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PRINTING

THE HIGHLAND NEWS

MARRIAGE
IS NEVER A FAILURE IF YOU
GET YOUR
WEDDING INVITATIONS
PRINTED AT
"THE HIGHLAND NEWS" OFFICE.
Over 50 Beautiful Designs in Stock.
PRICES VERY MODERATE.
MARRIAGE

897 EIGHTEENTH YEAR INVERNESS, SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 1900. TWELVE PAGES PRICE ONE PENNY

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

BIRTHS.
At Rue Villa, Midmill Road, Inverness, on the 3rd inst., the wife of JOHN MACDONALD of a daughter.
At 3 Carlton Terrace, Hillburn, Inverness, on the 3rd inst., the wife of WILLIAM MACDONALD of a son.
At 2 Vilette, Narbonne Avenue, Clapham, London, S.W., on the 2nd inst., the wife of ANDREW FRASER, inspecting engineer, of a son.
At Plantation Road, Stornoway, on the 4th inst., the wife of DONALD SMITH, inspector of poor, of a daughter.

DEATHS.
At Enrick Villa, Reay Street, Inverness, on the 2nd inst., JOHANNA GIBSON, widow of the late Walter Ross.
At 42 Rose Street, Inverness, on the 3rd inst., after a long and painful illness, ANNE MACDONALD, beloved wife of William James, Joiner, 112.
At 13 Lee Crescent, Fortbelton, on the 2nd inst., WILLIAM HENRY BALDWIN, late Surveyor of Taxes for the counties of Inverness and Perth and Kinross, in his 64th year.
At Mossiel Corstorphine, on the 2nd inst., Mrs HAZEL MARY TAYLOR, widow of Captain Peter Taylor, and daughter of the late Duncan Macfarlane, Heathmount, Inverness.
At his residence, Garvasha Farm, near Stirling, on the 3rd inst., after three days' illness, DONALD M. FORBES, aged 29 years, youngest son of the late William Forbes, Kinloch, Muir of Ose—deeply mourned.
At Gattahall, Hillburn, Inverness, on the 3rd inst., ELIZABETH GRANT, aged 65, widow of Duncan Macgillivray, schoolmaster, Portmahomack, Inverness.

PURE BEER

Abbey and Holyrood Breweries,
Edinburgh, 6th December, 1900.
Mr Alfred Christie,
Lochgoron Hotel, Inverness.
Dear Sir,
No sugar of any kind being used by us in brewing, we unhesitatingly guarantee our Beer free from impurities of any sort, and refer you to the enclosed copy of Certificate of Analysis.
We are, Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
WILLIAM YOUNGER & Co., Ltd.,
HENRY G.O. YOUNGER,
Director.

COPY CERTIFICATE.

Analytical Laboratory, Surgeons' Hall,
Edinburgh, 5th December, 1900.
I have carefully analysed samples of Messrs William Younger & Co.'s Ltd. Ales and Stout, taken from various brewings selected by me from their stores at Abbey and Holyrood Breweries, Edinburgh, and find such to be perfectly free from arsenic or any metallic impurity.
From a further investigation, I am satisfied that these ales and stouts are brewed from the best class of materials, and are pure, sound, and wholesome.
(Signed) W. IVISON MACADAM,
F.R.S.E., F.I.C., F.O.S., &c.
Analytical and Consulting Chemist;
Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology,
New Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

FURNITURE AND OTHER SALES.

CARPETS! CARPETS! CARPETS!
The Sale of New Carpets at
COLVIN'S AUCTION HALL,
OLD FREE CHURCH, QUEEN STREET,
Will be continued To-day at 1 P.M.
Terms—Cash.
W. COLVIN, Auctioneer.

IMPORTANT SALE OF FURNITURE,

at the
DRILL HALL, FORTROSE,
On Friday, 14th Dec., at 11 a.m.
The subscriber has received instructions to sell, by auction, the entire FURNISHING of
MOYLA PARK, FORTROSE,
comprising the furnishings of 4 public rooms, hall, 7 bedrooms, kitchen, and pantries.
Terms—Cash.
WM. MICHIE, Auctioneer,
13 Hamilton Street.

SITUATIONS WANTED AND VACANT.

TO FARMERS.—Wanted, by young man aged 20, situation on a farm in the country. For further particulars apply No. 3257 Highland News Office, Inverness.

WANTED a Lad as an Apprentice. Apply to Johnstone & Edgar, Grapes, 12 High Street, Inverness.

WANTED, immediately, cook and tablemaid for Skye; tablemaid for England; and all classes of Servants. Mrs Alexander, the Register.

WANTED Cooks; between 30 and 40 hours general wanted at once; also working housekeepers on books. Edinboro's Registry, 72 Academy Street, Inverness.

HOME-WORK, either sex; a good income weekly; no canvassing or anything to learn, but genuine indoor work. Enclose stamped addressed envelope—Voyle, Broad Street, Gloucester.

400 BOY CLERKS, 100 LADY CLERKS. Age 15 to 20.
Opens competitions in January and March. All year. Splendid life appointments. Short hours; annual holidays; retiring pensions. Salaries £40 and £55, rising to £100 and upwards. Easy exams. Apply at once, stating exact age, to W. Stewart Thomson, M.A., Civil Service Academy, Dundee.

HOUSES, &c., WANTED AND TO LET.
TO LET or Sell, by private bargain, that beautiful residence known as "Riverview," Island Bank. Apply to Francis Squair, Esq., solicitor, Inverness.

TO LET—STORES, STABLES, TWO-ROOMED HOUSES. Apply to JAMES MACDONALD, Crown Lands, Inverness.

LODGINGS WANTED AND TO LET.
LODGINGS.—Large comfortable parlour, bedroom and bathroom, suitable for one or two gentlemen, to let in central locality. Apply No. 3258 Highland News Office.

PROPERTY, &c., FOR SALE.
FOR SALE—VILLA, central position. Apply to JAMES MACDONALD, Crown Lands, Inverness.

FIRST-CLASS Country Hotel and Posting Business in a flourishing condition for sale, by private bargain. For particulars apply to Francis Squair, solicitor, Inverness.

GROUND TO FEU, suitable for warehouses, workmen's houses, and villa residences. Apply to JAMES MACDONALD, Crown Lands, Inverness.

TENDERS INVITED.
ESTIMATES Wanted for Cutting and Filling about 12 miles of track for Loch Eester Water Supply, Loch-shire; also for cutting pipes, &c., and distributing same along site of works. Offers for whole or in sections. Lowest or any other may not be accepted. Apply J. Hunter Clark, plumber, Elgin.

TOWN OF INVERNESS.
Offers wanted for painting the Inverness Public Markets. Specification at the Borough Surveyor's Office, where sealed tenders may be lodged on or before Saturday, 15th December, 1900. The lowest or any other need not necessarily be accepted.
Inverness, December 6th, 1900.

EMIGRATION TO CANADA.
A HOME FOR THE SCOTCH AGRICULTURIST.
FREE Grants of Land in Manitoba. Free Grants of Land, or Crown Grants at low prices, in other Provinces. Also cheap improved Farms.
Manitoba and the North West offer unparalleled prospects for the Scotch farmer, and the raising of free schools for the young. Every farmer his own landlord. Domestic servants in great demand at good wages.
Pamphlets, maps, reliable information and advice on all matters of interest to intending settlers, and as to the trade and commerce of the Dominion, may be obtained gratis and post free on application to any of the undersigned Canadian Government Agents—Mr. H. M. MUNAY, Principal Agent for Scotland, 52 St. Enoch Square, Glasgow; Mr. JOHN GALRY, Parkhurst, Dumfries; or Mr. THOS. DUNCAN, Ceres Place, Carnoustie; also from the Local Agents of the Allan, Dominion, and Elder Steamship Companies, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.
Correspondence and personal interviews invited. 2

A PRICE EVENT.

SOMETHING EXTRA.
THE ALL ABSORBING QUESTION
OF THE HOUR
IS THE SELLING OF

GRIFFITHS' BANKRUPT STOCK GOODS
AT THE
KLONDYKE DRAPERY STORES,
("THE PEOPLE'S CHRISTMAS PARADISE.")

Being within a three weeks' journey of Xmas the great season of seasons, when money flows freely in the rivers of charity, and the heart is gay. This is the sum and substance of the whole matter, and which describes in a measure the situation as it appears to our aggressive minds at KLONDYKE. "Room for Christmasing. Almost INCREDIBLE REDUCTIONS will be laid before our Patrons TO-DAY and the week following. Although much of our large and reliable goods has changed ownership since our Sale began, there still remains variety and choice for hundreds yet. From the NEXT-TO-NOTHING Prices we have been selling at, there will be made a further DEDUCTION. Few will be able to withstand the temptations which are in our Store, and it will be surprising indeed if any can resist the influence which the HALF-PRICE Pencil has wrought.
Gems of Fashion will be given at Prices widely removed from the actual worth. Luxury and utility dealt out in quantities at the smallest cost.

SOME THINGS YOU MAY NEED.

DRESSES.	MANTLES.	JACKETS.	MILINERY (Trimmed).
10/6 to 2/6 1/2 per yard.	4s 1/2 to 4/6.	2s 6d to 4/6.	Felt Hats, 3s 6d to 1/6 1/2.
Boat Shoes, 6/6 to 3s 1/2.			
PRINTS.	FLANNELLETTES.	SHEETS.	GLOVES (KID).
3/6 per yard.	2/6 to 5/6 per yard.	1s 7/6 to 5s 6d.	1s 11/6.
BLouses.	SHIRTS.	WATERPROOF CAPES.	
1s 11/6 to 4s 11/6.	1s 11/6 to 5s 6d.	9s 11/6 to 22s 6d.	
WATERPROOF MANTLES.		COSTUMES.	FURS.
9s 11/6 to 26s 11/6.		6s 11/6 to 33s 6d.	1s to 25s.
KNITTED COMBINATIONS.		INFANTS' PELISSES.	INFANTS' COATS.
3s 3d to 6s 6d.		2s 11/6 to 12s 6d.	2s 6d to 9s 11/6.
BLANKETS.		WADDING QUILTS.	DOWN QUILTS.
5s 9d to 12s 6d.		2s 9d to 12s 6d.	12s 6d to 16s 11/6.
CORSETS (including the famous C. B. & S. S.), 1s 11/6 and 3s 11/6.			

The foregoing afford some good reasons why you should see us to-day and often this coming week. Much more we know will be wanted; you will find them when you call.

WE STAND SPLENDIDLY PREPARED AND GENEROUSLY

DISPOSED

AT KLONDYKE,

QUEENSGATE, Beside the Post Office.

RAILWAY NOTICES.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY
RETURN TICKETS AVAILABLE BY ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.
On and after SATURDAY, 6th October, ordinary route, night, and week-end tickets, and tickets issued as holiday fares (day excursion tickets by special trains excepted between Keith, Granton, and stations on the Great North of Scotland Railway south of Granton on the one hand, and Eight and stations on the Highland Railway west and north of Elgin on the other hand, and vice versa will be available on the return journey via Aberdeen, or via Grangemouth, or by the Moray Firth Coast Line, irrespective of the route shown upon the tickets. Single journey tickets and the outward portions of all return tickets will, as hitherto, be available only by the route shown upon them.
W. MOFFATT, General Manager, Great North of Scotland Railway.
T. A. WILSON, General Manager, Highland Railway.
October, 1900.

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY.

TRAIN SERVICE
WICK, THURSO, LOCHALSH, AN THE NORTH
MONTROSE, ABERDEEN, DUNDEE, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, AND LONDON.
From 1st DECEMBER, 1900, until further notice.
FROM THE NORTH VIA ABERDEEN.

Dep.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Wick	7 0	8 15	10 0	11 15	1 0	2 15	3 30
Thurso	7 15	8 30	10 15	11 30	1 15	2 30	3 45
Lochalsh	7 30	8 45	10 30	11 45	1 30	2 45	4 0
Strathgairn	7 45	9 0	10 45	12 0	1 45	3 0	4 15
Dingwall	8 0	9 15	11 0	12 15	2 0	3 15	4 30
Kyle	8 15	9 30	11 15	12 30	2 15	3 30	4 45
Nairn	8 30	9 45	11 30	12 45	2 30	3 45	5 0
Forres	8 45	10 0	11 45	1 0	2 45	4 0	5 15
Grantown	9 0	10 15	12 0	1 15	3 0	4 15	5 30
Elgin	9 15	10 30	12 15	1 30	3 15	4 30	5 45
Aberdeen	9 30	10 45	12 30	1 45	3 30	4 45	6 0
Montrose	9 45	11 0	12 45	2 0	3 45	5 0	6 15
Dundee	10 0	11 15	1 0	2 15	4 0	5 15	6 30
Arbroath	10 15	11 30	1 15	2 30	4 15	5 30	6 45
Perth	10 30	11 45	2 0	3 15	4 30	5 45	7 0
Edinburgh	10 45	12 0	2 15	3 30	4 45	6 0	7 15
Glasgow	11 0	12 15	2 30	3 45	5 0	6 15	7 30
London	11 15	12 30	2 45	4 0	5 15	6 30	7 45

GLASGOW CORPORATION LOANS.

The subscriber is authorized to receive Loans as undernoted—
1.—Glasgow Corporation 3 Per Cent. Stock. Redeemable 1921, in amounts of £50 and upwards, at par.
2.—On Mortgages (£100 and upwards), having a currency of 3 1/2 years. Interest Three Per Cent.
3.—Temporary Loans on the usual terms.
Cheques and Drafts, made payable to "Glasgow Corporation Loans Fund," may be sent to the Registrar, City Chambers, 285 George Street, Glasgow.
T. EATON ROBINSON, City Registrar.

THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND HERITABLE INVESTMENT COMPANY.

OFFICE—No. 44 CASTLE STREET, INVERNESS.
ARTICLES.
Miss JESSIE M. MACLACHLAN, Soprano.
Miss LIZZIE HUNTER, Contralto.
Miss GEORGE BUTLER, Mandolinist and Violinist.
Mr EDWARD WYNN, Tenor.
Mr RODRIGO MACLEOD, Gaelic Vocalist.
Mr JAMES FLEMING, Baritone.
Mr SCOTT SKINNER (The Strathpey King), Solo Violinist.
Mr ANDERSON'S CHOIR OF 20 VOICES.
DANCERS—Messrs Edwin J. Macpherson, Kenneth Macdonald, Ewen Stewart, and George MacKenzie (who will perform the Lochaber War Dance with Fleming Torches).
Pipe-Major J. Macdonald GILLES and BAND of the 1st V.B.H.L.I. by kind permission of Colonel R. C. Mackenzie and Officers.
Accompanists and Conductors—Messrs R. and T. BUCHANAN.
Plan decorations carried out by Messrs Rowan & Co., Highland Costumers, 104 Argyle Street, Glasgow.
Doors open at 7.30; Concert at 8; Carriages at 10.30.
Tickets—(Reserved and Numbered), 3s. (Unreserved), 2s. and 1s. May be had from Messrs Harty, Wood, & Co., 49 Buchanan Street; Mr R. Buchanan, 300 Sauchiehall Street; from Members of Committee, and Secretaries and Office-bearers of the Highland Societies.

LOANS GRANTED ON HERITABLE PROPERTY AND FOR BUILDING PURPOSES.

INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS up to 3 per cent. A PAYMENT of One Shilling Weekly will entitle investors to receive £50 at the expiry of Fourteen and a Half Years.
The FUNDS of the Company are invested in First-Class Heritable Securities.
For further particulars apply to
WILLIAM CORNER, Manager.

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY.

THE CHARGING CROSS BANK (Established 1870) BEDFORD STREET, CHARGING CROSS, LONDON, W.C.
Assets £315,475 18 2
Liabilities £309,475 18 2
Capital and Reserve £200,000 0 0
LOANS of £50 to £2000 granted at a few hours' notice, in town or country, on mortgage of furniture, trade, and farm stock, plant, crops, &c., without removal; also on deeds, policies, and reversions, stocks, shares, and merchandise of every description.
Special facilities to all requiring banking accounts.
TWO AND A HALF PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on the minimum monthly balances of CURRENT ACCOUNTS when not drawn below £20.
Deposits of £10 and upwards received on terms as usual.
5 per cent. per annum, subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal.
Special Terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly. The Terminable Deposit Bonds pay nearly five per cent., and are a safe investment.
Write or call for Prospectus.
A. WILLIAMS, Manager.

Macdonald & Mackintosh,

Having made extensive and advantageous purchases of CEYLON, INDIA, and CHINA TEAS, have every confidence in recommending them as the best that can be procured at their respective prices.
They invite the attention of the public to the subject-matter of Teas, a trial of which is respectfully solicited.
FINE HOUSEHOLD TEAS. These blends will be found very economical, having great strength and flavour, 1s 4d and 1s 6d per lb.
High-Class Teas, good body and flavour, and recommended CHOICE CEYLON TEAS, 1s 10d and 2s per lb.
GOLDEN TIP TEA. Choicest Pickings of Ceylon and India, specially recommended, 2s 3d per lb.
PURE CHINA TEA.—The finest imported, 2s and 2s 3d per lb.
Samples Free by Post.

MACDONALD & MACKINTOSH,

TEA IMPORTERS, INVERNESS
Telephone, No. 79.

SIMPSON'S for Girls' Lace Boots.

2s 3d a pair up, according to size. 9 Bridge Street, Inverness.

THE HIGHLAND JEWELLERY ESTABLISHMENT.

WEDDING PRESENTS.

FERGUSON & MACBEAN

ARE NOW SHOWING A SELECTION OF ABOVE AT MARVELLOUSLY LOW PRICES.

ENTERTAINMENTS, &c.

MUSIC HALL, INVERNESS.

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), at 3 and 8, THE WORLD-RENOUNDED

FISK JUBILEE SINGERS,

With the Largest and most Brilliant ANIMATED WAR PICTURES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND CHINA
Ever shown in Scotland, and which combination recently drew crowded and enthusiastic audiences to St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow.
PRICES OF ADMISSION—6d, 1s, and 2s.
6d and 1s tickets, hall doors only. 2s tickets (reserved) from Logan & Co., and Marr, Wood & Co., Musicellers; and Melven Brothers, booksellers; and also at hall doors.
Wednesday Evening, December 12, 1900, at 7.30 o'clock.
TOWN HALL, INVERNESS.
PIANOFORTE RECITAL-LECTURE.
Demonstrating the results of the Virgil Clavier Method, and advocating the need for logical foundational methods in Pianoforte teaching, by pupils of the Virgil piano school, and Mr Albert BIRD.
Solo Pianoforte—Miss Winifred Johnson, Miss Mary Carrington, and Mr P. S. CATER.
The Chair will be taken by Provost MACLEAN.
Teachers, students, and all interested in Music from an educational point of view are specially invited.
Invitation Tickets can be obtained from Fr. W. Whitehead, A.R.C.O., 1 Ardross Street, and from the Music-sellers.

MUSIC HALL.

GRAND EVENING CONCERT

BY MR MILLER'S CHORAL SOCIETY, FRIDAY, 14th DECEMBER. 2s, 1s 6d, 1s, and 6d. Tickets at CORNERS, 21 Lombard Street, and from Members.

INVERNESS CHORAL UNION.

EVENING CONCERT.

MENDELSSOHN'S ORATORIO, ELIJAH, MUSIC HALL, FRIDAY, 21st DECEMBER. SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF MR ANDREW BLACK.

ST ANDREW'S HALL, GLASGOW.

Monday, 10th December, 1900.
GRAND COMPLEMENTARY FAREWELL CONCERT TO MISS JESSIE M. MACLACHLAN.
"The Scottish Prima Donna," previous to her departure for Canadian and American Concert Tour, in appreciation of her excellent work in reviving and perpetuating Scottish and Gaelic Melody and Song.
Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, the Duke of Argyll, and the Scottish Nobility and Gentry; and under the auspices of the Highland Societies of Glasgow and the West of Scotland.
MACLACHLAN of MACLACHLAN (Chief of the Clan) in the Chair.
Miss JESSIE M. MACLACHLAN, Soprano.
Miss LIZZIE HUNTER, Contralto.
Miss GEORGE BUTLER, Mandolinist and Violinist.
Mr EDWARD WYNN, Tenor.
Mr RODRIGO MACLEOD, Gaelic Vocalist.
Mr JAMES FLEMING, Baritone.
Mr SCOTT SKINNER (The Strathpey King), Solo Violinist.
Mr ANDERSON'S CHOIR OF 20 VOICES.
DANCERS—Messrs Edwin J. Macpherson, Kenneth Macdonald, Ewen Stewart, and George MacKenzie (who will perform the Lochaber War Dance with Fleming Torches).
Pipe-Major J. Macdonald GILLES and BAND of the 1st V.B.H.L.I. by kind permission of Colonel R. C. Mackenzie and Officers.
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INVITATION TO THE GREAT FANCY FAIR AND CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION OF 1900.

ONE OF THE LARGEST & PRETTIEST SHOWS IN THE COUNTRY.
PRESENTS IN ENDLESS VARIETY, RANGING FROM ONE PENNY UPWARDS.
ALL CHILDREN SHOULD VISIT THE CAVE.
NOVELTIES AT THE GREAT FANCY FAIR.
ALL ARTISTIC, INEXPENSIVE, NEW.

THE UNDERGROUND DEPARTMENT.

The whole space from Union Street to Baron Taylor's Lane is devoted to the "FANCY FAIR," which embraces hundreds of dresses and undressed dolls to select from, including Benares brash goods, handsome inexpensive vases, tea and coffee sets, embroideries, cushion squares, clocks, pictures, Damascus carved work, &c.

SANTA CLAUS' CAVE.

The Cave is literally packed with mechanical and musical toys, guns, cannons, soldiers, rocking horses, hundreds of dresses and undressed dolls to select from, including Benares brash goods, handsome inexpensive vases, tea and coffee sets, embroideries, cushion squares, clocks, pictures, Damascus carved work, &c.

PHONOGRAPHS.

THE PERSONOPHON, the cheapest phonograph in the world. Reproduces standard records of songs, bands, &c., with startling clearness and musical sweetness. Price 17s 6d complete.
THE NEW GEM FAMILY PHONOGRAPHER. With it you can take your own records. Completely enclosed in a handsome oak case, supplied with special record, reproducer, trumpet, slip brush, &c. Price £28 8s.
MUSICAL BOXES.—Finely inlaid, play 10 tunes, bells, &c., £23 10s.
MUSICAL BOXES.—Finely inlaid, play 50 tunes, bells, &c., £28 8s.
MUSICAL ORGANS.—Play 6 tunes, 12s 6d each.

A. FRASER AND CO.,

FURNITURE GALLERIES, UNION STREET, INVERNESS.
The whole premises of five floors, extending from Union Street to Baron Taylor's Lane, are lighted by electricity.

SEASONABLE & USEFUL PRESENTS

AT PRICES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL.
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GIFTS. MARRIAGE & BIRTHDAY PRESENTS. HOUSE & TABLE DECORATIONS.
MESSRS A. FRASER AND CO., ART FURNISHERS, UNION STREET, INVERNESS.
In addition to the great display of novelties and attractive presents from a few penny upwards, as per above advertisement, would call special attention to the Dainty, Useful, and Inexpensive Imports in the Furnishing Departments. Being direct importers of carpets, rugs, and other Oriental goods, they feel confident, if a comparison be made with similar goods shown elsewhere, the prices will be found considerably less by the middleman's profits being saved.
The Departments are laid out as follows, and every article marked in plain figures:—
BASEMENT OR GROUND FLOOR.
The entire space of the floor is devoted exclusively to the Bazaar and "Santa Claus' Cave." Thousands of useful presents on view from one penny upwards.
FIRST FLOOR.
(ENTRANCE FROM UNION STREET).
ART FABRICS, consisting of tapestries, brocades, velvets, &c. Hundreds of made-up cushions (our own make) from 1s 6d upwards; cushion squares; beautiful embroidered cushions from 7s 6d; tea coasters from 1s 6d; standard and other carpets, 9 ft. by 9 ft., 8s 6d; table covers from 1s 6d; select table centres from 2s 6d; thick Oriental carpets, 9 ft. by 9 ft., 8s 6d; large Oriental rugs from 4s 6d, a large selection; curtains, &c.; a magnificent collection of down quilts from 12s 6d to 7s, very useful present; about 100 four-fold screens, 5 ft. 6 in. high, in lovely colours, from 12s 6d.
SECOND FLOOR.
The DRAWING-ROOM and DINING-ROOM.—Choice suites of £4 15s to £24; magnificent assortment of occasional chairs and tables from 6s 6d; small Chippendale chairs from 6s 6d, about 70 assorted wicker chairs, nicely upholstered from 6s 6d; tapestries, &c., ranging from 2s 6d, making excellent presents; bronzes from 7s 6d; carved Indian tables from 12s 6d to 60s; Cairo stands; Damascus stools from 6s 6d; handsome Chippendale and Sheraton cabinets from £4 10s to £35; inlaid writing tables, decanter sets, &c., from 28s 6d; hundreds of pretty china and ornamental vases in 31st upwards.
THIRD FLOOR.
BEDROOM FURNITURE.—Sixty to seventy suites to select from, ranging from £4 10s per suite; bedroom ware; tea and dinner sets; porcelain and other fruit sets, very cheap for presents; easy chairs from 24s; lounge easy chairs in tapestry and silk brocade from 45s; grandfather's chairs in various coverings from 50s—useful presents.
FOURTH FLOOR.
This floor contains brass, iron, and wooden bedsteads and beddings, 700 to 800 in stock; bathroom, and other furniture; miscellaneous goods and cheap furniture for cottages, &c.
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE DEPARTMENT.
In the AUCTION SALE-ROOM, BARON TAYLOR'S LANE, will be found an exceptionally large and varied collection of miscellaneous furniture and other household requisites. These include a number of suites in various woods, cabinets, sideboards, chiffoniers, bookcases, writing tables, two-seaters, kitchen and other utensils, &c.
The visitor to Inverness at this season will not regret an hour spent in the baron's Union Street, where several of the departments, with their stock of quaint and beautiful articles of all periods from four hundred years to the present day, give the aspect of a museum.—"Scotts Pictorial," July 15th, 1899.
A TRIAL ORDER RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.
TERMS—CASH.
KENNETH SUTHERLAND, LADIES' AND GENTS' CLOTHING, 49 ACADEMY STREET.

MEMORIAL CARDS.—New, Chaste, and Beautiful Designs. Large Selection. Samples and Prices on application to the MANAGER, "The Highland News," Inverness.

NOBLE & DREGHORN,

ART CABINETMAKERS AND UPHOLSTERERS, AND CARPET WAREHOUSEMEN, AT "THE WHITE HOUSE," 6 AND 8 INGLIS STREET, INVERNESS.

FUNERAL UNDERTAKERS.

Polished Oak or Elm, Brass-Mounted Coffins, from 25s. Black Cloth Covered Coffins, with suitable mounting, from 22s.
Funeral Requisites always ready to despatch on receipt of telegram.
Telegraphic Address—NOBLE DREGHORN, Inverness. Night Bell—7 Ardross Street.

MEMORIAL wreaths, inscription tablets, made to order. Cameron, Painter, 16 Bunty Street.

JAMES L. HORNE, 45 CASTLE STREET, FUNERAL UNDERTAKER.

MEMORIALS of all kinds in GRANITE, MARBLE, and FREESTONE, may be had from Messrs J. & A. FRASER, Sculptors, Inverness, who give best value and prices to be got in the North.

65 ACADEMY STREET, Inverness.

CHURCH NOTICES.

THE PARISH CHURCH.—(Rev. C. MACKENZIE).
To-morrow (Sabbath)—Morning and Evening—Gaelic at 11 a.m., English at 6.30 p.m.
Evening subject—"Wrecked lives, or loss versus gain."

UNITED FREE EAST CHURCH.
Sabbath (To-morrow), Forenoon and Evening—Rev. ALLEN CAMERON, M.A.

BAPTIST CHURCH,
56 EAST GATE (Corner of Crown Drive).—Services To-morrow (Sabbath) 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Preacher—Rev. Mr JAFF, Congregational Church, Nairn.

M. C. A.
All Young Men men welcome at De Mackay's Bible Class on Sabbath at 4.30 p.m. Subject—"Pictures from the Life of Christ."
Evangelistic Meeting at 8.15 p.m.

UNITED EVANGELISTIC SERVICES
EVERY NIGHT at 8 p.m. in BANK STREET HALL, conducted by MR J. W. GALLETTLY, of the Evangelistic Society (Gaelic Branch).
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THE INVERNESS PRESBYTERIES.

UNITED FREE PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery held their ordinary monthly meeting in the hall of the United Free High Church on Tuesday—Rev. Wm. Todd, moderator, presiding—and there was a good attendance both of ministers and elders. The ministers present included—Rev. Dr. Black, Rev. Dr. Macdonald, Rev. Charles Robson, Rev. Allan Cameron, Inverness; Rev. Mr. Munn, Kirkhill; Rev. Mr. Fraser, Dorcas; Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Strathglass; Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Croy; Rev. Mr. Macleod, Ardserier; and Rev. Mr. Robertson, Ardserier.

THE CHURCH EVANGELICAL UNION.

Rev. Dr. Black drew attention to the Church Evangelical Union which had recently been formed in Inverness. He stated that there had been several meetings held in connection with it. They had asked their Established Church friends, the Baptist minister, and the Wesleyan Methodist minister, and these gentlemen had come to the meetings, and had very heartily entered into the matter. The town had now been divided into districts, and each congregation had a district assigned to it. He hoped that some earnest work would result from the Union in connection with the evangelisation of the town.

The Moderator said the idea was to carry on the work on the lines of the Home Mission Union, and their aim was to endeavour to get at the non-church-going classes. Dr. Black intimated that the Rev. Mr. Robson had been appointed secretary of the new organisation.

Thereafter various committees connected with the business of the Presbytery were appointed, and the following are conveners:—Life and Work—Dr. Black; Temperance and Public Morals—Rev. Charles Robson, M.A.; Youth—Rev. Mr. Campbell, Petty; Students—Rev. Wm. Todd.

Rev. Allan Cameron thought that a committee should be formed in order to receive any young fellows coming to the town from the country. Dr. Black asked how were they going to distribute the young men among the various Churches?

Rev. Mr. Robson said that if the young men were sympathetically received they would settle the particular church for themselves. It was agreed to appoint a committee of two ministers and three elders to undertake this work.

A deputation of ladies were received by the committee in connection with the Presbyterial Auxiliary on Foreign Mission Work, and the Moderator explained that the ladies who had been carrying on the work of the two Churches felt that the Auxiliary should be re-constituted, and that they had come there that day in order to receive the benediction of the Presbytery.

A motion of approval in the work of the Mission, and an assurance of the Presbytery's hearty interest and help, was unanimously passed. Several speeches were made in support of the work of the Society.

THE "FREE CHURCH" PRESBYTERY.

A meeting of the "Free Church" (Anti-Union) Presbytery of Inverness was held in a room of the Free North Church, Inverness, on Tuesday last. Seven members in all—three ministers and four elders—were present. These were—Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, Inverness, moderator; Rev. Roderick Finlayson, Daviot; Rev. Mr. Maclean, Moy, clerk; Messrs Thomas Stewart, Culduthel; Maclean, Free North Church, Inverness; Mackay, Kiltarity; and Watson, Moy.

After the customary service of praise and prayer, the Moderator said that before taking up the business, he thought they should direct attention to what they had recently seen reported in the newspapers regarding the action of certain parties who professed to be on their side. They had no sympathy with riots, or with lawlessness, or anything of that sort. When they heard of things taking place, North and South, that were not creditable to civilisation or to Christianity, they as a Presbytery deplored such

conduct on the part of those professing to maintain the truth. They (the Presbytery) desired to maintain and defend the truth in their own day and generation, and yet be law-abiding subjects. He felt that it was due that he should make that statement, and instead of trying to stir up strife and disorder in the land, they only wished that they should be allowed their own position without any disturbance; and they would allow their opponents to maintain their own position without any disturbance. These things did not tend to glorify God. Mr. Thomas Stewart, elder, deplored that such incidents should have taken place. It was bad for the cause of the Lord and for themselves in future. DR. RAINY CRITICISED. Rev. Mr. Finlayson, Daviot, expressed his concurrence with what had been said. If they knew exactly both sides of the question, there might, perhaps, be some blame fairly to be laid on both sides. He was sure that the heaviest burden of responsibility in connection with these things that were unruly, and they ought to make it distinct that perhaps it was to a very large extent owing to some few unruly young people, and they should certainly not condemn the whole of the connected with these disturbances. There was another matter he wanted to refer to. He thought that when he found men in high places comparing them and others to little children playing with divine things, he must confess that such language tended not to praise and good will. He would like to say that, in the mysterious cause at the bottom of it, the Principal of the United Free Church seemed to reserve his most violent speeches for the Capital of the Highlands—(applause). What had they done? They had stuck to their position, and really they had been watching for some years back Dr. Black in Inverness, and invariably he found that there was an angry tone in any of his speeches, Inverness was the place he came to deliver it—(laughter). He was sure they would all do their utmost to persuade all who followed them from using any violent language. Personally, he had advised the people to be as friendly as possible with those from whom they were separated—(applause)—and to show no spirit of bad feeling towards any of them. Rev. Mr. Maclean at great length dealt with the "Declaration," embodying the position of the Constitutional party, and the position of the Uniting Commission by the Free Church Presbytery of Inverness prior to the consummation of the Union. The "Declaration" had been dragged before the public by great and by small men in a manner that it was not intended, to damage the character both of its framers and supporters. The two names most associated with the "Declaration" were those of most honourable brethren, who for the last thirty years had held in universal esteem and respect in the Highlands. They were men to whom the Highlands were much indebted, for they gave their services ungrudgingly, and never spared themselves. They saw these very men and those associated with them now charged with throwing dust in the eyes of the people. It throwing dust in the eyes of the people that they (the Constitutionalists) should draw up some sort of declaration that would safeguard their own principles, promising that they would accept it from them and get it passed by the Commission then and there. They frankly acknowledged the readiness of the Commission to accommodate those of them who had "scruples," or as they invariably called them, "principles." The "Declaration" was, in fact, a preamble and so Dr. Rainy made a splendidly in a speech which left to them only the husk of what they asked. Was it honourable of the Free Church leaders to ask them to sign up a "Declaration," and to create a hope that such a "Declaration" would be adopted without any modification whatever, and then to blast that hope by the treatment that the "Declaration" got? A preamble and an addendum were sent down to the Presbytery from Edinburgh ready made, but on no account would they accept either, because they knew the meaning of their own words, but were not so sure about the meaning of words used by men who had raised ambiguity into a fine art. Another charge against them was that they had sent up a "Declaration" which they had not intended to sign, and that they had not intended to sign it. They did know their own words, and their position should be quite clear to any person who considered it for a moment. The "Declaration," as they knew, was made to serve a double purpose, notwithstanding the Declaratory Act. In this way they hoped to resist any abusive use of the Declaratory Act and of the Questions and Formula as long as the "Declaration" was extant. In this way they sincerely believed that it would afford the Basis of Union, so that, if it stood, they should look upon it as an authoritative record, which could be appealed to by that section of the United Church which was formerly the Free Church. If they had obtained the "Declaration," they had obtained it with the intimation that it

was of no effect for the purpose they had in view. That was abundantly clear by Dr. Rainy's speech. They might hear that speeches were ephemeral. Some were, and that was a blessing—(laughter)—but still the speeches of great men died hard, and remained in the memory of the people. It was not the speeches of great men, but the men dealing with honest men, and believing that great principles were at stake, they submitted their "Declaration." It was not accepted as they sent it. To be consistent they were therefore obliged, meantime, to remain where they were, leaving the issues with Him to whom belong all issues. Yet they were not allowed to live in peace. Vials of indignation were poured on their heads; they were lashed with scorpions. They asked why this indignation? Why this vituperation? What in all the world have we done to merit such treatment? Where is magnanimity, where is Christian charity? Have the great men ceased to be, when we have done as they have done? They were told that influences were at work to appeal to the worst in man. What was still more appalling, they were assured that maintaining the Free Church, they were doing immoral work. Was the work of the last year to be named like that? He repudiated the offensive reference to stuffing men's minds with prejudices. He never heard of such, and he was old enough to have heard many men. He heard that prominent physician and the greatest master of pulpit oratory that ever flourished a Highland pulpit—he meant Mr. McCall—surely he was of all men the most loyal of Free Churchmen. He heard that eloquent exponent of Biblical truth, Dr. Rainy, and he heard that he had heard such weakness as to appeal to the worst in man; and he heard most of those who were now in charge of the stupendous undertaking of preaching to thousands of Highland people who were without pastors and without a minister. He heard that anything from their lips that should be fitted to excite loyal people to rebellion. But he was bound to say that he read certain speeches of which that was not true. He was bound to say—and he said it in no vindictive spirit—that he allowed himself to be influenced by the orations of the U.F.C. minister of Dingwall, he could not remain twenty-four hours in the Free Church after the Declaratory Act. He was bound to say that he heard Dr. Rainy should now be made recently, and he was bound to say that he heard Dr. Rainy is discredited, if he failed completely in its forecast of the results of this Union in the Highlands. They should remember and the greater the more greater the irritation. Excesses there might be, but these things were not to be done. He bitterly deplored; but those who bombastically spoke of taking places by storm, and such outbursts as were made recently, were culpable as the people who were at present in a state of great excitement. He humbly submitted these remarks, as he acted as clerk when the "Declaration" was originally drawn out, and if he referred to Dr. Rainy's name with the fullest respect and admiration that a student had for a great teacher—(applause).

The Moderator again said that they dissociated themselves entirely from such conduct as reported. As a Presbytery, they resolved to take no action that would stir up strife among the people—(applause). Mr. Maclean, elder, in the name of the action of certain ministers in the Highlands who had closed the doors of the churches and kept them for themselves, shutting out the congregations. He thought the people were entitled to those churches as well as the ministers and the thought such congregations ought to receive the sympathy of the Constitutional Party in the Highlands.

The Moderator said it was for them to do what was right and in accordance with the constitution of the country. They professed to be Constitutional, and they must be constitutional, and therefore they wished to associate themselves with law and progress, and to maintain and defend the law of the land as well as the law of the Church. Mr. Watson, elder, said that they were misrepresented in the newspapers. There had been too much made of the disturbances, but they could not approve of such conduct. There was a feeling of doubt about their connection with the Declaratory Act, and he thought it was clear that their rejection of the new Questions and Formula and adherence to the old Formula was sufficient to rescind the Declaratory Act as far as they were concerned—(applause). In their present position they stood on the Disruption of 1843, and on that only. Rev. Mr. Finlayson said there were some people trying to make out that they were still under the Declaratory Act. That was certainly not the case. There was not a single minister in the Free Church at present who had submitted to the Declaratory Act—(applause).

MIRACULOUS CURE OF ASTHMA.

The statement which we publish below confirms the claim of Dr. Schiffmann that he has now discovered an absolute remedy for Asthma, a disease which has heretofore baffled the skill of the most noted physicians. JOHN WILLIAM LOVE, Hopkinson's Yard, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, says—"For two years I was an incessant sufferer from Asthma, and the winter before last I was unable to work at all; but after using two boxes of your Asthma Cure I was quite cured. Last winter I did not lose a day's work, nor did I suffer from a single attack. I had tried many remedies before, but nothing did me any good, with the exception of Schiffmann's Asthma Cure, which has completely cured me." Schiffmann's Asthma Cure is sold by all Chemists at 2s 6d and 4s 6d per package, or can be obtained by remitting the amount to Dr. R. Schiffmann, British Depot, 31 Snow Hill, London, E.C.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

The following is a statement of the traffic returns on the Highland Railway for the week ending 2nd December, 1900.—Receipts for coaching traffic, £24859; last year, £2621; increase, £22938; receipts for goods, minerals, &c., £23364; last year, £23366; decrease, £272; total for week, £28223; last year, £28577; decrease, £2354; amount for previous 13 weeks, £132,016; for corresponding 13 weeks last year, £138,476; decrease, £6460; total for 14 weeks, £140,239; for 14 weeks last year, £156,933; decrease, £16,694; miles opened, 492; miles opened last year, 492; a Company's carriage of their coal and their other stores not included now.

THE CHURCH AND THE UNION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—Amid all the celebrations and congratulations of which we hear in connection with the union of the Free and U.P. Churches, it is painful to read in the public press of the disgraceful proceedings of the people—or at any rate, a great number of the people—of Evanton. It may be that the views of the anti-unionists are right—and it may be that they are not; but it shows exceedingly bad taste on the part of those concerned in the shameful proceedings referred to that they let their prejudice run away with their judgment, and surely, if they were convinced of the correctness of their views, they could afford at least to let the other side be heard. Instead of that, they conduct themselves in a manner which reflects very discreditably upon any community in what we believe to be a Christian land. If the anti-unionists at Evanton believe in the justice of their cause, they ought to manifest a spirit of tolerance and ordinary civility towards those who differ from them. I do not belong to the United Free Church, and, as one who can look at the question from an independent point of view, and without expressing any opinion as to which side is in the right, I have no hesitation in saying that scenes like that enacted at Evanton the other day, as reported in the press, will, instead of helping the cause of unionists or anti-unionists, strongly tend to damage the cause of religion in the land. Walk through one of the London parks on a Sunday afternoon and you will find here and there Socialists and Atheists thundering forth to large crowds, and declaiming to the utmost the religion of our land. These speakers are even on the watch for any reports of dissension, strife, and discord among churches and congregations, and hold those concerned up to ridicule as examples of "brotherly love" and "Christian charity and tolerance!" Little wonder is it, then, that so many thousands of young men and young women grow up utterly regardless of church interests or religion, and so unconcerned regarding their future. When professing Christians forget the command to "love one another," and show by their actions that tolerance is overborne by cross prejudice, how can we expect any good result to follow? What the ultimate result of the demonstrations against Church union at present agitating the minds of many people—principally among the less informed of some Highland congregations—what, I say, the result may be it is difficult to predict. But there is no doubt of the fact that hindert prejudice and a bitter narrow-mindedness, with their attendant evil sequels, have been allowed to usurp in the hearts of a great number of people the place that should surely be occupied by those characteristics of sincerity and tolerance that one would expect to find in a community where the profession of Christianity is made so much of. With apologies for trespassing so much on your valuable space—I am, Sir, yours, &c., JEFES.

THE "FREE CHURCH" IN KYLEAKIN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—In some local papers of the past week there has appeared a most remarkable, not to say misleading, statement as to the state of matters ecclesiastically in Kyleakin. Probably a plain statement of facts will serve to elucidate the way matters stand in the Free Church here. On Thursday, 15th ult., the Rev. Messrs Fraser, Sleat, and Macdonald, Raasay, came to Kyleakin by the mail steamer "Gael" to address the Free Church members and adherents on the Union question. By the same steamer came the Rev. Mr. Grant, Broadford, who, on arriving, got possession of the keys of the church, put them in his pocket, and began a series of visits through the village. This, of course, kept the Constitutional party from meeting in the church. Our meeting was quite open—all who came were welcomed. As a matter of fact, parties were present from Ross-shire, who had heard of the meeting two days before, and this at once disposes of the statement that the meeting was of "a semiprivate nature." Mr. Macdonald, Raasay, in addressing the meeting, said nothing "vague and misleading," as the man who has reported the statements from Kyleakin says. From the first it was resolved by the Committee managing the Free Church here that the keys should be held by any one of themselves. Last spring the custody of the keys was transferred from one member of Committee to another, and as Captain Macdonald is at present, and has been for years, a member of Committee, he was quite entitled to have possession of the keys, much more so than this correspondent, who has since coming to Kyleakin been an adherent of the Secession Church, Free Church, and Established Church, and who professes to be an adherent of the United Free Church. Yesterday fortnight Captain Macdonald told the probationer here that he would open the Free Church to the Unionists for service. He did so at 11.30 a.m., and eighteen souls came to the church, including some known Free Church people and some Established Church members and adherents, whilst the usual average congregation was considerably over forty. The Free Church Committee in Kyleakin never authorised the opening of a Sunday School, as it has been considered that one Sunday School is quite enough in a small village. The correspondent referred to, with all the zeal of one newly turned, without the authority of the Committee opened a Sunday School, and on the day in question had six scholars. Regarding members, yesterday week may be taken as a test of those who form the Unionist and anti-Unionist parties in Kyleakin. The Free Church party had service in the church, conducted by Mr. Maclean, Raasay, and at the morning service there was an attendance of forty-five. At the same time, and in another place, the Unionist probationer held services, at which there were seven present—not one of whom had any connection with the Free Church in Kyleakin two years ago. The mis-statements which have appeared in the local papers are merely the work of a person to whom a very little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and whose mental capacity is too limited to understand the matter at issue. Could he understand Principal Rainy's Inverness speech, so as to realise how easily he and

OTHERS OF THE SAME CALIBRE ARE CONFUSED BY DISPLAY OF VERBOSITY.

others of the same calibre are confused by display of verbosity. He would soon cease his writing of foolish letters to newspapers, and attend even a little to the work that he is paid for—I am, Sir, yours, &c., A MEMBER OF KYLEAKIN F.C. COMMITTEE. 3rd December, 1900.

TONGUE FREE CHURCH CONGREGATION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—In reply to "An Adherent" in last week's "News," I have to say that he has failed to disprove a single statement in the "Tongue Notes" of the previous week, but that in attempting to do so he has made several misstatements himself. For instance, he says there is only one man who formerly attended the Tongue Church who joined the United body. I could, however, mention twenty families in the Skerry district who have already joined, and many more who only wait for the abatement of the present excitement to do so. His statement with reference to the Tongue portion of the congregation is absolutely without foundation. There is not a single Anti-Unionist in the district. In regard to his references to Rev. Mr. Macneil I have only to say that the minister, the session, and Rev. Mr. Lee have all erred. They tried some years ago to conciliate the people of Skerry by giving them privileges which their good and pious fathers never desired, and to-day they see the result. The grand old congregation of Tongue, that used to assemble every Sabbath to the number of seven hundred people, was at that time broken up, and, to all appearance, we shall never see that splendid body together again. If "An Adherent" glories in breaking up the hallowed associations that clustered around that church and congregation, I must part company with him.—I am, Sir, yours, &c., YOUR CORRESPONDENT.

THE ANTI-UNIONISTS IN ROGARAT.

THE WORK OF ORGANISATION.

A HINT TO THE ORGANISERS.

Rev. Mr. Noble, Lairg, and the Rev. Mr. Campbell, Creich, visited the parish on Monday last and held a meeting in the Drill Hall, when the Rev. Mr. Campbell preached to a congregation of 80, composed of a few from the different denominations throughout the parish. After preaching two able sermons from the text, "Emmanuel (God with us)," Mr. Noble addressed the meeting, and pointed out that they came there under a sense of duty to the Church, as the crisis in the Church of their fathers compelled them to take action; but, besides, they had a requisition asking them to come, so that they did not do what their opponents had done in many other congregations, where they were not asked to go. These went and broke up congregations, but as they were able to form Presbyteries of their own in the county, they were bound to visit the different congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery. The Free Church was now obliterated in policy, doctrine, and name—the name that was always dear to them. Born as he was a Free Churchman, he would die a Free Churchman. In '43 it was the purest Church on earth, but now the testimony of the Free Church was lost, particularly as the Basis of Union was not Scriptural. To shorten his statements, he would quote from some of the godly men of the past—viz., Dr. Aird, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Mackay, Mr. McColl, and Dr. Moody Stuart, the most godly man he ever met. All the men of the Disruption were gone except one or two old men, who could not stand up against union. Mr. Noble reviewed the history of the Church during the Ten Years' Conflict, and quoted from Dr. Chalmers, whom he called the "Moses" of the Church, regarding Voluntarism and the Establishment principle. At the close of his address, Mr. Noble suggested that a committee be appointed, along with the elders, and also a secretary and treasurer, to carry on the ordinary work of the church from Sabbath to Sabbath. Mr. Angus M. Thomson moved that the congregation and the Session should have a consultation between themselves independent of outsiders, as he said, it was not known what the Session meant to do in the matter. Mr. A. Sutherland, Pitfour, seconded. Mr. Donald Sutherland, Incheape, supported this view, but was repeatedly asked to sit down, as the motion was held to be out of order. Mr. Sutherland—If this is a public meeting, I have as much right to speak as anybody else—(applause). Rev. Mr. Campbell—You have no right to speak, as the business is past the stage for discussion. We stick to the testimony of the Free Church. Mr. Sutherland—The testimony of the Free Church was never lost sight of. Mr. Campbell—We came here to form a congregation of those adhering to us. Mr. D. Sutherland—You then deny us the expression of opinion? Mr. Campbell—It's past that stage. Mr. D. Sutherland—Then, as one who firmly believes that the cause of Christ requires all the united effort the wisdom of man can put into it, instead of sowing the seed of discord in other congregations, it would be advisable for Mr. Noble and Mr. Campbell to go back to their respective congregations and try and win as many souls for Christ as they possibly can. Mr. Sutherland was proceeding to say that the people of Creich and Lairg stood as much in need of enlightenment as the people of Rogart, but he was again subjected to a deluge of interruptions. Mr. A. Murray, elder, gave his views against union, and suggested that they should join the Free Presbyterians. After a few remarks from Mr. Robert Sutherland, elder, a committee of six was appointed, with a secretary and treasurer, to look after affairs.

CASE OF BIGAMY.—In the Inverness Sheriff Court on Tuesday last—Sheriff Grant on the bench—a young man, William Fraser, surface-man, Altnaguirach, Dalnaspical, was charged with having, on the 20th December, 1899, being the lawful husband of Isabella Reid, daughter of Mrs. Reid, Hill of Fearn, Ross-shire, and so being still alive, bigamously married Jessie Logan, domestic servant, at Newtonmore. Accused pleaded guilty. Sheriff Grant said the crime of bigamy was a very serious one indeed. He sentenced the accused to four months' imprisonment.

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THE FREE UNITED CHURCH IN LAIRG.

STORMY MEETING OF SCHOOL BOARD.

RESIGNATION OF REV. MR. MACRAE.

A special meeting of the Lairg School Board was held in the Public School on Saturday last for the purpose of considering a request by Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, clerk of the United Free Presbytery of Dornoch, to grant the Lairg Public School to his party in the district for religious services on Sundays. Great interest was taken in the meeting by the ratepayers of the parish, and the classroom in which the meeting was held was filled with a somewhat noisy audience. Mr. J. R. Campbell presided. The other members present were Messrs W. Black, Geo. Macdonald, R. Munro, and Rev. Mr. Macrae, with Mr. A. Gray, clerk to the Board. The meeting opened with prayer. The Chairman, after stating the business of the meeting, said that he thought it was not the duty of the Board to deal with the granting of the school to any party. They were not elected to attend to affairs of this kind. This was quite apart from their work, and he advised members that they should ascertain the feeling of the people before coming to a definite conclusion on the matter. They should take care that the disgraced scenes that took place in other districts should not be repeated in Lairg. As for the question of Union, if people had patience, time would settle it. Mr. Geo. Macdonald—As the great mass of the people are opposed to Union, I think we should not grant the use of the school—(applause). It would not, I think, be in the interests of peace. Therefore I move that we do not grant the school to the United Free Church party—(loud applause). Mr. Black—I don't agree with what the Chairman and Mr. Macdonald have said—(slight hissing). I take my stand in this matter on principle—(laughter)—and I intend to act on principle—(a Voice—"Oh! hear at him now!"). If we are granting the school to one religious body, why not grant it to the other when their time of meeting won't clash the one with the other? We must grant the school to all, or to none. Any other policy would be inconsistent in us—(hisses).

Rev. Mr. Macrae thought he could speak calmly on the matter, as he did not belong to any of the religious parties between whom existed the present contentions. The school was intended for the children, but the question before them was, Were they to grant the use of the school to all who wanted it, or to grant it to none? He was threatened because he favoured the request of the United Free Church party to have the use of the school. He was not to be coerced by anybody. He took his stand on what he thought was right and just, and if they were to permit the party that had the use of the school at present to have religious services in it, he would certainly agree to this other party having the use of the school at a different hour, of course, so that one meeting would not interfere with the other. Mr. R. Munro—If we are giving the school to one party, not give it to the other? If these parties act in a manner that is not conducive to peace, let their own fault, not ours. I am very agreeable to grant the use of the school to the United Free Church party—(some hissing).

The Chairman suggested that the Secessionists should not be interfered with, as they held the school at present. A different hour should be arranged. Mr. Geo. Macdonald—We should hear the ratepayers on the matter—(applause). Mr. Black—Let the ratepayers speak. A Voice—There was underground work in this affair, to begin with. Mr. Black—There was nothing of the kind. Mr. Geo. Macdonald—There was underground work in it. Mr. Black—No, there was not. Such a remark is unfair to the other members. A Ratepayer—There's a disturbance in the parish—(applause and interruptions). Mr. Geo. Macdonald—You are opening the parish to the possibility of a repetition of the disgraceful proceedings of other districts if you grant the school to the party now wanting it—(applause and uproar).

Mr. Geo. Macdonald, Rheanbreak, who was sitting on a back seat in the school, shouted—Not a hoof of them shall come inside this house—(great uproar and laughter). The Chairman—Order! order! Mr. John Mackay—If a motion is brought forward, can the ratepayers vote? The Chairman—No. The Clerk then spoke in a tone that was so low that his remarks were not audible but to the members of the Board. Mr. Black—I object to you as clerk dictating to the Board what to do—(great hissing).

Mr. Geo. Macdonald moved that the Board delay the granting of the school till the electors have a say in the matter—(loud applause). There was no seconder. The Chairman—I suppose, Mr. Clark, you had minutes that were agreed by a majority of the Board to grant the school at a time that would not interfere with the parties who have religious services in it at present. A Voice—No. Great applause and hissing followed. Several of the audience rose to their feet to speak. The Chairman restored order, and Mr. Geo. Macdonald intimated his dissent to such a minute. I sympathise with Mr. Macdonald very much, and I think the Board should delay the matter—(applause). Mr. Black—If Mr. Macdonald makes a motion to the effect that the school be granted to no party whatsoever, I will second him. Mr. G. Macdonald, Rheanbreak—You are wanting to put a stumbling block in Mr. Macdonald's motion. Mr. Macleod, M.A.—I thought that too many meetings were already held in the school, and that so many meetings taking place in the building was not in the interests of the children. It was then agreed that the school be not granted to any denomination for religious services, and that the Free Presbyterians who are worshipping in the school at present be notified that they cannot have the use of the school after the last Sunday of this month.

The Chairman—The United Free Church party should take time in considering Principal Rainy's actions, and allow them to cool a little. Rev. Mr. Macrae handed the Clerk his resignation as a member of the Board. The Chairman—I think you should reconsider the matter, and withdraw your resignation. Rev. Mr. Macrae—I want to keep clear of matters of this kind when people endeavour not to allow me to act in a way that I think right and just. It was agreed to allow Mr. Macrae's resignation to lie on the table till next meeting. This was all the business.

A BOON TO ALL.—We will send free Invaluable Prescription for "Nerve Tonic," to any sufferer, on receipt of addressed envelope.—Higson, Box 324, North Street, Nottingham. 39

RAILWAY FATALITY NEAR INVERNESS.—The body of Norman Mackay, a surface-man, was found on Thursday at Railway line at Milton of Breackish, near Gollanfield Station, on Wednesday last. It appears Mackay, who was twenty-two years of age, came into Inverness from Fort-George to see some friends belonging to the Inverness-shire Militia, and returned home in the evening. He is supposed to have wandered on to the railway line, and to have been knocked down by the night train and killed.

INVERNESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE TRADERS' TICKETS GRIEVANCE.

A meeting of the members of the Inverness Chamber of Commerce was held in the Royal Hotel on Thursday evening, when the question of the issue by the Highland Railway Company of traders' tickets on a differentiated scale came under consideration.

The Chairman, in introducing the subject, said that, as they were aware, in the spring of this year a deputation was appointed to wait upon the directors of the Highland Railway in reference to the exceedingly onerous terms in which the Company issued season tickets to traders in the North of Scotland.

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Another blunder. The Highland Railway made was in unreservedly placing themselves at the disposal of the Great North of Scotland Railway, which carried on its traffic under entirely different conditions from the Highland Railway.

The Chairman then put the motion of the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

THE COMPANY'S BEST FRIENDS.

COUNCILLOR BIRNIE MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION.

That the Inverness Chamber of Commerce consider that the issuing of season tickets to traders by the Highland Railway Company on a differentiated scale, while refusing such tickets to certain traders altogether, constitutes an undue preference within the meaning of the Railway Traffic Act, and that they should remit to the President and Secretaries, with power, to take such steps as may be necessary to have the matter brought before the Railway and Canal Commissioners with a view to having the grievance remedied.

Mr Birnie said that, as he understood it, if this matter was taken up by the Canal and Railway Commissioners, it lay with the Highland Railway to prove that they are not giving an undue preference to certain traders as against others.

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BEAULY AND THE AIRD NEWS.

KIRKILL.—PRESENTATION.—When it became known that Miss E. Moffat was about to sever her connection with Inchmore Public School after eight and a-half years service as infant mistress, it was felt that the opportunity was a fitting one of showing in some tangible way the respect in which she was held by the people of the district generally, as well as their appreciation of her good qualities as a teacher.

SHINTY.

NEXT SATURDAY'S FIXTURES.

Next Saturday the first round in the Camanachd Cup competition is down for settlement, and fourteen out of the seventeen clubs in the Association will, or, at any rate, ought to take the field.

How, for example, will last year's champions—Kingussie—fare in their wayward march with Laggan. That the cupholders have a hard nut to crack goes without saying.

The meeting of Inverness County and Beaully at Inverness should result in a good game. By way of practice, the Perthshire Club will meet the North Inverclyde in a friendly encounter.

Perth Club go to Newtonmore. It would be hard to find a team more unlucky in past drawings than are the Perth Camanachd. When they first entered for the cup, they were drawn against the Perthshire Club, and as it would take up the best part of three days to fulfil the engagement, they had to scratch.

LAST WEEK'S MATCHES.

The friendly match between the Lovat and Glen-Urquhart Clubs at Glen-Urquhart was of a fast description. The first half was hotly contested, Glen-Urquhart pressing and playing in grand style, while Lovat had to be content with a defensive rôle.

THE MATCH IN GLEN-URQUHART.

The friendly match between the Lovat and Glen-Urquhart Clubs referred to above took place on a well-appointed field at Borlaim, kindly lent by Mr Macdonald, lessee of the ground. The Lovat team was represented by Messrs R. Mackenzie (captain), D. Tuoh, T. Ross, J. Maclean, J. Campbell, M. Fraser, F. Stuart, H. Grant, W. Grant, H. Campbell, and M. Macrae.

ing all possible success to the promising Glen-Urquhart. Messrs A. Macdonald and A. Macpherson, of the Lovat and Glen-Urquhart Clubs respectively, successively addressed the combined teams in terms of encouragement.

The hard work of the Glen-Urquhart breezes of Glen-Urquhart, resulted in a raid being made on Mr Macbrayne's landing on board, and which abundantly proved equal to the demand.

CHURCH DISSENSION

IN THE HIGHLANDS.

STRONG LANGUAGE AT KILTEARN.

There were crowded congregations at the services in Kiltarn Free Church on Sabbath last. Rev. Mr Macqueen, at the close of his sermon, referred to Professor Rainy's recent Inverness speech. He characterised the Professor as mocking the Highlanders when he said the anti-unionists were playing at the Free Church.

MR M'NEILAGE AT STRATHPEFFER

Mr A. M'Neilage, Glasgow, and the Rev. Kennedy Cameron addressed an anti-union meeting at Strathpeffer last Saturday night. Mr M'Neilage said he regretted that his first word was one of regret and of strong disapproval on certain things that had transpired during the week in another part of the country, and supposed to be in connection with the cause for which they were met that night.

THE SITUATION IN KYLEAKIN.

Kyleakin Free Church congregation worshipped in the Reading Room last Sunday, the key of the church being still in possession of the anti-Unionist party.

ANTI-UNIONIST MEETING AT BEAULY.

The Rev. Kennedy Cameron, Brodie, Arran, and Rev. Murdoch Macqueen, Kiltarn, anti-Unionists, addressed a fair representative audience in the Drill Hall, Beaully, on Tuesday last. Mr Donald Macdonald, Ruilick, Kilmorack, occupied the chair. The Rev. Mr Macqueen addressed the assembly in Gaelic, and stated that, although the Free Church was at present in the minority, he believed it would yet have a great future.

STORNOWAY HARBOUR COMMISSION.

DEPUTATION OF FISHERMEN.

DOCK WANTED FOR FISHING BOATS.

MUSSEL BEDS.

RENT OF STORES.

ON THE MOTION OF MR JOHN MACKENZIE.

DEPUTATION OF THE LEVIS AND HARRIS FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

MR DONALD MACKENZIE'S REPLY.

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Mr Donald Mackenzie—We are not against the preservation. Fishermen could take salt with them on Friday to rouse their fish, if necessary.

Mr James M. Mackenzie—You said you want a dock in which the boats would rise and fall with the tide. I think the boats should be either altogether dry or always afloat.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—I think they would be better obbing every tide if the bottom were level.

Mr James M. Mackenzie—That's impracticable.

Mr John Mackenzie, fisherman, said the Commissioners sympathized with the movement to stop Sunday work in connection with the fishing, but, so far as he knew, they had no powers. The remedy, in his opinion, lay with the fishermen themselves, if they would instruct their salesmen to sell fish on Sunday, and if the fishermen would agree not to sell privately.

Mr John Mackenzie—Yes, it's entirely in your own hands.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—But we want your support and help.

The Chairman—We will give you every help we can.

Mr James M. Mackenzie said there was at present a Bill being promoted to deal with Sunday trading, and the Burgh Commissioners had agreed to support it, and suggested that there should be a clause in it relating to selling fish on Sunday.

Bailie J. M. Morrison would like to be clear about the former promise which Mr Donald Mackenzie said the Commissioners gave the fishermen. So far as he recollected, the question of a dock was one that never arose at all, at any time during the last negotiations about the fishery. There might have been a talk about slips for small boats, but the idea of having slips to haul large boats on the South Beach would have been vetoed by the proprietor and the Commissioners.

Mr James M. Mackenzie said Bailie Morrison would remember that the Board of Trade insisted on having a breakwater between Newson and Goat Island, in order to make the harbour a harbour of refuge, so far as they would get the sea at a lower rate. This breakwater was countermanded, mainly through the influence brought to bear on the Board of Trade by a petition from the fishermen, backed by the Commissioners, in which it was stated that the breakwater would form an obstruction, and that the harbour would be a harbour of refuge without it, because there were slips or other accommodation for fishermen. He thought this was what Mr Donald Mackenzie referred to.

Bailie J. M. Morrison remembered that partially. Of course he was quite in sympathy with the proposal; he just wanted to be sure what Mr Donald Mackenzie meant.

Mr Donald Mackenzie said there was no word about a dock at the time, but only slips.

Bailie Morrison said that there were some things in Mr Donald Mackenzie's remarks with which, of course, he could not agree. With regard to the spring close time, for instance, Mr Mackenzie would understand that everyone was free to hold his own views on that matter, whether he expressed them or not.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—Certainly.

The Chairman—You are not to assume, Mr Mackenzie, that because we do not object to your views we agree with them.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—Of course. Everyone has a right to his own opinion. We are only talking the matter over to-day.

The Chairman thanked the deputation for their presence. He thought he could say for all the Commissioners, both present and absent, that they would do what they could, so far as they were able, to meet the fishermen. But there were difficulties in the way—difficulties of money, difficulties of law, and difficulties of getting land. However, he was sure the Commissioners would do their utmost in the matter.

Mr Donald Mackenzie thanked the Chairman and the Commissioners for their courtesy. As the Commissioners promised to do their utmost for the dock, that left him, as an individual, sure that they would soon get it—(laughter).

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurer's annual balance-sheet was submitted, showing that the Commissioners commenced the year with a credit balance of £289, and ended with a debit balance of £108.

BIG STEAMERS OF BALTIC TONNAGE.

Mr James M. Mackenzie referred to the fact that some time ago the Commissioners had before them a communication from a Board of Trade regulation, under which steamers were registered at a tonnage quite out of proportion to their carrying capacity.

At that time the matter had not affected the Stornoway Commission, and they gave a half-hearted support to the joint representation suggested by the Dundalk Board. Since then, however, they had had occasion to consider this with their own vessel, the "Advance," which, although she had a carrying capacity of only sixty tons, paid over 12s of dues. They would require to take some action in order to protect themselves.

It was agreed to remit the matter to the Finance Committee for consideration.

TARBERT (HARRIS)—THE UNITED FREE CHURCH.

At the first meeting of the officers—elders and deacons—of the United Free Church congregation of Tarbert (Harris), on Monday last, it was moved by one of the elders, and unanimously agreed to, that a statement be sent to "The Highland News," to the effect that they had loyally and heartily joined the United Free Church of Scotland, and that, as far as they knew, the congregation had done also, so that thus it might be well understood where they stand.

THE VALUE OF CORN FLOUR AS INFANTS' FOOD.

For young infants only milk is suitable, and Corn Flour should not be given to them until after weaning; but from that time onwards it is one of the most wholesome and easily-digested of foods. Prepared with good sweet milk, as it always should be, it forms an appetizing food, maintaining all the necessary elements for the healthy rearing of the young. For such delicate purposes only the best Corn Flour should be used, and the best, the recognized best is

Brown & Polson's "PATENT" Corn Flour.

Children Thrive on it.

For young infants only milk is suitable, and Corn Flour should not be given to them until after weaning; but from that time onwards it is one of the most wholesome and easily-digested of foods.

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WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW

WHAT YOU THINK OF

THE CREAM OF BEN WYVIS WHISKY?

READ WHAT "THE LANCET" SAYS ABOUT THE CREAM OF BEN WYVIS:-

"HIGHLAND WHISKY.—It has been pretty freely stated, that in consequence of the enormous demand, a high class of whisky is being produced in the country which is really, in the face of the facts, a mixture of spirits, though not very inferior, can now be produced. The whisky under analysis is stated to be ten years old. We could not find any evidence in the analysis of this statement. On the contrary, it possessed a mild and smooth flavour characteristic of a kept spirit. There was no evidence of the presence of injurious or crude alcohol. The analysis was as follows:—Extractives, 0.40 per cent.; mineral matter, nil; acidity, nil; alcohol, by weight, 41.30 per cent.; by volume, 45.70 per cent.—equal to proof spirit, 55.43 per cent. The spirit appears to be of excellent quality."

If you have not already tried it, send for a Bottle. It is GUARANTEED SIXTY AND TEN YEARS OLD, and only costs 3s and 3s 6d per Bottle respectively. SENT BY POST 1 Bottle, 6d extra. 2 Bottles, 12s 6d extra. 3 Bottles, 18s 6d extra.

WE HAVE ALSO A FINE MELLOW WHISKY AT 2s 6d per Bottle, postage extra as above.

Mitchell & Craig (Formerly A. W. & D. Skinner) Railway Buildings, Inverness. Your Friends will be listening for the Postman's knock on CHRISTMAS MORNING.

DON'T DISAPPOINT THEM. HERE ARE SOME PRESENTS WHICH WILL GIVE THEM PLEASURE AND SURPRISE.

Ladies' Silk Skirts, Dressing Gowns, Japanese Silk and Flannel Dressing Jackets, Shawls, and Fasciators, ranging in price from 2s 11d to 50s. FURS—Muffs and Neckties in Sable, Kolinsky, Thibet, Skunk, and other Furs—Neckties from 3s 11d to 55s; Muffs from 1s 11d to 100s. Our Selection of Ladies' Silk Shirts and Blouses is unsurpassed (every garment a perfect fit), 3s 11d to 65s. NOVELTIES in fans, hair ornaments, perfumery, needle cases, snuff boxes, hat pins, brooches, safety pins, &c., &c., from one penny to one guinea. The enormous variety of our Fancy Napery Stock is surprising, and includes tray cloths, tea cloths, ducress sets, ducress and sideboard cloths, d'oyles, Mats, &c., &c., in real hand-embroidered Irish linen, from 1s 6d to 10s 6d. Linen and Cotton Sheets, Bedspreads, Pillowcases, Table Napkins, &c., &c., at very Special Prices. PRINTS—Dress length of seven yards (best quality) for 5s 11d.

FOR 5s 11d YOU GET A HAT WORTH 12s 11d. FOR 12s 11d YOU GET A JACKET WORTH 29s 6d.

INSPECTION INVITED. 5 PER CENT. DISCOUNT FOR CASH ON PARCELS OF 20s AND UPWARDS. CLOSED AT FOUR ON SATURDAY. OPEN ALL DAY ON WEDNESDAY.

YOUNG & CHAPMAN, DRAPERS AND MILLINERS, INVERNESS.

December 7, 1900.

AT THE FRONT.

COOPER & CO.'S TEAS

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

UNSURPASSED FOR PURITY, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY.

LEADING PRICES—1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 8d, and 1s 10d PER LB.

To be obtained from—LOCAL BRANCH—20 UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Local Tea Agents—ALLEN, A. Burns, Manchester House. AVOCHE, H. Forbes, 5 Bridge Street. BEAULY, J. Fraser, High Street. CROMARTY, J. M. Couper, 55 Crossgate. DINGWALL, Henry Moodie, 70 High St. DORNICHEL, N. Murray, Merchant. FORBES, A. Morrison, High St. FORTROSE, Mrs Fraser, Baker. INVERGORDON, G. Gordon, Bank St. INVERNESS, J. Tennant, Merchant, Millburn. Do. Mrs Mackay, 48 King St. Do. P. Paterson, 17 & 19 Eastgate. KINGUSSIE, Mrs Macneil, King St. MAIRN, J. Kello, 30 Harbour St. ROBERTSON, John Macleannan, Merchant, Laird. TAIN, D. Matheson, Supply Stores.

SANDERSON'S ESSENCE OF COFFEE.

EVERYONE praises COFFEE as a delicious and invigorating beverage, yet the consumption in Great Britain is comparatively small. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that it is too often served in an unwholesome condition—a muddy, flavoured liquid being resorted to as "Coffee." The Coffee drinker need no longer endure this. In our Essence he has a natural, condensed, rich flavour, of full strength, guaranteed purity, ready and uniform quality, by which, in two minutes, with boiling water and cream, or hot milk, he has a most ENJOYABLE DRINK. This Essence can be had from the Principal Grocers in Town and Country.

A. C. SANDERSON & CO., 5-13 EASTER ROAD, EDINBURGH. WHOLESALE AGENTS—HONEYMAN & WILSON, EDINBURGH.

D. PATTERSON TAILOR, 33 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

Parties own cloth made in Latest Styles by first-class Workmen. CHARGES MODERATE.

A. MACLEAN & SONS, TAILORS, CLOTHIERS, HIGHLAND DRESSMAKERS. 35 UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Inventors of Highland Cloak & Knickerbockers.

ELLIOT & CO., BUTCHERS, DRUMMOND STREET, INVERNESS.

Telegrams—"Elliot, Inverness." Telephone No. 84.

A. & D. MACDONALD, FAMILY BUTCHERS, 53 UNION STREET, INVERNESS. Shooting Lodges and all country orders punctually attended to. Only the finest meat supplied.

WILLIAM MICHIE, AUCTIONEER & VALUATOR, SALEMANS—12 HAMILTON STREET. Sales and Valuations of every description conducted. Proceeds guaranteed.

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

FURNITURE MART.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND FURNITURE. D. Cameron, of Academy Street, (many years with Mr. Drummond), Furniture bought or exchanged, also Pictures, Ornaments, Old China, &c. A good selection of New and Second-hand Furniture always on Sale at moderate prices.

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW-YEAR PRESENTS.

We have now a full display of both USEFUL and ORNAMENTAL ARTICLES. Now is the time for those who are buying for Bazaars and Working Parties getting FANCY GOODS at little more than half the prices generally charged for such goods.

We are also fully prepared with every requisite for EVENING WEAR—Embroidered GRENADINE and MUSLIN DRESSES. Dainty, Delicate Tints in SILKS, LACES, SLEEVES, FICHUS, FANS, FLOWERS, AND SUPERB EVENING CLOAKS, &c., &c.

JOHNSTONE & EDGAR, 12 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

YOU WANT BOOTS

for Winter: Try us for honest and reliable Goods in every grade. OUR BOOTS are Stylish. OUR BOOTS will wear well. OUR BOOTS for fit and comfort. Wear in every article guaranteed at the lowest possible prices. Your REPAIRS will receive special attention. Only the best materials used. TRY US.

ROSS & SUTHERLAND, THE NEW BOOTMAKERS, TOP OF BARON TAYLORS LANE, INGLIS STREET.

NEW WINTER GOODS.

COLIN MACKENZIE & CO., GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHIERS, HATTERS, HOSIERS, GLOVES, AND SHIRTMAKERS. (Corner of Union Street, opposite Railway Station), INVERNESS.

Have pleasure in calling the attention of Gentlemen to their TAILORING DEPARTMENT, and solicit an inspection of their New Materials for OVERCOATINGS, SUITINGS, TROUSERINGS, VESTINGS, &c., which comprise the Newest and Choicest Goods. Gentlemen may rely on perfect fit and style, combined with superior workmanship and finish, at Moderate Prices. OUR POPULAR TWEED SUIT At 2s 3s, In a Large Range of Shades. UNEQUALLED FOR PRICE, FIT, STYLE, AND FINISH.

COLIN MACKENZIE & Co., TAILORS AND CLOTHIERS, 1 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

(MALE AND FEMALE) SECURED BY OPEN COMPETITION. Clerks in Glasgow Post Office (age 15 to 18). Clerks in War Office, Board of Trade (age 17 to 20). Assistantships of Customs (age 18 to 21); Assistantships of Excise (age 19 to 22). Permanent employment. Promotion by merit. The most obscure youth may by his ability rise to the highest post in the service. Candidates are successfully prepared for the Examinations by Correspondence as well as in the Special Day and Evening Classes.

THE SECRETARY OF SHERIFF'S COLLEGE, 213 BUCHANAN STREET, Glasgow, will, on application, send CIVIL SERVICE GUIDE free.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION—SPECIAL CLASSES FOR TEACHERS.

Since the special class for the further training of teachers under the County Committee's scheme of Technical Education has been started at Kingussie, the attendance, in spite of the stormy weather, has been very satisfactory, the average attendance being for the past meetings 27 out of a possible of 29. This is very creditable to teachers, who come from all parts of the Badenoch district, and also to their instructor, Mr P. Delavault, art master of the Royal Academy, Inverness, to whom the conduct of this class has been entrusted by the County Committee.

INVERNESS GAEIC SOCIETY—AN INTERESTING SYLLABUS.

The following syllabus has been drawn up in connection with the meetings of the Inverness Gaelic Society to be held during the winter:—1900—December 20th, "The Gaelic of Western Ross," Rev. Charles M. Robertson, Torridon; 1901—January, Annual Dinner; January 17th, "Neil Macleod, last of Assynt," Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, Esq., LL.D.; January 24th, "Place Names of Fife," Mr L. MacBean, Kirkcaldy; January 31st, "Gaelic Poetry from the MSS. of the late Mr Jas. Macpherson, Edinburgh," Rev. Thos. Sinton, Dornie; February 7th, "Fifty Years ago—No. II.," Rev. J. MacRury, Snizort; February 21st, "Place Names of Ross-shire—No. II.," Mr W. J. Watson, B.A. (Glen); February 28th, "Inverness Kirk Session Records—17th century," Mr Alex. Mitchell, Inverness; March 7th, "Early History of the Parish of Kiltarity—No. II.," Rev. A. Macdonald, Kiltarity; March 21st, "The Gaelic Names of Highland Animals, with Notes," Mr Charles Ferguson, Nairn; April 4th, "The Gaels in Canada—No. II.," Mr A. Fraser, Toronto. The members of the Society met last Tuesday night—Mr W. J. Watson, rector of the Royal Academy, presiding. The paper for the evening was contributed by Mr Alex. Macpherson, Kingussie, and was entitled "Incidents in Badenoch after Culloden." A discussion followed. The following gentlemen were elected ordinary members of the Society:—Mr David Maclellan, C.A., Edinburgh; Mr Donald Cameron, Ardric, Inverness; Mr Thomas Fraser, Edinburgh; Mr J. R. Burnett, architect, Inverness; Rev. John Dow, M.A., Munloch; and Mr George Lawson, Beaufort, Beaulieu. During the evening some interesting relics of Prince Charles Edward Stuart were shown.

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

The Highland News

INVERNESS, Saturday, Dec. 8, 1900.

IS THE NATION ASLEEP?

The first session of the new Parliament was opened on Monday. The public did not appear to take much interest in the proceedings. The reason is obvious and it is also significant. From the present Parliament nothing is expected in the shape of useful and beneficial legislation. Modern history does not furnish an instance of any Parliament that gave less promise of doing useful work than is given by the Parliament that was elected last October. The Government and party which held office during the past five years were by a preponderating majority again returned to power without being required to pledge themselves to the passing of a single measure of domestic legislation. Their record during their five years of office seemed so satisfactory to the majority of the electorate that they were willing and eager to give Lord Salisbury and his colleagues another lease of power without even asking them how they would use that power if they obtained it. Notwithstanding the apparent vote of renewed confidence obtained by the Government in the recent appeal to the country, nothing can be more certain than that the verdict of history will be clear and emphatic in its condemnation of the domestic and foreign policy of the past five years. The domestic policy consisted chiefly in a class distribution of the surplus public funds instead of following the historic practice of using the surplus revenue for the relief of the taxpayers generally, without any distinction of class or creed. The foreign and Colonial policy has been so disastrous in its results that the day is not far distant when the nation will regard with deep horror and burning indignation many of the deeds that have been and are still being perpetrated in its name and by its authority. There are already indications that glimmerings of the truth are beginning to dawn on the public mind. The light of truth cannot be hid for ever. In spite of every machination that has been used during the past fifteen months to mislead and confuse an uninformed public, the truth is, slowly, but surely, making headway. When the public generally come to view the recent events in the light of truth, the more conspicuous will their want of acuteness of discernment at last General Election appear. To multitudes their error has already become quite clear. They have little to say in justification of giving their support to a party and a Government that have not the slightest intention of ever dealing with questions in which they are deeply and vitally interested. Indeed, were the condition of the masses of the people of England and Scotland to be judged by the public conduct of the people two months ago, it might be concluded that there was not a single social reform for the amelioration of the condition of the toiling millions which demanded the interest and attention of Parliament.

When a too credulous public come to see clearly that they have, by their own very act, elected a Parliament from which they have nothing to expect in which they are interested, it need not be wondered though they should not take any very lively interest in Parliamentary proceedings. That state of mind is already beginning to take shape; it was manifestly seen on the opening day of the new Parliament. Where were the interested crowds that in reforming days used to meet to give an enthusiastic and hearty welcome to the late Mr Gladstone on his way to the House of Commons, his mind laden with mature plans for the good of the people, and every fibre of his countenance revealing the high resolve, the dauntless courage, and the ardent determination that glowed in his bosom? Where is now the tribune of the people to awaken the Parliamentary interest of those memorable days, and to lead the public mind back to the paths of sanity and wisdom from which it has in recent years sadly wandered? That there does not appear to be such a tribune at the present moment may possibly be the people's own fault. It has, however, to be observed that the great tribunes of the past did not hold back till they were certain that the public were prepared to adopt and follow their view on public questions. When Mr Gladstone felt his soul burning with indignation and horror at the Bulgarian atrocities, no question of leadership or the large Parliamentary majority supporting the Eastern policy of the then Tory Government deterred him from engaging in his denunciatory crusade that had such a telling and salutary effect on public opinion at the time. It is true that the circumstances of to-day are not on all fours with the circumstances of that period. Are there not, however, doings reported daily from South Africa which, if true, are not to the credit of this country? On the contrary, if not protested against and speedily stopped, the character of this nation in respect of justice and mercy will be seriously compromised and tarnished in the eyes of the civilised world. The people of other nations, in whose good opinion we do not stand too high will soon, and not without reason, charge us with allowing the perpetration of African atrocities.

To plead that such things are necessary to vindicate our supremacy in that portion of the world cannot exonerate our military leaders from responsibility. The need of the hour, therefore, is the man that will rouse the national conscience to a sense of the real condition of things in South Africa, and create such a public opinion as shall insist on bringing to a speedy and immediate end this miserable war—a war which has developed, as might easily be seen from the beginning, into a war of destruction of property and extermination of the manhood of these two unfortunate Republics.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. M.," CLACHNAHARRY.—Your letter is altogether couched in too discourteous and unnecessarily strong language to others to admit of publication.

"K. B. C.," NEW YORK CITY.—Some weeks ago a poem entitled "My Lewis Hame," signed "Lamh Dearg, Portage la Prairie," appeared in our columns. From the signature, place mentioned, and date appended it would appear to be implied that the author of the verses resided in Portage la Prairie. That is not the case. The verses under the title "A Bit of Heather" are the work of our valued contributor, Mr Duncan Maclean, Manchester, and found a place in our "Home Journal" some considerable time ago. These verses seem to have been extensively copied by American newspapers. The version referred to, "My Lewis Hame," was sent to us by a correspondent in America, who was under the impression that they were the work of a prominent fellow-citizen in Portage la Prairie. We think it only justice to Mr Maclean to make this explanation, as well as to all who admire the genius of his Highland muse.

"M. M.," PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.—See answer to "K. B. C."

The tenth Mod will be held in Glasgow in 1901. A syllabus of the competitions appears on page 9.

Dr H. C. Gillies, London, has consented to write a series of articles for us on Mr Carmichael's great work, "Carmichael's Gaelic." The first appears on page 9.

Sheriff Grant and Mr Henry Munro, Inverness, are to deliver lectures to the members of the Inverness Chamber of Commerce during the winter session.

HIGH CHURCH YOUNG MEN'S GUILD.—The members of the literary section of this Society are to have a "Mock Jury Trial" on Monday evening first in the Academy Street Hall at eight p.m. Much amusement is promised.

Mr Andrew Paterson, photographic artist, Church Street, Inverness, has been awarded a diploma for his work exhibited at the Hove Photographic Exhibition. The picture sent was a "head study from the 'Sign of the Cross.'" There were 47 competitors in the class, which was an open one.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL NURSE.—Miss Lizzie Douglas, daughter of Mr Robert Douglas, Shore Street, Inverness, has been unanimously appointed by Inverness Parish Council nurse at the Poorhouse. Miss Douglas was trained in Guy's Hospital, Leeds. Mr Mackintosh of Baigmore, a member of the Poorhouse Committee, dissented on the ground that he was against the principle of appointing a trained nurse.

THE EXTENSION OF INVERNESS BURGH BOUNDARIES.—Yesterday a meeting of the Finance Committee of Inverness County Council was held in the Convening-Room, the Castle—Mr Donald Grant, convener, in the chair. The members present were:—Colonel Grant, Mr Thomson, Kinmylies; Mr Macbean, Cradlehall; Mr Wm. Burns, and Mr Shearer, with Mr Duncan Shaw, clerk. The business before the Committee was of a routine character, and a number of accounts were passed. The question of the extension of the Inverness burgh boundaries was thereafter discussed, and the Sub-Committee appointed by the Finance Committee met representatives of the other bodies interested. The First District Committee was represented by Mr Wm. Mackay, solicitor, clerk; Mr Black, C.E.; and Councilor Lee Innes. From the Landward Council Board there were present—Rev. Gavin Lang, chairman; Messrs Williamson and Birt, with Mr J. S. Fraser, solicitor, clerk. Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Town Clerk, also attended. A large scale map, showing Inverness and district, with the proposed new boundaries, was submitted and examined. After considering and discussing the matter with the other representatives, the Sub-Committee resolved to report that they saw no objection to the proposed extension, provided proper compensation were given by the burgh to the county for loss of rental, &c., and they suggested as a fair basis of compensation the case of the county of Lanark and the city of Glasgow, in the last extension of the boundaries of Glasgow in 1899. In the first instance, the Sub-Committee have to report their finding to the Finance Committee, who will then further proceed with the question.

THE JUBILEE SINGERS.—Last night this popular and unique band of singers gave a concert in the Music Hall, being the second of a series of three which they were booked to give this week. On each night they had very full houses, and most appreciative audiences. Their songs consist almost entirely of the beautiful and very expressive hymns and melodies of the negroes, who used to be held in bondage in the Southern States of America, and the Jubilee singers render them with exquisite sweetness and expression. What adds to the interest of the performances is the fact that the singers themselves have either been slaves, or are descended from those who have been held in slavery. The choir have travelled all over the civilised world, and have everywhere been listened to with genuine pleasure. This is the fourth visit of the Singers to Inverness, their first having been made on the occasion of their tour to raise funds for the building of Fisk University for the education of the coloured people of America. This purpose they achieved, having earned and carried home at the conclusion of that tour no less a sum than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The concert is varied by the exhibition of a fine collection of cinematograph pictures illustrative of events and places in China and South Africa, all of which are of special interest at the present day. The entertainment is to be repeated this afternoon at 3 o'clock and 8 o'clock p.m., and those of our readers who have not yet patronised it should not fail to take the opportunity yet offered.

Snow fell heavy in the Badenoch district on Thursday last, but the weather cleared up by night. Yesterday was fair, inclining to frost. The depth of snow on the low ground is about six inches.

A MUCH-TRAVELED MISSIONARY.—Rev. James G. Paterson, a missionary whose travels have been world-wide, delivered a most interesting lecture last Tuesday evening in Inverness Town Hall. There was a large attendance, presided over by Rev. Charles Maclellan. The lecturer held the attention of his audience enthralled until the close, when he was awarded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Rev. Dr A. C. Macdonald.

INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY.—Dr Lang, medical adviser to the Directors of the Academy, has advised them that he sees no reason why the school should not be opened on the 10th inst., as the epidemic of measles had now very much abated. The Directors have accordingly agreed to re-open the school on Monday first. The Christmas vacation will extend from 21st December to 3rd January. It was decided to apply to the Education Department to increase the grant from the £350 given last year to £410.

ERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.—The annual meeting of the Inverness and North of Scotland Erated Water Manufacturers' Defence Association was held within the secretary's office, 38 Academy Street, on Wednesday last. The accounts and reports for the past year were submitted, and approved of. Mr John Farquharson, of Messrs Forrest & Co's Caledonian Erated Water Works, Inverness, was admitted a member of the Association. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year, viz.:—President, Mr Archibald Mackintosh, Inverness; vice-president, Mr Ritchie, Elgin; Council—Mr A. W. Mackintosh, Nairn; Mr Taylor, junr., Forres; Mr Steven, Tain; Mr Hossack, Elgin; and Mr Carson, Inverness. Messrs Maclellan & Gibson, Elgin, were unanimously appointed secretaries and treasurers to the Association.

DEATH OF AN INVERNESS SHIPOWNER.—We regret to announce the death of Mr Ken. Grant, shipowner, Lower Kessock Street, which occurred, after a lingering illness, last Friday. The deceased was managing and confidential clerk to Messrs Macdonald & Morrison, coal merchants, Inverness, in whose employment he was for about fourteen years. Mr Grant, who was of a quiet and unassuming disposition, was well known in business circles in the town, where he was held in great esteem. Being possessed of very considerable business qualifications, he showed great promise of a successful business career, which, unfortunately, has been closed at the early age of 29 years. His funeral, which was attended by a large number of friends, testified to the respect in which he was held. Much sympathy is felt for his mother on the loss of her only child.

ADVERTISING THE TOWN.—There was a short discussion at the meeting of Inverness Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening on the action of the Town Council in declining to advertise Inverness in connection with the forthcoming Glasgow Exhibition. Mr John Macdonald, Castle Street, said he had heard it remarked outside that it was rather a pity the Council had so decided, and that it would be an advantage for Inverness to be advertised in connection with the Exhibition. Upon an occasion like that, it would be all the better to have Inverness brought to the front like other towns. He would be inclined to propose that the matter be remitted to the Council of the Chamber to consider whether it was desirable to have the town of Inverness advertised in connection with the Exhibition, with the view of asking the Town Council to reconsider their decision. Mr George Gallon seconded. Mr K. A. Gillanders said he thought that one of the considerations before the Town Council in the matter was that the advertisement would not be assisting the Glasgow Exhibition in any way. The advertising was rented out to a private individual, and it was his firm that applied to the Town Council. The catalogue of the Exhibition would be such an immense thing that the advertisement would be simply lost in it. Mr Gillanders incidentally remarked that the charge was at the rate of £50 a page—a front page £150. Mr Macdonald's motion was accordingly agreed to.

CANTATA IN QUEEN STREET UNITED FREE CHURCH.—The choir of the Queen Street United Free Church gave a rendering on Thursday evening of Root & Bradbury's sacred cantata, "Daniel." The concert was presided over by the pastor, Rev. A. C. Macdonald, D.D. Mr George Urquhart, choir-master, ably conducted. The church was well filled, and the audience gave evidence of their appreciation of the performance by the hearty manner in which they received the rendering of the various items. The piece submitted by the choir abounds with passages of considerable difficulty, and taking this into consideration, Mr Urquhart and his choir have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the performance. The principals were:—Soprano, Miss Stewart; contralto, Miss Smith; tenor, Mr J. Neill; tenor, Mr W. Cameron; bass, Mr J. Mackintosh; baritone, Mr T. Gordon. Mr D. A. Maclean presided at the organ. The choruses were exceptionally heavy, but the choir did them full justice. Their rendering of "By the Rivers of Babylon" and the chorale, "Thou who are enthroned above," were especially noticeable for the fine phrasing and harmony exhibited, marked attention being paid to the expression all through. All the soloists did their parts very well, and it would be invidious to single out any one in particular. Mr Munro, at the close, thanked the audience for their attendance, and moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Urquhart and the choir.

MISSIONARY WORK IN CHINA.—The United Free Church pulpit in Golspie was occupied on Sabbath forenoon last by Mr Gilbert Ritchie, of the China Inland Mission, who is at present home on furlough. Mr Ritchie, who has laboured for several years in Shansi Province, the district in which so much of the recent trouble took place, gave a most interesting and instructive account of mission work in North China. His description of the heroic and devotion of the native Christians—many of whom have laid down their lives for Christ's sake, and several of them, whilst escorting the missionaries to a place of safety—was quite enough to silence all talk about "rice Christians," the futility of mission work, &c. In the afternoon Mr Ritchie spoke to the children attending the black-board service in the Mission Hall of the "Welcome." He also gave a most interesting and interesting address at the Young Women's Bible Class, which meets in the same place, in the course of which he told many intensely interesting facts about the women of China, and laid before the members of the class their needs and claims. Both in his address and private conversation Mr Ritchie told many touching incidents regarding the awful sufferings of the missionaries and native Christians, many of whom have suffered martyrdom, and he also gave a good deal of information regarding the "Boxer" rising as a whole.

A concert by Mr Miller's Choral Society is announced to be given in the Music Hall on Friday next.

Last night a large and appreciative audience assembled at Leachin School to hear a concert which had been arranged for the purpose of raising funds for supplying hot luncheons to the children attending the school during the winter months.

THE ROYAL LAND LEAGUE "SOCIAL."—Last night the seventeenth annual social meeting of the Royal Branch of the Land League took place. Mr G. G. Macleod, F.E.L.S., C.C., J.P., Ardgay, presided. A full report will appear in our next issue.

ST MARY'S LODGE OF FREEMASONS.—The following have been elected officers of the above Lodge of Freemasons for the ensuing year.—R.W.M., Rob. J. McGregor; P.M., Alex. P. Mackenzie; W.M., John Macleod; S.W., George Clark; S.W., Thomas Kendall; J.W., Richard Osmond; secretary, Finlay G. Fraser; treasurer, William Glass; chaplain, Rev. Canon Brock; S.D., H. H. Marshall; J.D., Alex. Mackenzie; I.G., J. H. Leslie; B.B., George Mackay; S.B., James Cullison; stewards, Donald Mackenzie, John Fraser, J. E. Macpherson, and P. L. Watt; Tyler, J. W. Ball.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.—Mr George Sinclair, local inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, reports that from 12th May last till 3rd inst. the number of cases investigated was 75. Three of these dropped after investigation. The persons implicated numbered 91—54 males and 37 females, while the children affected totalled 228. There were 11 prosecutions, and 6 persons were sent to prison and 5 were admonished. The number of supervision visits was 195.

SUCCESS OF INVERNESS PIGEON EXHIBITION.—At the Forbes and Northern Show held on Tuesday last in the Agricultural Hall, Mr J. F. Kelly, Melrose Villa, Inverness, has followed up his recent successes by winning with his ten exhibits the following awards:—First and second for long-faced tumbler, first for magpies, first for turbits and owls, first for dragons, first for homers, second and third for jacobins, and second in variety class. Mr Kelly's exhibits were much admired by the public, all his birds being shown in the pink of condition.

FIRE IN INVERNESS STEEPLE.—Yesterday morning fire was observed to have broken out in the tobaccoist's shop under the steeple in Bridge Street, which is tenanted by Mr Craik. The flames were first noticed by Constable John Macrae, who raised the alarm at the Fire Station. The Brigade speedily turned out, and the fire was got under in a few minutes. The damage done to the property was not serious, but it is stated that part of the drawings, amounting to a considerable sum, and consisting mostly of pound notes, which had been left in the till, were destroyed, the fire having originated immediately underneath the counter. No reason can be assigned for the outbreak. Property and stock are both insured.

RESIGNATION OF MR WILLIAM GARROW, OF THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY.—Mr Wm. Garrow, who has resigned the office of Superintendent of the Highland Railway, which he filled to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors and the public for about fifteen years. The Board, in accepting Mr Garrow's resignation, expressed regret at the loss of his services, and voted to him, as a retiring allowance, a sum equal to two years' salary. The Clearing-House Society of Railway Officials also, in view of the state of Mr Garrow's health, which has suffered from overwork, has granted him the full pension, although he has some years to serve in order to complete his qualification for a pension on retirement. Mr Garrow was held in the highest esteem by railway officials all over the kingdom. In Inverness there is general regret at his departure from the Highland Capital, and the hope is expressed that his wanted health and energy may be speedily restored. It is understood that the Highland Railway will appoint a traffic manager, who will have the control of the offices of superintendent of the line and goods manager. The latter appointments were retained vacant since the death of Mr Thomson.

RETURN OF THIRD CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

ADDRESS BY THE MACKINTOSH.

The 3rd Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (Inverness-shire Militia), who have been doing garrison duty, first at Aldershot and afterwards at Mullingar, Ireland, for almost a twelvemonth, arrived home at Inverness on Tuesday morning last, where they were disbanded at the Regimental Headquarters, Telford Road. Leaving Mullingar on Monday, the regiment arrived at Stranraer, crossing from Larne by the short sea route. Two special trains awaited them, the first of which arrived at Inverness at 7.45 a.m., and the second twenty minutes later. There were in all 634 officers and men, 19 women, and 43 children. Headed by the brass or pipe bands, the two sections marched to the Telford Road Barracks, where, after a substantial ration, with a pint of steaming coffee, had been supplied to each man by Mr K. A. Gillanders, of the Steam Bakery, the men folded their regimentals and assumed their every-day clothes. A detachment of Camerons from Millburn Barracks acted as a fatigue party. The majority of the men left for their homes in Skye and the West by special train the same forenoon.

On the 28th ult. Colonel The Mackintosh of Mackintosh, commanding the battalion, addressed the regiment while on parade. He said that the parade that day would be the last they would do in Ireland. They would leave on Monday for their headquarters at Inverness, where they would be disbanded. The people of Mullingar wished them a safe journey, and would be glad to have them back again. They were proud to have a regiment of Highlanders among them. One of the Chief Magistrates of the town told him the other day that he was proud of his (the Colonel's) regiment, for none of the men had appeared before himself or his colleagues since the Camerons came to Ireland seven months ago. The regiment was very strong when it left Inverness. They had done their share of duty as well as any other regiment. They had sent out to Africa hundreds of trained soldiers, who were doing well, and had proved themselves to be real Highlanders. They all hoped to see their comrades safe back next year, each one of them with his South African medal, which would be a great credit to the regiment. Since embodied they had proved themselves sober and trustworthy soldiers, and he hoped they would continue to keep up the reputation of the regiment after their disembodiment. He wished each and all of them a safe passage to their homes.

NOTES FROM A HIGHLAND GLEN.

[By JOHN NORT.]

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

As one reads of the opening of Parliament he cannot help feeling amazed at the intricate and involved system of pagantry and ceremonial that accompanies it; and, sooth to say, there may also blend with his amazement a feeling that the whole show is a grotesque paradox in our practical age. It is well, of course, that for the proper conduct of business and debate a certain definite procedure should be observed, and this procedure is undoubtedly best created by the law of precedent. But when all the gilt and ornate formulae of past centuries are observed, the result is a ludicrous and highly Quixotic one. If Parliament be met for the transaction of the most important business of Britain, it seems absurd to the practical to preface business by an exhibition of what can be truly called tomfoolery. Why is it that all this ceremonial cannot be dispensed with, and that Parliament cannot get to business in a business-like way instead of wasting time in fulfilling a procedure that few understand and that carries with it nothing but a sense that the whole is absurd and ridiculous in this work-a-day age?

And when we think of Parliament we involuntarily think of our representatives there. Most Highlanders feel scarcely jubilant when they think of the falling-away which has taken place in the Highlands. Orkney, Sutherland, and the Northern Burghs loom darkly up as instances of that political shortsightedness which sometimes attacks the most intelligent of constituencies. The constituencies mentioned have of their choice elected to feed on the east wind. Let us hope they will get an overflow measure of it. Distasteful medicine is necessary in cases of serious illness, and possibly nothing will so soon and so thoroughly cure our war-mad and "patriotic" ratepayers as a salutary course of Tory Government. They are likely to get it, and they are likely also to pay for their enthusiastic war fervour in the way of taxation.

Inverness-shire is to be most congratulated of Highland constituencies. We have no doubt our representative will do well, but many will regret that his great abilities will be hampered so much by the fact that his party for some time must be in Opposition. The present session will perhaps be most interesting on account of the unmasking of Mr Chamberlain. Few have ever trusted Mr Chamberlain—protagonist or antagonist—but the most bitter of his opponents has scarcely thought him capable of using in Parliament and at election time such unscrupulous methods of electioneering. Very soon we hope he shall stand forth in his true colours—a man who has been found out. That will be a bad day for Joe.

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.

I have been led to think for some time of a state of affairs that prevails in many of the Highland glens as well as in some of the Highlands for speedy and urgent remedy, and I am sure most people will agree with me that the man who takes it in hand and settles it, not in a limited and parochial sense, but in a sense that will do good to all, at least, as the statesman whose chief title to fame lies in the fact that he has brought about a great and costly war. In our glen, which, blighted by the ruthless and desolating hand of the evictor and sporting landlord, is a sparsely-populated one, many of the children have to come long distances to school. I see some of them each day—poor, little, delicate "weans." They have left home early, probably between eight and nine, just as the dim dawn is breaking murky on the hills. They have to go to school in the cold and inclement weather. Some days they are drenched before reaching school. They have breakfasted early, and have in their bags their midday lunch—"piece," they call it. But who does not know that the fate of these "pieces" is that they are usually eaten long before school is reached. They have to have to sit in school all day, hungry always, often cold and wet, and I see them struggling homewards as dusk is creeping in. Now, while it is impossible to make climatic or meteorological conditions suit, it is quite possible to arrange that these little ones should have a good hot lunch at midday. It is monstrous to think of them enduring a fast such as a vigorous man would not submit to. The little ones do not complain. They bear this cross in silence, but the children in their hearts curse deeper than a strong man in his wrath, and advantage ought not to be taken of the dumb acquiescence of the pitiful helpless.

In our Glen we have a fashion of raising money by concert. We have bought a piano by money so raised, and have secured a white elephant. Probably we shall be raising funds in a similar way for the importation of a pianist; but I would recommend, in place of providing stuff of this sort, a sort of spontaneously philanthropic spirit, that the claims of the young be first considered. When so many fads are being provided, it is not, surely, impossible to subsidise for the needs and comforts of the young and helpless.

THE GENTLER SEX.

Time was when the feminine portion of humanity was designated by the name of the "gentler sex." Whether this designation was due to the exaggerated or quixotic chivalry which was an olden virtue, deponent knoweth not. But, looking at the many characteristics of the modern woman, which even chivalry cannot reconcile with the idea of gentleness, one cannot but think that the term ought now to be relegated to the list of old words and phrases which the development of events has left obsolete. I do not know that the modern woman of the advanced type should like to be ranked as the gentler sex. She is filled so much with the spirit of emulating what man does that sometimes, it appears to me, she is anxious to emulate him in his vices as in his virtues, and perhaps the little vestige of chivalry which this age of fact and reality has left me will best please them when it says—"My dears! you are not of the gentler sex." For from this time men are equal in all things good and bad, and the gentleness of which you used to be accused was nothing but a complimentary figment and fiction, which your sterner qualities cannot away with.

male or female—voluntarily attending any trial of this description and listening to details that are horrible and sorrowful and sickening with the hatefulness of sinfulness and depravity.

To me it appears as if people thirsty for this style of thing were possessed of a ghoulish and vitiated taste—the taste which drives them to batten upon horrors which were best passed by as quickly as possible; and I cannot help thinking of those ladies who were present at the trial except as gloating over a story which could not be tolerable except to a morbidly-depraved taste.

It is an unhealthy sign, and one that perhaps were best not ruminated upon, and most men, who, despite their own failings and short-comings, would keep their ideal of womanhood pure and unspotted would wish a renaissance of the old days till once again the term "gentler sex" might not be a misnomer. The zealous advocates of woman's rights may not be aware that their strongest opponents are often men whose ideals for woman are higher than those of the advocates themselves. Such men wish women to be sheltered from the world that they may not know its terrible dark and tragic side. There are many things woman wots not of—many things it is not desirable for her own sake she should wot of. Many men, whose primary object is to protect or reputation, would do well to protect woman from a knowledge even of the evils that have encircled themselves. And, now I think of it, Browning has expressed this well, and I give his words as expressing dimly what I have but dimly indicated—

"Would it were I had been false, not you—I, that am nothing, not you that are all; I, never the worse for a speck or two. On my speckled hide; not you, the pride Of the day, my swan, that a first flick's fall On her wonder of white, must unswan, undo."

APOLOGIA.

Alas! the Celtic Harp with life that rang, And pealed its harmony from hill to hill, Till every crag and ben responsive sang, Lies in a shroud of dust, so dead and still, Waiting the master-hand to sweep and fill Its chords with life, and call its spirit back, Till once again its strong wild notes will thrill The mountain sons, who sadly mourn Its lack. And I, who sing my rhymes in halting words, Who cannot lip the language of the Gael, Whose wandering fingers wander 'midst the chords, And fumbling sadly, often miss and fail The notes they fain would strike, would gladly hail The Master-Bard like master bards of yore, Whose strong glad song would swell o'er our land, And pulsate through our well-loved land once more. But shall I then, because my faults are great, Stand mute, nor sing the beauties of my glen? Nay, while the greater bard I watch and

FORRES HOTELKEEPER'S CESSIO.

EXAMINATION IN INVERNESS.

In the Inverness Sheriff Court on Thursday H. T. Tuff, late of the Castle Hotel, Forres, was examined in cesso before Sheriff J. P. Grant. In answer to Mr C. O. Morris, solicitor, his agent, Mr Tuff stated that he was at present residing at Hazelgrove, Kingsmill Road, Inverness. Previous to going to Forres he had a licensed grocer's shop in Castle Street for about three years. He left in 1898, and went to Forres, where he purchased the Castle Hotel. He sold the Castle Street business for about £1400. He had a bond on the property and some debts, but after the debts were paid he had a surplus of £400. He paid £3500 for the Castle Hotel, which, when he occupied it first, was in a very bad and insanitary condition. He had the building renovated, and by order of the police he had to clear away one or two rooms on account of the insufficient light, and had to alter the drains. These alterations cost him about £500. He borrowed £1500 on the hotel, and also £500. These were the only two bonds on the hotel. He also borrowed two sums of £800 each from trade firms. At first the trade of the hotel was very bad. After that it improved, and they drew about £30 a week, including the bar. That continued for about twelve months, and then trade went down. He acquainted his then law agent with the fact, and eventually the hotel was advertised for sale, with the result that one or two people called. About the end of June this year he was offered £3200 for the hotel. The furniture and stock were to be taken over at valuation. The furniture came to about £262.

Examined by Mr William Burns, solicitor, for creditors, Mr Tuff said the only statement he had received in connection with the sale of the hotel was the statement of the furniture. His wife had a shop in Church Street, Inverness. He took the shop she had taken £20 from the bank, which belonged to their little child. The rent of the shop was £60. The money had been given to the child as gifts from friends. He could not say if his child ever bought toys or sweets with the gift money. The house rent was £28. It was partly furnished. He supposed the expenses of the house came from the shop. The furniture belonged partly to his wife and partly to his sister-in-law. The furniture and the stock of the shop were not included in the statement he had handed to his agent. He would not say that the shop was one of the best in Church Street. The proceeds of the shop partly supported them, and also what he earned as a cornet player. He paid his Forres creditors with the proceeds of a cheque for £83 he had received from the purchaser of the hotel. These were the only creditors he paid since he left Forres. He instructed his then agent to pay the whole of the accounts. He had not paid John H. Forsyth & Co.

Examined by Mr Francis Squair, solicitor, for creditors, Mr Tuff said he paid the Forres creditors in full. With regard to the other creditors he was under the impression that there would be money left to pay them. He was told that after all debts were paid there would be £150 left over. He could not lodge a statement of his affairs. He had never kept books except a stock book, which was still in the hotel. He had receipts for his payments in Forres, and would produce them. He thought the value of the stock would be about £150. This concluded the examination.

THE JUBILEE NURSES.

THEIR WORK IS STEADILY INCREASING.

Yesterday afternoon the annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Inverness Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held in the Town Hall. Provost Macbean presided, and there was a fair attendance, the majority present being ladies. Among those assembled we noticed—Mrs Macbean, Fairfield Road; Mr Darwin of Muirtown and Mrs Darwin; Rev. Mr Howell, St Stephen's; Rev. Mr Robson, Union Street Free United Church; Rev. Mr Todd, Crown Free United Church; Canon Brock and Mrs Brook; Rev. Mr Wallace, Rev. Mr Dinwoodie, Mrs Brougham, Culdheth; Mr George Black, banker, and Miss Black; Misses Urquhart, Midmiss Road; Misses Weir, Ardross Street; Miss Shaw, Thornhill; Miss Connell, United Free West Manse; Miss Davidson, Miss Buchanan, Ness Bank; Dr Moir, the secretary and treasurer, and Mrs Moir; Mrs Crick, Heathcote; Captain Wimperley, Ardross Terrace; Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, Reay House; Dr Macfadyen, Dr Kerr, Mr Alexander Williamson, ex-banker, and others. After a prayer had been offered up by Rev. Mr Wallace,

Provost Macbean said it was now ten years since the institution of the Inverness branch of the Jubilee Institute of Nurses, and the branch had been steadily increasing in usefulness from that time till the present day. It was gratifying to see from the report to be submitted by Dr Moir that during the past twelve months the number of cases attended by the two nurses in connection with the institution was 357, the number of visits paid during that period being 8727. During the year the managers purchased the Home at a sum of £500. £300 of that sum had been paid off, the balance of £200 being a debt upon the Home. It was to be hoped that some of their generously disposed philanthropists would come to the aid of the Committee so that by this time next year those in charge would be in the position of stating that the entire debt was cleared away—(applause). After a reference to the need for extended and more liberal financial support in order that the institution might continue to carry on the good work in an increasing measure, the Provost called on

Dr Moir to read the annual report of the Executive Committee. It was in the following terms:—

"The Executive Committee has much pleasure in submitting their ninth annual report, with a statement of funds as at 30th September, 1900. While the Committee have nothing special to report this year, they wish to draw the attention of those interested in the welfare of the Institute to the increasing amount of good work done by the two nurses attached to the Inverness Branch. Their work steadily increases, every year showing a larger number of cases attended and a greater number of visits paid than that of the previous one. Last year the nurses attended 357 cases, and were 4070 hours on duty, and paid 8727 visits. These figures speak for themselves, and give some idea of the amount of suffering relieved by the attention and visits of the nurses. While the demand for the services of the nurses has increased during the year, the Committee regret that they cannot show a corresponding increase in the amount subscribed to the funds at their disposal. Possibly the year which has just closed has had special demands on the liberality of the public, but in instances charity begins at home, especially when it is such a deserving one, and the Committee feel that such a charity, doing an immense amount of good amongst the deserving poor in our midst, should not be hampered in its exertions from want of the means for carrying it on. There has been a considerable falling off in the amount of subscriptions and donations. Now that the Branch has two nurses and a Home to keep up, a larger income is necessary than when it was started nine years ago. If a special appeal is made to the liberality of the public, funds will be forthcoming to put the Branch on a sound financial basis. Many patients show their appreciation of the services rendered by the nurses by giving a donation to the fund, and the number who have done so this year has far exceeded that of any previous year. Since last report was issued, the Committee have been in a position to purchase the Home for £500. Of that amount £300 was paid out of the accumulated funds of the Branch, leaving a balance of £200, which was borrowed on the security of the property. The Committee hope soon to be in a position to pay off this amount, and this can only be done by the increased liberality of friends and well-wishers of the Institute. The Committee feel it right to thank many kind friends of the Institute for gifts of useful articles for the Home. Several patients have sent gifts of flowers, fruit, &c."

The Treasurer's report stated that, including a sum of £125 received from subscribers, the total income for the year had been £1733 13s 3d, and expenditure £1927 7s 5d, showing a balance of expenditure over income of £184 4s 2d. Since the report had been written, the balance had been wiped off by subscriptions which had been received.

Rev. Mr Todd moved the adoption of the report. That report, he said, was a plain, unvarnished statement—containing nothing very startling or very new—of excellent work well and faithfully done by the Jubilee Nurses during the past year. One had only to take up the report and read it, with the aid of a little imagination and feeling, to be convinced that, amidst the many institutions and agencies of a benevolent kind working in the country, there were few, if any, that deserved heartier or more cordial support from the Christian public of Inverness than the institution to which he referred—(applause). He had been favoured, by the kindness of the Secretary, with the reports of the Branch for the past nine years, so that he might be thoroughly conversant with the working of the institution. As a new-comer to the town, one of the features that struck him, in looking over these reports, was the hours which the work of the Branch had steadily grown in the town, and also the way in which the services rendered by the institution had been appreciated by those who had received its benefits—(hear, hear). He dared say that was the glory of the branches engaged in this work since the inauguration of the Jubilee Institute for Nurses some thirteen years ago, and such an increase in usefulness was a splendid testimony to the way in which the work had been carried on—(applause). It was, indeed, a great testimony to the vital power of the Christian religion in our time that to-day they had such a large number of institutions of charity and mercy working throughout all the borders and corners of our land. He felt that such an institution as the Jubilee Institute was a work which would receive more and more the help and encouragement that it so greatly deserved—(renewed applause).

Rev. Mr Howell seconded. When they remembered the number of cases treated by the nurses, the hours which they had worked since the inauguration of the Jubilee Institute, and all the good work which

by this means had been accomplished, there would be no danger of any belittling of the blessings that had been conferred on the poor—(applause).

Rev. Mr Robson moved a vote of thanks to the subscribers and collectors for their services during the year. He had not been long enough in Inverness to know as much as others regarding the work, but he knew that the work was appreciated. One thing that was needed far more than money, and that was human, Christian sympathy—(applause).

Dr Kerr seconded the motion. He could testify that since the inauguration of the Institute the houses of a great number of the poorer people of Inverness had been very much improved. Their homes were more cleanly kept and better attended to. The Doctor concluded by advocating the holding of a bazaar early next season in order to wipe off the debt on the Home—(applause).

The motion was also put to the meeting, and carried with acclamation. Rev. Mr Dinwoodie proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for their services during the year, and their arrangements. Everyone, he said, admired those engaged in the good work of nursing those who were in South Africa fighting the enemies of our country, but they should not forget that just as good work was being done by the two nurses in Inverness in fighting against disease and endeavouring to relieve suffering and alleviate pain—(applause).

Mr Alex. Williamson seconded, and the motion was adopted.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Provost for presiding, on the initiative of Canon Brock.

MESSRS HAMILTON & COY'S CHRISTMAS SHOW AND SALE.

Yesterday Messrs Hamilton & Coy., Ltd., cattle salesmen, Inverness, held their twenty-fifth annual Christmas show and sale of fat stock within the Auction Mart at Inverness. The show on the whole was an exceptionally fine one, and compared most favourably with those of previous years. The entries were numerous, and the general quality of the exhibits were of a uniformly high-class order. The weather was dry and pleasant, and the attendance of farmers and dealers was very large. As in former years there was a keen demand for prime quality beasts, which are always wanted in the London Christmas markets, and there was also a fair request for ordinary commercial cattle. Sheep met a good going trade. The champion prize of the show, a valuable silver cup presented by Sir Robert Finlay, M.P., for the best bullock or heifer in yard, was awarded to Mr Walker of Geddes with a massive polled bullock. He is an animal of great substance, with a splendid level back, and would adorn any showyard in the kingdom. In the sale ring possession of the bullock was keenly contested for between Messrs A. & D. Macdonald and Fraser, Kennedy, & Fraser, and was finally secured by the Messrs Macdonald, Inverness, for £40 Gs. It may be mentioned that Mr Walker also won the last year's championship, and the purchase price of this animal on that occasion was £35 Gs. For the best heifer under two years Mr Walker was the successful exhibitor, and he likewise carried off the honours for the best four butchers' bullocks, and the best ox or heifer of any breed. The other winners in the cattle special prizes section were Mr Maciver, Viewfield; Mr Smith, Wester Lovat; Mr Smithson, Lentrain; Mr Ross, Inverbrora; Lord Cawdor, Mr Macdonell, Dumballoch, and Mr Rattray, Lovat. Mr John A. Dewar's (M.P.) cup for the best pen of 20 sheep in yard was carried off by Major Rose, Connage, who also secured two of the special prizes for cheviot or blackfaced wethers, and cheviot dimonts. The champion pen of sheep in yard was purchased by Messrs Fraser, Kennedy, & Fraser, Arcade, for 44s. Pigs were a good show, the special prize-takers being Mr Macalpine, Redhill, and Mr Hugh Mackenzie, Inverness.

The Judges were:—For Cattle, Mr Peter McCall, Dunblane, Mr Peter Laing, Keith, and Mr John Craik, Keith; for Sheep, Mr John Mackintosh, Inverness, and Mr James Fraser, Dingwall; for Pigs, Mr John Falconer, Artafallie, and Mr A. Cameron, Nairn. Mr Donald Scott, auctioneer, occupied the rostrum, and expeditiously conducted the sale.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PRIZE-LIST:—

CATTLE.

Pat Cow, any breed—1 Mr Smithson, Lentrain; 2 Mr Walker, Heathmount.

Shorthorn Bull—1 Mr Cattell, Balseparion; 2 Mr Fletcher, Rosehaugh.

Polled Angus Bull—1 Lord Cawdor; 2 Fraser, Dalneigh.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Four English or Irish Bullocks, prize presented by Mr Rod. Campbell, Plough Inn—Maciver, Viewfield.

Four Highland Stots or Heifers, or both, a case of Durrillie whisky presented by Mr J. Maclean, Academy Street—Maciver, Viewfield.

Two Bullocks, any breed, farm wheelbarrow presented by Mr Alex. Anderson, ironmonger, Eastgate—Ross, Inverbrora.

Two Heifers, any breed, hot water jug presented by Mr D. Macrae, jeweller, Eastgate—Smithson, Lentrain.

Two Irish bullocks, prize presented by Messrs Fraser & McCall, ironmongers, Eastgate—Maciver, Viewfield.

Six Irish Bullocks, prize presented by Mr W. Logan, V.S.—Maciver, Viewfield.

Six Quarter-Old Bullocks, fed and bred by exhibitor, prize presented by Mr P. T. Watt, Albert Hotel—Lord Cawdor.

Four Heifers, medal presented by Mr John Craik, Kirkton—Macdonnell, Dumballoch.

Archie Cow, prize presented by Mr W. Liddell, Donny—Maciver, Viewfield.

Two Fat Cows, prize presented by Messrs Howden & Co.—Lord Cawdor.

Four Butcher's Bullocks, prize presented by Town Council of Inverness—Walker of Geddes.

Ox or Heifer, any breed, a piece of plate presented by the Fleshers of Inverness, prize to be decided by three Inverness butchers, chosen by themselves—Walker of Geddes.

Shorthorn Cow, box of 10 lbs. of Gillan's best tea presented by Mr K. A. Gillanders—Queen's Gate—Smithson, Lentrain.

Champion Bullock or Heifer in yard, cup presented by Sir Robert B. Finlay, Q.C., M.P.—Walker of Geddes.

SHEEP.

Pen of 20 Cheviot Wethers—Maclean, Inverness.

Pen of 20 Cross or H.B. six-quarter-olds—Rose, Connage.

Pen of 20 Cross or H.B. six-quarter-olds—Macrae, Culternie.

Pen of 20 Cross or H.B. six-quarter-olds—Cran, Kirkton.

Pen of 20 Cheviot Ewes—Duke of Sutherland.

Pen of 20 Cheviot Ewes—Duke of Sutherland.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Pen of 20 Cheviot or Blackfaced Wethers, piece of plate given by Messrs Ferguson & Macbean, jewellers, Inverness—Rose, Connage.

Pen of 10 Cheviot Wethers, one drum "Climax" Sheep Dip (for 500 sheep), presented by Mr G. Robertson, commission agent—Duke of Sutherland.

Pen of 10 Blackfaced Wethers, one drum "Barrett's" Sheep Dip (for 200 sheep), presented by Messrs D. Ross & Co., Academy Street, Inverness—Maclean, Leys.

Pen of 20 Cheviot Dimonts, one drum "Battle's" Sheep Dip (for 200 sheep), presented by Mr D. Murray, agricultural merchant, East Gate—Rose, Connage.

Second best—Macrae, Culternie.

Champion pen of 20 Sheep in yard, cup presented by Mr John A. Dewar, M.P., Murray's Hall, Artie—Rose Connage.

PIGS.

Best Pig—1 A. Shaw, butcher, Inverness; 2 Hugh Mackenzie, Inverness.

Four Fat Pigs—1 and 2 Hugh Mackenzie, Inverness.

Two Pigs, prize presented by Mr J. Falconer, Croftnacreech—Macalpine, Redhill.

Six Pigs, prize presented by Mr A. Medlock—Hugh Mackenzie.

The following are the principal prizes, with the names of the buyers.

The first prize cow sold for £21 17s 6d, and was purchased by Mr John Taylor; the second prize cow fetched £20 17s 6d. Mr Nicoll, Leith, was the purchaser. First prize polled bull, £25, to Mr Tulloch, Braehead; 2nd prize polled bull, £22 10s, to Mr Laing, Keith; 1st prize shorthorn bull, £25, to Mr McCall, Dunblane; 2nd prize shorthorn bull, £23 15s, to Mr Forsyth, Elgin. The best four English or Irish averaged £23. Four six-quarter-old stots or heifers averaged £25 17s 6d. The other prize-takers included one bullock sold for £25 12s 6d, and was purchased by Mr MacCall. Another bullock was sold for £20 12s 6d to Mr MacCall. A heifer was sold for £20 10s to Mr Cruickshank, Keith. Another heifer was sold for £20 2s 6d to Mr Cran. An Irish bullock was sold for £24 to Fraser Bros., Dingwall; and another for £24 5s to the same firm. Six-quarter-olds ranged from £21 7s 6d to £24 5s. The prize Arshire cow was sold for £11 10s to Mr Nicoll, Perth. The two fat cows were purchased for £18 7s 6d and £17 7s 6d respectively by Mr Nicoll. The four butchers' bullocks were sold as follows:—One for £30 to Mr Nicoll; one for £35 5s to Mr A. Maciver; one for £31 2s 6d to Mr Nicoll; and one for £33 to Mr Nicoll.

Twenty Cheviot wethers were sold for 44s a-head to Fraser, Kennedy, & Fraser, Inverness; 20 blackfaced wethers were sold for 40s to Fraser Bros., Dingwall; 10 cross or H.B. six-quarter-olds were sold for 37s 9d to Mr Mill, Perth; 20 H.B. hoggets were sold for 40s to Mr Forsyth, Forres; 10 Cheviot ewes were sold for 32s 6d to Mr Donald Stewart, East Gate; 10 blackfaced ewes were sold for 27s 9d to Mr Tom Fraser, Castle Street; 20 Cheviot or blackfaced wethers were sold for 44s to Fraser, Kennedy, & Fraser; 10 Cheviot wethers were purchased for 39s 9d to Mr Forsyth, Elgin; 10 blackfaced wethers were sold for 34s to Elliot & Co., Inverness; 20 Cheviot dimonts fetched 44s, being purchased by Fraser, Kennedy, & Fraser. A special prize, presented by the Inverness butchers for the second best pen of 20 Cheviot dimonts was won by Mr Macrae, Culternie, and was purchased by Mr Mill, Perth, for 40s 6d.

DE WET'S MOVEMENTS.

KNOX AND MACDONALD CLOSING IN.

(OFFICIAL DESPATCH.)

Kitchener reports from Bloemfontein, under yesterday's date:—

De Wet's force reported by patrols again north and north-east from Odendaal Drift, General Knox following. He reports capture of Krupp gun and a wagon of ammunition.

General Macdonald gone to command Aliwal North.

A hundred of the enemy vigorously attacked a small infantry post near Belfast, which held out under a hot fire until relief arrived, when the Boers fled, leaving one killed.

No British casualties.

The Bedford Mounted Infantry patrol captured seven Boers near Thabanchu, and ten horses. One Boer wounded.

Dewetsdorp prisoners, except officers, released, but not yet come in.

THE WAR VOTE.

The second Supplementary Army Estimate for the year ending March next, to meet the additional expenditure due to the war in South Africa and to affairs in China, was issued yesterday morning. The total amount asked for is £16,000,000.

PERTH NOTES.

THE HIGHLAND MOD. As indicating what disinterested spectators think of us and our work, we append the following summaries from two of the Perth papers:— The "Perthshire Advertiser" says—"The Highland Association, which held its annual gathering in the Fair City, was a noble, patriotic task in hand, and we are pleased at the opportunity afforded of bringing its good work before the community, and likewise congratulating it on the success which has hitherto attended its efforts. This world-wide Empire of ours owes a good deal to the Celtic race. Everyone knows that it has contributed no little of the pith and sinew and the fine sustaining qualities which have gone to the making of that Empire, and everyone knows as well that nothing so good as his heart and the Celtic blood and the Celtic all that is noblest and best in him as that grand old tongue in which are preserved in song and story, matches in their expressiveness and pathos, the annals of his brave ancestors. Anything, therefore, which in any way tends to keep the living languages of the day, and sustains and develops the interest therein, does, as we have said, a great and noble work—Imperial service—and deserves well of all who have the Empire at heart. We are, therefore, heartily pleased to congratulate the Association on its work, as testified to by the proceedings at the ninth annual Mod held in the City Hall on Thursday." The "Perthshire Constitutionalist" observes—"It is decidedly pleasing to learn that the second Mod which the Highland Association held in Perth last week, after a lapse of four years, was even more successful than was the first, and that notwithstanding the weather on the occasion of the second Mod which was the very opposite of encouraging, while the lateness of the season had also the effect of preventing many from a distance being present. There was a decided improvement in the quality of the singing, reciting, and violin playing—a very good indication that the Association is fulfilling the work it has mapped out for itself, the cultivating and preserving of the grand old music of the Highlands."

OLD POSTAL OFFICIAL RETIRES. Mr Robert Clark, Barnhill, Perth, has just retired after 33 years connected with the Post Office for thirty years. Mr Clark was the first to receive the first parcel post basket at the General Station coming to Perth, and it was he who despatched the first one from Perth. One of Mr Clark's assistants, Mr. James Dunbarney, Bridge of Earn, while Mr R. M. Clark, Jeweller, Perth, is another son. Mr Clark's retirement from the Parcel Post Depot was made the occasion of presenting him with a handsome easy chair from his fellow-officers, as a mark of esteem for his long and faithful services.

NEW YEAR'S CLOSING. At an adjourned meeting of Perthshire Quarter Sessions, it was agreed to recommend that the license-holders of Perthshire should close their premises on 1st January (New Year's Day).

CO-OPERATIVE FESTIVAL. The annual festival of the City of Perth Co-operative Society was held in the City Hall on Friday last. The hall was crowded in every part. Mr George Macfarlane, the President, who occupied the chair, remarked that the festival that night was a record one numerically. Last year's sales amounted to £177,113, and this year £189,849, being an increase of £12,736. The profits, after paying interest, allowing depreciation on buildings, &c., and allocating sums to reserves, provided, and a donation fund, enabled the payment of over £24,000 in dividends. The capital account now stood at £78,012, an increase during the year of £4587. If to the sum of £78,012 they added the reserve fund of £37,550—(plus)—£450 had been devoted to educational purposes, and the membership now stood at 4764. During the year the Society showed visible signs of progress in opening a range of commodious shops and a number of well-arranged dwelling-houses at Craigie. At the Feu property the cottage building was progressing, and on the same property preparations were being made on a scale of some magnitude for housing their horses. Looking at their institution in all its aspects, they saw proof of extension and signs of consolidation, which showed that their cause was not going back. In the course of the evening excellent music was supplied by the Glasgow Male Voice Quartette. A special feature was a cinematograph display of notable scenes in South Africa.

HISTORICAL PERTH. A letter was read at the Town Council from the Committee of Glasgow International Exhibition applying for the objects of historical or antique interest belonging to Perth. The Lord Provost, in moving that the application be granted, said it was their duty as an ancient and Royal Burgh, to do what they could to make this great Exhibition a splendid success. They had a good number of historical objects of interest which, he thought, they might confide to the care of the Exhibition Committee. Dean of Guild Chalmers seconded, and remarked that there were many citizens who possessed objects of great antiquity, and if these were handed to the committee to swell the collection, they would be responsible for them. The application was granted, the matter being remitted to the Magistrates with powers.

THE TAY GLASS WORKS—CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE. On Friday night last an interesting event in the commercial life of the Fair City took place in the Moncrieff Arms Hotel, when the employees of the Tay Glass Works were entertained to dinner, and Mr William Toney, the head of the firm, was presented with a silver salver, along with a gold brooch for Mrs Toney, on the occasion of the jubilee of the works. The presentation was made by Mr John Campbell, coal merchant, who remarked that the fame of the eureka gudge glasses which the founder of the firm invented was world-wide. Mr Toney suitably replied. The salver, which was supplied by Lord Provost Macgregor, was a fine specimen of that gentleman's work. Engraved on the plate was an excellent portrait of Mr Toney, along with a picture of the works.

PERTH UNITED FREE PRESBYTERY. The monthly meeting of this Presbytery was held in the West Church Hall on Tuesday—Rev. Archibald Sutherland, Moderator, presiding. The Rev. Dr. Bannerman gave in the report of the Committee on the Union celebrations, and stated that the whole expense had been met by collection, while the expense of the luncheon had been met by Sir Robert Puller. It was agreed to thank Sir Robert Puller for his kindness, and the great interest he had taken in the matter. It was also agreed to put on record the deep sense of the excellent services rendered by the Committee, and especially the Conveners, Sir John Addie and the Rev. Dr. Bannerman, and the other Conveners. Standing Committees and Conveners were subsequently appointed. The Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Seco., again accepted office as editor of the supplement to the "Missionary Magazine."

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!—Sufferers from cramp, lumbago, pains in the back, drowsy mind and watery eyes, who have tried the ordinary remedies, will find a positive cure in HOLLAND'S GUMMUT. This is a small bottle containing 12 capsules, 12 pills, 12 tablets, or 12 drops, from Holland's Medical Hall, Chesham, Yorks. Do not put off. If you cannot get these capsules, pills, tablets, or drops, write to the Proprietor, and he will send them post free.

SUTHERLAND BENEFIT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The Parish Council of Dornoch have subscribed for all the poor resident in the parish on the terms of the following circular and annexed scheme, signed by Miss E. A. Stevenson, General Secretary:— The Executive Committee of this Association, having recently been asked by a Parish Council as to the terms on which they could supply nursing for paupers during illness, again beg respectfully to bring under the notice of the various Parish Councils in the county of Sutherland the following proposals and annexed scheme, which was formulated in 1896. The Executive Committee would point out that under the existing Poor Law Acts the Parish Councils have power to provide nursing for paupers. In the forty-ninth annual report of the Board of Supervision, year 1893-94, page xviii., the following passage occurs:— "UP-KEEP OF PUBLIC NURSES.—A Parochial Board enquired of us if they could legally subscribe to a fund for the up-keep of public nurses, and we stated that we saw no objection to a subscription, provided an understanding was come to that pauper patients are to be attended." The Executive Committee feel assured that the Parish Councils will readily appreciate the benefits which the adoption of such a scheme will confer on the sick poor under their care. Any further information that may be desired will be given by the General Secretary on application.

SCHEME FOR PROVIDING NURSING FOR SICK PAUPERS. A nurse will be supplied on the request of the inspector of poor and the parish medical officer if the Parish Council pays in advance an annual subscription of one shilling and sixpence for each pauper on the roll at the date of admission to the Association, and on the 1st of August annually thereafter, not including paupers in the Combination Workhouse, nor those resident outside the county. Fees will be charged at the rate of two shillings and sixpence for every week that any one pauper may require the services of the nurse. In all cases Parish Councils must supply board and lodgings for the nurse when attending pauper patients, to the satisfaction of the Local Committee of the Association. In all matters not specially provided for herein, the ordinary constitution and rules of the Association shall apply.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS. Mr Peter Gray, Golspie, has been appointed assistant master in the Grammar School, Campbelltown.

ROGAT—BODY FOUND.—The man who was reported in this column a last week as having gone missing from Rogat district was found dead two miles west from Achintoline. Death was due to exposure.

THE DORNOCHE RAILWAY.—At a meeting of the Directors in Dornoch on Monday last it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Highland Railway Company (the constructing Company), to proceed immediately with the completion of the turnpike road at the Mound Junction, with a view to the necessary for the safety of the public. It was also resolved to forthwith advertise for tenders for the completion of the line, three-fourths of which have already been constructed.

LAIRG—DECISION IN THE OVERSTOCKING CASE.—Sheriff Mackenzie has issued his judgment in the action at the instance of the Managing Committee under the provisions of the Crofters Common Grazing Regulation Act of 1891 against Donald Mackenzie, crofter, Lairg, for overstocking of the common grazing at Lairg. His lordship finds that regulations are set forth in No. 9 of process were made as to the number of stock each crofter who had a right of grazing was entitled to put upon the common grazing known as the Ord Pasture, Gruids, Lairg: Finds that, in accordance with said regulations, the defender, as paying a rent of £9 11s 9d, is entitled to graze on said common pasture 28 sheep, 5 cattle beasts, and 2 horses, and no more; finds that on various and frequent occasions during the past two years defender has been keeping on said common pasture a greater number of stock than he was entitled to, and this in defiance of representations, both verbal and written, made to him by the pursuers and their clerk and constable, William Black, and, in short, that during this period the defender has always had more or less of an overstock on the grazings in question; finds that the pursuers, as the committee vested with the power of regulating the use of the said grazing, have, after due enquiry and deliberation, officially assessed the damage caused by the action of the defender in overstocking the same at the sum of £5 for each of the said two years, and that this amount, in view of the whole circumstances, is reasonable. Therefore decrees against the defender for payment to the pursuers of the sum of £10 in name of penalty for overstocking the said common grazing; finds him liable in the expenses of the pursuers, including those expenses reserved by the interlocutor of the 1st October last; allows an account of said expenses to be lodged, and remits the same to the auditor for taxation, according to scale 1, for report, and decrees.

GOLSPIE—SECONDARY EDUCATION.—A meeting of the County Committee of Sutherland on Secondary Education was held here last week for the purpose of considering the proposed drawing class for teachers, and the appointment of the instructor, and other matters relating thereto, under paragraph 4 of the technical scheme for the present year. Mr D. Munro Fraser, H.M.I.S., said that the subject of drawing was assuming more importance daily, and it was therefore absolutely necessary that teachers should be well up in the subject. The "D" certificate would no longer be sufficient, and it was a prevalent mistake which ought to be dispensed from the minds of those teachers who possessed the "D" certificate to suppose that that under future requirements they would be able to earn the higher payments. He (the Chairman) was in hopes that they should get the class started about the 21st of December, and he proposed to issue a circular asking School Boards to give the schools in the county a fortnight's holiday, so that the teachers could attend the class which he would suggest should be held in Golspie as the most central place if the Committee were agreeable to these proposals. A letter was thereafter read from Mr R. L. Wilson, hon. secretary of the Sutherland Branch E.I.S., thanking the committee for proposing to allocate funds for the further instruction of teachers in drawing, and pointing out that it would be advantageous to have the classes started at an early date, and conducted by a teacher competent to carry on the work,

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on the lines laid down by the Scotch Education Department in circular No 294. The letter further stated that the meeting was unanimously of opinion that the classes should be held in Golspie. The Chairman's proposals were agreed to, and a circular on the subject was drawn up and ordered to be sent to the School Boards throughout the county. The circular stated that the class should meet within the Public School, Golspie, on or about the 21st of December next, for the first time, and be held continuously during the succeeding fortnight. At the same meeting the Committee's report on Secondary Education for the past year was read. In the document it was stated that the examiner in his report says "the progress generally shows gradual improvement in style."

TAIN NEWS. ODDFELLOWS' SOCIAL GATHERING.—Last night the members of the St Duthus Lodge of Oddfellows held their annual social gathering in the Public Hall. Bro. James Maitland, architect, presided. The meeting was open only to members, honorary members, and their lady friends. A dance followed.

GOLF CLUB.—At a meeting of the Management Committee of the St Duthus Golf Club, held in the Royal Hotel on Tuesday evening, Councillor Donald Macleod was unanimously appointed to the office of Treasurer, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr Jennings, who still, however, retains the post of Secretary. It was resolved at the same meeting to hold a concert next year. The Club's funds on or about the 18th January.

LODGE OF FREEMASONS.—At the annual meeting of the St Duthus Lodge of Freemasons—presided over by Bro. James Maitland—the chief business was the nomination of office-bearers, and the following appointments were made:—J.P.M., Bro. James Maitland; R.W.M., Bro. James Munro; D.M., Bro. Charles Rattray; S.M., Bro. Wm. Ross; S.W., Bro. R. T. Stewart; J.W., Bro. Jennings; Treas., Bro. Charles Mackenzie; Secy., Bro. Alex. Ross; S.D., Bro. Dawson; Tyler, Bro. Angus Ross.

DINGWALL NEWS.

FREE MASONRY.—The brethren belonging to the Fingal Lodge of Free Masons have elected the following office-bearers for the ensuing year:—R.W.M., Captain James H. Bisset; J.P.M., Roderick Mackenzie; S.W., John Munro; J.W., Donald Mackenzie; treasurer, William Martin; secretary, John Macpherson; chaplain, W. Hay Douglas; M.A., S.D., George Mackenzie; J.D., Robert Brodie; I.G., Captain K. Wilson; stewards—Colin Mackenzie, J. A. T. Chalmers, R. T. Lunn; Tyler, Donald Fraser.

THE LATE MR DONALD MACKAY.—The death occurred at Kinnaird on Saturday last of Mr Donald Mackay, one of the oldest of the Dingwall family, who spent most of his long lifetime on the Tulloch estate as manager of several of its farms, but principally that of Docharty. Mr Mackay, who was a stalwart specimen of the Highlander, was stricken down over two years ago by paralysis, but though he could not get up, he was able to leave his bed, he latterly grew weaker, and on Saturday morning he passed away. Mr Mackay was widely known and respected throughout Wester Ross; he was a capable farm manager, and always genial, but though visited by a widow, four grown-up sons, and a daughter.

THE NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOL.—A meeting of the Dingwall School Board was held on Tuesday evening. Provost Macrae, chairman, who presided, stated that they had hoped to have the new Technical School formally opened by Mr Bignold, M.P., by this time, but Mr Bignold had not yet been able to date when he could come to Dingwall. The Chairman further stated that it was desirable to have the ceremony performed before the annual Christmas holidays, but they had no assurance from Mr Bignold that he would be north before that time. The meeting, not wishing to alter their former resolution, agreed to postpone the formal ceremony until such time as Mr Bignold could come north. The meeting considered as to additional furnishings for the new school, but the question was adjourned for further consideration.

BLACK ISLE NEWS.

FORTROSE—RAILWAY SERVICE.—Provost Geddie has just received a letter from the Manager of the Highland Railway Company acknowledging the reception of a request for the restoration of the late train from and to Fortrose, and regretting that for the time being it is impossible to comply with the popular desire.

VOUCH—COMMUNION SERVICES.—Thursday was observed as the half-yearly sacramental Fast-Day here. In the Parish Church the Rev. Mr Watson, Kiltarn, and in the United Free Church the Rev. T. Grant, Tain, officiated. On Sunday the Rev. C. Bentinck, B.D., Kirkhill, is expected to officiate in the Parish Church. In the United Free Church on Saturday the Rev. N. Gillies, Redcastle, and on Sunday and Monday the Rev. W. Macgregor (able of Johnstone) are to officiate.

FORTROSE—ACADEMIC COOKERY CLASSES.—On Tuesday cookery classes under the auspices of Rosemarkie School Board were inaugurated in the Session-House of the old Free Church pending the erection of a suitable class-room in connection with the Academy Buildings. A highly interesting demonstration lesson was given by the instructress, Miss Bruce, and by the evening a goodly supply of toothsome results witnessed to the day's energies. Messrs Fraser and Stuart as the members of the School Board Cookery Committee, were present during part of the proceedings, and addressed some suitable remarks to the members of the interesting class.

VOUCH—DEATH OF A SEPTUAGENARIAN.—The death occurred last week of Mr Alex. Jack, a highly respected native, on the anniversary of his 70th birthday. Mr Jack, who had for a considerable time been laid aside, was in early life a sailor, and had spent 14 years of his maritime life on board the "Annie," the coaling schooner of Messrs J. & T. Henderson, Fortrose. Ship models, ingeniously made by him in his retirement, were the objects of admiration to all who saw them. For some time deceased had been engaged as one of the employees on the Rosehaugh estate, where his assiduous attention to his duties was much valued. A half-holiday was given to his fellow-employees on the estate on the day of the funeral, which was a large and representative one. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. T. Kerr.

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EASTER ROSS NEWS.

EVANTON, KILTARN—THE UNION.—We understand that services in connection with the United Free Church will be held in the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Evanton, on Sabbath week, to be conducted by Rev. John Mackay, Crombagh, Inverness, late of Cromarty.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT NEAR ARDGY.—One of these murderous tinker affairs, which have become too common of late, occurred near Ardgy on Monday. The assault is such a serious matter that the assailants may yet be arraigned upon the charge of taking life. The fight took place on the public road, the principal participants being three young tinkers of the name of Stewart. One of them, Peter Stewart, was attacked by the other two, and they, after knocking Peter Stewart down, took a huge boulder of a dyke and smashed in his skull. The other tinkers, realising the serious nature of the injuries inflicted upon the wounded man, conveyed him to the doctor's house, where his injuries were promptly attended to. The injured man was then conveyed to the Ross Memorial Hospital, where he still lies in a critical condition.

WESTER ROSS NEWS.

LOCHROOM—"AM MINISTER LAIDIR."—There has just been placed in the Parish Church of Lochroom a marble tablet in memory of Rev. James Robertson, generally known in Highland annals as "Am Minister Laidir," a notable clergyman of the 18th century, famous throughout the country. The tablet is erected by three of deceased's descendants, one of whom is Sir Lewis Maciver, M.P. for West Edinburgh.

RE-VALUATION OF CROFTS.—A Gairloch crofter having written to Mr Weir, M.P., on this subject, has received the following reply:—I should like to see some action being about a reduction in the rents paid by crofters in the Gairloch district. I cannot help expressing my surprise and regret that the crofters, not only in Gairloch but generally throughout the county, fail to take advantage of the powers granted them under the Crofters Act. Why do they not make application to the Commission for a re-valuation of their crofts? This can only be done by themselves."

GAIRLOCH—MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.—The annual opening meeting of the above Society was held in Achter Public School on the evening of Thursday, the 29th ult. Mr E. N. Mackintosh, accountant, presided, and there was a fair attendance. Mr Mackintosh said—As secretary of this Society, I beg to submit a short statement of affairs since the formation of the Society, the first meeting of which was held on 23rd October, 1896. The Society is in a healthy state, financially and otherwise. It has passed through, I am glad to say, many a wordy warfare since its opening meeting, and the interest in the Society has not waned. In the year of session 1896-97 the Society had a membership of 31. In 1897-98 the membership fell to 26. In 1898-99 it was down to 17, but in 1899-1900 it again showed a total of 26. The Society exhibited no signs of impaired vitality. On motion, "Nothing succeeds like success." It affords me pleasure to say here that the Mutual Improvement Society has already been advantageous to the young men of the place. We have talent and ability amongst us, and it must not be wasted. Let us desire, therefore, to avail ourselves of our present day advantages which our Society affords. Mr Mackintosh's remarks were well received. The election of office-bearers for session 1900-1901 was then proceeded with—Honorary President, Mr J. Macdonald; Secretary, Mr J. Douglas; Vice-President, Mr J. Ross; Committee of Management—Messrs Murdoch Maclean, Kenneth Maclean, Wm. Macdonald, Murdoch Maclean, 14 Strath, and John Mackenzie; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr E. N. Mackintosh. Thereafter a goodly number of resolutions were passed, and an instructive syllabus was drawn up. The Society resolved to meet fortnightly. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE PUBLIC HALL.—At the regular monthly meeting of the Public Hall Managing Committee held on Thursday evening, the following office-bearers for the ensuing year were appointed:—Mr John Smith, Lochungain, chairman; Mr George Masson, J.P., bank agent, treasurer; Mr James R. Douglas, Bridge End, secretary; Mr William Macdonald, Mount Pleasant, curator of library and collector; and Mr Alexander Munro, junr., Lovat Terrace, librarian.

FORT-AUGUSTUS NEWS.

A CRIMINAL CAREER.—In the Inverness Sheriff Court on Tuesday last, Charles Fraser, a navvy, with several aliases, was charged with having broken into a shop at Fort-Augustus and stolen 12s in money, 20 lbs of tobacco, and 4 lbs. of ham. Accused pleaded guilty. Mr James Anderson, Procurator-Fiscal, stated that there were no less than ten previous convictions against the accused for theft. On one occasion he was sentenced by the High Court of Justice to five years' penal servitude. Sheriff Grant said the case was too serious for an adequate sentence in this Court, and he ordered the prisoner to be remitted to the High Court of Justice for sentence.

DANCE AND CONVERSATION.

A dance was given in the Public Hall by Mr James Russell, G.E., manager of the eastern section of the Inverness and Fort-Augustus Railway Construction works, in concert with Mr A. S. F. Macdonald, of his staff, to their friends in and around Fort-Augustus on the evening of Friday last. Thirty-five couples responded to the invitation. Dancing began at eight o'clock. The evening was maintained with great spirit until half-past three o'clock next morning. Amongst the ladies who graced the assembly were—The Misses Robertson and Arnott, Inverness; Miss Wilkinson, Spear Bridge; Miss Herbert, Rotha; Miss Grant, Inverness; Misses Robertson and Mackenzie, Leggan; Miss Grant, Invermoriston; Mrs and the Misses Davis, Misses Aitchison, Macdonald, Fraser, Campbell, Mrs Abernethy, Mrs Campbell, and Mrs Russell, Fort-Augustus. The gentlemen were represented by—Messrs R. A. Murray, C.E.; W. E. Fairlie, A. D. Wilson, W. Wetherston, W. Guthrie, J. Abercrombie, P. M. Macleod, I.R.; Jack Aitchison, R. W. Campbell, W. Macdonald, G. Grant, J. Wilkinson, George Masson, J.P., &c. Mr Russell ably discharged the duties of M.C. throughout, while Mrs Russell hospitably attended to the comforts of the guests. Miss Deagan, Inverness, was pianist, accompanied by Mr R. Russell on the violin. Mr Jack Aitchison, Richmond House, in calling for a vote of thanks to the hosts and Mrs Russell, said all enjoyed a highly-pleasant evening—certainly it was the happiest he and many others had experienced for many a long day. With respect to Mr Russell, they had looked upon him as a very retired gentleman; but had now found that he was not so conservative as they had judged him (laughter). Many had wished for the early completion of the Inverness and Fort-Augustus Railway, but if its continued delay meant Mr Russell's remaining in the district, they hoped it might be prolonged indefinitely (cheers). Mr Russell, in a few well-expressed sentences, acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Inverness and Fort-Augustus Railway, and himself, whereupon the party gave three rousing cheers—and one cheer more for Mrs Russell for their kind entertainers, and, with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," a record social evening in Fort-Augustus was brought to a close.

FORRES AND NAIN UNITED FREE PRESBYTERY.—A meeting of this Presbytery was held in the hall of the High Church, Nain, on Wednesday last—Rev. Mr Watson, Forres, moderator. There was a large attendance of members. Rev. Mr Hendry, Forres, said a committee appointed at the previous meeting of the Presbytery made some arrangements for collecting money for the Findhorn disaster fund, but found that the Town Council of Forres had spread their net so wide that there was nothing left for the special committee to arrange. They sent a letter to the "Free Church Monthly" on the subject, but a letter had been received from the editor that the "Monthly" was already printed, and the notice could not, therefore, be inserted. The Moderator having stated that he found now amounted to over £200, it was agreed to insert in the minutes an expression of satisfaction at the large amount that had been collected. The Clerk (Rev. Dr Winter, Dyke) said that the Committee had not made certain arrangements in regard to the election of commissioners to the General Assembly be made at the April meeting, and at the same time that Presbyterial reports for the Synod be prepared. This was agreed to, with the exception that the latter were not definitely settled for the meeting at Nain. It was agreed to defer consideration of the Clerk and Presbyterial officials' salaries until the next meeting of the Presbytery.

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BOAT OF GARTEN—LITERARY SOCIETY.—The newly-formed Boat of Garten and Kincardine Literary Society is now in full swing. It meets at Boat of Garten and Kincardine on alternate Friday evenings. The subjects already discussed are—"The Fats" by Rev. Messrs Macdonald, lead and Duncan; "Books v. Companions," Rev. Mr Duncan and Mr Macniven; papers on "Superstitions," Rev. Mr Macleod, and on "Friendship," Rev. Mr Macniven; "Dancing," Mr Macniven and another. There will be a public debate on the subject of "The House of Commons" to be turned into a House of Commons, discussing the Queen's Speech.

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INVERGARRY NEWS. GLENGARRY LITERARY AND SOCIAL CLUB. The weekly meeting of the Club was held in the school on Wednesday evening. The lecturer was the Rev. Norman Maclean, minister of Glengarry, who chose to speak "About Books." The rev. gentleman made the case for rare and curious editions, and the flood of trashy literature of the present day. In particular he censured Marie Corelli's latest novel, "The Master Christian," the tone of which he did not consider elevating. The reading of standard authors—men whose work had stood the test of time—was most profitable, and to give one a keener interest in an author he advised the reading of the biography of that author before taking up his works. The lecture was well attended and much appreciated.

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STORNOWAY.

Report of meeting of Stornoway Harbour Commission will be found on page 3.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.—Donald Macdonald ("Black") tinker, was fined 10s on Thursday by Bailie J. M. Morrison for committing a breach of the peace in town on 31st October.

KNOCKIANDE SCHOOL.—Mr R. Paterson, Grimsay, North Uist, has been appointed headmaster of Knockiande Public School, Lochs, in succession to Mr Montgomery, who has accepted the headmastership of Barra Public School.

NORWEGIAN HERRING FISHERY.—The following official information has been received from the Norwegian Fisheries Commission for Great Britain:—The herring fishing up to 1st inst. is as follows:—Large herrings, 77,500 barrels, against 3775 barrels to the same date last year.

FOR ARREARS.—Before Sheriff Campbell on Wednesday, the Estate Management had a number of debts recovery and small debt actions against crofters from Dell, Habb, and Lional, Ness, for rent and arrears of rent. Decrees were in each case obtained.

QUARRIERS' HOMES.—We understand arrangements have been made for holding the usual benefit entertainment for the Quarry Home on Friday, 23rd December. Dr Murray has kindly consented to deliver a lecture, and a number of local artists have agreed to contribute to the musical part of the programme.

ASSAULT.—Before Bailie J. M. Morrison on Thursday, Kenneth Macleod, tailor, Francis Street, was convicted of assaulting Roderick Smith, son of Alex. Smith, labourer, on 5th November by knocking him to the ground and there kicking him. He was fined 7s 6d or three days.

CONTRAVENING SALMON FISHERIES ACT.—In a Justice of Peace Court on Thursday—ex-Provost Smith (presses), Mr John Mackenzie, merchant, and Bailie Maclellan on the Bench—Farquhar Maclellan, John Mackay, and Donald Mackay, three young men from Achmore, pleaded guilty to a charge of taking unclean or unseasonable salmon on a tributary of the Laxay River on 1st November. They were fined 2s 6d, with 6s 8d of expenses each.

HORSES LEFT IN CHARGE OF CARTS.—Donald Murray, carter, Garrabost, was on Thursday fined 5s by Bailie J. M. Morrison for leaving his horse and cart on the street unattended. Donald Morrison, carter, Coullregoin, had to pay 2s 6d for displaying an equal confidence in the staying powers of his horse. Malcolm Smith, carter, Laxdale, was also mulcted in a half-crown for endangering the lieges by leaving his horse on the public street without an attendant.

DEATH FROM EXPOSURE.—On Friday morning last Donald Macleod (73), crofter, residing at 63 Coll, was found lying out on a neighbouring croft in an unconscious condition. He had partly dressed himself of his clothing, and had apparently been lying out since the previous evening. He was carried to the nearest house, a distance of about forty yards, and was here attended to by Dr Mackenzie, Stornoway. He, however, succumbed that evening without regaining consciousness. Macleod went to Knock Point, on Thursday to look for a sheep that had strayed from him, and was seen by his own daughter near Coll farm on the way home on Thursday evening. His daughter was at the time on the way to Stornoway, where she was employed as a herring gutler.

HEAVY PENALTY.—Malcolm Mackenzie, wholesale spirit dealer, Keith Street, who was recently convicted for breach of his certificate, was brought before Justices of the Peace ex-Provost Smith, Mr John Mackenzie, merchant, and Bailie Maclellan on Thursday charged with selling one pint of whisky to John Macdonald, labourer, Tong Road. He pleaded guilty, but in extenuation said on this, as on the former occasion, the drink was supplied by his storeman, whom he had dismissed for the offence. This was Mackenzie's third conviction, and he was fined £20, with £1 12s of expenses, or three months' imprisonment. He got 14 days in which to pay the fine.

THE "KING OF BORVA."—A paragraph has recently been going the rounds of the papers to the effect that Mr J. Hunter, who died recently at Donar-Bridge, Sutherlandshire, was the original of the "King of Borva," and that his daughter was the prototype of "Sheila" in Mr William Black's novel, "A Princess of Thule." We ("Westminster Gazette") have the very best authority for stating that there is no foundation whatever for these assertions. Mr Black had arranged the plot and characters of his charming novel before he went to Lewis at all, and he chose that place simply on account of its remoteness, and because it was almost unknown to outsiders. Mr Black stayed at the inn at Garrynahine, then occupied by Mr Hunter, because he had permission to fish in Loch Rog. In fact, Mr Black, who was always an enthusiastic angler, caught his first salmon there. Mr Black was much annoyed when paragraphs began to appear connecting the Hunters with the story. He often used to say that he would publish a contradiction, but, unfortunately, he died without having done so. All the more necessary is it now, therefore, that the truth should be known.—"Quill Penne," writing in "St Andrew" on the same subject, says—"To-day I have been speaking to the one man in all Scotland who should know best the origins of the 'King of Borva' and 'Sheila.' He is a Glasgow man, an old friend of Black's, and the one who accompanied him to Lewis for the purpose of collecting material for the novel in question. So far as 'Sheila' is concerned, he says she was a pure creation of Black's imagination. There never was any one woman in Lewis who suggested 'Sheila' to Black, who, long after she had become a famous creation of fiction, used to express to his friends his amusement at the number of claimants to the honour of having suggested a character that was a fanciful 'composite' of all the women he had himself known and liked."

"LINSSEED COMPOUND" cures Coughs and Colds. Gives immediate relief. 93d and 134d.

SERMON TO YOUNG MEN.—On Sunday last, in the James Street United Free Church, Rev. Mr Hunter preached his monthly sermon to young men. His subject was "The Bible Right."

The Registrar's returns for the parish for the week ending Thursday are:—Births, 8 (5 males and 3 females); marriages, 3; deaths, 3 (males).

HIDDEN MARITIME DANGERS.—About midnight on Wednesday the Norwegian galley "Mars," of Stavanger (Captain Hansen), on passage with rock salt from Liverpool to Fisher Row (Forth), put in here under jury rig. The master reports that on 28th November, when about 25 miles north of St Kilda, with a fresh gale of wind his vessel struck some unknown obstruction, the shock of which dismasted her—the foremast and jib-boom with all sails attached going over the side. She drifted as far north as Suiskirk, when, having got under jury rig, he was able, with fair wind, to make for Stornoway, where he arrived as stated on Wednesday night, with crew very much exhausted. The obstruction was not seen, all that was felt being a shock as if the vessel had dropped heavily on something partly under water. The casualty occurred about ten during a very dark night.

GLASGOW LEWIS AND HARRIS ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of this Association held on Tuesday last a paper by Mr John W. Mackenzie was delivered, entitled, "Notes of a Trip to British Central Africa." An interesting description of life on the Zambezi and Shire rivers was given. The characteristics of the country were described, the habits and customs of the natives were sketched, and valuable information given regarding the British expeditions to these parts, while the political conditions prevailing in the British and Portuguese territories on the East Coast of Africa were described and their character contrasted. Mr Mackenzie was formerly secretary of the Association, and resided for the last six years in Chinde, East Africa.

FISHING—RECORD AVERAGE.—The lochs fishing still continues very productive, and towards the close of last week some very heavy hauls were delivered. On Friday the Pansy had 80, and the Waker Lily 100 crans. On Saturday a most extraordinary fishing was landed, 14 boats having the abnormal average of 101 crans, their total catch being 1425 crans. This, we believe, is unprecedented at any one time. The boats were:—Rival and Hephzibah 70 crans each, Blue Ribbon and Catherine Latto 80 each, Jessie and Isabella 90, Swift, Surs, Golden Rule, Ocean, Flying Venus, and Clan Macleod 100 each; Meistic 100, Home Rule 125, Baden Powell 140, and Balgownie 160 crans. Prices were 15s to 16s 6d. On Wednesday of this week the deliveries were:—Olive Leaf 80 crans, Flying Venus 100, and Bayle Head 140 crans. Prices 17s for fresh and 13s for salted. On Thursday the Star of Bethlehem and the Missionary landed 50 crans each, and the Princess of Thule 130 crans. Prices were the same as the previous day. In addition to the landings by the fishing boats, very large quantities were brought for curers by steamers and smacks.

OBSTRUCTING THE FOOTPATH.—In the Burgh Police Court on Thursday—before Bailie J. M. Morrison—no fewer than fifteen cases came up for disposal, most of them being for contraventions of the Burgh Act. John Carson, message boy, Keith Street, was charged with obstructing the footway by walking on it with a baker's bread board on his head. He pleaded guilty, and was admonished. James Anderson, message boy, Newton, admitted going along the footpath with a hand truck. He was admonished. John Macdonald, message boy, Bayhead, was fined 1s 6d for wheeling a barrow along the pavement. Malcolm Maclellan, message boy, Pringle's Court, had to pay 1s 6d for occupying too much of the pavement by walking along it with a baker's basket on his head. Angus Macmillan, labourer, Scotland Street, 2s 6d for wheeling a barrow on the side path. Norman Macleod, message boy, Point Street, admitted wheeling a truck on the pavement, and was admonished. Hector Mackenzie, apprentice baker, Sandwickhill, was also admonished for hurling a baker's hand-ban on the footpath.

A GREAT MISSIONARY CHURCH.—The week of prayer for Foreign Missions appointed by the United Free Church has been very fully observed in connection with the Rev. Peter Macdonald's congregation. Prayer meetings were held at Coullregoin, Laxdale, and Sandwick, as well as in the town. On Monday evening the closing one of this series of meetings was held in Gaelic in the Church—Rev. Peter Macdonald presiding. There was a large attendance, Mr Macdonald remarking that he was deeply gratified at seeing the interest shown in foreign missions when there was such a large turnout at a meeting called a week night for the express purpose of praying for the success of the missions. Seeing that they were met in connection with this, he thought it was but right that they should have some idea of the Foreign Missionary strength of the Church to which they now belonged. He referred to considerable length to the persecutions in China, in connection with which hundreds of European and American men, women, and children were put to degrading and cruel deaths, besides thousands of native Christians robbed, tortured, and martyred. The Free Church had not had a mission in China, although there were in connection with other Churches there men who had been brought up in the Free Church. The United Presbyterian Church had had a great mission station there. They had now, as the United Free Church, a common interest in China, as well as other foreign countries in which missionary operations were carried on. The Church to which they belonged had now 792 stations, there being 156 principal stations and 636 out stations. Of European agents they had now 128 ordained missionaries, 49 medical missionaries, 106 Women's Society missionaries, and 50 European evangelists—in all, 333. They would be interested in knowing the number of native agents in these dark countries where their Church laboured, and it would be a reason of thankfulness for them to know that while they have 333 European agents, they have 2230 native agents, there being 35 ordained native pastors, 18 native licentiates, 539 evangelists, 108 teachers, 553 Women's Society teachers, and 25 Bible women. But that was not all. There were now of natives in foreign countries connected with their Church, in full communion, 41,867, while there were of candidates—that is, persons who had come under spiritual concern, but who had not yet been admitted as communicants—13,667. Besides that, they had 8 colleges and 896 schools, all teaching the Word of God, and it would be to them matter of great joy to know that attending these schools and colleges there were no fewer than 56,135 pupils—the future hope of the countries in which they resided. He concluded by saying that it was a great privilege for them to be connected with a Church that had such a Foreign Mission connection, and a great privilege for them to join in the supplications being offered by the 1900 congregations of their great Church at home, as well as in the Foreign Mission field.

"LINSSEED COMPOUND" of 35 years' Proven Efficacy for Coughs and Colds. 93d and 134d.

THE UNITED FREE CHURCH PRESBYTERY OF LEWIS.

SITUATION IN THE ISLAND.

THE BACK PROPERTY.

A meeting of this Presbytery was held at Stornoway on Wednesday last. There was a good attendance. It appears that the Presbytery consists of twelve ministerial charges. The ministerial roll was made up. It was decided that the final quarterly fellowship meeting be held at Stornoway on Wednesday next at twelve o'clock noon.

BACK AND THE UNITED FREE CHURCH.

The Presbytery Clerk reported that he was in possession of reliable information that there were in the Back district persons who wanted it to be made known that they were desirous of being regarded as belonging to the United Free Church. They had no desire, however, that at present any separate services should be held for them. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to the wishes of the United Free Church people at Back, but instructed the Clerk to have it made known that whenever these wanted to have spiritual ordinances administered to them, their request would receive the sympathetic consideration of the Presbytery.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS AT BACK.

The Clerk read a copy of a letter which had been sent to the minister of Back by the law agent of the Church, and which had been sent him as Presbytery Clerk. While it was not deemed desirable to give a copy of this letter to the press until permission for doing so should be obtained, the Presbytery thought that such of the people of Back as adhered to the United Free Church should know that official intimation had been made that the church and other property at Back belong to the United Free Church.

PRESENT SITUATION IN THE ISLAND.

Reports were given in from almost every congregation in the island as to the attendance at church services since the beginning of November. From these it appeared that while in some instances the attendance was disappointingly meagre, in almost every instance there had been a steady increase Sabbath after Sabbath, more than one minister reporting that they had last Sabbath audiences of several hundreds. Several of those who keep away from church do so because they are being intimidated, and because they find it difficult to oppose the prevailing opinion of the villages in which they are resident. An interesting feature of the report was the warm loyalty shown by those who had stood by the ministers and the deep spiritual earnestness that seems to mark the weekly and Sabbath services.

Assessors were appointed to act with the minister in such places—only two in number—as have been left without a quorum of elders to form a Session.

THE "FREE CHURCH"

The anti-unitarians are showing considerable activity in most districts of the island, and at present they are advertising for tenders for the erection of a mission hall at Crossbost, Lochs.

PRESENTATION TO A LOCHS TEACHER.

An interesting function took place in Fidigary Schoolhouse on Friday last, 30th November, when Mr Alex. Falconer, headmaster of Cromore Public School, and late of Lurebost, was presented by his friends and former neighbours with substantial tokens of the esteem in which he is still held in the district he recently left.

The Rev. John Macdougall, of Crossbost, presided over the meeting in the Schoolhouse, and in suitable terms indicated its purpose. At the same time he expressed his satisfaction that, although Mr Falconer was somewhat further removed from his former friends and acquaintances, he was still resident within the parish.

The presentation was thereafter made by Mr Alex. G. Burns, of Fidigary Public School, who at the outset referred to the long and friendly relations which had always existed between Mr Falconer and his neighbours. He had won the regard of all by the frankness of his manner, his high spirits, and his engaging social qualities. The excellent relations that had existed during Mr Falconer's tenure of office at Lurebost between himself and the parents of the children he taught furnished the best proof of their satisfaction with him. It was with sincere regret they parted from him. Mr Falconer was equally well liked by his brethren in the teaching profession, and was distinguished among them for his extensive literary knowledge, which made him a most entertaining companion, and for the readiness of wit, which never failed him, and went far to enliven a sometimes rather dull educational meeting. Mr Burns, in conclusion, expressed the good wishes of all present and of absent friends for Mr Falconer's prosperity and happiness in his new sphere, and thereafter handed over to him a handsome gold Albert and seal, with appropriate inscription, and a fine meerschaum pipe.

Mr Falconer, in his reply, said that he felt deeply moved and extremely grateful for such altogether unexpected kindness at the hands of his friends. He would never forget that night, and, while he could not lay claim to all the good qualities that were ascribed to him, he felt glad to know that others thought well of him. Whether it was a weakness

in him or not, he, like most other men, valued appreciation. He felt sorry at leaving Lurebost, and he would always cherish pleasant memories of the days he had spent there and the friends he had made in the district.

Mr Montgomery, Breaslete Public School, Mr Gunn, Lurebost, and Mr Kennedy, Lurebost, spoke afterwards, and expressed their pleasure at being present and their hearty concurrence in all that had been said of Mr Falconer.

A very happy evening was afterwards spent by the company, who were much indebted to the hospitality of Mrs Burns.

STORNOWAY PARISH COUNCIL THE POINT CEMETERY QUESTION.

The usual monthly meeting of the Stornoway Parish Council was held on Wednesday, the 27th ult.—Mr Aeneas M. Mackenzie, chairman, presiding—and there was almost a full attendance of members.

EYE CEMETERY.

At last meeting, it will be remembered, rather a hot discussion took place over the actings of some of the Point Councillors and the people of the district in approaching the estate for land to extend the existing burial-ground at Aignish, and it was then decided to submit a full narrative of the matter in dispute to the Local Government Board for their guidance. A letter was now read from the Secretary to the Local Government Board, in which it is stated:—

"The Board regret to learn that certain of the Parish Councillors and the ratepayers of the Point district should have embarked on the scheme to which you refer for providing a new burial-ground, the cost of which must be met by private contribution, and cannot be charged against the rates. It occurs to the Board to suggest that the existing Churchyard at Aignish should be closed. If so, proceedings might be taken by the Parish Council with that view (before the Sheriff, under the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act, 1855, and section 146 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1897, or by the Local Authority under section 16 (1) of the latter Act. The former appears to the Board to be the best course, as, if the existing ground were closed by Order in Council, a new ground would then necessarily be provided by the Parish Council in terms of the statute whether accommodation were privately provided or not."

After discussion, the Chairman submitted the following resolution:—"Finding that the Parish Council is helplessly hindered from carrying out their former intention of extending or improving this cemetery under the Burial-Grounds Act, as contemplated, and that entirely from the heritors, Major Matheson, or his chamberlain, Mr Orrock, having promised to give a self-constituted committee the only suitable ground contiguous thereto, I move that steps be taken to have the arrangement with the heritors as regards this cemetery now rescinded."

This was seconded by Mr Donald Macleod, and became the unanimous finding of the meeting.

In connection with the discussion that took place at last Council meeting, the following somewhat involved document, dated "Bayle Schoolhouse, November 5th," was read:—

"At a meeting of representatives from every township of Point district the following resolutions were duly moved, seconded, and carried unanimously:—

(1) That this meeting of the Point ratepayers strongly protest against the action of any members of the Parish Council at their last meeting that in violating the resolution moved by Councillor Donald Mackenzie, seconded by Councillor Donald Crichton, and supported by Councillor Neil Macdonald on 26th June, 1899, and became the finding of the meeting. The resolution was as follows:—"That the Parish Council take nothing more to do with the Eye Cemetery—until they are requested by the Point ratepayers to do so."

(2) That this meeting earnestly give warning to any Councillor or Councillors that represent the Point division who shall in any way support any motion tending to force the poor people of Point under the Burial Grounds Act which is unbearable to them for which they will not take any other explanation from any to suit his own ends in endeavouring to bring it about to resign their seats as they are no more representing the Point ratepayers but themselves.

(3) That this meeting of ratepayers press on the Parish Council and Clerk to forward all letters and resolutions and minutes regarding the Burial Ground of Eye which they possessed since 1897 from which date they maintain that they got the old burial ground from its Heritor, and that the above be forwarded to the Local Government Board, as the above Board is approached by the Council on the question of the Eye Cemetery, and that without delay, so that the Board will have both sides of the question to decide upon.

(Sgd.) "JOHN MACKAY, crofter, Garrabost, Chairman."

"N.B.—These resolutions are to be put along with the minutes of last meeting."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The purchase of a house for the sexton at Sandwick Cemetery has been practically agreed upon.

This being the annual Assessment Appeal Court, a number of appeals were submitted and disposed of.

TRAWLING.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr Donald Mackenzie, to write the Fishery Board pointing out the urgency for having a cruiser sent down to Lewis to protect the interests of the line fishermen against illegal trawling, and also pointing out the necessity for having a cruiser stationed permanently at or near Stornoway.

Wholesale Agents for LEWIS— Kenneth Maclellan & Co., 6 NORTH BEACH STREET, STORNOWAY.

EMBRACE THIS OPPORTUNITY WIDE-AWAKE BARGAIN SEEKERS. Should send at once for H. SAMUEL'S marvelously complete CATALOGUE OF PRIZES FOR FRUGAL PEOPLE. It is an interesting treatise on the greatest of novels as to read. It will be sent for the asking to all intending purchasers as a POSITIVELY FREE GIFT. Beautiful designs and descriptions, such an abundance of Bright, Tempting, Charming JEWELLERY, WATCHES, DIAMONDS, PLATE, CUTLERY, &c., that no one ought to deny themselves the pleasure of seeing what Art, Taste, and Fashion prescribe for personal use and home adornment. H. SAMUEL has reached the climax of rich elegance and varied brilliancy. A FULL MONTH'S FREE TRIAL. Allowed with every purchase, money being refunded in full or goods exchanged if there is any dissatisfaction. As a practical demonstration of this unprecedented Bargain offering, send P.O.O. for 25/- to H. SAMUEL, and you will receive by return of post the MARVEL "ACME" PATENT LEVER WATCH, in solid sterling silver case, with dust and damp-tight cap and with H. SAMUEL'S Special Improvements protected by HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT, including a Five Years' Warranty to keep it in repair FREE OF COST. The price places this Watch within the reach of all, and your verdict—complete satisfaction—will simply be a retention of the opinion of thousands before you. Beware of Spurious Imitations which flood the markets. With each purchase a handsome BONUS REWARD PRIZE is included from H. Samuel's Grand Distribution, full particulars of which are given in H. Samuel's Album of Bargains, together with Ten Lists of Presents. Nothing but the Plain Truth is said of H. Samuel's Manufactures, which are ALWAYS RELIABLE, ALWAYS VALUABLE, ALWAYS SATISFACTORY, LARGEST SALE in the world. Save pounds by writing your name and address and sending it to H. SAMUEL TO-DAY—by next mail you will receive this Astonishing Volume ABSOLUTELY FREE. H. SAMUEL, 232 2 1/2, Market Street, MANCHESTER.

CHURCH NOTES.

The Dundee United Free Presbytery have sustained the call from the Loches West Church, Dundee, to the Rev. Mr Nicoll, Nairn. The call has been signed by 417 members and 76 adherents.

After a devoted and faithful connection with the Presbytery of Inverness for 36 years, Rev. Mr Fraser, Petty, has resigned the position of Clerk to the Presbytery on account of failing health.

Rev. Mr Wallace, assistant to Dr Norman Macleod, High Church, Inverness, has been duly elected minister to the church and parish of Abercorn.

GLASGOW UIST AND BARRA ASSOCIATION.—At the usual monthly meeting of this Association, held on Wednesday evening in the Waterloo Rooms, Mr Angus Robertson read a Gaelic paper entitled "Ceilidh nan Gaidheal," in which he dealt with the early history of the Gael, tracing him from the cradle of the race across Europe to Great Britain. He dwelt at considerable length on the hardships endured by the Gael in Europe and the indomitable perseverance which they displayed in the face of trials. He spoke hopefully of the future of the race. The usual votes of thanks were accorded. We would remind our readers of the annual gathering of the natives of Uist and Barra, which takes place in the Grand Hall, Waterloo Rooms, on Thursday, 20th December, under the presidency of D. D. J. Macaulay, Halifax. An excellent concert party have been engaged, and there is the prospect of a large gathering.

ANGUS MACLEOD, PAINTER, GLAZIER, AND PICTURE FRAMER. 44 CHURCH STREET, STORNOWAY. Oils, Paints, Varnishes, Glass, Paperhangings, and Picture Mouldings, wholesale and retail.

ADVERTISING TO LET YOU KNOW WHERE TO BUY YOUR Blankets, Sheets, and Bed-Covers. Flannels, Plaquettes, and Serges. Gaiters, Ticks, and Window Blinds. Towels, Table-Cloths, and Hearth-Rugs. Save yourself the painful trudging, searching there and everywhere for better Value it! We give VALUE: THAT'S OUR PORTE.

STORNOWAY RATS. Have come this "too fly" to be allured with traps. Lawrence's Vermin Killer is the best and most reliable poison. Rats sometimes die in their runs, but Lawrence's Vermin Killer is so prepared that after death their bodies have little or no smell, and the unpleasant smell which is so characteristic of many of the largely advertised vermin destroyers. A Minister writes:—"It did effective work; two large rats were found dead within a few feet of the poisoned bait." A Blacksmith writes:—"I found it a most certain destroyer of rats and mice." Packets, 3d, 6d, 1s—postage 1d extra. Sole Proprietor—SAMUEL LAWRENCE, M.P.S., Chemist, 29 CROMWELL STREET, STORNOWAY, Also at ORAN and TAYBIDE.

IMPORTANT TO LADIES. Ladies' STOCKING. CHILDREN'S GLOVES. CHILDREN'S MUFFS AND GLOVES. BARGAINS IN BOOTS AND SHOES for Young and Old. BARGAINS IN Ready-Made Clothing. BARGAINS IN Lace Curtains and Cocoa Door Mats. BARGAINS IN China Tea Sets. BARGAINS IN Dinner Sets. BARGAINS IN Bedroom Sets. BARGAINS IN Melodeons, Chairs, and Trunks. BARGAINS IN Knives, Forks, Spoons, Brooms, Lamps, and Enamelled Ware. No matter what your needs may be, GIVE US A CALL AT THE STORNOWAY POLYTECHNIC. HEADQUARTERS FOR HOME-MADE COD LIVER OIL—MAIR'S.

STORNOWAY COD LIVER OIL is much superior to Norwegian. Absorbed in the purest oil produced. It is recommended by doctors as invaluable for Chest Complaints. Sold in bottles—2s per quart; 1s per pint. Postage, 7d extra. JAMES MAIR, SHELL STREET, STORNOWAY.

DELICIOUS MALAZANTEE TEA CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR FAMILY GROCER.

AGRICULTURE.

NORTHERN COUNTIES' FAT SHOW CLUB.

The thirty-third annual show of the Northern Counties Fat Show Club was held at Inverness in the saleroom of Messrs Macdonald Fraser & Co., Limited, auctioneers, on Saturday last.

The entries forward were hardly up to the numbers of last year, and the falling away was most particularly noticeable in the sheep classes.

In the shorter cattle section the bullocks were fully up to last year's average, and the heifers were of good class as usual, though top animals were not exhibited at this show.

In the sheep section the shortage in numbers is possibly due to the good prices obtained during the season for this class of stock.

The arrangements for the show were as usual in the hands of the energetic Secretary, Mr. F. T. Urquhart, Union Street, and assisted by Mr. J. Macdonald.

FORRES AND NORTHERN SHOW.

The annual show held under the auspices of the Forres and Northern Fat Cattle Club was held on Tuesday last in the Agricultural Hall, Forres.

BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW.

The Birmingham Fat Stock Show opened last Saturday. The three championship cups—the Elkington, the Thorley, and Webb & Sons—were won by the Queen, with her shorthorn heifer "Cicely," which was first at the Royal at Maidstone as a yearling.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL FAT STOCK SHOW.

In the shorthorn classes at the Scottish National Fat Show held at Edinburgh on Wednesday, Lord Rosebery was first in an entry of six young steers.

GREAT SUCCESS.

THE NEW FOOT AND HAND THRASHERS.

EVERY CROTHER should have one of these useful Fandy Thrashers, which are perfectly clean, and the lightest to drive of any make.

OVER 2200 MADE AND SOLD.

THEY ARE SO IMPROVED FOR 1899-1900 that one man, unassisted, can thresh 100 bushels per hour.

much in evidence at Inverness as she was at Edinburgh. Lord Rosebery was awarded the prize for the best female in the hall, but it was a close run for the honour with the Meikle Tassel heifer.

SOME NOTES.

Most of the sheep forward at Messrs Macdonald, Fraser, & Co.'s special sale at Inverness on Tuesday last were in small lots, and of secondary quality.

The attention of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture was, at a meeting of that body on Thursday last, drawn by a letter from the Eastern Ross Farmers' Club to the Sheriff in connection with the case in which the Sheriff had held that a farmer who shot a dog which he found worrying his sheep, was liable to the owner of the dog.

The arrangements relative to the Highland and Agricultural Society's show at Inverness next year were considered at a meeting of the directors of the Society held in Edinburgh on Wednesday last.

STOCK SALES.

INVERNESS, Tuesday.—At Hamilton & Coy.'s, of Inverness, Limited, weekly sale today there were fair supplies of cattle on offer, considering that the Company hold their annual Christmas Show on Friday of next week.

There was a large attendance of buyers, with the result that a spirited good going trade was experienced from start to finish, and a clearance effected.

STOCK SALES.

INVERNESS, Monday.—At Macdonald, Fraser, & Co.'s (Ltd.) weekly sale of fat stock there were about the usual numbers. Cattle generally were rather easier in price, although in a few cases, where exceptionally well finished stock up to 4½ per cent. live weight.

GRAIN MARKETS.

EDINBURGH, Wednesday.—Wheat, 294 qrs., being 291 less than last week. Of the wheat there were sold 214 qrs. Prices were 6d up on the top and 7d down on the average.

GLASGOW WOOL SALES.

Messrs F. H. Macleod & Sons, of Bishop Gardens Wool Stores, report as follows under date 1st December:—The position of the wool market here remains practically unchanged.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT FOR 1899-1900.

THE NEW FOOT AND HAND THRASHERS.

EVERY CROTHER should have one of these useful Fandy Thrashers, which are perfectly clean, and the lightest to drive of any make.

OVER 2200 MADE AND SOLD.

THEY ARE SO IMPROVED FOR 1899-1900 that one man, unassisted, can thresh 100 bushels per hour.

SALES AND CONTRACTS SUMMARY.

PROPERTY AND OTHER SALES. SATURDAY, December 8 (To-day)—Builder's estate at Carrbridge, with shop and stores thereon, within the office of John Mackintosh, solicitor, 15 Union Street, Inverness, at 12.

STOCK SALES.

MONDAY, December 10.—Weekly sale of fat stock at Northern Central Market Perth by John Swan & Sons.

MONDAY, December 10.—Weekly sale of fat stock at Inverness Auction Market, by Macdonald Fraser & Co., at 12.10.

MONDAY, December 10.—Weekly sale at Perth Auction Market by Macdonald Fraser & Co., at 11.30.

TUESDAY, December 11.—Weekly sale of Inverness Auction Mart by Hamilton & Co., at 12.

WEDNESDAY, December 12.—Weekly sale at Dingwall Auction Market, by MacCallum Bros., auctioneers, at 12.

WEDNESDAY, December 12.—Weekly sale at Dingwall Auction Mart, by D. Mackintosh & Co., at 12.

FRIDAY, December 14.—Weekly sale of stock at Northern Central Market, Perth, by John Swan & Sons at 10.30.

FRIDAY, December 14.—Weekly sale at Easter Ross Auction Mart, by W. Mackay & Co., at 12.

BUILDING AND OTHER CONTRACTS.

(Date given is last day for receiving offers.) MONDAY, December 10.—Reconstruction of two dwelling-houses in Telford Road, Inverness. J. H. Gall architect, 4 Lombard Street, Inverness.

WEDNESDAY, December 12.—Contracts for supplies of stores to Highland Railway Co. Tenders from stores department, Inverness, and offers to Wm. Gowenlock, Secretary of Company, Inverness.

SATURDAY, December 15.—Supply of Forage to general show at Inverness, in July next. Messrs Macdonald, & George IV. Bridge, Inverness.

WEDNESDAY, December 12.—2½ miles of piping from Geddes to Nairn; also 1½ miles of fire-pipe sewer. Specifications, &c., from Messrs Geo. Gordon & Co., C.E., Inverness, and offers to Wm. Laing, Town Clerk, Nairn.

STOCK SALE ARRANGEMENTS.

INVERNESS AUCTION MART. WEEKLY LIVE STOCK SALES. Every TUESDAY, commencing with PIGS at 11 A.M. CALVES at 11.15, FAT CATTLE at 12 Noon.

AT CATTLE AND SHEEP, STORE CATTLE and SHEEP, CALVES, and PIGS. SPECIAL SALES OF CATTLE and SHEEP at MUIR OF ORD, as Advertised.

HAMILTON & CO., OF INVERNESS, LIMITED. DINGWALL AUCTION MARKET. MACCALLUM BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS and LIVE STOCK SALESMEN.

Special attention given to FURNITURE and FARM STOCK SALES. Valuations of all kinds undertaken. Ample Keep and Accommodation for Stock arriving previous to day of sale.

WEEKLY SALES OF FAT and STORE CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, on WEDNESDAYS at Twelve Noon prompt. Sales of Horses, Carriages, and Harness as advertised.

MACCALLUM BROS., Salesmen. ABERDEEN CENTRAL MEAT MARKET.

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SPECIFIC ARTICLES

GIPSY QUEEN.

CHAPTER II.

It was the morn subsequent to the day on which the Earl of Bellamonte was placed in stately grandeur in the tomb of his ancestors. The widowed Lady Bellamonte, secluded from the household during the previous week, again presided at the morning meal. Though several shades paler than usual, and evidently burdened with some weighty sorrow, no customary form was omitted, no individual at the board treated with the slightest neglect. At its close she remained to exchange farewell greetings with a large number of friends and retainers who had assembled by invitation to do honour to the remains of the illustrious dead. With the departure of the last guest she retired to her favourite chamber, and, summoning a page, bade him request the young Earl of Bellamonte to attend her immediately.

Scarcely five minutes had elapsed when Herbert pushed aside the velvet hangings which separated the lady's bower from the ante-room, and, perceiving that his mother stood at the opposite extremity, quite motionless and overcome with grief, before a large, full-length portrait of his deceased father, he at length hesitated whether to intrude. With a second thought, however, he advanced noiselessly, and, ere she was aware of his presence, he knelt beside her, pressed her cold hands to his lips, and, in a voice of thrilling tenderness, whispered—

"Mother!"

Instantly the attitude and look of sorrow vanished. The proud, self-relying woman was herself once more, and, bidding her son arise and be seated, she paced the floor slowly with a firm, measured tread, her soul gathering courage for the conflict which she chose to meet at once.

"Herbert," said she, pausing in her walk and looking steadily into his face, "the honours, the wealth, the titles of our house now rest upon you. You will prove yourself worthy of them."

"Madam," he replied, with a determination as lofty as her own—"madam, I know to what you refer. You desire to hear me retract the announcement which I made a week since, and which so unfortunately hastened the death of my father. You, perhaps, fancy that since his title and estate have descended to me, I shall be unwilling to call the beautiful gipsy my bride. But you know me not, mother. From childhood's earliest years I have revelled in a dream of love, changing, as every waking dream does, with the progress of maturity. The ideal, dwelling for ever in my mind, has preserved me, through a thousand temptations, from the commission of a thousand faults; and when the living embodiment of this pure, sacred imagination suddenly startled me from my dream, think you, madam, that my soul had power to refuse its homage, its undivided worship? Nay, lady, nay!" he added, proudly, "you, whose beautiful lips have ever taught me to be true to myself and to my noblest impulses, you could spurn me from your presence should I take another to my bosom while Estelle alone reigns in my heart."

"But the count, Herbert," urged the mother, calmly, "how will its taunting scorn chafe your lordly spirit! I feel that I shall not long remain to do the honours of my house, and I would leave in my place one worthy of it—one to whom the world also, as well as yourself, must do homage. How, deem you, will our family jewels grace the brow of your rustic?"

"They shall never sully it!" he exclaimed, enthusiastically.

The lady bent her eye inquiringly upon him.

"If you will grant me a patient listening," continued he, "I will open my heart to you without reserve."

The mother waved her hand in assent, and again moved slowly onward.

"For three months Estelle has been my own by a solemn betrothment. Upon the day of the Earl's death she informed me that her company were resolved to move on the following morn, and that I must assist her in leaving ere the departure, or she should be forced to accompany them. Instantly I resolved that our marriage should take place that night in the chapel, and hastened to communicate to you those strange tidings. The result was as sad as unexpected. But I could not defer going to her rescue. Having paid my last duty to the corpse of my parent, I sought my bride in the place appointed, and bore her to one of safety—to the Eryie, where—"

"To the Eryie!" echoed Lady Bellamonte in an indignant voice—"to the Eryie! And, pray, what part of it have you chosen for her concealment?"

"The western tower, madam—"

"Just above your own rooms," she interrupted, with proud scorn.

"And, consequently, the more safely guarded," retorted he, quickly, catching from her eye rather than her words the suspicion which lurked in them. "But fear not, she will never claim the title of Lady Bellamonte. I will not rashly expose her gentle nature to a thousand bitter wrongs and cutting insults. To-night I lead her to the altar, and, choosing to do her ample justice, wed her as the Earl of Bellamonte. To-morrow I bestow that title and the inheritance to which it is attached upon my cousin, Orville de Lacy, and as Herbert Mortimer simply shall I bear my loved one away to the sweet breezes of her own orange bowers. Let us part in kindness, madam. The memory of your nobleness, your lofty virtues will ever remain with me; they must prove imperishable objects of love and admiration."

"But the sacrifice, Herbert; that is terrible!" expostulated the mother.

"Not so terrible as to live for ever away from the smile that is to me all of earth or heaven," returned the son, eagerly.

"But the hour of painful regret will surely come, when you would gladly return to your broad lands and honoured name. This wild passion will expire when reason shall have held her sway. Bright and beautiful as is that little wanderer to you to-day, she cannot retain your affections. Your bride should

be one of whom you can be proud, as well as love."

Thus reasoned the Lady Bellamonte, but her words persuaded not, and, rising, Herbert said—

"Ere I part, let me crave one last favour. Permit me to bring to you my pretty flower. One glance at her, dear lady, will touch your heart with sadness, and teach you to love her as a part of my joy, my life."

"You ask too much," replied the lady, coldly, and withdrawing from Herbert her hand. "It is enough for me to know that the first act of the new Earl of Bellamonte is one of dishonour, a foul and lasting stain on a name ever before bright and untarnished. Go, my lord, go; widowed, childless, and heartbroken I am, but it shall be in the power of none to say that the Lady Bellamonte forgot, even for the pleadings of her only son, what was due to her name and rank. Farewell! thou wilt hereafter be to us as one dead."

"I will not go, without your blessing, mother," said he, in a low, soft voice, that had ever been the richest music to her ear, and which now seemingly touched a note of lingering tenderness, for she laid her clasped hands a moment upon his aching head, breathed over him a mother's prayer, and then turned quickly away to conceal the gushing tears.

Subdued, but in no degree settled in his resolution, Herbert departed, and for an hour the lady continued her restless walk, the struggle evidently becoming more severe each moment; at length she murmured—

"Alas! I chide him for that which has for that for which one dashed like a glittering sunbeam across my path, and was crushed under foot but to steal back into my bosom and poison all my future life; for that which even I, after long years of ceaseless struggling, have never been able to banish, an ignoble love. Shall I yield that to him to which I have never yielded? Shall I recall the hour when that wandering minstrel tuned his harp in my father's banquet hall, and when his eyes met mine, that night when I stopped to listen to—"

The words were here absorbed in thought, and, strange as was the fact, the strong-minded, sternly disciplined, haughty lady herself forgot all else in a dream, walking a dream of earliest and purest love. The muscles of her countenance gradually relaxed, the dark shadows disappeared, and a half smile parted her thin lips, as if she were more a maiden lingering in her lover's arms, in that sweet, stolen interview; then there was a quick, burning blush, a deep heaving of the bosom, and a shower of womanly tears, each one repeating its own tale of a heart crushed, but not broken—a love concealed, but never dead.

It needed but that recall of the past to confirm, in the Lady Bellamonte, the noble resolution which had several times flitted across her mind during her interview with her son, but against whose advice of birth and station strongly argued.

Presently she stood before a large mirror, dipped her fingers in a tiny crystal vase, and bathed her eyes till every trace of tears had vanished, and gathered, in a trembling hand, the mourning veil of widowhood, she crossed the whole length of the picture gallery, and by a private staircase entered the western tower.

Pausing before the door, she bent her ear and listened intently, but not a sound reached her; with a trembling hand she drew the bolt and entered; the outer chamber was unoccupied, but a low, regular breathing from the inner apartment drew her thither. There could have been no affectation, no effort to flatter or deceive, in the gaze of admiration that beamed from her dark eyes, as she stood rivetted to the threshold, for there were none to note it. The Lady Bellamonte was a woman of the world; she had been familiar with all the celebrated beauties of her age, and yet she stood charmed, fascinated, by the marvellous beauty of the sleeping Estelle.

The pure olive complexion—glossy black hair that had fallen about her like a veil—small, regular, almost infantile features, marked with the wild romance of her life—rich lips, slightly parted, through which the sweet breath flowed easily and softly murmuring, "Mortimer, I have wronged thee deeply!" she touched the fair creature's hand, but to start back with an exclamation of surprise, and joy, and grief, as the maiden unclosed her eyelids.

There were those large, liquid, imaginative far-seeing eyes, that only seemed to be searching for some hidden beauty, or holding converse with the invisible spirits of the air! Surely their light had once before flashed into the depths of her heart, before she had a sacred memory of them treasured in her heart of hearts, where the world never entered.

Estelle, frightened at perceiving a stranger bending over her, did not scream or faint—she had never learned the rudiments of civilized life—but sat up, looking doubtful and anxious; the lady, spellbound by the spirit of that eye, sank upon the couch beside her, nervously demanding—

"Who art thou, maiden?"

"The sound of her voice, subdued and soft, soothed the frightened girl, and with the air of one accustomed to high rank among her own people, she replied—

"I am Estelle, the queen of my tribe. Perhaps I ought to say, my name, for now I have deserted them; my crown will be given to another."

"And why have you deserted them?"

"To be always with my love," responded she, with the utmost simplicity; "my own heart does not know him lady."

"Certainly; he is my son."

"Holy mother!" exclaimed the captive queen, springing from the couch and kneeling beside the lady; then, suddenly knowing calm, she whispered, "you do not hate me?"

"No, Estelle. I have not deemed it fitting that the Earl of Bellamonte should marry one so far beneath him in rank, but thou hast won even me, and though I cannot present thee to the world as a daughter of our house, yet will I wear thine image in my heart; thou shalt be to me a child. But tell me of thy parentage, maiden?"

"My mother was a queen like me—my father did not belong to our race; he was a minstrel—but you are very pale, lady!"

The Lady Bellamonte spoke not, but, slowly drawing the little creature within her arms, folded her closely to her bosom in one wild embrace; then, throwing about her a silk mantle, led her away to her own apartments.

At the hour of midnight a little group of persons were assembled in the vast old chapel; the bride was then and there to be celebrated not with pomp and revelry, but in simple robes and amid a few loving hearts.

The Lady Bellamonte was the last to enter, and, avoiding the customary forms of etiquette with which her household were wont to greet her presence, glided to the altar, and kneeling buried in her mantle that pale face upon which the few preceding hours had wrought the work of years.

Though entirely ignorant to what causes were owing this decided and most unexpected change in his mother's feelings respecting the union, it was, nevertheless, the presence of joy to Herbert, for she had never failed to excite his love, respect and admiration, and in their recent unpleasant interview he had forgotten her harshness, well aware that the consummation of a marriage so inexpressibly dear to him was to her proud nature, a deed of black dishonour, a disgraceful stain upon the name she bore, which years could not efface.

If his surprise had been unobscured when he learned the fact of her visit to Estelle, he certainly was so when she announced her intention of being present at his bride's, and actually signified her consent and approval.

The Lady Isline Lister had been, from the first, admitted to the secret of Herbert's love, and to her daily visits

sweet bride owed many an hour's entertainment, as well as the delicate and beautiful bridal array which half hid, half revealed, the bewitching charms of her exquisite figure.

But it was upon her pure face that each one of the little group gazed. The chapel, dimly lighted by the few tapers that burned upon the altar, afforded that soft twilight, with dark shadows in the background, so accordant with the peculiarly spiritual expression of her countenance, on which, and especially in those dreamy eyes returned to his, were written a lesson of unselfish devotion and human trust that a fiend only could have betrayed.

None wondered, at that hour, that the young nobleman had surrounded his holiest affection to her keeping, or that for her sake he was ready to abandon the privileges of his birth. This fair creature of the hills and valleys, who sprang to being beside some mountain streamlet, who had been hushed to her childish repose by the lulling song of the winds, or the carol of the birds; whose life had been a ceaseless wandering through many climes; whose every natural impulse and knowledge were, as yet, a sealed mystery; she, unconsciously, held those noble hearts in the spell of her own loving spirit, a charm not unmingled with woe.

Her eyes were upturned, and every breath was hushed to its lowest utterance as Isline's fair fingers bound upon her brow the orange wreath and bridal veil; then followed the bridegroom's fervent kiss, the mother's true embrace, the gentle and respectful request, but, ere leaving his reverend father, and the gallant homage of De Lacy.

The reverend father closed his book, and was about to retire, when Herbert detained him, saying—

"I demand the signature of each one to this instrument, setting forth the legality of my marriage with Estelle."

And, unfolding a parchment which bore the royal seal, he laid it upon the altar, and bowed to the Lady Bellamonte, who, instead of a stronger request, but, ere leaving which were added those of her adopted daughter, her nephew, and the chaplain.

Herbert's eye ran over each with a smile of satisfaction, and, replacing it in his bosom, he continued—

"I have now completed, and a pleasure to perform, Sir Orville de Lacy, in the presence of my honoured parent, and with her sanction, do I transfer to you, during the period of your natural life, the title and the wealth of Bellamonte. Spare me those remonstrances which among gentlemen by your generosity and affection, but which a firm hand and upright integrity the honour of a noble house. You will not be prone to wander, as I have done, from your natural sphere, for, if thine tale be no false tale, thy heart's treasure is in the bosom of our household. My lady," he added, turning to his mother, and at the same instant holding the hand of Orville and Isline united in his own.

It is not to be wondered at, that, for ever the home of my fathers permit me to witness the betrothal of the new earl with my adopted sister."

The lovers were surprised and agitated at this bold movement; but, dropping on their knees, they quickly whispered—

"Smile, sweet lady, upon my suit."

To which the maiden's only reply was a slight pressure of her hand, and a burning blush upon her cheek, from which she gathered the fervour of hope, for the customs of the age did not permit of those light and pretty courtesies so fashionable since, and had his homage been displeasing to her, she would have formally rejected his hand with cold and stately dignity.

The Lady Bellamonte carefully scrutinised each of the two ingenuous, familiar countenances before her, and at last said, slowly and solemnly—

"Orville de Lacy, my son's sacrifice has placed beyond the possibility of change, during a wealthy alliance; do you, in your present station, demand in marriage the hand of my fair charge, the Lady Isline Lister?"

"Such is my prayer, lady," was his reply, beyond the possibility of change, and stood slightly apart from the group till his fate should be decided.

"And you, Isline," continued she, in the same measurable accents, "do you voluntarily yield your maiden rights, and promise to be true and obedient to a wife?"

"I do," was the maiden's brief and fearless response.

"Then," said the noble matron, once more uniting their hands, "let the ceremony proceed; where love hath bound true hearts, it is not my province to separate them; and she graciously extended a hand to each upon which were imprinted two fervent kisses, and the lovers knelt at the altar, listened to the betrothal service, and rose with the blessing of the pious father.

A year from that night the marriage was celebrated amid a succession of festivals, which filled the Eryie with mirth and gaiety for twelve days.

Somewhat early the following morning Herbert Mortimer, in the company of a brief interview with the Lady Bellamonte, ere the departure of himself and bride from the castle. It was granted, and, with a thousand conflicting emotions, he led Estelle to the apartment where she always received them.

The lady rose from her chair as they entered and involuntarily knelt before her, and, resting a hand upon the head of each, gave them her holiest blessing—the assurance of her unchanging confidence and love.

She was very pale, and her son noticed more accurately than on the preceding night the great change that had passed over her since their parting the previous morning; but to him it was unaccountable, and he dared not ask the cause.

"You will experience true happiness," said she to him, "for you have had the courage to follow the promptings of your first love; and if, as it is possible, you may sometimes regret that you cannot unite that love with the wealth and the name to which you were born, remember that life hath no joy without its sorrow, and many a captive in gilded chains would gladly follow in your path. When I am dead," continued she, placing in his hands a small packet of polished jewels, "I bid with silver, 'open this, and you will comprehend that which is now a mystery to you. I confide it to your honour;'" and, throwing about the neck of the sylvan bride a fine hair chain, to which she attached a cross of gold, she added—"Keep this in remembrance of me, Estelle; and now, farewell!"

She embraced them both, and silently waved her hand for their departure. They never met again on earth. Fifteen months

generally-accepted belief that the sun is cooling off. It is true that the earth does not receive as much heat from the sun as it did a few million years ago, when there were tropical forests in Idaho; but Dr Lee explains that, while the sun was not then as hot as it is now, the radiating surface was much more extensive."

Here again the publishers have given us truly a splendid shilling's-worth of varied information.

Mr John Ward, F.S.A., in "The Sunday at Home," answers the oft-repeated question, "What is a Scarab?" in the first instalment of an article on "The Mystery of the Scarabs." Scarabs are described as the oldest historic memorials in the world, some of which bear portraits of their owners of five thousand years ago—

"The word Scarab is but an abbreviation of the Greek word for beetle (skarabeios), and the despised domestic creature, 'the poor beetle which we tread upon,' as our great poet has it, is a near connection of the species venerated in old Egypt. The old Egyptian word for the insect is 'Kheper,' which, strangely, is found in our own tongue and in German in the form of chafer. During the past century, ever since the wars of Bonaparte drew European attention to Egypt, travellers have from time to time brought home from the Nile these quaint little objects. Scarabs generally have the back curved in the form of a beetle, with the flat face bearing curious inscriptions in hieroglyphics."

The strictures on the conduct of the war in South Africa made in "Cornhill" last month by Dr Conan Doyle are repeated by Lieut.-Colonel F. N. Maude, late R.E. With many of the Doctor's views Colonel Maude expresses himself in sympathy but not with all of them—

"Unfortunately, I must pour cold water on the idea of an Imperial Guard on the Napoleonic model. The difficulty is a psychological one well understood by experienced soldiers. You cannot select men in peace for employment in war, because no man can say how the selection will turn out in the stress of serious fighting, Napoleon's Imperial Guard were veterans, selected for approved courage under fire; five campaigns and a faultless record was the standard, but it needed a Napoleon to provide such opportunities. His campaigns were no collection of trifling skirmishes, in which many hours' firing on both sides resulted in 2 to 5 per cent. of loss, but a series of decisive battles, each of a hundred thousand men, with which Spion Kop and Magersfontein will alone bear comparison. Dr Conan Doyle has read Marbot. Does he recall the incident of the 14eme du Ligne at Eylau—where the regiment was destroyed to the last man, only Marbot escaping, thanks to his maddened English charger bolting with him? Selection by marksmanship judged by our Bisley standards would be utterly useless. It is discipline which makes men shoot straight in action, not veterans and the theory of the trajectory."

A very interesting review of the "Life and Letters of Professor Huxley," recently published by his son, Leonard Huxley, is presented to the readers of the current number of "Knowledge." The writer sums up the work as follows:—

"What these volumes tell us of Huxley's researches and his writings, of his innumerable lectures, of his work for societies, associations, congresses, institutions, royal commissions, and popular or unpopular causes, will make some readers wonder how a lifetime could contain it all. . . . He called himself, it is true, an Agnostic, or Know-nothing, and in that instance, for a wonder, he was foiled, for he never could persuade the world at large to believe in his total and absolute ignorance. In spite of the hard names by which he was fain to describe his attitude towards all theological dogma, we must remember that he was continually striving after light and truth. The kernel of his religion was this, that men are always working out their own salvation—or the other thing; that we are all hour by hour receiving the rewards and punishments of our own good and evil doings. But the book itself must be read. It will take many behind the scenes of very unfamiliar playhouses, allowing them to be present at the birth and obsequies of the z Club, to take part in starting the Metaphysical Society, to follow the thread of many a scientific adventure, and, before they have done, they will have realised, if they did not know it already, that Huxley was not only a peculiarly distinguished man of science, but also a preacher of truth and righteousness, and not a preacher only."

"THE FREE CHURCH MONTHLY."—With the current month's number, this "Record" of the Church finishes another chapter in its history. It began to be issued in May, 1838, and at that time consisted of but eight pages. When the Disruption came a new start was made, but it did not even then reach the form with which its readers have become familiar. Through the energies of those more intimately connected with the publication, however, in twenty years the circulation rose from 30,000 to 80,000 a month. Rev. N. L. Walker, D.D., who has edited the Monthly for thirty years, has tendered his resignation as editor, but it is understood that, along with the Rev. Dr George Robson, the editor of the "United Presbyterian Record," Mr Walker will help in the inauguration of the new "Missionary Record of the United Free Church," by which title the "Monthly" of the United Church will be hereafter known.

A curious instance of superstition occurred lately in one of the suburbs of Birmingham (says "The Lancet.") Two men were engaged in dragging the canal for a child's body. A small loaf of bread was placed in the water within a few yards from the men, and it was stated that as soon as the loaf turned round they would be near the body. It is an old superstition in the Midlands that if a dead body is in the water and a loaf into which some quicksilver has been inserted is allowed to float about, it will stop over the spot where the body lies. It is, of course, well known that obstructions in running streams cause eddies, and these collect floating substances—light matters passing rapidly down the surface; but a weighted object like a loaf of bread with quicksilver inside would sink nearly below the surface and would be caught by the under-current of the eddy caused by the corpse, and so remain stationary. This possibly is the matter-of-fact explanation of an apparently occult phenomenon.

The December "Pearson's" Christmas double number has some thirty pages of excellently-brought-out two-colour illustrations, which are, without doubt, the feature of the publication. The contents as usual cover, both in fiction and in other articles, the widest possible range, and the readers who cannot get something to please are, we imagine, very few as to number and impossibly fastidious as to taste. One of the most interesting of the articles deals with the marble quarries of Carrara; and another remarkable contribution enunciates a new theory of the origin of the sun and its planets, by Dr Lee, an American astronomer, now Professor of Mathematics in the United States Naval Observatory. Mr R. S. Baker, who writes the article, says:—

"Dr Lee's new discovery is based on the simple and well-known principle that gas, when compressed, gives out heat. Compress the air in a bicycle pump, and the pump grows warm under the hand. The attraction of gravitation in a gaseous body of huge dimensions acts as a natural and very similar compressing power. That is, a gaseous star compresses itself and produces heat, and the temperature of a gaseous star varies inversely as the radius of that body. This is, in brief, Dr Lee's new law, as simple as it is important. In other words, when a gaseous body shrinks its temperature increases, or, to make the illustration specific, our sun, which is known to be growing smaller—Sir Robert Ball says at the rate of ten inches a day—is therefore growing much hotter. This is exactly contrary to the

FREE CHURCH SUSTENTATION FUND.

The state of the above fund at 12th November stood as follows:—Total for six months, 1900, £75,487 19s 3d; total for six months, 1899, £77,601 13s 10d; decrease, £2,113 14s 7d. Associations, 1900, £73,575 1s 5d, Associations, 1899, £75,242 12s 2d, decrease, £1,667 10s 9d; donations, 1900, £540 19s 9d, donations, 1899, £405 17s 6d, increase, £135 2s 3d; legacies, 1900, £1371 18s 1d, legacies, 1899, £1953 5s 2d; decrease as above, £2113 14s 7d.

In consequence of the new arrangement for closing the books earlier each month being now put into operation, complete returns have not been received from congregations; hence the above state of the Fund does not present a fair comparison of the two years. The attention of Deacons' Courts and Treasurers is respectfully called to this alteration of date.

The following churches contributed during the past six months to the Fund as follows:—

In the Inverness Presbytery—Crown Church £81 15s 6d, East Church £76 13s 6d, High Church £199 6s 6d, North Church £65 19s 7d, West Church £51 9s 8d, Queen Street Church (no return), Daviot £33 10s 6d, Dores and Bona £39 0s 6d, Kiltarlity £46 1s 6d, Kirkhill £50 7s, Moy £30, Petty £54 13s, Stratherrick £34 1s, Strathglass, &c. £27 10s.

In the Nairn Presbytery—Ardclach £30 10s 6d, Ardresier £52, Aldearn £34 12s 2d, Cawdor £50 10s, Croy £45 2s, Nairn £115 4s 1d.

In the Chanony Presbytery—Avoch £31 9s, Cromarty £102 16s 11d, Fortrose £50 6s 3d, Killearnan £29 7s 6d, Knockbain (Munloch) £35 8s, Knockbain (West) £40, Resolis £25 10s.

In the Dingwall Presbytery—Aldness £64 1s, Contin £73 5s 9d, Dingwall £88, Kilmorack £76 19s, Kiltarn £58 10s 9d, Maryburgh £58 3s 10d, Strathconnan £28 4s 5d, Strathgairn £26 14s 6d, Strathpeffer and Fodderty £68 16s 3d, Urquhart £67 9s, Urray £81 0s 9d.

In the Tain Presbytery—Croick £35 8s 6d, Edderton £15 14s 6d, Fearn £57 8s 3d, Invergordon £70 8s 1d, Kilmuir, Easter £44 1s 6d, Kincairdine (no return), Logie-Easter £40, Nigg £16 14s 6d, Roskeen £104 1s 7d, Tain £108 15s 3d, Tarbat £52 1s 1d.

In the Dornoch Presbytery—Assynt (no return), Clyne (no return), Creich £45, Dornoch £75, Golspie £34 19s, Helmsdale £28 9s 9d, Lairg £37 12s, Rogart (no return), Rosehall £15 9s, Storr (no return), Kildonan (no return), Shinness, £9 2s 3d.

In the Tongue Presbytery—Altnaharra £16 18s, Durness 15s, Eddrachillis £13 3s 6d, Farr £5, Kinlochbervie (no return), Melness and Eriboll £26 13s, Strathay and Halladale £39 11s, Tongue (no return).

In the Aberfarrif Presbytery—Arisaig £29 7s 2d, Ballachulish (North) £21 2s 10d, Ballachulish (South) £41 14s, Fort-Augustus, &c. £32, Fort-William £86 18s 4d, Glenmoriston £14, Glen-Urquhart £82 18s, Kilmallie £43 13s 6d, Kilmorivag £28 14s, Small Isles £5 10s.

In the Skye Presbytery—Braendale £10 3s, Duirinish £8, Kilmuir, &c. £45 7s 10d, Portree £26 7s 3d, Raasay £23 14s 6d, Sleat £18 8s 6d, Snizort £31 10s, Strath, &c. £21 11s 10d, Waterish and Arnisort £7 8s.

In the Uist Presbytery—Benbecula £35 14s, Bernera, &c. £37 4s, Carinish £27 15s, Harris £11, North Uist, &c. £21 4s 6d, South Uist £43 8s, Tarbert (no return), Barra £17 5s, St Kilda £13 3s 3d.

In the Lewis Presbytery—Back £20 11s, Barvas £44 8s 2d, Carloway £28 18s 6d, Cross £2 5s 6d, Kinloch £37 0s 3d, Knock £13 7s, Lochs £30, Park £36, Stawobost £43, Stornoway £61 14s 3d, Shornaw (English) £117 13s 6d, Uig (no return).

THE WIFE TO GET.

Under the semblance of a series of discourses by old Farmer Harry Horseman, edited by G. G. Macdonald, there has been published a book which bears the old-fashioned title of "The Wife to Get: XX. Homely Homilies for the Home from an Old Hebrew Acrostic, wherein a Good Wife is Described; in which we have a Guide to Bachelors, a Model for Maidens, a Mirror for Matrons." The "Hebrew Acrostic" is the last twenty-two verses of the Book of Proverbs, and taking these as texts, the "Homely Homilies" delivers a series of pointed, witty, and homely homilies on the choosing of husbands and wives, and on conduct after marriage. Here are a few of the epigrammatic sayings:—

"He gets a poor tocher who gets it all in his bride's face. Plain women make the best wives. Virtue in woman is what courage is in man. In the matrimonial market buy nothing but the best, for the bad are dear at any price. Good women are fully as plentiful as good men. In matrimonial conquests, the conquered generally gives laws to the conqueror. A man should never forget that when he marries a woman he has to make her friends his friends. Persons that cannot be insured without an extra premium should never marry. A prudent woman does not run to cheap-johns, nor even cheap sales, for she has a wholesome dread of bargains; and as for lotteries, she hates them even at a religious bazaar."

A CURIOUS SUPERSTITION.

The CHRISTMAS SEASON.—The approach of Christmas means to most of us the buying of presents. What to get and where to get it, is the difficulty. Ideas run short, and sometimes the question of cost enters into the subject too, making it still harder to decide. Those who feel this way cannot do better than to send a postcard to H. Samuel, Market Street, Manchester, and ask for his catalogue album. It is a wonderful volume—a perfect treasure house of all things one can think of, and many more, quite out of the ordinary. It is sent free, post paid, and is a wonderful help at this time of the year especially.

ROBIN New Starch Contains everything necessary to make LINEN GLOSSY, STIFF and FLEXIBLE. Does not stick to the Iron. Acknowledged to be the BEST STARCH sold. Made by the Manufacturers of the celebrated Reckitt's Paris Blue.

WRIGHT, CROSSLEY & CO.'S ENGLISH "ROYAL" BAKING POWDER "THE BEST IN THE WORLD." All the Best SCOTCH GROCERS keep it. NOT MADE IN AMERICA. NOT MADE IN GERMANY.

SANUS DO GHAIHHEIL LUNAINN. Ma tha toil agaih an "Highland News" faoinn gach seachdain rachadh a dh'ionnsaidh luch-reicidh nam paiperan-naigheach.

MESSRS BVERETT, BELLYS BUILDINGS, SALISBURY SQUARE, FLEET STREET, E.C.

Gaelic Page. THE "H.N." MOD FUND. Already acknowledged £16 2 7

SEAN-FHOCAIL. III.—BU DUAL DA SIN.

Tha e cleachdte 'bhi roinn a' Chinn-daonna 'n an tri teachlaichean—GEAL, DUBE, 'S RUADH. Tha sinn a' creidsinn, leis an Abstol Pòl, gur ann de 'n son fhull an triuir; ged tha iad 'n a' dreach 's 'n a' doigh cho dealaichte o cheile 's ged a bhiodh triuir charraid ann o thus. Bha 'n dealachadh so riamh o' a tha eachdraidh againn orra a reir coislaich cho mharraichte 's a tha e nis. Ge b'e air bith mar dh' eirich no mar thoisich e, tha e dhume 'n a' dreachachadh 's an fhull, cho dearbhta ris an dealachadh eadar cu-chaoirach 's cu feidh.

Agus ma thionndaidheas sinn gun a teaghlach GEAL (o'n an ann air e colachie sinn) chi sinn gu bheil e 'sgraoladh a mach 'n a' Chinnich a tha o thus ar n-eòlais aith-nichte le comharan a' bheir anson an corp 's an intinn o chach a cheile. Tha doaine foghlumte ag innseadh dhuinn gu'm b'e dachaidh an stiu GEAL toobh an Lar Asia; gu'n robh a nis 's a ris imrich mhòr 'g a' deannam o'n t-sean dachaidh do chearnach eile; gu'n dachaidh a' cheid sgròth a' chomharan air faighear ann a' h-Innsidh iad fein 's an Sean Chanain (Samsort) gus an a' diugh; gu'n do 'habh an ath sgròth (na Gaidheil) an Lar roimh Asia 's roimh thaoibh deas na h-Eorpa; gu'n do lean car dh' air sùil nan Gaidheil 's 'n' gleidheadh an son rathaid na Greugach 's na Romanach; gu'n d' thainig a ris na Goill (no na Teit-onach) an Lar a' gleidheadh na 'n' fhaide Tuath; agus fa dheireadh gu'n d' thainig na Scabhonaich a thuinich 'n an Ear-thuath na h-Eorpa 's an Lar-thuath Asia. Abair gur e 'n teaghlach GEAL an lann; agus gheibh thu anns na cuig Cinnich 's dh' ainmich mi na cuig meoir a' cinninn o'n lann 's a' comhdachadh na h-Eorpa 's toobh Tuath 's an Lar Asia. Tha 'n dealachadh eadar na meoir ann an corp 's an intinn cho maith 's an canan ro chomharraichte. Gun teagamh rinn stònan an sghair an prionn d' dreachachadh ann an dreach a' chuirp a' rhuadachadh, agus rinn eachdraidh 'us beul-aithris 'us foghlum nan slugh fa leth (a' thuilleadh air cumhadh buidhean a' chuirp) co-dhèanach na h-intinn a shonrachadh anns gach teaghlach, 's an canain-ean a' tharraich mar bha tim a' ruith; ach mu 'n d' fhuair sinne eachdraidh orra bha iad dealaichte 'n am full 's 'n an canain.

Rugadh leis an aon Mhathair, ma ta, an cuigear mhao so, agus dh' arachadh iad, ann an deigh son, air comharradh Asia. An uair a bha iad a' seach air fas laideir gu leoir gu bh' cothachadh air an son fein, 's ro hionnhar gu bh' tuineachadh mu'n t-sean dachaidh, ghabh iad an domhan an eagan; agus iad gach leth 's gach toobh, gach son a' deannam air a shon fein, 's gu'llan air falbh 'n an dachaidh a' d' deannam an intinn, 's 'n an canain, dearbhadh mairneach air an daimh d' cheile. Is cuimhe leat an uair a tha "Burns" a' moladh speimh na mna os cionn an fhir, mar tha e 'toirt air Mathair nan Uile a' bh' feuchainn a' lann a' d' deannam an rathaid na Greugach an uair 'tha i' nnsaichte, tha i' ghabhail os lann bha a' deannam—

"Her 'prentice han' she tried on man, An' then she made the lasses O!" Ann an tiunnadh a mach nam pobull, nach feidh sinn a radh, ann an canin coimhri ri canin a' bhaird, gu'n do chaid air Sean Mhathair a' fhaid 's a' d' deannam an Stiu DUBH 'S RUADH; agus gu'n robh a' cheid air a lann mu'n d' fheuch i' rias an teaghlach GEAL. Agus a' thuilleadh air so, nach biodh e farasda 's'haolainn an uair a bha i' fein o'g—'a' h-aignidhean bh, 's a' speimh grinn, gu'n cuireadh i' barrach luchd air cumadh 's air snas na chuireadh i' air neart 's air saobhreas. Ann an fuin-eadh nan slugh, nach soil sinn gu'm b'e a' miann 's a' cheud aite an t-suil a' thoileachadh; ach an uair tha a' h-aois a' ruith, an uair 'tha a' full a' fhuarachadh, 's an uair 'tha a' fhuarachadh a' h-eòlais air feum an t-saoghail a' dol an meud, an uair tha fein-fhosrachadh aise air luchd neart a' bhi 's a' chridhe 's amior 's a' chnaimh, bhiodh e coltach gu'n cuireadh i' barrachd maise air neart na chuireadh i' air maise, cuirp 'us intinn, agus gu'n do fhuair a' ghabh shraich eil an so ach faoin-bheachd duine dhiomhain; 's nach eil bun na barr agus an reusan na 'n eachdraidh. Ach 's e mo bharail na 'n eachdraidh. Ach 's e mo bharail na 'n gabhadh dragh 'us uine gu leoir, gu'n fhuair a' d' deannam an eachdraidh nan teaghlach fa leth dearbhadh laideir gur e "cumadh" 'us "snas" an feart a' tha buadhadhach 's na teaghlachiean is sine, 's gur e "bheidh," 'us "cuithrom" a' tha 'comharrachadh a' mach nan teaghlachiean is oige. Agus saoilh mi nach eil son de'n ching neart a' thug dearbhadh 'n an corp, 'n an nadur, 's 'n an canain, an da chuid air maise 'sairneartan an diu cho-chordadh mar a thug na Greugach 's na Romanach, a' tha seasmh ann am meadhan na sreath le d' theaghlach air gach lann dhiu.

Bha na ceud mhio fa leth ainneil an eachdraidh agus tha sinn an dochas gu'm bi fathast; ach cha 'n eil teagamh 'n ar latha-ne nach e 'n ceathram mac-an Gall—'aig a' bheil an t-èighean ann an riaghladh an domhain. Gie cho fada 's a' bhith a' chuis mar so, cha 'n fhuair duine; no co de'n cheistiar a' gheibh aite ma chailleas e fein e. O chionn iomadh bliadhna 's e an Gaidheil is fache a' thig air ann am fion chumhadh; is a' reir curra eachdraidh an t-saoghail gu ruis so, cha 'n e an dara nàc ach an cuigear a' n' a' ath strì mhòr airson uchdranachd an domhain. Tha 'n Scabhonaich fathast mar gu'm b'ann 'n a' chodail; ach co their cùin a' thig an gaisgeach a' gheibh a mach eile o' d' sgradh do'n agaid; nach tugadh cuirp na h-eachdraidh oirnan a' chreidsinn gu bheil a' latha fein a' foitheamh airann, anns am bi aige r'a dhearbhadh do na sloich an airidh e air aite urramach 'n an meag? Agus an uair a' thig an latha so, 's a' theid e seachad; an uair a' gheibh an cuigear bhithrean gach son a' threis fein air Rìgh-chathair an t-saoghail—nach cinnteach gu'm feudar an dochas a' lann gu'n a' gair na pobull a' chas-gradh 's a' leandair a' cheile, 's gu'm bi iad a' strì a' mhan air Ghoceals, Eòlais, 'us Deadh-bhens? Nach tig an sin 'n a' lannach "Linn an Aigh"—Linn na Sìth—an Linn mu'n do shein na Baird; mu'n do reusanach na Daoine glice; a' chumais na Faidhean fada roimh lann; a' bheothach tog-raidhean 's a' neartach miasach nan Ionraic anns gach lann ri an t-riobhadh 'us amhair; 's a' bheir greagradh do gach eubh ehoit 's do gach unghair dhurachadh a' raing na reamhan air son sìth o' thoisich an t-saoghail?

Gheibhear anns gach teaghlach dhiu so comharan aithneichte a' chomharan a' bheir achaidh eubhadh toirt ach bechd ar n-ath-rathach gu bheil iad a' ruith 's an fhull. B'e bunait eiridh nan sean daoine am

fosrachadh air riaghladh an lagha am measg an luchd-eòlais. Ach cha 'n fhuair-ichear fion neart an lagha nar so. Cho fad 's a' chumas tu do shuil a' daoine fa leth, tha 'n dealachadh na 's mo na 'n samhladh eadar dhuine 's dhuine ga' bharrachadh. Tha ann a' mhan air a' shealas tu air rioghachd 's air cinnich a' chi tu ann an eachdraidh an duine an Iomachd ann an Aonachd a' tha toirt Maise us Coohordadh od oibre a' Chruthachaidh anns ach ceann. Tha 'n Sean-fhocal for, ma ta, ann an eadar na chuidhromach mi thimichail an duine, arann 'n a' chorp agus 'n a' intinn; ach cha lorgaich sinn cumhadh nan parantann ann an intinn na cùine cho diu 's a' lorgaicheas sinn e anns a' chorp. 'S e 's a' abhar dha so, tha mi meas gu bheil an da chumhadh eile o' dh' ainmich mi—'n Saoghal agus E fein—'a' riaghladh buidhean na h-intinn na's teinne is tha iad a' riaghladh buill a' chuirp. 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For the Ladies.

BY MORAG.

HEROES AND HERO WORSHIP

MY DEAR MORAG.—Many are the troubles of a scribbler for the press. There is one compensating advantage, however—you are afforded the privilege of talking concerning something with which every fibre of your nature is akin. It is then that writing seems but as play, and the yoke—if it be a yoke—becomes light. When I heard that the Rev. Mr. Wallace was to lecture on "Robbie Burns," neither wind nor weather would have kept me back. As the Chairman remarked, the lecturer was simply brimming over with rapt enthusiasm on this subject, brought up as he was in the very nursery ground of the poet's home, within sight of Burns' cottage, and imbued with the true spirit of one who loves, reads, and has understood his poems. Before going on to talk of Burns, I have always observed at a lecture or a "Burns Night" of any kind that I could pick you out the men who would not miss lecture, song, or story connected with him for worlds. Especially was this evident the other evening when Mr Wallace delivered the lecture under the auspices of the High Church Young Men's Guild. I do not know how many Guildsmen attended, but this I do know—that fully one-half were complete strangers whom I had never seen before, and I could tell that only Burns could have brought them there. I always know that, however rugged the face may be, the lover of Robbie Burns is sure to be a man about them a."

THE MILITARY HERO.

I was not the least surprised when told by a friend who had a look through General Hector Macdonald's kit when he was in the North that it contained a good number of copies of Burns, who was the gallant Hector's favourite poet. And don't you consider him an ideal day? I know I do. I read the other day of a lady who, in an interview, confessed that she always kept a photograph of Kitchener on her piano, and when she felt a fit of laziness stealing over her at the wrong time, one look at his sharp, penetrating eyes sent her back to a more industrious frame of mind. Well, that reminds me that I have a photograph of General Macdonald receiving the freedom of the burgh of Inverness, and I often like to look at his face as it appears on that occasion, and mark him as a casual and not very interested onlooker. From his expression, he does not look the chief actor on the stage, and I feel a pride in this man. I feel proud that he once had trod our pavements, that he breathed our air, that he is one whom neither flattery, adulation, nor honour are able to move a hairbreadth from being himself. That's the right kind of hero! You will now pull me up, I am sure, and say, "I thought it was Burns I was to hear about, but it seems more like a eulogy on General Macdonald." Well, these gallant soldiers somehow came in unbidden, and it's not easy parting with a hero. Then, had not Burns the same splendid characteristics? Flattery he would have snapped his fingers at. His highest ambition was— That I, for our auld Scotland's sake, Some useful plan or book could make. Or sing a sang at least.

In a company of German critics, who were weighing the claims and estimating the ranks of poets who were their contemporaries, the genial humorist, Jean Paul Richter, is said to have lashed an audience when the name of Goethe was introduced, exclaiming, "We are not to sit in judgment on that sacred head." We Scots are apt to attach the same importance and half-superstitious reverence to the name which, more than any other, belongs to Scotland. He lingered over the ballads in his cold room by night, by day while whistling at the plough he invented new forms, and was inspired by fresh ideas, gathering round him memories and conditions till they became an Elijah's mantle, and a golden crown. How could we forget all this? He says himself—"I do not know if I should call it pleasure, but something which exalts and enraptures me to walk in the sheltered side of a wood or high plantation in a cloudy winter day, and hear the stormy wind howling among the trees, and raving over the plains. I listened to the birds, and frequently turned out of my path! I should disturb their little songs, or frighten them to another station." Did ever purer worship ascend to the gates of heaven than that of this man whose feelings were so gloriously tender that he would pass on tiptoe for fear of disturbing those pretty songsters framed by a Creator who is all love. Don't you think one who loves so much might be forgiven much? If I possessed the excelsior gift of song, I should loiter more frequently among those songs of Burns than any others. They are songs that have passed into the air we breathe. They are so real that they seem things rather than words, and have taken possession of all hearts. "The heart's eye the parting eye That mak's us right or wrong."

A MEMORY OF THE PAST.

Some events have a stone erected over them in one's memory, while the multitude of incidents pass into oblivion. I have one such monument erected in my memory as I write, and it is a recollection of a Burns' night with Durward Lely. It would be difficult to find anything more loving, more tragic, more despairing than "To Mary in Heaven," as sung by this sweet tenor. Even yet I seem to hear the silvery echo, for time has The impression deeper made, As streams their channels deeper wear.

There is another, "For Auld Lang Syne," not, my dear Morag, as you and I have sung it lightly after some fleeting hours of pleasure, but sung with tears, when it seemed as if we had bridged the gulf of the disappearing years, and felt the clasp of a vanished hand, and beheld faces that had been dearer than all the world besides, that seemed to undo us into tearless sobbing. Let who will make Scotland's laws, Burns has made its songs, which her sons recall in every corner of the world, by which maidens are wooed, by which mothers lull their infants to rest, returning through open casements into dying eves. They are the links, the watchwords, the masonic symbols of our race. The generous verse of Burns, says Dr Craik,

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springs out of the iron-bound Calvinism of the land like flowing water from Horeb's rock. He found gems of pathos, melody, and beauty which any nation might be proud to wear in its intellectual coronet, and we are all proud of the lad that was born in Kyle, who had misfortunes great and small, but aye a heart about them a."

MR WHITEHEAD'S CONCERT.

We spent a delightful two hours the other evening, my dear Morag, in the Music Hall, when Mr Whitehead's Harmonic Choir and Ladies' Vocal Society gave a high-class, and at the same time popular, concert—two things not always, to my mind, synonymous. But it was so on this occasion. The purity and sweetness of the trained voices were a perfect treat. They deserve the name Harmonic Choir, and the next concert given by this flourishing Society will, I am sure, have the patronage it deserves, and from the lack of which it suffered considerably the other evening, owing to the fact that the patriotic concert was on the following night. Although I do not know the circumstances of that concert, a Saturday night was, to my mind, rather ill-chosen, and from all I hear from friends who were there, our artists did not receive the courtesy they invariably get at our hands. Vocally and instrumentally Mr Whitehead is cultivating the public taste in a love for the finer fancies in the world of music. Some pretty gowns were worn that evening. Miss Gertrude Bleock, whose engaging presence and fascinating charm at once possessed the audience in her favour, wore a lovely black satin gown, with sequined jetted bodice, and transparent, lattice-patterned, jewelled sleeves; ornaments, strings of pearls. Mrs Whitehead also chose black, with a touch of damask roses. Miss Clark was in yellow silk, with kilted chiffon; and Miss Morin favoured a black satin, with sleeves of steel embroidered black net and a cluster of scarlet blossoms on her corsage. There were several pretty white gowns predominating among the chorus, and I like that style of hairdressing best that is worn at the nape of the neck instead of perched on the top. It takes an artist to achieve that top coil properly.

CHRISTMAS NUMBERS.

"Weldon's Ladies' Journal" (6d) Christmas Double Number is indeed a budget of information for my lady readers. Two charming chromo plates are given away, entitled "The Wee Nurse" and "A Vanishing Tail," three paper patterns of a silk skirt, winter jacket, and lace collar; a large coloured plate of latest fashions, and a mass of information on all those delicate hints and up-to-date ideas regarding the home that ladies cherish and wish to know. The number is replete with the newest fashions for ladies and children, how to cut out and make in the most economical manner, with quantity of material required; French millinery, fashions for matrons, a brilliant story by the author of "Comin' thro' the Rye," "Cherry Ripe," &c.; chats with lovers, horary astrology, an interview with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. This is an ideal ladies' magazine. The high esteem in which "Weldon's Journal" is held is too generally known to call for comment. It is a splendid number, and should have a big sale. "Weldon's Illustrated Dressmaker" (2d) Christmas Double Number is another marvel of cheapness. "Weldon's Bazaar" (2d) Christmas Double Number is a magazine which mothers will find valuable, dealing as it does with the making of every article of children's clothing. "Weldon's Crochet" 53rd Series (2d), contains many useful designs, with instructions how to crochet edgings, borders with corners, laces, &c. The Christmas double number of "The Lady" appears in an artistically designed coloured wrapper, within which are a profuse display of fashionable evening toilets sketched at the leading modistes in London. "Heloise" writes that the newest sequin robes have scroll designs covering the groundwork of net, and the edge scalloped and finished with many frills, each of which is run with little scalloped borders of sequins. The sequins are quite small, and put on in scale fashion, whereby the brightest effect is obtained. Robes of Russian net in cream or black are useful for ordinary wear, and admit of smart additions, such as coloured choux in crêpe or velvet or corsage bouquets with bows or streamers of ribbon.—Your affectionate Cousin, FIONA. Inverness.

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897-205—Inverness, Sat., Dec. 8, 1900.