MARCH, '98.

The year rolled in with westering wind,
And early blossoms marked the hours,
The primrose frail and crocus flowers
Starred every niche the sun could find.

The leafless covert scarce could hide
The blackbird's nest, although 't was well
With twigs enwoven; like the dell
When summer leaves the grass brown-dried.

A tender sheen hung o'er the hill
Where growing grass sent timid blades
To seek the sun, that kissed the glades
And made the heart of nature thrill.

Too soon, alas! for o'er the land
A snow-wind swept, and chilly death
Stripped hill and vale with icy breath
And tore the garlands from our hand.

Blow! scathful winds along our coast!
Freeze! frosty sky the hapless earth!
Let this but bring a second birth,
A fairer Spring than we have lost.

J. RONALDS THOMSON.
Loch Tay-side. In "Scotsman."

The United Kingdom.

SCOTLAND.

FOUND DROWNED.—The body of William Robin, sculptor, who lived in George Street, Paisley, was found on Sunday in the River Cart, near Barnsford Bridge.

SUICIDE IN GLASGOW.—Helen Ford or Hamilton, the wife of a fitter, residing at 29 Ardgowan Place, Glasgow, committed suicide on Friday by jumping from the window of her house, which is three storeys from the ground. She was killed instantaneously.

DESTRUCTIVE SAWMILL FIRE.—Several fires of a serious nature occurred on Saturday and Sunday. The most destructive outbreak was in a sawmill and woodyard on the St Fort estate, in Fifeshire, where the whole erections and stock of cut wood were destroyed, the damage being estimated at £1000.

FOUND DROWNED.—Early on Sunday morning the body of Thomas Barrie, carter, residing at East Burnside Street, Kilsyth, was found dead in the Garrel Burn, within a few yards of his house. It is conjectured that in going home on Saturday evening he had stumbled into the stream in the darkness and thus been drowned.

KILLED BY A TRACTION ENGINE.—A man named Robert Weir was last week killed near Coatbridge by being crushed under the wheels of a traction engine. Weir had formerly driven the engine, and had climbed upon it to speak to the driver while it was running, and, losing his balance, he fell in front of one of the wheels.

CHILD FATALLY BURNED AT PAISLEY.—On Sunday forenoon Mrs Hyndman, 18 King Street, Paisley, had occasion to go out for a few minutes, leaving her son, three years old, in the house. He is supposed to have struck a match trying to light the fire, and that his night-dress became ignited. He was fearfully burned, and died before he reached the infirmary.

KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.—On Sunday morning the dead body of a young man named M'Lellan, employed as a clerk in the Commercial Bank, Dundee, was found on the railway line at Monifieth station. His remains were fearfully mutilated, and he had evidently been run over by a passing train. M'Lellan is supposed to have missed his way in the darkness, and wandered on to the railway.

A MONSTER LING.—Among a shot of fish landed on Friday from a small Stornoway boat was a ling measuring from tip to tip six feet two inches, and in girth three feet. This monster turned the scale easily at six stone, being exactly 84½ lb. In the same shot was a conger eel measuring six feet, and a halibut weighing 2 cwt. These latter, of course, are not very unusual, but the ling is the largest fish of its kind ever landed at Stornoway, and the oldest of the east coast fishermen say they never saw one so large.

ENGLAND.

ANOTHER ALLEGED MURDER AT NEWCASTLE.—Daniel Fagan, aged fifty, was arrested at Newcastle on Saturday, charged with causing the death of Annie Hind, aged forty-six, with whom he had been living in Church Walk.

SEQUEL TO A BALL.—Miss Fanny Hyman was severely burned, through her ball costume catching fire, on Thursday night, and died at Brighton Hospital on Friday night. Her sister was also seriously burned, but is progressing favourably.

LEVEL CROSSING ACCIDENT.—Mr Reeves, a butcher, of Harrietsham, near Maidstone, was on Friday night passing over a level crossing at Lenham, when he stumbled and fell. Before he could recover himself he was run over by a train and cut to pieces.

FATAL FIRE AT BELPER.—An aged couple, both octogenarians, Robert and Ann Forgatt, living at Belper, were found burned to death on Saturday. They resided alone, and it is supposed they had been smoking in bed, a pipe having been found on the floor.

TWO MEN KILLED.—Two men, named Armstrong and Ross, were lifting a heavy casting at Waddington & Longbottom's Foundry, Barrow, on Saturday morning, by a travelling crane, when they lost control of the machine, and the handles flying round, killed both men.

FIRE AT A MANSION.—Brocklesby Hall, the seat of the Earl of Yarborough, was almost destroyed by fire on Sunday. The fire broke out on Saturday in one of the chimney flues, but was extinguished by the Earl's fire brigade. Unfortunately, however, it broke out again at nine o'clock on Sunday. Most of the books were burned, but the valuable Worsley collection of manuscripts was saved.

AN ACQUISITIVE POLICEMAN.—Police Constable Dinsdale, of Bolton police force, who was committed for stealing oysters from a shop on his beat, had ten other charges of burglary preferred against him on Saturday afternoon. With the use of a bunch of 150 keys, many of them skeletons, he had entered different premises, and taken a great variety of articles. Prisoner admitted guilt, and was committed on these charges also.

RAILWAY STATION DESTROYED BY FIRE.—The whole of the block of the up platform refreshment rooms at Swindon Station, on the Great Western Railway, was burned out on Saturday morning. Twenty of the lady attendants in the refreshment rooms, who were sleeping on the premises, only escaped in their night apparel, and the valuable furniture was all destroyed, including that used by the Queen when she last visited Swindon.

BURGLARIES.—The premises of Messrs Stradling, watchmakers and jewellers, at Newbury, were burglariously entered shortly after midnight on Friday, and property of the value of several thousand pounds carried off.—Burglars entered the Windsor Castle public-house, Southwark Bridge Road, in the early hours of Saturday morning, and succeeded in getting clear away with about £100 in gold and silver, and a quantity of cigars.

SHEEP WORRYING NEAR CORNHILL.—A serious case of sheep worrying—the worst that has happened in the district for a long time—has taken place at Crookham. Messrs R. & J. Steel had six Cheviot ewes in a field behind their house, and were awakened about three o'clock in the morning by the barking of a dog. When they went out they found two sheep worried, and a dog attacking another. The sheep were much torn and partly devoured. There have been several cases of sheep worrying in the same district this winter.

SAD DOMESTIC TRAGEDY IN LIVERPOOL.—A peculiarly painful case engaged the attention of the Liverpool City Coroner on Saturday. It was stated that Mrs Joyce, aged thirty-two, the wife of a dock labourer, fell downstairs and fractured her skull, dying shortly afterwards in the hospital. On the same day the two-year-old daughter of the deceased was terribly scalded by a pot of boiling water falling upon her, and died in the hospital on the following morning. In both cases a verdict of accidental death was returned.

IRELAND.

DEATH OF MRS PARNELL.—Mrs Delia Parnell, mother of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, was badly burned on Saturday through her clothes becoming ignited while she was sitting at the drawing-room fire of her house at Avondale, Wicklow, and succumbed to her injuries on Sunday night. Mrs Parnell, who was in her 80th year, was a daughter of Admiral Stewart, of the United States Navy.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN ARNOTT.—Sir John Arnott, one of the Jubilee baronets, died on Monday at his residence, Woodlands, Cork. Sir John was proprietor of the *Irish Times*. He filled the office of Mayor of Cork for three years in succession, and was exceedingly popular and charitable. Sir John recently purchased one of the Duke of Devonshire's Irish estates. He was born in 1814 at Auchtermuchty, and was thus eighty-four years of age.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette*.—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Cocoaine or Cocoa-Nib Extract: Tea-like: A thin beverage of full flavour, now with many beneficially taking the place of tea. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.—*Adv.*

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. MR AND MRS WORKMAN, STOW.

Some of the ladies of the congregation of the Parish Church of Stow, having thought it a desirable thing to present the Rev. Mr Workman with new pulpit robes and the present a very opportune time to carry out their proposal, formed themselves into a committee to promote this object. So liberally were they supported by the members of the congregation that they soon became cognisant of the fact that there would be more presentations than one, and a social meeting at which these might take place was resolved upon. A congregational soiree was accordingly held in the Town Hall on Friday evening. Owing to seed-time and the lengthening day it was scarcely expected that the farm workers would be strongly represented, but, notwithstanding this and the further adverse circumstance that the evening was very stormy, the hall was packed, upwards of 300 persons, almost entirely grown-up people, being present. For a company of this size it was impossible, with the accommodation the hall affords, to provide tea at tables in the usual way, as had at first been thought of. Tea was therefore served to them in the lower rooms of the hall on arrival in relays from 6.30 to 7.30, after which they proceeded upstairs, where, in the meantime, music was being discoursed upon the piano by ladies of the congregation and friends. The ladies presiding over the tea were Mrs Workman, Mrs Hunter, Eskbank; and the committee of management, viz.:—Mrs Henderby, Crosslee; Mrs Middleton, Manorhead; Miss Sanderson, Stow; Misses White, Stagehall; Miss Sanderson, Watherston; and Miss A. Lumsden, Fountainhall. Shortly after half-past seven o'clock, the Rev. Mr Workman took the chair. He was accompanied to the platform (on the table of which were displayed flowers and plants from Manorhead garden) by the Rev. Thomas Burns, of Lady Glenorchy's Church, Edinburgh; Rev. Walter Waddell, Borthwick (nephew of the much respected and revered and well-known minister of Stow—the Rev. David Waddell); Rev. Andrew Hunter, Eskbank; Rev. Thos. Martin, Lauder; Rev. Thos. Blackwood, of the Free Church, Stow; Mr R. Sanderson, elder; and Messrs J. J. Carruthers, George King, A. L. Pringle, J. B. King, W. S. Ovens, and John W. Sanderson, elders-elect. In the orchestra, which was tastefully draped, was the Cathpair party—Mr Thos. Swan, Mrs Frier, Mrs Jackson, Miss Colquhoun, Mr and Mrs White, Stagehall; and friends; whilst the audience was most representative of the district, not only of Mr Workman's congregation but also of the other two in the parish.

The 100th Psalm having been sung, and prayer offered by the Rev. Mr Martin, a choir, under the leadership of Mr W. Adam, sang the anthem, "The Lord doth reign," of which they gave a very good rendering, as also other two in the course of the evening. Thereafter the Chairman proceeded with his opening remarks. These he promised would not be long, seeing that they had such an array of talent on the musical programme before him, nor would he stand in the way of the eloquence he felt sure was struggling for expression in the breasts of the rev. gentlemen by whom he was supported. (Laughter.) He had two apologies to make, however. The first was from the Rev. Mr Gentles, of the U. P. Church, who wrote in the most friendly and kindly way that circumstances over which he had no control, and with regard to the *bona fides* of which he (the speaker) was quite satisfied, prevented his attendance. The other was from their senior elder—Mr Lumsden—who was unable to be present through indisposition. Now it was sixteen years since they had a congregational soiree. The idea of making an annual one he had hitherto shrunk from, principally on account of the impossibility, of which they were witnesses to-night, of providing within that hall tea to the company seated at tables, with a lady presiding at each, in the nice and home-like way which was the very essence of pleasure at a soiree. (Applause.) That evening they had been reduced to the necessity of giving them each a cup of tea in their hands downstairs; but he hoped they would overlook and forgive any little discomfort to which they might have been put under this necessary arrangement. (Applause.) Well, sixteen years was a long time. He did not feel much altered, yet these years told him he was getting among the fossils. (Laughter.) From childhood up to sweet sixteen, especially if you had never been kissed—(laughter)—seemed a long time, but after sixteen, the years passed with lightning speed. Thought, which travelled quickest of all things, did not seem to leave a mark on this Old Time when a man had reached the meridian of life. This period in the life of an individual, of a community, of a congregation, of a kirk-session, told a tale. Would they bear with him while he tried to tell them, as briefly as possible, the tale these years told? In the case of a parish minister, too, and endeavoured to reply to a complaint they sometimes heard, and which could not well be dealt with in one sentence, that it was all due to the dark a'thegither and never ken hoo things are gaun? (Laughter.) Well, to begin with, he had 596 members on the roll, and he did not care what Parliament or committee chose to examine the book. (Hear, hear.) He had kept that book more faithfully, his banker would tell them, than his bank book. (Laughter and applause.) Then he had baptised 446 children in the parish of Stow, and bonnie bairns they were. (Laughter.) Indeed he was sure there were no bonnier bairns anywhere, and he knew what he was talking about. For before he came to Stow he happened a great many of the present "honest men and bonnie lasses" of Ayrshire (and they knew what Burns asserted of them). 446 of their bonnie bairns then had he baptised, and he did not suppose they would be "onything the waur" on his account. (Laughter and applause.) Some of those he had baptised he now met at communion, and even assisted at their marriage. Of young communicants he had admitted 276. But there came before the parish minister's notice a peculiar thing—a kind of heart disease, where the medical practitioner's skill was of no avail, and which could only be cured by the minister. (Laughter.) First the registrar or session-clerk was consulted in the case, and then the minister settled the whole thing. He had cured 85 cases of heart disease like this, and in every instance the cure had been most miraculous. (Laughter.) Mother Seigel's syrup could produce no record like this. It was enough to make one famous for life. (Laughter and applause.) There were, however, black lines throughout the roll book, which indicated that 103 members had passed away to scenes unknown, three of these being most esteemed and respected members of kirk-session. After quoting the ages at which members had died, and referring to an immediate increase in the number of his kirk-session, Mr Workman concluded by saying that though these statistics might appear dry information, yet they carried home to every heart a lesson which all should be willing to learn, viz., the solemnity of human life. (Applause.)

Miss M. B. M'Kirdy, Port-Glasgow, whose abilities as a violinist are now well known to a Stow audience, having given a solo ("The Bohemian Girl"), and Mr Stanley Giblett, Cathpair, a song ("With those sparkling eyes," from "The Gondoliers"), the most interesting part of the programme was reached.

Mr R. Sanderson, in the absence of Mr Lumsden, stated the main object for which the meeting had been held, which was on the first place to present their worthy and esteemed minister with new pulpit robes. This movement originated with some of the ladies in the congregation, who, with better eyes than he possessed, saw signs of dilapidation in the gown their minister wore. (Laughter and applause.) These ladies formed themselves into a committee, and brought the matter before the notice of the congregation; and so successful had they been in their efforts that they were not only able to carry out their original intention but to do something more, as to which he would invite Mrs Henderby to say later. In the meantime, he had much pleasure in introducing the convener of that committee.

Mrs Henderby, who said that in the name of the ladies of the congregation she had great pleasure in presenting Mr Workman with the pulpit robe, which she now placed round his shoulders. They hoped he would be long spared to wear it, and as Stow evidently possessed attractions for him which he would not leave, they seemed to have done, she had only to say that when the robe was worn done they would be very pleased to give him another. (Applause.)

The choir here sang "The Lord bless thee and keep thee," after which

Mr R. Sanderson asked to be allowed to add his congratulation on this auspicious occasion, and to reiterate the good wishes already expressed by Mrs Henderby, and the hope that Mr Workman might long be spared in the noble work of the ministry, and bring glory to the name of their Divine Master and much good to the souls placed under his charge. (Applause.) But he had a further pleasing duty to perform, and that was to ask Mrs Workman's acceptance of the silver tea and coffee service which now adorned the table before him and he was certain he expressed their own sentiments and gave utterance to those of the committee and of the congregation when he said—May she be long spared to grace, as she had hitherto done the hospitalities of Stow Manse, and may they be long spared to each other to participate in each other's joys, and to share in each other's sorrows, and uphold and comfort one another in all the trials and difficulties of life. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. Mr Workman said there were times when the heart was too full to adequately express its feelings, and such was his position at that moment. If he wished he could only let it overflow so as to give the full expression of his appreciation of himself and his wife of the uncalled-for generosity and kindness which had prompted his congregation to indicate their appreciation of whatever little they had been able to do for the spiritual or moral or social comfort of the parishioners. Mr Workman having referred to the former gifts he had received since coming to Stow, spoke of the symbolical meaning of the gown, cassock, and bands—a subject which he could expand to great length — but he simply wished to thank the ladies for undertaking and so successfully carrying out this movement, and the members of the congregation for their desire to see their minister clothed and in his right mind on this matter. He could assure them his wife appreciated to the full their kindness in thus remembering her and indicating their recognition of the hospitality of their manse. The gifts would be treasured and prized, and of this they might be sure that he and his wife would never fail to endeavour to reciprocate to the best of their ability the kindness and generosity which had prompted them, upon the part of his congregation, such a handsome manifestation of affection and esteem. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. Mr Burns was the next speaker, and after making the usual congratulatory references (in which all the other speakers joined), his remarks were mainly directed to the younger people present. Amongst girls and lads in these days there was growing up a spirit of carelessness and of selfishness, and he did not think there were evident a want of love and affection for parents, which it was their duty to guard against. Religious and religious influence had made Scotland what she is, and they must see to it that they did nothing to weaken that influence, and that they accorded love, honour, and respect to their parents to whom they owed so much.

The Rev. Walter Waddell followed with some interesting reminiscences of his early days in Stow (which we may reproduce on another occasion). Addresses were also delivered by the Rev. Messrs Hunter, Martin, and Blackwood (Free Church), the latter giving expression to the good feeling that had always existed between Mr Workman and himself and their respective congregations.

The other items in the musical programme—by Miss Millar, Melrose; Miss Webster, Glasgow; Mr J. W. Sanderson, Mr Giblett, Miss M'Kirdy, and Miss White, Stagebank, afforded much satisfaction. An exhibition of the phonograph was given at an interval in the proceedings, and this also added much to the enjoyment of the assembly.

Votes of thanks to all who had in any way assisted in the proceedings were heartily accorded on the motion of the Rev. Mr Blackwood, after which a verse of "God save the Queen" was sung, and the Rev. Mr Waddell pronounced the benediction.

Along with the robes, which were supplied by Messrs Stark Brothers, Edinburgh, was presented a copy of the Scottish Hymnal, elegantly bound in morocco, and containing an illuminated inscription, executed, at the request of the committee, by the Rev. Mr Workman. The hymnal and two accompanying souvenir booklets were supplied by Messrs Sanderson & Son. The silver service was an exceedingly pretty reproduction of George II. period, very richly chased, and was supplied by Mr David Crichton, silversmith, Edinburgh.

THE SELKIRK EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE.

Walter Tait, tailor, Green Terrace, Selkirk, was charged in Selkirk Sheriff Court on Friday, before Sheriff Vary Campbell and a jury, with having, between the 1st January, 1897, and 18th January, 1898, embezzled the sum of £46, 3s 8d, belonging to the Flowers of the Forest Lodge of Ancient Free Gardeners, while acting as treasurer for the society. Accused, who was defended by Mr Riddoch, solicitor, Jedburgh, pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—James Laidlaw, Robert Turnbull, Alexander Welsh, John Roberts, George M'Neill, James Clark, John Turner, James Biggar, Henry Glendinning, Robert Graham, William Elliot Miller, John Shortreed, Hunter Kennedy, William Orr, James Smith Miller.

The first witness examined was George Dobson, designer, Forest Road, Selkirk. In answer to the Procurator-Fiscal (Mr J. Pollok), he deponed that he had been a member of the Flowers of the Forest Lodge of Free Gardeners since 1890. He briefly stated the objects of the society, and named the principal officials for 1897. The accused Tait was treasurer, and had occupied that office since the formation of the society in 1890. The witness had been one of the auditors since 1895, but did not audit the accounts in 1897. Having detailed the way in which the contributions of the members were made and received, witness identified the treasurer's cash book as being in accused's handwriting. He next proceeded to speak of the audit meeting on 17th January last, when he was one of the auditors. James Denham, district inspector, Galashiels, and William Pickard, secretary of the lodge, were present. Accused knew that the meeting was to be held that night, and should have been present. He did not turn up at first, having sent word that he would require to work all night, but would try and get to the meeting later on. In the interval they examined the books, and, with the exception of slight mistakes in addition, they found them correct. They had not the bank book at that time, but it was got, and on being compared with the abstract drawn out by accused, it was found that there was a discrepancy of £33. The cash book showed the amount in bank to be £36, 4s 3d. The bank book credited them with £313, 4s 3d, leaving a deficit of £33. The accused's books showed the cash on hand to be £6, 2s 4d, but there had been £8, 4s 11d in the bank, which should have been £8, 4s 11d. The accused came to the meeting about half-past nine, when he was informed of the state of affairs. Tait said he could not understand it, but thought it would be a case of misplacing figures. A meeting was arranged for the following night (Wednesday), when they were to go over the books again. When they met on the Tuesday night Pickard had accused's ledger, which contained £12, 18s. After they had arranged to hold a meeting the next night they separated. Tait taking the ledger containing £12, 18s with him. Witness and Pickard attended the next night, but Tait failed to appear. Witness was told that he had absconded. The ordinary meeting of the society was held on 6th January last, but witness was not present. Accused's book showed that he had been present and had received contributions amounting to £3, 9s 5d. A payment of 17s 6d had been made, leaving a deficit of £1, 11s 11d. This added to the £33 difference between the bank book and accused's book, and the balance in hand of £8, 11s 9d, made up the sum mentioned in the indictment—£46, 3s 8d. They never got the £12, 18s that was in the bag accused took away.

The Sheriff—You have charged that also.

The Procurator—We only charged from accused's own books.

Witness, continuing, said no one except the accused had to do with the cash. Asked as to the system adopted by accused, witness said he had simply received contributions and failed to lodge them in the bank. Something like £200 would pass through accused's hands during the year.

Cross-examined by Mr Riddoch—It was not one of their rules that the treasurer was allowed to have £100 on hand at one time. According to their rules the bank book should lie on the table at the ordinary meetings, to be inspected by any member who cared to do so. As far as witness knew, accused never got an opportunity of refunding the money. Accused was always a diligent member of the society, and was treasurer.

John Hume, clerk, High Street, Selkirk, deponed that he had attended on January 14, 1897, along with his brother George. At that time, he told him there was a difference of £15 between his books and the bank book. Accused said the £15 was money left over from a bazaar held the previous year, with which he was going to pay some outstanding accounts. Witness had nothing to do with the bazaar, but he thought Tait as treasurer had something to do with it. He accepted Tait's statement and did not doubt his word in the slightest. He signed the books at that time as correct along with his brother and James Denham on the understanding that the statement made by Tait regarding the £15 was correct. At that date the bank book showed £280 in bank, whilst the treasurer's book stated that £295 was invested—a deficit of £15. He believed the accused's statement all the more readily because it was made before the district inspector and the members of the executive. Witness corroborated Dobson's evidence with regard to the state of the money on the 6th January, and to the money received on the 6th January.

Cross-examined—He said nothing to the society or the public about the £15. He believed the society held a guarantee of £10 in connection with the treasurership.

George Hume, pattern-weaver, Newton-on-Ayr, generally corroborated the evidence of the previous witness.

James Denham, cashier, Douglas Street, Galashiels, said he was book inspector in 1897 for the Free Gardeners in the East of Scotland. He signed the accounts as correct in July 1897, on the understanding that the £15 would be put right before the December audit. He also corroborated the evidence of the first witness regarding the audit meeting on January 17th, as did also William Pickard, secretary of the lodge.

William Esmond, assistant secretary; Robert Hume, past worthy master; William Scott, worthy master, also gave evidence; and Archibald Johnstone, cashier in the Trustee Savings Bank, spoke to the amounts entered in the bank book as being correct.

Police Constable Douglas gave evidence as to making inquiries about accused, and receiving him from the Galashiels police. When the charge was read over to him in the Selkirk Police Office, accused said it was a bad job, and he wished it over as soon as possible. Constable Quarry, Galashiels, deponed to arresting accused in a railway carriage at Galashiels station on 26th January.

This closed the evidence for the prosecution, and no evidence was led for the defence. The accused's declarations were read over by the Clerk, in which he stated that the books produced in Court were in his handwriting, and were signed by him.

The Procurator-Fiscal then addressed the jury, going over the evidence in detail. He pointed out that the members of the society were mostly working men, and their contributions were hard-earned money, paid for the purpose of providing against sickness and accident. Accused had committed — not an isolated act, but a premeditated and systematic course of fraud; and one could not think of it otherwise than as a most heartless case of embezzlement.

Mr Riddoch also addressed the jury, and contended that unless there was a limit to the amount of money the treasurer was allowed to keep on hand there could be no breach of trust or embezzlement. Accused had never got an opportunity of refunding the money; he had never been asked to place it where they wanted it placed.

The Sheriff then laid down the law in the case to the jury, and said the questions they had to consider were—Did this man in breach of his trust wickedly and feloniously take this money? and, Has he got the money? It seemed to him that the society had placed an exuberance of trust in this man. It did not appear to him that Tait's explanation about the £15 was at all satisfactory. Had they been business auditors, he would not have been pulled up then, but the men were trustful. With regard to what his agent had said, accused had two months in which to refund the money, and had never offered to do so.

The jury retired, and, after an absence of ten minutes, the foreman, Mr Turner, said they found the accused guilty as libelled. He added that the jury considered the society had been rather slack in conducting its business.

His Lordship, addressing accused, said he was extremely sorry to see a man of his character in such a position. This kind of offence could only be committed by a man of good character, because only such an one could get into a position of trust. He did not forget what the jury had said as to the slackness of the audit, and on that account he would deduct something from the sentence he thought of passing. On the other hand, unfortunately, the thing had been going on for some time, and he did not see that he could reduce the sentence below four months' imprisonment.

His Lordship afterwards thanked the jury for their attendance. The case, which lasted three hours, caused a good deal of interest locally.

THE BEAUTY OF BARBICAN.

There is a story current in the neighbourhood of St Giles's, Cripplegate Without, in connection with a headstone, now only about a foot above the surface of the crowded churchyard of that parish—the church itself, by the by, was Milton's burial-place—on which may still be faintly discerned the name of the tenant below was Charles something, beginning with a P. This tale seems to me of sufficient interest and significance to warrant its being introduced to a wider circle.

Michael Benson, a tinplate smith, drove, it appears, a thriving trade in Red Cross Street, Barbican, about the middle of the eighteenth century, and ultimately amassed considerable wealth. He was reputed a somewhat odd, eccentric, hard grained man, whose bark, however, was much worse than his bite, which most of men may ascribed his reputation in the eyes of the gossips to his having been "crossed in love" by one Lucy Andrews, the daughter of a plumber and glazier, and popularly known in the days when the second George was king as the Beauty of Barbican. This fascinating damsel unhappily preferred the showier attractions of a non-commissioned cavalry officer to the less glittering though far more solid pretensions of the industrious and thriving smith; and the Mars and Vulcan story of classical antiquity had its Cripplegate version by the union, in the church of that name, of the fair and faithless Lucy with the dashing sergeant of dragoons. Honest Michael was at first greatly staggered by this heavy, and it seems, quite unexpected blow; but he soon recovered his equilibrium, addressed himself with heartier zeal than ever to his forge and anvil, and, as previously stated, so successfully, that compassionate candidates for the office of healing the wounds inflicted by the fickle Lucy were by no means wanting; but Michael Benson would have none of them. Perhaps the treachery of the Beauty of Barbican had inspired him with a general distrust of the deceptive sex; or, which is likelier, her image still lived in his memory with a freshness beside which their feebler charms showed dim and pale. This last was the conclusion arrived at by those more intimate friends of the smith, who know how, at convivial and unguarded moments, his heart would leap to his lips; and this opinion received, in the autumn of 1745, a striking confirmation. Following close upon the news of Johnny Cope's brilliant battle with the Highlanders at Prestonpans, there came news of Lucy's husband, Colour-Sergeant Haselgrove, having been killed there, leaving her a forlorn widow with a young family, was temporarily sojourning in the neighbourhood of Carlisle. Michael Benson for some time appeared to treat this intelligence with contempt or indifference—in reality with mistrust and disbelief. It was not very long before he changed his tone. Confirmation of the tidings must have reached him from a reliable source, for in February 1746, he suddenly disappeared from Red Cross Street, and did not show again for nearly three weeks. His trip to the north—whither it was soon ascertained the steps of the stalwart and faithful swain had been directed—had everybody admitted, greatly improved him both in looks and temper. His morose manner fell off like a garment; and, reverting to the other extreme, he grew languishingly eloquent upon connubial felicity, and the inexpressibly forlorn condition of wretched bachelors. The house, too, was newly fitted up and furnished, as a suitable residence for a man of family and substance; and, finally, he admitted, in whispered confidence to his cronies, that the ensuing month of merry May would see him united in holy wedlock to the bereaved widow of the slain dragoon. Vanity of vanities—all is vanity! Fate had decreed that the barbarous beauty should be Michael Benson's death or ruin. Whilst assisting to fix a new and flaming sign over his shop, the ladder upon which he stood slipped, and he was precipitated with stunning violence to the pavement. It was at first believed that he was mortally hurt, and this, it was subsequently manifest, must have been his own opinion upon recovering consciousness; but, ultimately, skilful surgery and a good constitution brought him through; and, by the time brightryed, bliss-bringing May was at hand, he had recovered his old health and vigour—only to encounter a severer stroke than he had yet suffered. A letter reached the impatient Benedict-expectant one morning with the intelligence that Sergeant Haselgrove had never been dead at all—that he had been severely wounded only, and taken prisoner, in Cope's illustrious campaign, and detained, without the power of communicating with his sorrowing wife and family, until rescued by the catastrophe of Culloden! Poor Michael Benson's relapse was as sudden as it was severe. He hurried from his shop at Barbican to the Duke's Arms, and after that he felt ill, and his poor health subsided into chronic failure. . . . . He had not been able to struggle through . . . . . [illegible]

He proposes; God disposes. Michael Benson was sitting alone one evening after the close of the day's business, revolving this and other projects in his mind, when a letter was brought in with a message that the bearer, a young man, would wait for an answer. He snatched the letter, muttering as he did so a peevish expression of annoyance at being disturbed; but no sooner had his glance fallen upon the superscription, than a flash of wild surprise broke over and crimsoned his countenance. Eagerly he tore it open, and read with eyes in a fever of feeling as he half-ran the last words. He bade his servant show the young man in. This was Charles Passmore, the son of Lucy by her first marriage, and the ruined merchant had thought to help him of his own free will. . . . The young man stood awkwardly beside him, with a thirst for an answer.

The unexpected and charming addition to his household quickened for a time the sluggish pulses of the civic councillor with a more healthy life; but his habits of indulgence are seldom permanently eradicated in elderly persons. They gradually regained their wonted ascendancy; and Lucy Haselgrove had only been about three months in the house when, in a lightning stroke of apoplexy, he was smitten down. Surgical aid having been promptly obtained, he was for this time quit for the fright, but ever-present dread of a second visitation.

"It was very lucky," remarked the surgeon, addressing Charles Passmore, "that I was within call; or even a delay in such a case—be it never so brief—might have sent your uncle to another world." The surgeon, a cold, matter-of-course reply, which the medical gentleman at the time considered with the quick, bright flush that at the moment suffused his pale features. No comment was, however, made, and the conversation terminated.

Charles Passmore is described as a bold, stubborn, unprincipled, yet withal specious young man, precocious alike in ambition and avarice, whose master passions, it will be seen, he hesitated at no means, however base, to gratify. Michael Benson, it seems, at first cherished a hope that a lively and spirited boy might be born to him; and that expectation, as he advanced in years, faded away; and, as he grew to be a man of wealth and importance, he began to feel the want of an heir. This was Charles Passmore's opportunity, and he was careful to improve it; and, in the course of about a year, or so, managed to ingratiate himself so far in his uncle's good graces, that the old man was believed to have made a will in his favour. But this notion of the nephew's having supplanted Lucy Haselgrove had not been very favourably received by the old man's friends, and the relatives of the unfortunate Lucy; and he felt a certain uneasiness at the state of affairs. It was announced in the neighbourhood that the old man had made a new will, settling the bulk of his property upon Lucy Haselgrove; and this news came like a thunderbolt upon Passmore.

This resolution was stated in his presence to Mr Aspern, an attorney of Coleman Street, whom Michael Benson had hastily sent for, warned, it appears, by internal premonitions, that he would do well to set his house in order. The instructions given were brief and emphatic—£5000 to Lucy Haselgrove; £1000 to the hospitals, as aforesaid; and the residue, estimated with the business, at about £12,000, to his nephew; and the will to be ready for execution on the following day. Mr Aspern promised compliance, and took his leave, followed a few minutes afterward by Charles Passmore.

It was rather late that evening when the nephew returned home. Mr Benson had finished his supper, and was sitting alone, imbibing, in defiance of all warning, a few more of the "nightcaps" which were so materially assisting him to his long last sleep. The young man's steps were unsteady, and his angry eye sparkled with ill-repressed rage. Unaccustomed drink had washed away the mask which he had hitherto worn in his uncle's presence, and revealed the true character was for the first time revealed to his astonished and indignant relative. A fierce altercation regarding the proposed will immediately ensued, and went on with increasing violence, till the insolence of the nephew had arisen to such a pitch as to embolden him to hazard a base, exasperating imputation upon the characters of both Lucy and her mother.

"Lying, ungrateful scoundrel!" thundered Michael Benson, as he sprung with passionate energy to his feet, and menaced the slanderer with clenched fists; "but, for your own mother's sake, I" —— He stopped abruptly, and clasped his forehead with both his hands, whilst a mighty change fell like a thick pall over his inflamed countenance. A moment, and the words: "The surgeon—quick!" gurgled from his throat; his head fell on his chest, and blindly staggering a few paces in the direction of the door, he fell with a deep groan on the floor.

Charles Passmore looked eagerly in the face of the helpless man. Assistance, he clearly saw, to be effectual, must be very speedy; and he stepped mechanically towards the bell. His fingers clutched the rope, but they were instantly withdrawn; and he once more gazed steadily towards the prostrate relative, and gazed with earnest, fearful scrutiny on the convulsed features of the dying man. As he did so, the eyes slowly unclosed, and addressed him with so ghastly an expression, that the young man turned hastily away, and again moved towards the bell. Three or four precious minutes passed, and then the bell was rung with furious violence.

"Fetch a surgeon!—quick!—quick!" exclaimed Charles Passmore to the servant who answered the bell. "My uncle has fallen down in a fit."

Mr Rymer was quickly on the spot, and instantly opened a vein. Too late! The sluggish blood yielded a few drops only; a few minutes, and that life was over. "A few minutes earlier might have made all the difference," remarked the surgeon; "but your uncle, Mr Passmore, is past help now."

An hour afterwards, Charles Passmore was seated in his bedroom, alone with conscience. His face was white as stone, and his whole frame trembled with terror. There was brandy on the table beside him, of which he freely partook; but it required repeated draughts to still the gnawing and throbbing of the wakened worm within. Slowly, however, the white face acquired colour; the troubled shrinking eyes grew bold and steady; the palsied limbs ceased to shake and quiver; and articulate utterance was not impossible. "Visitation of God!" he muttered. "To be sure—what else! Rymer is a conceited ass to suppose he could have afforded effectual aid, even had he been present at the moment of attack. Fortunately it is timed, too, since it was to be. And now, I think, if there is an important matter, the saving or throwing away of a thousand pounds, which must neither be forgotten nor delayed. Well remembered."

Thus speaking, Charles Passmore seized the candle, listened for a moment on the landing to make sure the house was quiet, and then crept stealthily downstairs. He returned in about ten minutes with a folded parchment in his hand, which, after locking the door, he eagerly addressed himself to read. "Yes, this is it:—'My last Will and Testament,' the date, June 1765. All my property, real and personal, to my dear nephew, Charles Passmore, with the exception of a thousand pounds to the two hospitals. Eh! what's this? And two thousand pounds to Lucy Haselgrove, or her children in equal proportions! Upon my word, this is pretty! Three thousand pounds sliced off instead of one, as I understood; but, as I am the undoubted heir-at-law, I shall take the liberty of doing what I heard the testator tell Mr Aspern a moment ago he intended to do—make a new will—burn this atrocious will." As he spoke, the parchment lay in the flame. . . . . . . the ashes of the prudence of the act flashed across his excited brain, and he hesitated to commit the important instrument to the flames. But his uncle had no more ever meant to carry out his design than he himself by many degrees; there could not be the slightest danger therefore; and the gain—three thousand pounds—was certain and clear! The will was then consumed by small slips at a time, in order that no unusual light might attract the attention of passers-by.

Early on the morning of the funeral, Mr Aspern, the attorney, called at Red Cross Street. "Golding," he said, "of Basinghall Street, your uncle's lawyer in former days, has been to my office to make inquiries about the will made in 1765. I told him it could not be found, and that there could be no reasonable doubt that it had been destroyed by the testator, in fulfilment of his declared intention to do so. He fully appeared hardly satisfied, and I said he had better call here after the funeral. He is acting, I presume, for some relative or other of your deceased uncle."

"A very distant relative, then, if any," replied Passmore. "Mr Golding is quite welcome, however, to institute as rigorous a search as he pleases. My uncle himself told me that he had destroyed the will."

"So I informed Golding; but he insists upon an investigation, and will be here about three o'clock. I will take care to be present. Good-day, Mr Passmore."

Beside Lucy Haselgrove—who, in compliance with a quite marked "private and confidential," request, had delayed leaving White Cross Street, her home, alas! no longer, till he should see her after the funeral—calm, composed, but exceedingly pale, Mr Charles Passmore, and Mr Attorney Aspern, there were several mourners, friends of the deceased, present in the first-floor front room, when the solicitor of Basinghall Street was announced. Golding was a thin, wiry little man, with the eyes of a lynx, which, when he had made his general bow, glanced from the fortunate and decorous nephew to the unfortunate and weeping Lucy Haselgrove, with a brief arrow-like scrutiny.

"The will made in 1765," began Mr Golding, "has been, I understand you say, destroyed by the deceased's own act?"

"Yes," replied Charles Passmore; "my lamented uncle told me so himself more than forty-eight hours before his death."

"And that which was to have replaced it has not been drawn up, much less executed?"

"Exactly," said Mr Aspern.

"Still I can have no doubt—I am not at all sure as well tell you, in the interest of this young lady, Miss Lucy Haselgrove, through whom I am instructed by her—I can have no doubt that the heir-at-law will carry out the deceased's clearly-expressed intention, though not legally compelled to do so?"

The heir-at-law coloured, and looked annoyed, but promptly answered—"I shall most assuredly do no such thing. Your client, Miss Lucy Haselgrove, is no relation of mine, and can have no claim, equitable or otherwise, to any portion of my lawful inheritance."

"And that is your fixed determination?" said Mr Golding, with a sort of stern exultation in his tone and manner.

"Certainly it is. The prime duty of every man is to look after his own interest; that of his relatives demands his next care."

"Very prettily said indeed! and it happens, too, that I have just now a prime duty to perform. Mr Michael Benson's last will has been destroyed—of that fact I have not the slightest doubt—and, you say, by the testator's own act, about which there may be two opinions. Be that, however, as it may, I have the honour to inform you, that by the will made by the said Michael Benson, and dated April 7, 1756—at which time, it will be remembered, Mr Benson's life was considered in danger, in consequence of a fall from a ladder——"

"I remember it well," interrupted one of the mourners present; "the more by token—— Beg pardon. I beg pardon."

"By that will, now the last will of my client, Michael Benson," continued Mr Golding, with his keen eyes fixed upon the countenance of the heir-at-law, "all the property, real and personal, of which the testator might die seized and possessed, was bequeathed to Lucy Haselgrove, formerly of Barbican, and then of Carlisle, and after her to her children in equal proportions. Lucy Haselgrove, therefore, here present, being, as I am instructed, the only surviving child of Lucy Haselgrove, formerly Lucy Andrews of Barbican, is the sole legatee under this will, and owner of the said property as well as personals, left by the said Michael Benson. I"——

A cry of desperation from Charles Passmore, accompanied by a frantic effort to seize the fatal document—by his own act rendered fatal—interrupted Mr Golding. Foiled in this maniacal attempt, the infuriated young man reiterated his inarticulate shriek of rage, and turned vengefully towards the bewildered and now terrified Lucy Haselgrove, but his balance before he could reach her, receded, and fell without sense or motion on the floor.

Thus essentially concludes a story still current in the parish of Cripplegate Without, London. The foregoing detail was gleaned from the ravings of Charles Passmore during his confinement in Bethlehem Hospital as a confirmed lunatic, which lasted till his death and burial in Cripplegate churchyard; and by the side of the long since sunken gravestone before spoken of. That Lucy Haselgrove was put into peaceable possession of the property of Michael Benson; of the handsomest and most important of the happy mayoresses that flourished at the close of the eighteenth century, was the fortunate daughter of the Beauty of Barbican.

AGRICULTURE.

BORDER GRASS PARK LETS.—The Springwood grass parks have been let at a fall from last year of 9¾ per cent, and Haining at a fall of 5 per cent. Ewart parks have been let at a rise of 12 per cent, and Nenthorn at a rise of 4 per cent. Ford Castle parks have been let at a fall of 9¾ per cent, and Hornecliffe and Bankhead parks at a rise of 2½ per cent. The grass parks on the estate of Abbotsford were let on Friday at a rise of about 14 per cent.

THE Border Union Agricultural Society hold their annual sale of shorthorn bulls at Kelso tomorrow, April 1. In class I., devoted to pedigree bulls calved on or after 1st December, 1896, eleven owners have entered 21 bulls. Class II., pedigree bulls calved before that date, has one entry; Class III., pedigree heifers and cows, and Class V., non-pedigree bulls calved before 1st December, 1896, have no entry. Class IV., non-pedigree bulls, has twenty-six owners in the ballot, and shows an entry of 44 bulls. The judges are—Mr J. Graves, Hasket Hall, Wigton. Mr W. Henderson, Haydon Bridge.

LITERARY NOTES.

A second large edition of Dr Whyte's Appreciation of "Father John of the Greek Church" is now in the press, and a translation into Russian has been undertaken by Col. E. E. Goulaeff, of St Petersburg, the translator into English of Father John's book "My Life in Christ."

A volume of Short Studies of some Nineteenth Century Authors, by the Rev. P. Wilson, M.A., Leith, will be issued by Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier under the title of "Leaders in Literature." The contents will include Carlyle and Emerson—Lowell—George Eliot—Mrs Browning—Robert Browning—Matthew Arnold—Herbert Spencer—John Ruskin.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

THE Rugby season closed on Saturday. All the Border clubs were engaged against city teams, and in all the games, except that between Selkirk and St George, which resulted in a draw, the Borderers were defeated.

SELKIRK CLUB.—The matches of this club are now over for the present season. The team has played some good games, and yet, judged by results, the season has been a very poor one. In all, 16 matches were played, of which only 2 were won, 6 drawn, and 8 lost. The points scored by the team numbered 26, while 77 were registered against them, chiefly owing to the large scores made by Jedforest in the first match, and by Galashiels in the return match. The wins were against Peebles and Australasians (Edinburgh), the draws were with Hawick Trinity, Melrose (twice), Stewart's, and St George (twice). They lost to Langholm (twice), Galashiels (twice), Jedforest (twice), and Hawick (twice). In none of the matches except the two wins did Selkirk succeed in crossing their opponents' lines, all the draws being scoreless. The points were the scorers of the tries were Renwick (2), Turner (2), J. Brunton, and Waldie (1). A. B. Brunton had one dropped goal, and Waldie converted two of the tries. The second fifteen have been more successful, having won 5, drawn 1, and lost 5. They scored 74 points, while 54 points were scored against them.

GALASHIELS FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON'S PLAY.—The Gala Football Club brought their season to a close on Saturday when a weak team travelled to Glasgow and was beaten by a goal to nil. During the season Gala have played 21 matches, of which they won 11, lost 7, and drew 6. They have scored 3 goals, 1 drop goal, 2 penalty goals, and 27 tries, in all 136 points; while 10 goals, 1 penalty goal, and 13 tries, or 102 points have been scored against them. The matches won were with Selkirk (twice), St George (twice), Edinburgh Institution, Langholm, Fifeshire, Kelvinside Academicals, Glasgow University, Stewart's College, and Dundee High School; lost, Hawick, Jedforest (twice), Carlisle, Watsonians, Institution, and Glasgow Academicals; drawn, Royal High School, Melrose (twice), Edinburgh University, Langholm, and Hawick.

MELROSE *v.* PARTICKHILL.—These teams brought their list of club fixtures to an end for another season at Melrose. Partickhill, playing with fine combination and smartness, fairly outplayed Melrose in the early stages of the game, and put a couple of tries to their credit in quick succession. Kirkwood and Wright were the scorers, but neither try was improved on. The second half saw Melrose playing much better, but not till near the close did they succeed in scoring, when Gray ran in at the corner. Time was shortly afterwards called, leaving the Glasgow men winners by six points to three.

ST GEORGE *v.* SELKIRK.—The start was not fixed to take place until 4.15, and it was fully a quarter to five when Selkirk kicked off against a strong, bitter cross wind and driving sleet. Two twenties were played. The Borderers got down in the first minute, but Campbell saved, and the St George worked their way back to the centre, where stiff but uneventful mauling was the order of the day for the next ten minutes, the ball meanwhile having a bad time of it. The St George had slightly the better of the argument until just before the interval, when the visitors got dangerous; but W. Little relieved with a smart breakaway. The half-time arrived with no scoring. On resuming, the St George pressed at first, but being driven back, play was evenly contested in mid-field until put on the close, when the St George, putting on a stiff pressure, forced Selkirk to touch down. An evenly contested game ended in a draw—no scoring.

HAWICK *v.* WATSONIANS.—Played at Hawick, and won by the latter by one try to nil.

JED FOREST *v.* ACADEMICALS (EDINBURGH).—Played at Jedburgh, when the city men retired winners by two goals (one dropped) and one try to one try. The result of the match gave the Academicals the Scottish club championship for this season.

ASSOCIATION.

FAIRYDEAN ROVERS *v.* SELKIRK 2ND SCRATCH.—At Galashiels. Only four or five of the second team took part, the rest being drawn from the ranks of the Woodburn. The Rovers won by six goals to one. All the scoring was done in the first half.

KELSO, ten goals; EDINBURGH POSTAL, two goals. At Kelso.

PEEBLES *v.* SELKIRK.—These teams met at Peebles on Saturday in the semi-final of the Border Cup. Both teams were at full strength, and it was generally expected that Selkirk, who have held the cup for the last three years, would be victorious. The day, however, was one of the stormiest of the season, and entirely unsuited for football. A strong wind, which brought with it blinding showers of snow and hail, blew straight up the field, and Selkirk had to face this in the first half. Blacklock forced a corner immediately after the start. This was well placed by Fairgrieve, but after a scramble in the goal mouth the Peebles cleared, and, aided by the wind, were soon at the other end. Here they also secured a corner, but forced no better. . . . . had done. Johnstone had a good run, but Fairgrieve unfortunately missed his centre right in front of the goal. Peebles then pressed, and a long, high shot by S. Cleghorn took effect, T. Scott evidently misjudging the ball or being too numbed to hold it. At the other end Johnstone missed a good chance by getting offside. Peebles continued to have the best of the play, but the interval arrived without any addition to the score. The Selkirk players had evidently felt the effects of the storm, as their play in the second period was very poor. Peebles, on the other hand, were playing a strong game, and quickly added other three soft goals to their score—all of them the result of breakaways, and in every case the goalkeeper had a chance of saving. At last Campbell found the net with a good shot, but it looked as if Selkirk would have to retire pointless. At last Campbell lodged a great shot in the net, and a minute after close of the game, the Peebles lead was reduced to three. Play was almost entirely in Peebles lines in the last quarter, but the game was called with the score:—Peebles, four goals; Selkirk, one. The game was disappointing, none of the finer points of the Association code being in evidence. The short passing game of Selkirk was entirely unsuited for such a day, the long kicking indulged in by Peebles being far more effective. Unfortunately, the game was somewhat marred by displays of temper on both sides. For the losers, Scott in goal played a poor game, and should certainly have saved some, if not all, of the Peebles goals. R. Scott was the best back, and got through a great amount of work. W. Scott was at times a little flustered, but he also made some capital saves, and played hard. Both, however, made the mistake of lying too near the forwards. The halves were good. Campbell, though playing most of the time with an injured knee, was again conspicuous for his tackling. Marshall several times brought the home forwards up when they looked dangerous, and J. M'Blain was ever in the thick of the fight. Of the forwards, Blacklock, Brown, and R. M'Blain were the best. Johnstone played a good game in the first half, but fell away towards the close. Fairgrieve put in some good work. He, too, was on the injured list, and was easily beat at close quarters. For Peebles, Cleghorn in goal was not severely tested, though he played well. Of the backs Hunter played in a manner. His brother at back is a strong kicker, and played a good game, but both of them incline too much to "gallery" play. Shiels also made a capable back. Though nothing brilliant, the half-back line includes a trio of hard workers. Of the forwards, Millar, Johnstone, and Mason were the best. Hamilton in centre made a number of easy chances. It is said that Selkirk intend to protest against the game on the account of the weather. This, however, should either have been done at the commencement of the game or at the interval.

GOLF.

TORWOODLEE CLUB (GALASHIELS).—The competition for the monthly medal of this club was held on the course at Torwoodlee in wintry weather. There was a small turnout of players, and the medal was won by Donald Stalker with a score of 91, less 15—76.

AN ANNUITY TO LANDLORDS.

At a meeting of the Hawick Liberal Club on Friday night—Mr John T. Laing, Linden Park, in the chair—Mr R. H. Aldridge, London, gave an address on the land question, remarking that the landlords took more than two hundred millions from the land every year. In regard to mines, a landlord in Durham got 5d for every ton of coal produced, while in some parts of Scotland they got from 10d to 1s 6d per ton, and yet they provided neither labour nor capital. The Corporation of Glasgow at one time sold a piece of land at 3s 8d a yard, and at a later period they bought it back, the price paid being at the rate of £48 per yard. It was the community that had made the land valuable, and yet it did not benefit the landowner. If the working men became landowners they would just act in the same way, but he blamed the working men for their abominable apathy on the question, because they had the power to alter the present state of matters, and in this they did not do it. A tourist in the Killarney district asked his driver the name of a certain mountain, and was told that it was the devil's mountain, and there was a devil's glen and devil's bridge. "The devil seems to own a lot of property here," said the tourist. "Yes, Sir," replied the driver, "but he is not an Irishman. He is an absentee landlord and lives in London." (Laughter.) Mr Chamberlain spent his time chiefly in speaking about opening up foreign markets, to which we sent gunpowder, gin, and the gospel. He went on to speak of the purpose if our legislators opened up our home markets, and got the people back to the land again. He advocated the nationalisation of land, and would not buy out the landlords by giving them an annuity for two generations. Mr Aldridge received a vote of thanks.

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TIME TABLE FOR APRIL.

SELKIRK TO GALASHIELS.

[illegible]

The 1.30 is a through train to Edinburgh via Peebles.

GALASHIELS TO SELKIRK.

[illegible]

* On Saturdays only the 12.30 P.M. train leaves Galashiels at 12.45, arriving in Selkirk at 1.2.

EDINBURGH TO HAWICK.

Trains l.	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Edinb r.	6 20 9 17 10 5 1 25 2 25 3 25 4 25 6 0 6 40 9 5
Port'b'lo.	6 32 9 25 .. 1 33 .. 3 33 .. .. 6 48 ..
M'l'erh'l.	6 40 .. .. 3 41 .. .. 6 56 ..
Eskb'nk.	6 46 9 37 .. 1 45 .. 3 47 .. .. 7 2 ..
Dalh'sie.	6 50 9 41 .. .. .. 3 51 .. .. 7 6 ..
Gor'b'ge.	7 1 9 51 .. 1 57 .. 4 2 .. .. 7 17 ..
F'shb'ge.	7 5 .. .. 4 6 .. .. 7 21 ..
Tyneh'd.	7 16 * .. 2 9 .. 4 17 .. .. 7 32 ..
Heriot.	7 25 10 9 .. 2 17 .. 4 26 .. .. 7 41 ..
F'nt'h'll.	7 32 .. .. 2 24 .. 4 33 .. .. 7 48 ..
Stow	7 41 10 21 .. 2 33 .. 4 42 5 12 .. 7 57 ..
Bowland.	7 48 .. .. 4 49 .. .. 8 4 ..
Gal'ls ar.	7 56 10 32 10 56 2 47 3 16 4 55 5 23 6 51 8 11 10 4
Gal'ls le.	8 1 10 36 11 0 2 52 3 20 4 59 5 26 6 55 8 15 10 4
Melrose.	8 9 10 44 11 7 3 0 3 27 5 7 5 34 7 1 8 23 10 5
St Bos, ar	8 16 10 51 .. 3 7 3 34 5 14 5 41 .. 8 30 ..
St Bos, le	8 21 10 55 11 16 3 12 3 39 .. 5 46 .. 8 35 ..
Belses.	8 32 11 4 .. 3 23 .. .. 5 55 .. 8 46 ..
Has'd'n.	8 40 11 11 .. 3 31 .. .. 6 3 .. 8 54 ..
Ha'k, ar.	8 48 11 18 11 33 3 39 3 56 .. 6 10 7 23 9 2 11 1
Ha'k, le.	8 52 .. 11 37 — 4 1 .. 6 15 7 27 — 11 1
Carl'e, ar	10 20 .. 12 42 .. 5 21 .. 8 16 8 32 .. 12 2
Lon'n St P.M.	P.M. .. A.M. A.M. A.M.
P'nc'sar	7 20 7 50 .. 4 20 5 30 5 30 8

* Calls Tynehead Saturdays only at 9.58 A.M.
† Does not carry local passengers between Galashiels, Melrose, St Boswells, and Hawick.
A train leaves Hawick for Carlisle and Newcastle at 6 A.M., due Carlisle at 8.25, Newcastle 9.15.
‡ Calls at Fushiebridge and Bowland on Saturdays only, at 2.1 and 2.38 respectively.

HAWICK TO EDINBURGH.

Trains l.	Times
L'd'n	P.M. 9 15 .. A.M. 5 15 .. A.M. 10 30
St Pan.	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Carl'le.	4 20 .. .. 8 10 9 0 11 2 .. 3 20 5 50 ..
H'w'k	5 29 6 0 7 10 10 23 10 23 1 23 1 2 38 5 18 6 5 8 7
H's'd'n.	.. 6 9 7 19 .. 10 33 .. 2 48 5 28 † 7 18
Belses.	.. 6 17 7 27 .. 10 41 .. 2 56 5 36 .. 7 26
S. Bosa	.. 6 27 7 36 .. 10 50 .. 3 5 5 45 .. 7 36
S. Bos l	.. 6 31 7 41 .. 10 56 .. 3 11 5 52 .. 7 37
Melrose	5 51 6 39 7 49 .. 11 4 2 53 3 19 6 0 7 8 07 45
Gall's a	5 58 6 47 7 56 .. 11 11 3 0 3 26 6 9 7 8 07 52
Gall's l	6 2 6 50 8 0 11 16 11 25 3 5 3 28 6 15 7 8 17 56
B'land.	.. 7 0 .. .. 11 35 .. 3 38 6 25 .. ..
Stow	.. 7 8 8 16 .. 11 43 .. 3 46 6 34 .. 8
F'nt'h'l	.. 7 18 8 25 .. 11 53 .. 3 55 6 44 .. ..
Heriot.	.. 7 27 8 34 .. 12 2 .. 4 4 6 53 .. ..
T'n'h'd.	.. 7 36 .. .. 12 11 .. 4 12 7 2 .. ..
F'sh'b.	.. 7 45 .. .. 12 20 .. 4 20 7 9 .. ..
Gorebr.	.. 7 48 8 47 .. 12 23 .. 4 23 7 12 .. 8 3
Dal'sie.	.. 7 56 .. .. 12 31 .. 4 31 7 19 .. ..
Eskb'k.	.. 8 0 8 56 .. 12 35 .. 4 36 7 28 .. 8 3
M'lh'l.	.. 8 5 .. .. 12 40 .. 4 40 7 33 .. ..
P'b'llo.	.. 8 13 9 7 .. 12 49 .. 4 48 7 42 .. ..
Edin ar	6 52 8 26 9 15 12 6 12 58 3 55 4 56 7 50 8 20 8 5

* Accommodation is not guaranteed in the 2.31 train for passengers from Hawick or Melrose.
† Does not carry local passengers between Hawick, Melrose, and Galashiels.

ST BOSWELLS TO KELSO AND BERWICK.

Trains le.	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
St Bos.	.. 8 28 .. 11 4 .. 3 40 5 50 .. 8 40
Maxton	.. 8 36 .. 11 11 .. 3 47 5 56 .. 8 46
R'th'ford	.. 8 43 .. 11 17 .. 3 53 6 1 .. 8 55
Roxburgh.	7 13 8 53 10 22 11 28 2 8 4 2 6 10 7 16 9 5
Kelso ..ar.	7 20 9 0 10 30 11 35 2 15 4 9 6 17 7 23 9 12
Kelso ..le.	8 5 10 0 — 12 45 3 20 — — 7 45 —
Tw'dm'th.	8 56 10 51 .. 1 35 4 11 .. .. 8 36 ..
Berwi'k ar.	9 5 11 0 .. 1 45 4 20 .. .. 8 45 ..

BERWICK AND KELSO TO ST BOSWELLS

Tr'ns le.	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Berw'k	.. .. 8 35 .. 11 30 2 10 .. .. 5 20 7 30
Tw'm'h.	.. .. 8 45 .. 11 40 2 20 .. .. 5 30 7 40
Kelso ..ar	.. .. 9 35 .. 12 30 3 10 .. .. 6 21 8 30
Kelso ..le	7 0 8 30 10 5 11 10 1 55 3 35 5 0 5 50 7 5 8 45
R'xb'gh.	7 9 8 40 10 17 11 20 2 4 3 57 5 9 5 58 7 14 8 55
R'h'rf'd.	7 16 .. 10 24 .. 2 11 .. 5 16 .. 7 21 ..
Maxton.	7 23 .. 10 30 .. 2 18 .. 5 22 .. 7 28 ..
StB's..ar	7 30 .. 10 36 .. 2 25 .. 5 28 .. 7 35 ..

ROXBURGH TO JEDBURGH

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Roxburgh	8 54 11 29 4 46 10 9 6
Kirkbank	8 58 11 33 4 86 14 9 10
Nisbet	9 5 11 40 4 13 6 19 9 17
Jedfoot Bridge	9 10 11 45 4 18 6 23 9 22
Jedburgh arrive	9 15 11 52 4 23 6 27 9 27

JEDBURGH TO ROXBURGH.

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Jedburgh	6 40 9 45 .. 1 35 4 40 6 50
Jedfoot Bridge	6 44 9 49 .. 1 39 4 44 6 54
Nisbet	6 49 9 54 .. 1 44 4 48 6 58
Kirkbank	6 57 10 2 .. 1 52 4 57 7 3
Roxburgh arrive	7 4 10 10 .. 1 59 5 4 7 8

ST BOSWELLS TO DUNS AND BERWICK

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M.
St Boswells	.. 8 30 11 5 3 42 6 6
Earlston	.. 8 40 11 15 3 52 6 12
Gordon	.. 8 53 11 28 4 5 6 26
Greenlaw	.. 9 3 11 38 4 15 6 37
Marchmont	.. 9 12 11 47 4 24 6 47
Duns arrive	.. 9 20 11 55 4 32 6 59
Duns leave	7 15 10 0 12 25 5 25 —
Edrom	7 23 10 8 12 33 5 33 ..
Chirnside	7 27 10 12 12 37 5 37 ..
Reston	7 38 10 24 12 49 6 5 ..
Ayton	7 46 10 33 12 58 6 14 ..
Burnmouth	7 51 10 39 1 4 6 20 ..
Berwick arrive	8 3 10 49 1 14 6 30 ..

BERWICK AND DUNS TO ST BOSWELLS

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Berwick	.. 8 40 1 0 3 30 5 56
Burnmouth	.. 8 55 1 15 3 45 5 47
Ayton	.. 9 0 1 20 3 50 5 52
Reston	.. 9 12 1 32 4 12 6 10
Chirnside	.. 9 22 1 43 4 22 6 20
Edrom	.. 9 27 1 48 4 27 6 25
Duns arrive	.. 9 35 1 57 4 35 6 33
Duns leave	6 35 9 40 2 0 4 40 —
Marchmont	6 44 9 48 2 9 4 48 ..
Greenlaw	6 55 9 58 2 20 4 58 ..
Gordon	7 4 10 7 2 29 5 7 ..
Earlston	7 18 10 20 2 43 5 20 ..
St Boswells arrive	7 30 10 30 2 55 5 30 ..

BURNMOUTH TO EYEMOUTH.

	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Burnmouth....le	8 0 9 20 10 45 1 20 4 5 6 25 7 30
Eyemouth....ar	8 7 9 27 10 52 1 27 4 12 6 32 7 37

EYEMOUTH TO BURNMOUTH.

	A.M. A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Eyemouth......le	7 35 8 35 10 25 12 30 3 30 5 30 7 0
Burnmouth.....ar	7 42 8 42 10 32 12 37 3 37 5 37 7 8

GALASHIELS TO PEEBLES AND EDINBURGH.

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Galashiels	7 10 9 20 1 50 4 30 6 55 8 0
Clovenfords	7 19 9 29 1 58 4 38 7 3 8 9
Thornielee	7 26 9 38 2 5 4 45 7 10 8 18
Walkerburn	7 35 9 47 2 13 4 52 7 18 8 27
Innerleithen	7 41 9 56 2 19 4 59 7 25 8 34
Cardrona	7 48 10 4 2 26 5 6 7 32 8 43
Peebles ......ar.	7 55 10 13 2 33 5 13 7 39 8 52
Peebles.......le.	7 57 10 16 2 37 5 16 7 42 —
Edinburgh ....ar.	8 52 11 21 3 18 5 16 8 18 53 ..

EDINBURGH TO PEEBLES AND GALASHIELS.

Trains leave	A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.
Edinburgh	6 50 .. 10*25 2 10 4 30 7 45
Peebles	8 17 9 42 11 42 3 22 5 38 8 59
Cardrona	8 24 9 49 11 49 3 29 5 45 9 8
Innerleithen	8 32 9 56 11 57 3 37 5 53 9 18
Walkerburn	8 37 10 1 12 2 3 42 5 58 9 23
Thornielee	8 44 10 8 12 9 3 49 6 5 9 32
Clovenfords	8 52 10 16 12 17 3 57 6 13 9 41
Galashiels ......ar.	9 0 10 24 12 25 4 5 6 21 9 50

* On Saturdays only the 10.25 A.M. train leaves Edinburgh at 10.40, and runs correspondingly later throughout.

On Saturdays only a new train leaves Edinburgh for Peebles at 1.5 P.M., arriving at Peebles at 2.

On Wednesdays only a new train leaves Edinburgh for Peebles at 10.45 P.M., arriving at Peebles at 11.48.

Stow and Lauder.—Coach leaves Lauder at 6.35 A.M., 7.10 A.M., and 2.35 P.M. Leaves Stow at 7.50 A.M., 10.25 A.M., and 5.17 P.M.

Belses and Lilliesleaf.—Conveyance leaves Belses at 8.40 A.M., and 5.55 P.M.; Lilliesleaf at 6.50 A.M. and 4.50 P.M.

Yarrow and Selkirk.—Coach from Rodono Hotel on Sale Wednesdays at 7.30 A.M.; from Railway Station on return at 3.50 P.M.

Post Office Arrangements.

DESPATCHES OF MAILS FROM SELKIRK

Box closes for Ettrick, Yarrow, and Yair Districts, at 8.30 a.m.

For Edinburgh, Galashiels, Melrose, and Hawick, box closes at 10.15 a.m. For Galashiels, Edinburgh, Carlisle, and London, at 1.55 p.m. For Galashiels, Hawick, Melrose, London, and all England south of Carlisle at 4.25 p.m. For all parts of England at 5.25 p.m. For Edinburgh and Glasgow, at 6.30 p.m. For Galashiels and all parts of England, 7.30 p.m. For London, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and all parts of the Kingdom at 9.35 p.m.

On Sunday to all parts of Kingdom, at 5.20 p.m.

Parcel Despatches at 10.10 a.m., 1.55, 4.5.10, 6.20, and 8 p.m.

WALL BOXES.—Box in Market Place cleared at 7.10 and 9.50 a.m. and at 1.45, 5.50, and 8.50 p.m. Box at Railway Station cleared on week days only at 7.10, 9.30, 11.30 a.m., 1.20, 3.30, 4.50, 5.30, 6.50, and 8.30 p.m. Box at Heatherlie cleared at 9.30 a.m., and 1.20, 3.30, and 8.30 p.m. Box at Knowepark cleared at 9.20 a.m. and 1.50, 3.40, and 8.50 p.m. Box at Bysthorn cleared at 10.10 a.m., and at 1.40, 3.40, and 8.50 p.m.

DELIVERIES OF LETTERS.

From London, Edinburgh, and all parts of the Kingdom, 8.15 a.m.; Edinburgh &c., 12.15 p.m.; Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hawick, Galashiels, 6.15 p.m.

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