

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

President—W. Chester S. McEwen, M.P. Vice-President, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I. Editor and Managing Director—J. R. Burnett, F.J.I. Secretary—L. G. D. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Associate Editors—Frank Walker and D. E. Carver. Advertising Daily (inserted) 50¢ per year (in advance) delivered. \$4.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1934.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY

It was doubtless a Sassenach who remarked that wherever two Scots foregather on St. Andrew's Day they form a mutual admiration society. To this jibe the Caledonian, if he deigned making any reply, might retort: Why not? Vain-boasting is one thing; a conscientious stock-taking of one's virtues and achievements is another. Some people—to quote an old English writer—"sall to the port of their own praise by a side wind; as when they dispraise themselves, stripping themselves naked of what is their due, that the modesty of the beholders may clothe them with it again." That is not a Scottish failing. And the most envious outsider must admit that the post-prandial eloquence that is as much a part of every St. Andrew's Day banquet as the steaming haggis, is amply justified. The pages of history, of poetry and folk-lore, of myth and legend, are eloquent in praise of Scottish characteristics. Nor is it possible to pick up a volume of the latest scientific discovery, of travel, of politics and economy, of law, of literature, of theology, or achievement in any of the professions and businesses of modern life, without encountering these same characteristics exemplified in the career of some sturdy Scot. Why then expect to find in his compatriots an inferiority complex? Truly, it speaks much for their native modesty that they should lay aside but one day of the year for the contemplation and commemoration of such matters. And it has been argued with some justice that they do so out of humanitarian motives pure and simple; lest the world, to its own loss, should forget!

Nowhere is "the Day" more congenially celebrated than at the Caledonian Club functions in Charlottetown. This evening's banquet will mark the one hundred and tenth annual celebration by the Club of St. Andrew's anniversary. Rev. Hugh Miller, of Trinity United Church, will speak to the toast "The Day and a' wha' honour it," and Rev. R. B. MacKinnon, of St. Dunstan's University, to "The Land of the Heather." These addresses, it is safe to predict, will lose nothing by comparison with any of the speeches on former occasions. The Address to the Haggis will be delivered by Chasman D. Edgar Shaw, K.C. The Lieutenant Governor, the Premier, the Mayor and other distinguished guests will be present. It will be an occasion for mirth and jollity, but also for something much more important, the sentiment inspiring the proceedings being one which lies deep at the roots of our British ideals of nationhood and citizenship.

TONGUE OF SCANDAL

Addressing a party meeting in Haldimand County, Ontario, a few days ago, Hon. J. C. Elliott, who was Minister of Public Works in the late King Government, declared that if the Liberals were returned at the next election they would turn the searchlight on the great corporations, "which," he added, "are not being investigated at the present time, because they are friends of the Bennett Government."

Cant of this kind, says the Sydney Post-Record (independent) does not tend to keep the discussion of public affairs up to dignified, intelligent standards. It is unworthy of a man who has held the responsible post of a Minister of the Crown in a Federal Cabinet. It is untrue in substance and cuts both ways in application.

The Government to which Mr. Elliott belonged was in office for 9 years, up to the time of its defeat in 1930. In that whole period it never made a gesture to "turn the searchlight on the great corporations." The disclosures of the Beauharnois scandals were made in Parliament after the King Government's defeat.

Big business is not the chief buttress of any party. The "great corporations" are generally run for profit, not for politics. Some of them are known to be friendly to the Conservatives, and others to the Liberals. But these affiliations are incidental, and, despite what Mr. Elliott, an ex-Minister, says, do not restrain either Conservative or Liberal Governments from doing those things they ought to do in the interest of the plain people of Canada.

Nevertheless politicians may expect to be regarded with suspicion and distrust when they exchange such mean and baseless accusations themselves, as this ex-Minister descended to the above-cited speech. Those public men at least who are supposed to rank in the category of leaders, should have the sense and mental balance to refrain from cheap scandal and

idle gossip, and to confine themselves to authentic issues when they address the people. Otherwise their imputations may recoil on their own heads.

A SIGNAL HONOR

A unique event in medical history on this continent will take place on June 10-14 next year, when a joint meeting of the American Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association will be held at Atlantic City, New Jersey. One of the important committees at this convention will be the Public Health and Industrial Medicine Committee. The Premier of this Province, Hon. W. J. P. MacMillan, M.D., has been asked to take the chairmanship of this committee.

This signal honour is one which will give satisfaction and pleasure to all our citizens. It is a tribute, not only to the high repute which Premier MacMillan enjoys in his profession, but to the Province as well, in which he holds the most responsible executive position, and of which he is also Minister of Health and Education.

TARTAN AND KILT

It was the London Times which pointed out recently that the Scot is the only citizen in the King's home dominions who has a national dress. He has clung to his tartan and kilt, while the national costumes of other British races have become mere outdoor symbols. And he has worn them, says the Times, "so generally that they can be on the musical stage a capital joke, and in the battlefield of glory, in the ballroom an envied distinction, on the moor a great convenience, and in the castle a symbol of nationality favored by the highest in the land. The survival and success of this costume may tempt the intellectually curious into profound speculations in the comparative psychology of peoples. They may do well not to leave altogether out of account the truth that the Scottish national costume is (to say nothing of its romantic associations and its convenience for certain purposes) a mighty becoming dress, and that the Scots have the sense to know it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is St. Andrew's Day.

It was the complete wedding ceremonial, without omission or amendment.

H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester, on his way home from the Victoria Centenary will make official visits to the leading British West Indian Islands and Bermuda, returning to England on March 28.

The League of Nations has made another appeal to Washington to join in the plan to halt the Chaco War. Previous appeals were turned down on the ground that U.S.A. did not wish to get embroiled in the disputes of South American republics. On the present occasion the state department announces it will study the matter again.

A Montreal Alderman has been ousted by the Supreme Court and fined \$400 for sitting and voting after having been disqualified for breach of the self-denial ordinance. He was charged with having been financially interested in securing a contract of lease for a building at 3240 Allard street which he erected, sold to his daughter for \$9,500, and leased to the city of Montreal as a sub-station of the Montreal Police Department for \$125 a month for five years, and \$150 a month for the next five years, cheques for these monies being paid by the city to his daughter and then being turned over to him.

If we were to judge by a plebiscite on questions specifically put, British public opinion is overwhelmingly international-minded and pacifistic, the League of Nations Union's popular referendum resulted as follows: On the first question, "Should Great Britain remain in the League of Nations?" the vote was: Yes, 59,302; No, 1,290. On the second question: "Are you in favor of a general reduction of armaments by international agreements?" the vote was: Yes, 57,569; No, 2,762. On the third question, "Are you in favor of the general abolition of military aviation by land and sea through an international agreement?" the vote was: Yes, 54,074; No, 4,660. But Sir John Simon and other leading publicists say the terms of reference were unfair and calculated to bring the desired result.

A decision of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, to retire from the political field.

Notes By The Way

The Electric Boat Company, for all of its affiliation with the vast Vickers enterprises, and for all of its connection with that master-inventor, Sir Basil Zaharoff, seems to have spent much of its time and a great deal more of its hard cash in buying non-existent influence. It paid large sums to supposed sharpshooters on the strength of the assurance that they could land a Turkish contract that failed to materialize. It was "played for a sucker" by lobbyists, spies, and sundry other gentry. Of course, the munitions industry has "ruined" many nations (and their taxpayers). But it is interesting, even though not important, to note that it, in its turn, has also been "ruined" quite thoroughly.—Hamilton Herald.

The mere number of years lived does not mean that the individual has lived a better one. Had Methuselah had a taste for literature, and written the proportionate number of books that Wells has, for the number of years lived, he would have written several books to have saved a better one. Michael Fairless wrote only three books, and her most famous one, "The Roadmaker," was not published until after her death at the age of 32. Yet this little book is already being sold to over a million people and is more beloved with each year. The rich years are the ones in which we help other people to be happier and help to bring a better one to the world in which to live. The greatest thing that any of us can leave behind us is a rich influence!

Until the French war budget gets through the Chamber, nervous people will be well advised not to pay too much attention to sensational reports broadcast from that particular sounding board. The other day, we were told that Germany was better prepared to invade France today than she was in 1914. Doomsday Hitler wish that this were true? Today, the representative of the Finance Committee told the Chamber solemnly that "Russia has pledged that the solid, well equipped army will march with us in case France is attacked." This was a little too rich for French officialdom, though it dearly wants to see the budget passed; and it promptly rejected the Committee's boast of the Finance Committee's spokesman as "exaggerated" and intimated that it would take ten years to bring the Franco-Russian entente to such a pitch.

In his speech at the opening of the Winter Help Campaign, Herr Hitler came to closer grips than usual with realities. In view of the economic situation developing in Germany, he had little choice in the matter, but the language he found it necessary to use must arouse even in the most subservient German breasts some question as to whether the Nazi regime has conferred on the country nothing but unfulfilled promises. The aim of the Government, of course, is to forego Germany's hardships to foreign malignity, in particular to what is called "the devilish international boycott of German goods." The boycott of Germany till Hitlerism appeared and Jew-baiting began, and the Fuehrer has no one but himself and his Nazi colleagues to thank if sympathies which might in other circumstances have been practical for a remain completely alienated today.—The Spectator

There is no danger of the human gray matter supply being equal to the demand. "Nature" endowed man with enough brain to develop mentally for a million years," said Dr. Temple Fay, Professor of Neuro-Surgery at Temple University, Philadelphia, to an audience of fellow physicians at a Five State Clinical Conference recently in Oklahoma City. He added that the "splitting headaches" some persons are subject to is caused by the collection of surplus fluid pressing down and cutting off circulation.

More than seventy persons are held in jails in different parts of Europe in connection with the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia. These include three of the assassin's alleged confederates, who were apprehended in France and are now imprisoned in Marseille, and two alleged ringleaders of a Croatian terrorist organization. The others held are mainly Central European political refugees and terrorist suspects. The police are still searching for Maria Wondrack and several others who have been directly implicated in Blagoi Georgoff, the assassin.

The protection of Australian and New Zealand shipping against the unfair competition of foreign subsidies is a matter of first importance to the governments of both countries. It is, indeed, a question causing anxiety to the collective governments of the Empire; and the nature of the threat to the shipping of the Empire points rather to collective than individual action. The problem is rendered more difficult by the fact that

meets with the approval of the Western Producer of Saskatchewan, a paper devoted to the interest of the grain grower and of the agricultural community generally. The decision is described as an important one, which it is if it means that the western farmer is to give his attention to the land and not to the various political movements of sectional character which heretofore he has been induced to support. Even the Western Producer, while speaking of the decision to abandon the political field as a wise one, does so rather grudgingly, expressing regret that "a farming population whose individual problems are almost identical cannot reach fairly unanimous conclusions on the means to be adopted to deal with

That Body of Ours

By James F. Rankin, M.D.

LENGTHENING THE LIFE SPAN FOR PATIENTS WITH HEART DISEASE

To physicians who graduated twenty to thirty years ago it is most gratifying to see the way research and practicing physicians are now able to cure formerly "incurable" disease and to maintain life for many years in those who formerly died in a few months or within two to three years at most. Thus pernicious anaemia has been conquered by Drs. Minot and Murphy and associates, and diabetes by Drs. Banting and Best.

It would seem that despite the increased number of deaths from heart disease, research and practicing physicians are not only getting to know more about the cause of heart disease but also its prevention and cure.

Thirty years ago interest in heart disease was as to the particular valve affected whereas to-day, while the normal rate of a normal heart is more than others, interest lies mostly in estimating the ability of the heart to do work. How much work can the patient's heart do safely is the question the physician in himself. By careful examination, by testing the rate at which the heart beats after a certain amount of exercise, by recording the length of time it takes the beat of the heart to get back to its normal rate after this certain amount of exercise, by testing the length of time the breath can be held when the air has been breathed out of the lungs and also how long it can be held in the chest, by the use of the electrocardiograph and other tests, the physician can now advise the patient just how much work he can do safely.

Thus one individual may be advised to go about his regular work but to avoid excitement and overeating, another may be advised to rest 4 hours daily besides 8 hours at night, another may be advised to live the normal span of life, patients with heart disease may look forward to at least a longer life than was formerly thought possible.

When the cause is known—rheumatism, high blood pressure, these conditions are treated. It would seem then that just as patients with those formerly incurable ailments—pernicious anaemia and diabetes—are now enabled to live the normal span of life, patients with heart disease may look forward to at least a longer life than was formerly thought possible.

The principle of subsidizing shipping is un-economic. Shipping has declined because trade has declined, and trade is not created by subsidies. Each province has an equitable share of the available trade on the basis of existing tonnage; but foreign countries would not consent to plan giving a subsidy to Great Britain. Thus the Empire is forced to retaliate.—The Australasian.

Poetic Justice

(Sydney Post Record)

Whatever other contributions may be made to the Province of Ontario by the newly arrived Premier, Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn, stable public policy is not one of the blessings it has received from its recent change of Government. Even before his Cabinet was formed, Mr. Hepburn vehemently demanded the resignation of the Lieutenant-Governor on the ground that he was a useless functionary and his office should be abolished. That was more than 5 months ago, and nothing has been done to that effect. Not that any one wishes to hear any more of it. But it leaves an unsettling kind of an impression that Ontario's new premier is subject to radical overnight changes.

A few weeks ago Mr. Hepburn became the public sponsor of a scheme for the coding of Ontario industry along the lines followed by President Roosevelt, and declared Premier Bennett should print \$500,000.00 of new paper money to abate the ravages of the depression.

Last week, at the opening of Toronto's Winter Fair, he made a spectacular stride in the opposite direction, telling his audience that he can be "too much paternalistic in the part of Government," and too much interference with supply and demand. Commenting on these remarkably quick changes of front, the Ottawa Journal observes: "We must confess that we like Mr. Hepburn a lot better in his new role. In the first place, it is much more in harmony with what Mr. Hepburn professes to be, namely, a Liberal, a school of thought which has nothing to do, or should have nothing to do, with paternalism or regimentation. In the second place it shows that Mr. Hepburn has the ability to learn; that he is discovering how hard it is to do all the things he said he would do in those days of his ardent crusade last July. Even though the schooling he experiences it is nevertheless worthwhile.

This is political hay-making time for Opposition, but the trouble is that when they become Government they are apt to suffer from the over-production of a cheap commodity on a falling market. The old Greek adage—"Nothing to be done in a hurry"—is a rule of the critics of Governments should be carefully followed in these rapidly changing times. In the opinion of its own friends, the Hepburn Government of Ontario is today weaker and more vulnerable at almost every point than the Administration it ousted at the polls last June. It is a case of that kind of Nemesis known as poetic justice.

Pipes And Bagpipes

"(Foot" in Montreal Gazette) Rory was a piper guild, As ever cam' o' Heilan' blude; The Lowland bodie's hearts ye eye glowed

To the tunes of Rory Murphy. Williams in his book "Story of the Organ," states that the organ was evolved from the bagpipe, and that in the museum of Arles there is on view a piece of sculpture which shows the wind being supplied by the men blowers. The invention of the organ was the hydraulic or water organ. The modern pneumatic organ is in reality a huge combination of the primitive panpipe and the bagpipe.

There are four kinds of bagpipes, the Highland, a war bagpipe, the Lowland, the Northumbrian, and the Irish. The last three, I regret, seem to be passing away. There has been much controversy about the origin of the Highland bagpipe. Some ascribe its introduction to the Romans, others to the Norse, while others make out a strong case for its Irish introduction. It seems to be just as strong a question as the origin of the bagpipes and melodies. The earliest mention of the bagpipes as being Scottish is made by Quintillian. As he never visited Scotland, presumably he would see it in one of the victory processions of the Roman Empire. It is reputed to have been a bagpipe player. In Peebles to the Flay, there is this reference: Gif I sail dance have done, let see Blaw up the bagpipe than.

The bridegroom bought a pint of ale And bade the piper drink it. The piper has a good precedent for receiving his refreshment from the chairman. There was a King of King David II, authority was given for a payment to him in 1362. George Buchanan tells us that the bagpipe was the great war pipe of the Highlanders.

In 1860, when the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders landed at Dover, Major-General Brown ordered the pipers to be disbanded. Needless to say, they were immediately reinstated. In 1906, when the Third Battalion of the Scots Guards was disbanded, the pipers were playing "Lord Leven's Lament." While the 91st Regiment was serving in South Africa, D Company was mounted, so on New Year's Day, 1885, a mounted piper met the commanding officer and played him to mess. The 17th Indian Cavalry, "Bengal Lancers," have a mounted band of eight pipes and one drummer. There is, however, no tartan decoration on their pipes.

In closing, I would add, that as a popular instrument, the English bagpipe passed away during the reign of George II. The Highland bagpipe has an honorable and very ancient history, and it is greatly to be desired that an historian will come forward with an authentic history of the instrument. Pipes of the misty moorland, Voice of the glens and hills, The droning of the torrents, The treble of the rills.

"The Haberdashery"

Week End Specials

In OVERCOATS

13.50, \$15.00, 16.00, \$17.50

At \$13.50 we can give you a very special Brown and Navy Melton Overcoats. Splendidly tailored and latest model. An Overcoat you'll be proud to wear.

At \$13.50 we can also give you your choice of about 20 Overcoats. Just one or two of a kind and selected from regular stock. Prices run from \$16.50 to \$22.00. Week-end special at \$13.50.

At \$15.00 we offer you a very heavy Blue Melton Overcoat. Regular worth \$18.00. A coat that has been a great seller with us. Week end special sale price \$15.00.

At \$16.00 we can show you a very smart line of Silvertone Overcoats in Navy, Brown and Grey. These Overcoats are very special value at \$18.50. Week end special at \$16.00.

At \$17.50 Men's Navy, Brown and Dark Grey Elysian Overcoats. Half Belt. A very smartly designed overcoat worth at least \$22.00. Week end special price \$17.50.

At \$17.50 Men's Suits in fine Worsted Stripes. We have selected 35 Suits from regular stock, one or two only of a kind regularly worth \$20 to \$25. If your size and pattern is in the lot the price is \$17.50.

SPECIAL WEEK END SALE OF WORK SHIRTS—89c

SOLE AGENT FOR DACKS SHOES

Henderson & Cudmore

MEN'S WEAR

FROM "IONICA"

The aspen grows on the maiden's bank, Down sweeps the breeze on the bough, Quick rose the gust, and suddenly sank, Like wrath on my sweetheart's brow. The trees in caught, the boat dreads nought, Sheltered and safe below; The bank is high, and the wind runs by, Giving us leave to row.

The bank was dipping lower and lower, Showing the glowing West, The oar went slower, for either The river was heaving her breast, That sunset seemed to my dauntless steerer

The lifting and breaking of day, That flash on the wave to me was dearer, Than shade on a windless way.

—W. Cory.

dently established, were in Skene, Cabraach, and Garmond Village-Monquhitter.

The Antiburgher Congregations at Craigmack, Whitehill, Belhelvie, and Golla, had each a library and a reading society, and generally, there were about four or five juvenile libraries connected with Sabbath evening schools.

This was the situation in the year 1818. By that time there had been a practical as well as mental advantages of social reading, and we find such a publication as the "Mechanics' Library" urging cheap periodical publications as a means of the scientific and literary education of the public.

Other writers of the period tell of a growing keeness all over the country for greater facilities for public reading. In the larger towns the movement led to the establishment of Mechanics' Institutes.

The Aberdeen Mechanics' Institute, planned on in 1824, with a Glasgow, originally in 1824, with a fine library, ultimately exceptionally fine, which became, half a century ago, the nucleus of the present Public Library of Aberdeen, Sir William Robertson Nicoll, who knew the Mechanics' Library intimately, used to say there was less useful literature in the Aberdeen Mechanics' Institute Library than in any library he ever knew.

His first point was—"Get a pious man to become a bookseller." Another main point was—"Endeavour to get Libraries, consisting chiefly of history, travels, voyages, established for the benefit of the young."

Might not a few individuals, he says, subscribe each two or three pounds and institute such a library and lend out the books at a price that would provide a fair return? And he saw the advantages of a little publicity, for he says: "Occasionally publish an interesting piece of intelligence in the 'Aberdeen Journal': Thus it will find its way into the houses of every farmer and proprietor throughout the country."

Brown, one is happy to say, saw some of the fruits of his labors in the establishment of libraries.

"I know," he wrote in due time, of 14 religious libraries in the country for adults, and of the same number of juvenile libraries. Others are about to be established on similar plans."

All this took place in a region where previously "the whole country ran with ballads." Through rural and inland districts were set up at Lumphann, Cluny, Kenray, Kintore, Newmachar, Huntly, and Fraseburgh. Others independent

of the town of Aberdeen, were established in the country districts.

One of the notable, but practically unknown publication of a century ago (1830) is an insignificant little book published by George King, St. Nicholas Street, Aberdeen—another supplied so much reading matter for an Aberdeen school, or otherwise, for the country districts.

This mean-looking booklet was a memoir of William Brown, an itinerant preacher in the district from 1808, lately settled minister at Aberdeen. It was written by Rev. Richard Penman, of the Frederick Street Chapel, Aberdeen, Brown's devoted friend. But meaningfully as it is, it is the best contemporary record of the possibilities of rural conditions in the north of Scotland in the beginning of the last century.

In his letters embodied in this publication, Brown outlined a scheme for an Aberdeenshire Association for social and religious uplift.

It was clear from the correspondence that individual writers had knowledge of individual parish libraries, but no clear idea of such institutions in general in the country districts. It was clear, also, that some confusion existed in the minds of writers as to what precisely constitutes a "Public Library."

First of all let it be noted that the term "Public Library" was used in a loose way in former days to cover any sort of library that provided books for the public on any conditions. Booksellers in Aberdeen, for example, often advertised a place of business as a "Public Library."

The Anguses, in the Narrow Wynd, the owners of Angusfield, call their shop the "Aberdeen circulating Library." And Alexander Brown, once Provost of A. Brown and Company, called his shop in Broad Street "The Public Library."

Others did the same, and of whatever kind, was often enough known by the same expression.

After the Act of 1853 began to operate, however, and burgh and parish libraries, administered under definite and accurate laws, the term "Public Library" took on a more definite and accurate meaning, and in that sense the term was used by Sir James Jeans in his address.

Now, it is well over two centuries since the expression began to be used in Scotland. It began in general usage, like so much of the cultural well-being of Scotland, with the Church. In 1705 the General Assembly, acting for the S.P.O.K. in England, distributed no fewer than 56 Parochial Libraries in Scotland, mainly in Highland regions. The Assembly in April, 1709—considering how much it might tend to the advancement of learning that Public Libraries were settled at least one in every Presbytery and many Pious and Charitably Inclined Persons having contributed towards their good Design; the Assembly being desirous to encourage and promote the same,

How Scotland Wakened to Need For More Books

(G.M. Fraser, Librarian, Aberdeen Public Library in the Aberdeen Journal)

Not very long ago, as the result of a remark by Sir James Jeans, President of the British Association, at the Jubilee Luncheon of the Aberdeen Public Library, soon afterwards appeared in the "Press and Journal" relative to Parish Libraries in the country districts of Scotland prior to the establishment of Public Libraries under the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act of 1853.

It was clear from the correspondence that individual writers had knowledge of individual parish libraries, but no clear idea of such institutions in general in the country districts. It was clear, also, that some confusion existed in the minds of writers as to what precisely constitutes a "Public Library."

First of all let it be noted that the term "Public Library" was used in a loose way in former days to cover any sort of library that provided books for the public on any conditions. Booksellers in Aberdeen, for example, often advertised a place of business as a "Public Library."

The Anguses, in the Narrow Wynd, the owners of Angusfield, call their shop the "Aberdeen circulating Library." And Alexander Brown, once Provost of A. Brown and Company, called his shop in Broad Street "The Public Library."

Others did the same, and of whatever kind, was often enough known by the same expression.

After the Act of 1853 began to operate, however, and burgh and parish libraries, administered under definite and accurate laws, the term "Public Library" took on a more definite and accurate meaning, and in that sense the term was used by Sir James Jeans in his address.

Now, it is well over two centuries since the expression began to be used in Scotland. It began in general usage, like so much of the cultural well-being of Scotland, with the Church. In 1705 the General Assembly, acting for the S.P.O.K. in England, distributed no fewer than 56 Parochial Libraries in Scotland, mainly in Highland regions. The Assembly in April, 1709—considering how much it might tend to the advancement of learning that Public Libraries were settled at least one in every Presbytery and many Pious and Charitably Inclined Persons having contributed towards their good Design; the Assembly being desirous to encourage and promote the same,

The Poet's Corner

FROM "IONICA"

The aspen grows on the maiden's bank, Down sweeps the breeze on the bough, Quick rose the gust, and suddenly sank, Like wrath on my sweetheart's brow. The trees in caught, the boat dreads nought, Sheltered and safe below; The bank is high, and the wind runs by, Giving us leave to row.

The bank was dipping lower and lower, Showing the glowing West, The oar went slower, for either The river was heaving her breast, That sunset seemed to my dauntless steerer

The lifting and breaking of day, That flash on the wave to me was dearer, Than shade on a windless way.

dently established, were in Skene, Cabraach, and Garmond Village-Monquhitter.

The Antiburgher Congregations at Craigmack, Whitehill, Belhelvie, and Golla, had each a library and a reading society, and generally, there were about four or five juvenile libraries connected with Sabbath evening schools.

This was the situation in the year 1818. By that time there had been a practical as well as mental advantages of social reading, and we find such a publication as the "Mechanics' Library" urging cheap periodical publications as a means of the scientific and literary education of the public.

Other writers of the period tell of a growing keeness all over the country for greater facilities for public reading. In the larger towns the movement led to the establishment of Mechanics' Institutes.

The Aberdeen Mechanics' Institute, planned on in 1824, with a Glasgow, originally in 1824, with a fine library, ultimately exceptionally fine, which became, half a century ago, the nucleus of the present Public Library of Aberdeen, Sir William Robertson Nicoll, who knew the Mechanics' Library intimately, used to say there was less useful literature in the Aberdeen Mechanics' Institute Library than in any library he ever knew.

His first point was—"Get a pious man to become a bookseller." Another main point was—"Endeavour to get Libraries, consisting chiefly of history, travels, voyages, established for the benefit of the young."

Might not a few individuals, he says, subscribe each two or three pounds and institute such a library and lend out the books at a price that would provide a fair return? And he saw the advantages of a little publicity, for he says: "Occasionally publish an interesting piece of intelligence in the 'Aberdeen Journal': Thus it will find its way into the houses of every farmer and proprietor throughout the country."

Brown, one is happy to say, saw some of the fruits of his labors in the establishment of libraries.

"I know," he wrote in due time, of 14 religious libraries in the country for adults, and of the same number of juvenile libraries. Others are about to be established on similar plans."

All this took place in a region where previously "the whole country ran with ballads." Through rural and inland districts were set up at Lumphann, Cluny, Kenray, Kintore, Newmachar, Huntly, and Fraseburgh. Others independent

of the town of Aberdeen, were established in the country districts.

One of the notable, but practically unknown publication of a century ago (1830) is an insignificant little book published by George King, St. Nicholas Street, Aberdeen—another supplied so much reading matter for an Aberdeen school, or otherwise, for the country districts.

This mean-looking booklet was a memoir of William Brown, an itinerant preacher in the district from 1808, lately settled minister at Aberdeen. It was written by Rev. Richard Penman, of the Frederick Street Chapel, Aberdeen, Brown's devoted friend. But meaningfully as it is, it is the best contemporary record of the possibilities of rural conditions in the north of Scotland in the beginning of the last century.

In his letters embodied in this publication, Brown outlined a scheme for an Aberdeenshire Association for social and religious uplift.

It was clear from the correspondence that individual writers had knowledge of individual parish libraries, but no clear idea of such institutions in general in the country districts. It was clear, also, that some confusion existed in the minds of writers as to what precisely constitutes a "Public Library."

First of all let it be noted that the term "Public Library" was used in a loose way in former days to cover any sort of library that provided books for the public on any conditions. Booksellers in Aberdeen, for example, often advertised a place of business as a "Public Library."

The Anguses, in the Narrow Wynd, the owners of Angusfield, call their shop the "Aberdeen circulating Library." And Alexander Brown, once Provost of A. Brown and Company, called his shop in Broad Street "The Public Library."

Others did the same, and of whatever kind, was often enough known by the same expression.

After the Act of 1853 began to operate, however, and burgh and parish libraries, administered under definite and accurate laws, the term "Public Library" took on a more definite and accurate meaning, and in that sense the term was used by Sir James Jeans in his address.

Now, it is well over two centuries since the expression began to be used in Scotland. It began in general usage, like so much of the cultural well-being of Scotland, with the Church