our hearts—ever dear to our sight,
Her smiles and soft accents lure us to love
And call her such names as angel and dove.
And hearts which to Heav'n heave never a pray'r
She smiles to gladness, or frowns to despair,
From the Court to the cottage she's the same,
An angel divine in all but the name.

REVISED VERSION.

Of this world she was the ruin and blight,
And fools yet adore the cause of their plight,
Yet her caresses are but curses disguised,
Men of virtue and honour are despised,
While welcome's the rake and fool to her arms,
Smiles and soft accents are chief of her charms,
And she chuckles while with them she deceives—
Despising the man who in her believes.

WM. WATSON.



A NATURAL in the village of — had been in the habit of going to the manse kitchen on a certain day of the week to get a dish of broth. The old minister died, and a new one reigned in his stead. The natural went on his accustomed day, but was told there was nothing for him.

"Faur's Mr Sweetkail ?" he said.

"He's deid," was the domestic's reply.

"An'—an' hes he te'en the kail-pot wi' 'im ?"

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Christmas Presents in enormous variety,
at Keenest Prices.

MORAN'S, 408 UNION STREET.

Peter Birse Turns Critic.

Ladysmith, December, 1899.



LL news traivels fest. Here we're a' coopt up like a puckle hens in a back-yaird, wi' few crum's o' comfort tae peck at, watchin' an' waitin' for General Buller an's army tae hurry up an' gie's a han' tae get oot, fan wha should come along bit ane o' thay deevils o' niggers cairryin' new's as black's

his hide, an' it was sune kent amang a' oor men that General Gatacre—or Back-aiker, as the sodgers ca' him wha wir oot in the Soudan wi'm—had got a gey sair set-back at Stormberg, an' that anither sax hunder o' oor men wad hae tae be thankfu' tae auld Kruger for their Christmas denner.

It's jist the auld story o' Majuba ower again, says I, fan the oots an' ins o' the fecht had been tell't me. Oor generals aye haud their enemy ower chape, an' the Dutchmen get aff wi' the best o' the bargain. There's naething vrang wi' oor men, wha hiv aye been the bravest o' the brave, bit fut kin' o' generalship's that—leadin' decent sodgers ower bog-holes an' stanes in the dark, an' nae lattin' them ken that the Boers wir in front o' them till they wir lookin' doon the Dutchmen's gun-barrels. There's only ae name for a general that's mak's sic an awfu' hash o' things, an' that's General Muddle.

Bit misfortun's niver come singly, says auld Wullie Shakspeer, an' he niver spak' a truer wurd. Nae suner hid we got a kin' o' ower the effects o' the Stormberg business than we hid tae pit up wi' anither affront.

Wha wad hae thoct that General Methuen, aifter daein' sae weel at's first twa fechts, wad hae loot the Hielanders pit their heids intae sic a snorrel at Magersfontein? Deil speed the wurd! It tak's as muckle ink tae write it as it will bluid tae tak' it!

An' noo, tae croon a', there's General Buller, wha a'body wis relyin' on tae haul's oot o' the hole, got in tae a waur mess than a' the ither generals put thegither. An' the warst o't is that a' three misshanters hae happened in ae week. It looks gey like as if the Boers wir ower smairt for oor generals, for up tae noo they hinna made muckle o' a show against them.

Gin oor officers dinna stop gaun the gait they're gaun, there'll be few o' oor braw John Hielandmen that'll get the length o' Pretoria, I'm thinkin'. Nae that oor officers are nae brave. Their ower brave, bit their bravery is nae the kin' that his a guid look roun' afore it loup! They're a' sae eager tae get Victoria Crosses that they niver gie a thoct tae the mony ither kin' o' crosses that come in their wye, an' aften lan' them an' their men i' the ditch. Fut we're sairest needin' i' the noo is the officer that backs up his bravery wi' brains. There's far ower mony young Johnnie Raws being sent oot as officers, wha niver seem tae gie a thoct aboot the enemy till they're trippin' ower the Boers' barbed wire traps, an' then they get shot doon like as mony craws in a park, or else hae tae surrender tae a wheen Dutch fairmers wha niver saw the inside o' a military akademie, but what hae sense enouch tae mak' some eese o' the brains that Providence his gi'en them.

I'm raily sae disgusted wi' the wye that things hiv been muddled oot here, that I've made up my min' tae tak' the first chance I get o' leavin' Ladysmith for Durban, an' fan I've got that length, I'll tak' a passage on the first steamer that's gaun hame, so ye needna be astonished gin the New-Year should see at hame in's ain countrie yer auld frien'

Peter Birse.

Olden Golden Gist.

LIFE.

Swiftly the years come one by one,
Suns rise and set till years have spun,
And when ends life but just begun
It seems at best to all.

The days of sunshine and days of tears,
They had through all their weary years
Float up before them, then disappear
Where falls the dark'ning pall.

Yet shade and shine may together blend
To form a rainbow at the end,
And light up the path through which they wend,
And lull to rest their pain.
As their eyes grow dim and their pulses still,
While shadows surround of good and ill,
There's a voice keeps calling in silv'ry trill,
"After death will you leave much gain?"

MAN AND WOMAN.

A man and a woman are much alike
In many ways, all readily see,
But they differ—and on this point the most
The truth of which all will agree—
A man thinks a lot more than he says,
If no fool,
But a woman says more than she thinks
As a rule.

TRUTH AND FICTION.

Truth is stranger than fiction,
Is a well-known saying and true,
But it never was more verified
Than in what is now said unto you.
At each moment of its duration
Humanity, in truth, is said
To be instead of living men
Made up far by more ones dead.

EXAMPLES.

Examples do not authorise a fault,
Yet a precedent is to one as salt.

M. W. S. A. A.



No Credit Given.

THE following incident occurred in one of our Dundee streets lately. A street artist was busily engaged sketching on the pavement, to earn a livelihood, when a young masher came up to him and surveyed his work in a sarcastic style, remarking at the same time that he deserved credit for his work, whereupon the artist retorted, "Na, na, my mannie, I'll tak' it in ready money." Quick departure of masher.



Mother—"Willie, what is a quadruped?"

Willie—"A thing with four legs."

Mother—"Tell me the name of one."

Willie—"An elephant."

Mother—"Are there any feathered quadrupeds?"

Willie—"Yes, of course there is."

Mother—"What is it?"

Willie—"A feather bed!"

DENTISTRY.—G. P. CRUICKSHANK, Surgeon-Dentist, 300 and 302 George Street, Aberdeen, supplies ARTIFICIAL TEETH of best quality and Workmanship set on Vulcanite, Platinum, or Gold, with the latest improvements, at moderate charges. TEETH PAINLESSLY EXTRACTED, Stopped and Scaled. Extractions by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas or Chloroform when desired. Consultations free.

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"What, my dear?" was the teasing reply; "are you anxious to have a beau?"

"No, indeed," responded the tiny miss; "but if I were as big as you, just think how much my stocking would hold."



Dust and Diction.

BRIDGET (new acquisition in a Boston household)—"Does the mantel want to be dusted, Mum?"

MRS EMERSON—"Inanimate objects cannot want anything, Bridget; but I wish the mantel dusted. Pray, be careful of the vases."

Modern Journalism.

MANAGING EDITOR (to reporter)—"Are you engaged to be married, Mr Scarehead?"

MR SCAREHEAD—"Er—yes, sir; I —"

MANAGING EDITOR—"Kindly draw on the office for ten dollars, get married immediately, and let me have two columns on "Married Life in a Great City," by twelve o'clock. And—er—congratulations!"



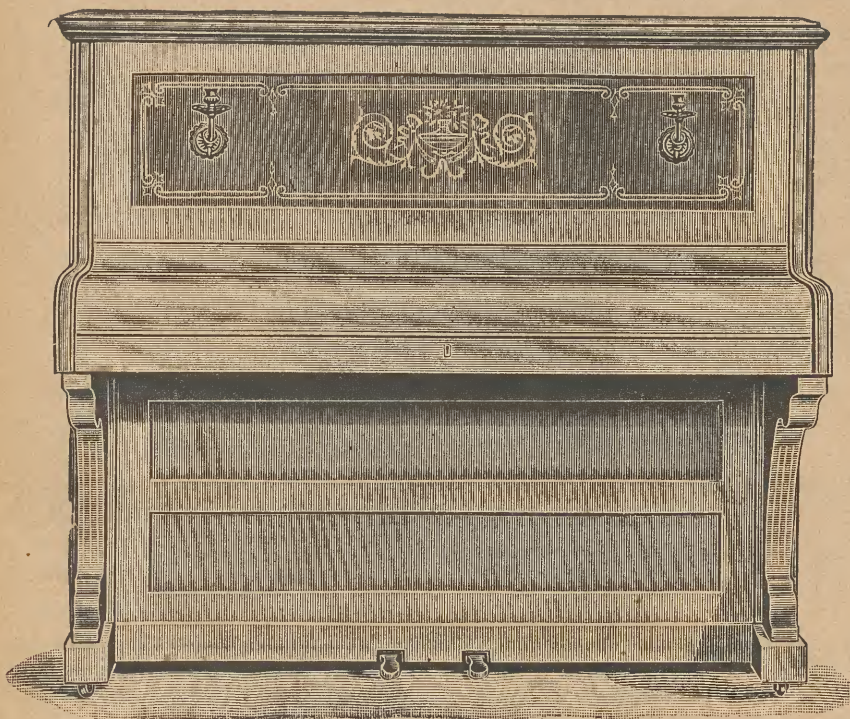
Tommy's Toilet.

TOMMY (inquiringly)—"Mamma, is this hair-oil in this bottle?"

MAMMA—"Mercy, no! That's gum."

TOMMY (nonchalantly)—"I guess that's why I can't get my hat off."

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"Yes," replied the jurymen, "but it also appeared in evidence, before you came in, that the man he killed always persisted in saying, 'Is that so?' whenever anybody told him a bit of news."



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CONSCIENTIOUS YOUTH—"You will find me trustworthy, sir. What am I to do?"

RAILROAD PRESIDENT—"Take this bag of greenbacks to the State Capitol and buy votes."



THE clergyman in a certain town, as the custom is, having published the banns of matrimony between two persons, was followed by the clerk who read the hymn beginning with these words, "Deluded souls, that dream of heaven."

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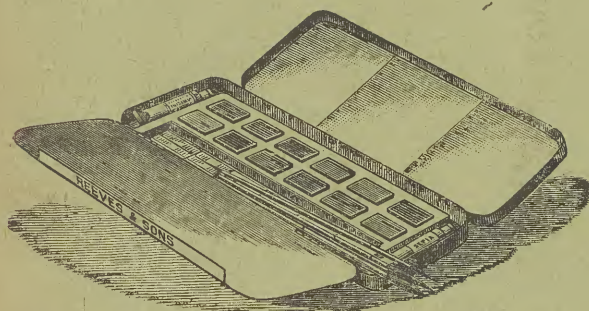
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