

AULD LANG SYNE.

The following was written by the minister of a small rural parish near Perth, with reference to the Highland belief in the antiquity of the Gaelic tongue:—

Should Gaelic speech be e'er forgot,
An' never brought to min;
For she'll be spoke in Paradise
In the days o' Auld Lang Syne.

When Eve all fresh in beauty's charms
First met fond Adam's view,
The first word that he'll spoke to her
Was "cumar ashun dhu."

And Adam in his garden fair,
When e'r the day did close,
The dish that he'll to supper teuk
Was always Athole brose.

When Adam from his leafy bower
Cam' out at break o' day,
He'll always for his morning teuk
A quaiich o' usquebae.

And when wi' Eve he'll had a crack,
He'll tuk his sweeshin' horn,
An' on the tap ye'll weel micht mark,
A pony from Cairngorm.

The sweeshin' mull is fine my friend's,
The sweeshin' mull is grand,
We'll teuk a hearty sweesk my frin's,
An' pass't fra hand to hand.

When man first found the want o' class,
The win an' could to fleg,
He twisted round about his waists
The tartan philabeg.

An' music first on earth was heard
In Gaelic accents deep,
When Jubal in his oter squeezed
The blether o' a sheep.

The braw bag-pipes is grand, my frin's,
The braw bag-pipes is fine;
We'll teuk't another pibroch yet,
For the days o' Auld Lang Syne.

Curious Cases of Sleep-Walking.

On the above curious subject a retired naval officer obligingly sends us the following notes:

One bright moonlight night I was on deck, as was frequently my wont, chatting with the lieutenant of the middle watch. It was nearly calm, the ship making little way through the water, and the moon's light nearly as bright as day. We were together leaning over the capstan, chatting away, when W— suddenly exclaimed: "Look, H—, at the sentry!" and pointing to the quarter-deck marine, who was pacing slowly backwards and forwards on the lee side of the deck.

"Well," I replied, after watching him somewhat attentively as he passed once or twice on his beat, "What of him?"

"Why, don't you see he is fast asleep? Take a good look at him when he next passes."

I did so, and found W— was right. The man, although pacing and turning regularly at the usual distance, was fast asleep with his eyes closed.

When next the man passed, W— stepped quickly and noiselessly to his side, and pacing with him, gently disengaged the bunch of keys which were his special charge—being the keys of the spirit room, shell-rooms, store-rooms, etc.—from the fingers of his left hand, to which they were suspended by a small chain; he then removed the bayonet from his other hand and laid the keys on the capstan head. After letting him take another turn or two, W— suddenly called "Sentry."

"Why, you were fast asleep, sentry."

"No, sir."

"But I say you were."

"No, sir. I assure you I was not."

"You were not, eh? Well, where are the keys?"

The man instantly brought up his hand to show them, as he supposed; but, to his confusion, the hand was empty.

"Where is your bayonet?" continued W—

The poor fellow brought forward his other hand, but that was empty also. But the puzzled look of astonishment he put on was more than he could stand; we burst out laughing; and when the keys and bayonet were pointed out to him lying on the capstan, the poor fellow was perfectly dumb-founded. W— was too merry over the joke, however, to punish the man, and he escaped with a warning not to fall asleep again.

Sentries and look-outs must be very liable to fall asleep from the very nature of the monotonous pacing, and this may in some degree account for the facility with which sentries have at times been surprised and secured before they could give an alarm. In this instance, the most curious fact, I think, was the regularity with which the man continued to pace his distance and turn at the right moment. I have known other instances of sentries and others walking in their sleep, though the end has not always been so pleasant to the victim. In one case the quarter-deck sentry, in the middle of the night, crashed down the ward-room hatch-way with musket and fixed bayonet, with a rattling that startled us all out of our cabins. The fellow fell on his back upon the top of the mess-table, but not much the worse for his exploit. On another occasion a messenger boy paid us a visit in the night; he fell upon a chair which he smashed to pieces, but the sleeper escaped unhurt.

These can hardly be considered true cases of somnambulism, but show how men

may continue their occupation when overcome by sleep. Nothing but seeing his bayonet and keys lying on the capstan could have ever convinced the marine that he had been sleeping; no mere assertion to that effect would ever have influenced him.

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Two Plots of Land in King's County.

- 1st. A BUILDING LOT, with House and Premises, in Souris East.
- 2nd. A LEASEHOLD FARM (wood land, no improvements) of about Two Hundred and Four acres, on Lot 46.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Subscriber, Administrator cum testamento annexo de bonis non of the estate of the late Emanuel McEachern, of Lot Number Forty-seven, deceased, will sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, the TWELFTH DAY OF JUNE NEXT (A. D. 1878), at the hour of Twelve o'clock, noon, on the premises, in Souris, aforesaid, by virtue of a license therefor granted by the Honorable Charles Young, LL.D., Surrogate and Judge of Probate of the Island, dated the Twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-seven:

ALL that Building Lot in Souris East, in said Island, bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the eastern boundary of Building Lot Number one, in Souris, aforesaid, and running thence south fifty-four (54) degrees along said boundary for the distance one hundred and six (106) feet; thence north-easterly parallel to the Souris Road for the distance of sixty-eight (68) feet, or to the southern angle of Building Lot Number Three (3); thence north forty-five (45) degrees west along the south-west boundary of said Lot to Souris road; thence along said road for the distance of eighty (80) feet to the place of commencement, with all and singular the Houses, Buildings, premises and appurtenances thereunto belonging, and of which the said deceased doth appear to have been seized and possessed.

And I hereby also give notice that I will put up and sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the time and place aforesaid, one certain Leasehold Farm of the said late Emanuel McEachern, deceased, or unexpired term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, in and to ALL that tract, piece and parcel of Land situate, lying and being on Township Number Forty-six, in King's County, aforesaid, bounded as follows, that is to say: On the east and south by land formerly the property of the late Honorable Samuel Cunard, now the property of the Government of the said Province, on the west by land leased unto Roderick McDonald, and on the north by land leased to Angus McPhee, Neil McPhee and John McKenzie, containing an area of about two hundred and four (204) acres of land, a little more or less.

Terms and conditions of sale made known on day of sale or on application to the undersigned or at the office of Messrs. Brecken and FitzGerald.

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