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Reckling, Columbia, S.C

HON. JUDGE W. C. BENET

Photo

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The Hon. Judge Benet.

WE are glad to be able to present our readers with an excellent portrait of the Hon. Judge Benet, whose contributions to our pages, with their ready humour, graphic power, and animated narrative, have given him claims on distinction, and the highest honour in our power. William Christie Benet, son of Alexander Benet, of Ardoch, and Elizabeth Christie, of Loch Earn Head, comes of true Highland ancestry. He was born in Tillicoultry in the year 1846, and he received his early education in the parish school there. In 1868 he entered Edinburgh University. Making a break in his University course, he was for one year assistant arithmetical master in Dollar Academy—a colleague of the present writer. While attending the University he became acquainted with a number of students from the Southern States, and his resolve to leave his native country was influenced in large measure by the warm and lasting friendships that grew up between them. Several of these students were from the town of Cokesbury, South Carolina, and on coming to America young Benet went directly to that town. He was a good-looking young Scotsman, of commanding personality, glowing and robust health, and splendidly equipped intellectually for the battle of life, and the people were at once deeply impressed with his kindly nature, intellectual attainments, and varied accomplishments.

Shortly after his arrival, he opened a classical school for boys, which he continued to teach without an assistant for five years, although the attendance was large—in the meantime, reading law while he was waiting for his naturalisation papers. The school opened under the most auspicious circumstances, and increased rapidly through the enthusiasm of both teacher and pupils. It may be said without exaggeration that this was a model school, due principally to the fact that Judge Benet was a born teacher, with deep sympathy as well as broad understanding. He did not believe in the rod, but in cultivating a high *esprit de corps*

among his boys. The success of his system was shown by the fact that many of his pupils rose to positions of responsibility and distinction.

We come now to the more important part of Judge Benet's career. In 1873 he was admitted to the Bar, and began the practice of law in Abbeville, South Carolina. During twenty years of practice he ranked among the foremost lawyers of his State, his practice extending to all parts of South Carolina and the neighbouring States. Many interesting questions of law were settled upon his initiative. He was an eloquent orator, and his arguments were carefully prepared, logical and able. His reputation as a speaker and his scholarly attainments brought him many invitations to deliver addresses at universities and colleges in his own and other States, and he was spoken of in the Press as "the prince of commencement orators."

In 1888 he was elected to the Legislature, and served one term. It was during his membership that the question was debated as to whether South Carolina should accept the property willed to it by the Hon. Thomas G. Clemson (at one time Minister to Belgium), on the condition that the State should build an agricultural and mechanical college on lands formerly the home of the great John C. Calhoun. A Bill was introduced, but there was much opposition to acceptance, and feeling ran high. Mr Benet was chosen to lead the forces in favour of the college. Many speeches were made on both sides, Mr Benet's being far the ablest. The cause was won, and the college was built. To-day it is the pride of the State, and a monument to the foresight of Mr Benet and those who voted with him. With good reason to be proud of his reputation as an able lawyer and a learned judge, he often remarks that the best work of his life was done in the school-room as a teacher, and in the Legislature as the framer of the Acts and leader in the fight that established Clemson College.

In 1898 came the deserved honour of election as Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, which includes the city of Charleston, and he removed from Abbeville to that city. Here he served two terms. During his incumbency as Circuit Judge he sat as an Associate Justice several times by special appointments, and wrote several opinions on behalf of the Supreme Court, at least two of which are regarded as leading opinions throughout the United States.

Since his retirement from the bench, Judge Benet has made his home at Grimshawes, North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where with undiminished strength of body and mind he continues to indulge his love of literature and his fondness

for hunting and fishing. Our readers are familiar with the numerous verses and songs, both in English and "braid Scots," which he contributed to the *Magazine* during the Great War, and which brought personal letters of commendation from Lord Kitchener, Sir Douglas Haig, General Sir Julian Byng and others. We hope to have many more gems from his pen during these peace times.

Judge Benet married (in 1877) Susan M'Gowan, daughter of General Samuel M'Gowan and Susan Wardlaw, both of Scottish descent. She died in 1898, leaving four sons, all of whom give promise of ultimately "riving their faither's bannet."

(In the foregoing appreciation we have made free use of a tribute written by the Hon. E. B. Gary, Chief Justice of South Carolina, who was a pupil of Judge Benet.)

To My Father in Spring.

No swallow dipped and wheeled around this old grey home of ours
But your clear eyes did homage. And the flaunting crocus flowers
In glory won their battle with our gravelled path, for you
Would wond'ring mark each daring spike, and year by year renew
Your praising joy. Our copper beech her brown, slim fingers drew
Caressing o'er your hair, as if to bid you say 'twas through
Her sheltering winter care the snowdrops by her roots so long
Before the others came. The thrush, with dream awakening song,
Stirred deeper chords than he could know in calling to his mate.
No robin piped impertinence from the rosebush by the gate
But you understood the friendship in his cheeky little breast,
And Jenny Wren blinked up in pride if you bent o'er her nest.
With your eyes through the birches purple haze I've seen the spring,
With your ears learned to follow all the songs the burn can sing,
And this consoling happiness in bird, and flower, and tree,
You gave in my life's springtime as a heritage to me,
Grows deeper with the passing springs, for me a debt too great ;
I can but leave it, knowing where Eternal Spring doth wait
In radiant glory for her child, the little flowers sweet
Will ceaseless tell my gratitude in whispers round your feet.

E. E. D.

The Perplexing Case of Private Robert Morgan.

LIFE in the Stormy Petrels was full of trouble, and Private Robert Morgan was one of them. When he arrived from England there was nothing to mark him out from the other men of his draft ; his height was ordinary, the colour of his hair and the size of his feet were ordinary ; his pay book showed that he had been eight months in the army, that by profession he was a miner,

that out of his pay of one shilling and twopence he was allotting the not ungenerous amount of sixpence per diem to some one dependent on him at home. His field conduct sheet (that wonderful slip of paper on which are recorded the ups and downs of each soldier's career) bore several entries, but these were all for trivial offences. In none of these details was there anything exceptional.

For a month after his arrival Morgan's behaviour remained quite ordinary too; in the trenches he showed open-eyed wonderment at the novelty of his surroundings, but betrayed not the least sign of "windiness" when the Bosche happened to shell the particular sector that the Stormy Petrels occupied. He celebrated his return to billets, however, by having a free fight with another member of his platoon for possession of a bunk. Both combatants duly appeared under escort at orderly room next morning, and were marched, hatless, before the C.O. The evidence as to who was the aggressor being very conflicting, the C.O. contented himself with "admonishing" both the accused, and adding some sound advice about using their energies for fighting the Germans instead of each other. The incident then closed, but within twenty-four hours Morgan was again in trouble, this time on a charge of insubordination. After being warned for guard, he had made uncomplimentary remarks about the moral character and outward appearance of the corporal of his section. These comments on the N.C.O.'s alleged departure from the paths of rectitude may, or may not, have been true. The criticisms of his personal beauty were certainly well-founded; but that did not prevent "fourteen days' field punishment, No. 2," being doled out to Morgan as a reminder that there was such a thing as discipline. F.P., No. 2, meant that while in billets the prisoner spent each night in the guard-room, and most of each day on fatigues; he was not allowed to smoke, the pleasures of the estaminets were denied him, and he forfeited all pay for the period of his punishment.

Before Morgan had completed his sentence the Stormy Petrels were back in the trenches where, obviously, prisoners had to be treated rather differently than when in billets. Estaminets and guard-rooms were equally unknown, though a series of extra duties connected with the sanitary sections served to remind defaulters that they were not quite as other men. Far from grousing, Morgan was a model of activity and keenness during the whole of the battalion's tour in the line. Accidentally he was discovered to have that valuable possession—"cat eyes"—perhaps developed by his spells underground as a miner. Anyhow, he was soon reputed to be able to see further at night than any other man in his company, and with practice he promised to develop into a very

useful man on patrol. But whenever the Stormy Petrels had been relieved and were once more "resting," Morgan made his appearance at orderly room with the same promptitude as before, on a similar charge, and with the same results. In fact, as time went on this procedure became almost mechanical in its regularity. He didn't drink; he never came on parade late or unshaved, or committed similar faults; his trouble seemed to be confined to a rooted objection to being ordered about. One of his outbreaks achieved a little notoriety. One day his platoon sergeant "warned" him to join a digging party the same evening. Morgan at that moment was eating his dinner, and remarked genially that he was d——d if he'd go. The N.C.O. repeated the order. Morgan politely, but firmly, said he declined to comply. The sergeant, without more ado, placed him under arrest, and in due course his C.O. remanded him for trial, by field general court-martial, on a charge of "refusing to obey a lawful command given by a superior officer in the execution of his duty."

There is no fairer court of justice in the world than an F.G.C.M., and in this case the president soon discovered that Morgan's adjutant and the staff-captain who prepared the proceedings had both been caught napping; for, according to the letter of the law, a verbal refusal is not enough to secure conviction under this particular section of the Army Act, which seems to have had in mind the Biblical story of the son who, when told to go work in the vineyard, said, "I will not," but afterwards repented and went. Having been arrested as soon as he had stated that he did not see his way to agree with the wishes of higher authority, Morgan should have been charged with "insubordination" instead of "refusing to obey"—a legal quibble, perhaps, but quite enough to get this charge dropped. The escape, however, didn't prove a very effective warning. Within a few days Morgan had "words" with the sergeant-major on the subject of marking time. Lifting up one's feet and putting them down again in exactly the same place may occasionally be an intensely irritating military operation; but most men would as soon think of arguing with a field-marshal as of speaking back to their sergeant-major. Morgan's temerity was rewarded with "ninety days F.P., No. 2," which even the major admitted was "pretty stiff." Exactly a month later, when back in the trenches, the culprit again achieved fame.

Along with three men of his own choosing he crept out to a saphead which the enemy had dug as a listening post, and bayoneted the sentry before he could give any alarm. The other occupant of the sap, who was dosing a few yards away, was stunned with the butt end of a rifle, and carried back to our lines before he

recovered his senses, providing very valuable information about the troops holding the enemy's sector. One result of this exploit was that the higher authorities cancelled the rest of Morgan's punishment in recognition of his daring. His platoon commander, who had been studying the psychology of this chequered career, decided a little later to try the effect of giving Morgan responsibility and a job of his own. After a good deal of hesitation the captain of the company agreed to recommend him for promotion to lance-corporal as a patrol leader. While the battalion remained in the line the experiment was an unqualified success. Not only Morgan's own alertness, but the enthusiasm with which he managed to infect the handful of men working under him made No Man's Land a highly dangerous place for the people opposite all night long. Soon afterwards the Stormy Petrels were taken out of the trenches, back to a training area to prepare for a "push." A peaceful atmosphere again had a deleterious effect on Morgan's ideas of discipline. On some quite unimportant matter he ventured to differ once more with his old enemy, the sergeant-major, and took that dignified gentleman's breath away in more senses than one by butting him in the pit of the stomach. Result: a sentence of two years' hard labour.

But as every one connected with the B.E.F. knows, a sentence of imprisonment was a very different thing from sending a man to prison. The number of genuine bad hats in the army was very, very small, though possibly there were a few who did commit crime with the sole object of getting out of the trenches and being locked up safely at the base. It seemed a pity to gratify their whim, in this respect. It seemed equally undesirable to deprive battalions of first-rate fighting men like Morgan for offences which, though serious, were generally committed in hot blood, or under severe strain. Therefore, "suspended sentences" were introduced, enabling a punishment to be held over a culprit's head, to be put into force subsequently, or cancelled according to their behaviour. Morgan's sentence was therefore suspended, and he confided to his special pal that in the "push," which they knew to be coming, he would try and win a clean sheet again. He was as good as his word. On the morning of the attack he went "over the top" with the leading wave, and throughout the day was absolutely tireless in carrying messages between his captain and battalion headquarters. By all probabilities he ought to have been hit half a dozen times, but escaped without a scratch. As soon as the battalion was relieved after the battle, the C.O. recommended that, on account of his great gallantry, Private Robert Morgan's sentence should be remitted. There is little doubt that the brigadier would

have exercised his powers in Morgan's favour. But before the case could be considered, Private Robert Morgan, detailed for some trifling duty connected with the loading or unloading of his platoon's blankets, told the quartermaster, with some emphasis, that he was no gentleman, and was again escorted to the guard-room.

This has been called a perplexing case. Morgan (by the way, that isn't his real name) was in many respects a fine soldier. In a tight corner no stouter heart could have been desired; but an army of Morgans would have been an unmanageable mob, and in his saner moments he was quite ready to admit that discipline is just as necessary as pugnacity.

To make him respect law and order would have been comparatively simple; to do it without breaking his spirit was a different matter.

Would he have gone on earning field punishment to the end of the chapter, or would he ever have learnt? The problem will never be solved, for Morgan has been "demobbed," and is now a civilian once more. Probably the truth is summed up in one of his own comments on his career as a soldier: "Ye didna catch me young enough, sir."

A. S., jun.

The Souter.

It's sixty year, come Martinmas, since first I sattled doon
Upon the clootin' stool whar noo I sit,
Apprenticed to a Souter, wha could mak the buits and shoon,
His sign declared, were "guaranteed to fit."

Since syne, I've seen this clachan happit ower and ower again,
The youngsters keen to leave, and spread their wings,
And the feck o' my auld cronies they hae slippit awa' ben
To that laich hoose whar nae alarum rings.

But I'se warrant that their roads were a' the easier to gang,
Their hills were a' the easier to spiel,
Since for sixty solid winters I hae helpit them alang
By stickin' to my last, and workin' weel.

There's some that skimp the hammerin' upon the hobbin' feet,
A spurdie pick, and then a flee awa';
They fit their customers wi' shoon like sponges in the weet,
Or buits like fozy neeps amang the snaw.

I ne'er could haud wi' scampin', for it surely isna' richt
To grudge the wark ye do wi' sole and heel;
Whate'er you find to do, you'd better do wi' a' your micht;
What's worth the doin's worth the doin' weel.

It's a fikey job the Souter's, as he fixes up his caste,
 To mak' or mend exactly as he's telt ;
 Your fingers maun be denty frae the fittin' on the last
 Till ye rin plum-jordan roond about the welt.

Gin your ensel should be blunted, ye may be an angry man,
 But it's elbow grease you're needin' for the cloot ;
 Gin your roset ends get fankled, when you're steikin' on the ran,
 It's only patience that'll sort them oot.

Guid kens I ne'er was kirky ; yet I'd fain believe I serve
 The Maister wi' my lingels and my brat ;
 Fowk's gaun oot and comin' in He's promised to preserve,
 And that's the very job I'm workin' at.

Sae, when the summons comes to me to pack my ends and awls,
 And be carried to the kirkyaird on the muir,
 I will lippen till His mercy wha can patch a' tattered sauls,
 And mend auld bauchles labelled, "past repair."

GEORGE BLAIR.

In Memoriam.

THE following appreciation of our distinguished F.P. is from the pen of a gentleman who was his intimate friend and fellow-worker for many years.

MR ALEXANDER IZAT, C.I.E., M.I.C.E.

A great power in the Indian railway world has just passed away in the person of Mr Alexander Izat, C.I.E., M.I.C.E., who died from heart failure at his residence, Balliliesk, near Dollar, on the evening of the 2nd instant, in his seventy-sixth year. Mr Izat, during his long and active career, proved himself a great engineer, a born administrator and ruler of men ; but above all he was a man who, by his upright and sterling character and by the charm of his simple sincerity, impressed his great personality upon his many friends who to-day must mourn his loss.

Eminent as an engineer, Mr Izat was elected to the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1898. He joined the Indian Public Works Department as a Stanley engineer in 1863, being posted to the Berars Hyderabad assigned districts. In 1870—fifty years ago—whilst still a young engineer in the Berars, he was given an opportunity which directed his future and launched him into railways. The Government of India—Lord Mayo having just been appointed Viceroy—were then intent on the rapid construction

of a short branch from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jalamb to Khangaom, one of the chief cotton marts in the Bombay Presidency, to help the cotton industry. The work was hanging fire, and Mr Izat, whose powers of organisation were already becoming known, was recommended to the Cotton Commissioner, Mr J. H. Rivett Carnac, to push the work through, and was selected for the job. His efforts realised all expectations. The branch, which it should be noted was the first State railway in India, was completed so rapidly and efficiently that Mr Izat's reputation as a railway engineer was established, and his rapid rise in the profession assured.

During the next ten years Mr Izat was employed on railways chiefly in native states. From 1870-74 he was an executive engineer on the Nizame State Railway, gaining a reputation as the builder of the Cogna and other large bridges. He next went to the Holkar State Railway (metre gauge), on which he constructed the fine Holkar Nerbudda Bridge, fourteen spans of 200 ft., the structure at rail level being $102\frac{1}{2}$ ft. over the river. From 1877-78 he was engineer-in-chief of the Dhond Manmad line, and between 1878-80 constructed the Bhavnagar Gondal metre gauge railway, and on the completion of the latter line he was for a short time employed on the Hubli Gadag section of the Southern Mahratta Railway, and then came home on furlough for a well deserved rest.

Whilst Mr Izat was at home in 1882 the Bengal and North-Western Railway—the first railway promoted without a guarantee by private enterprise—was floated, and the newly formed company were fortunate in securing his services as their agent and chief engineer, a post he took up early in 1883. In the same year he was appointed consulting engineer to the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, another line launched by private enterprise; and in 1885, on the opening of that railway to Kathgodam, the working of the recently opened Bareilly Pilibhit Provincial Railway was entrusted to the company, forming the beginning of the present Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway system, Mr Izat being appointed agent and chief engineer. From then until the day of his death Mr Izat threw his whole heart and energy into the promotion and development of these two railway systems, and incidentally into the growth and expansion of the whole metre gauge system in Northern India. Yet in some marvellous way he found time for even other duties, acting as consulting engineer to the Bengal Dooars Railway, and for a time to the Bengal Central Railway, besides engaging himself in other occupations. For some years he was on the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces.

In 1890 the Bengal and North-Western Railway took over the working of the Tirhut State Railway, with which it had just been linked up by the fine bridge (eight spans of 250 ft.) over the Gundak, near Sonapore. In the same year the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway linked up the Bareilly Pilibhit and Lucknow Gola State lines, thus completing the Lucknow Bareilly metre gauge State railway. Further extensions followed rapidly, of which space does not admit of full detail; but probably the outstanding example of Mr Izat's unceasing energy and indomitable will was the linking up of the Bengal and North-Western Railway system with the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway and Rajputana Malwa Railway, and at a later stage with the Eastern Bengal metre gauge system, thereby consolidating the metre gauge throughout the whole of Northern India. The storm and stress of those days, when the "battle of gauges" was being fought, will be fresh in the minds of many. It required all the *perfervidum ingenium Scotorum* to overcome the tremendous opposition that had to be faced, but Mr Izat triumphed, and now that the great metre gauge systems are united, no one can question the enormous gain to the country that that victory achieved; and here it is but just to recall that though deep and bitter was the opposition that had to be encountered, the support that the Local Government of the United Provinces gave to Mr Izat was invaluable, and decided the day.

Following the linking up of the metre gauge, the Doab districts were rapidly opened up, and various other extensions made in the United Provinces, Behar and Bengal. One of the most notable of these was the direct metre gauge link between Bareilly and Kasganj, involving the bridging of the Ganges at Kachhla Ghat. To-day the Bengal and North-Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways form a magnificent network of railways whose mileage is close on 2,700 miles. Goods and passenger traffic have developed enormously. The great towns of Patna, Benares, Allahabad, Lucknow, and Cawnpore are fed and enriched by direct communication with the fertile districts that these railways have opened up. Further expansion has yet to come. Direct metre gauge connection between Bareilly, Agra, and Delhi is a necessity, and the day cannot be long distant before the metre gauge will be joined up with Burma and the Far East.

The bridging of the great rivers crossed by the Bengal and North-Western Railway—the Ganges, Gogra, Gundak, and Kosi—are perhaps the works which will be most lastingly associated with Mr Izat's name. Some idea of the magnitude of these bridges will be gained from the following table:—

Name of Bridge.	River.	Size.	Total Cost, Including Cost of Protective Works.	Railway System.
Elgin Bridge	Gogra	17 spans of 200 ft.	Rupees. 30,36,000	B. and N.W. Railway.
Turtipar Bridge	Gogra	18 spans of 200 ft.	29,18,000	
Inchcape Bridge	Gogra	18 spans of 200 ft.	34,96,000	
Kosi Bridge	Kosi	15 spans of 200 ft.	49,59,000	
Bagaba Bridge	Gundak	15 spans of 150 ft.	20,20,000	
Izat Bridge, Allahabad	Ganges	40 spans of 150 ft.	25,98,000	R. and K. Railway.
Ganges Bridge, Kachhla Ghat	Ganges	20 spans of 100 ft.	13,50,000	

It was not, however, so much the size of these bridges as the training works required to keep these great and wandering rivers within bounds that needed the highest engineering skill. The bridging of the Gogra, where the Elgin bridge now crosses, was considered at the time audacious, and by many doomed to failure.

Those who now cross that fine structure can little realise the anxiety and strain borne by those on whom the responsibility for its construction rested. At the Kosi, a tributary of the Ganges, bridged some four or five miles above its junction with the latter great river, perhaps the largest river training works in India had to be carried out to withstand an attack from the Ganges, which swept north almost to the bridge site in one season. The attack was successfully met, and the Ganges a few years later returned to its former bed. The fine bridge over the Ganges at Allahabad bears Mr Izat's name, which is also associated with one of the stations at that city, and another station near Bareilly.

In 1898 Mr Izat was made a Companion of the Indian Empire, an honour which seemed to all acquainted with his work a very inadequate one, and they looked forward to its being soon followed by a higher distinction. For some unknown reason this never came, and Mr Izat was not the man to refer to it, even to his closest friends. Probably his own thought in the matter was that recorded of Cato in Plutarch's Lives, "He had much rather it should be asked why he had not a statue than why he had one." His monument lies in his Indian achievements—the lines into which he had built his great heart. His memory will long survive in the affections of those who served under him, and could best appreciate the warmth and depth of his kindly nature.

Nature Notes.

BY JOHN STRACHAN, M.D.

TO A YOUNG BIRD.

DEAR little unsuspecting bird, beware !
 Trust not too much to thine own innocence.
 Thou dost not know what cause thou hast to fear ;
 Too soon thou'lt learn from sad experience.
 Nought hast thou known as yet of wintry storm,
 Or cruel man's relentless tyranny.
 Of life thou only yet hast felt the charm.
 In man thou dost not yet read enemy.
 But look around thee ; see the old and wise
 Of thine own race ; all fly when I appear.
 Whilst thou sit'st staring with those bright black eyes
 And, as I live ! art coming still more near.
 I thank thee, little bird ; thy confidence
 Doth raise me greatly in mine own esteem.
 I cannot bear to think that men of sense
 Are classed with cats and hawks in Nature's scheme.
 'Tis not the God of Nature bids thee fly
 In fear and trembling from before my face.
 God wills me thy protector, and bids thee lie
 In loving bondage to the human race.
 The many charms which every bird displays
 Appeal to man *alone* and point above.
 The beauteous garb, the song and pretty ways,
 All speak from God to man in tones of love.
 The cat but seeks thee for thy flesh alone,
 And joys in killing that she may live well.
 Thus Nature doth for her behests atone
 By making pleasant what her laws compel.
 Man, too, must live as live the brutes, and man
 Has pleasure, like the brutes, to hunt and kill.
 But nobler is the *soul* that dwells in man ;
 And higher are the joys the *soul* that fill.
 But yet the brutish in the man appears ;
 And joys in killing, like the cat and hawk.
 Thus sinks the human and the brute uprears
 The nobler purpose of our life to balk.
 Thus must thou learn from deeds, not Nature's laws ;
 And fear, not trust in man as taught by heaven :
 For dread all creatures must have fearful cause
 When human power to brutish lust is given.

. . . Having Escaped from a Prisoner-of-War Camp in Germany.

YOU are doubtless aware that the chief aim of the existence of every prisoner of war was to defy all the rules and regulations of the Central Powers, and remove himself with the utmost dispatch to other lands.

Your logical mind will at once perceive that from the point of view of his captors, any such enterprise on the part of the discontented prisoner was most alarming, and to be discouraged in every possible way.

Now, there are many ways in which the average intelligent captive may hope to outwit his jailers, but there is no easy way. The matter of escaping from a prison camp is one which demands much careful thought, elaborate preparation, and cool, relentless planning. To emphasise this, let me point out that an ordinary escape may be divided into three distinct operations, none of which, I am sure you will agree in a moment, is without considerable difficulty.

First comes the escape from the camp, second the journey from the camp to whatever neutral frontier may be most convenient, and third the crossing of that frontier.

Consider, please, problems one and three on my list.

You will see at once that luck may play a considerable part in their solution. Undoubtedly, luck may turn a sentry's back while a man cuts a hole in the wire and slips quietly away. Luck may give him a pouring wet night, when the sentries on the frontier are prone to consider comfort before duty, and stay snugly in their boxes. But think of problem No. 2. It is going to take a great many other things besides luck to carry our adventurer across perhaps 500 miles of enemy country to the scene of his third problem.

Imagine for a few moments that you yourself are contemplating a walking tour of, say, 500 miles. You would not set out on your tour without some preparation.

Firstly, you would purchase maps of the country you proposed to explore. Secondly, you would draw out a plan of your walks, such as would ensure that you fetched up at meal times at some place where a meal was procurable. Thirdly, you would provide yourself with money to pay for your food and lodgings at night. Unless you were an eccentric, you would travel by day, and if you should not be sure of your way, you would simply ask it of the first person you met. If you got a blister on your heel, which made walking unpleasant, you would lie up for a day or two, or take the

train to the next stopping place on your list. If you should become tired of the whole thing, you could take a train home! But should you carry out your tour as per programme, you would feel justly proud of your own walking powers and the perfection of your arrangements.

Let us return to problem No. 2.

It is a walking tour, with several differences. Consider the following list:—

1. Maps are strictly forbidden, and great difficulty is experienced in procuring them. When procured, they must be carefully hidden, in such a way as to come safely through the frequent searches which are made by the camp authorities.

2. The escaper must *carry all* the food he requires for the journey.

3. Money is in the same "taboo" list as maps.

4. The escaper must usually travel by night, and hide himself during the day, which is his time for eating and sleeping.

5. He must find his own way by night, through a country of which he has no knowledge beyond what he can glean from his maps. A compass, of course, becomes an essential part of his equipment, so we have already on our list three things which must be acquired and guarded in defiance of regulations.

Lastly, nothing short of absolute physical inability to proceed must be allowed to alter his plans. A night's rest may mean the failure of his food supply before he reaches his destination.

So much for the journey from the camp to the frontier. I have dealt with it first, because it is, in most cases, the stiffest part of the whole undertaking.

It might not be out of place for me to describe here a search such as I mentioned above.

Let me choose as an example a search in the officers' camp at Schweidnitz, in Silesia.

About 8 A.M. a body of sixty men and six officers arrived outside the camp. This was a search party, sent down from the Intelligence Department of the German War Office, for the purpose of searching our camp for "contrabands," such as maps, compasses, German money, haversacks, water bottles, civilian clothes, &c.

Immediately after their arrival, we were paraded in the camp square. The search party then made a thorough search of all the public buildings of the camp—dining rooms, common room, bath-house, chapel, &c. After that, they were divided into parties, and sent to the various sleeping apartments.

Now there is a regulation which states that an officer's private belongings may not be searched except in the presence of that

officer. So we were summoned one at a time to watch our kit searched. Each officer, in turn, of course, had to undergo a personal search also. But mark how the elaborate plan of the Junker was utterly ruined by the omission of a detail. After each officer was searched, *he was allowed to remain in the room!* The result, of course, was inevitable. As each officer entered the room, he merely transferred any forbidden articles he might have in his possession to that of a brother officer who had already been searched! In my room, which was about the size of the Academy gymnasium, and sheltered fifty-eight officers from the perils of the night, the searchers discovered a civilian suit under a carpet. With beaming smiles and guttural sounds of triumph, they laid the suit on a table, and proceeded about their business. Two minutes later, an officer, whose kit had already been found innocent, quietly lifted the suit from the table and stowed it in his box. Great was the consternation of the Huns when they discovered that their prize had been snatched from their very grasp. But it never occurred to them to inspect a box which they had previously passed, and, as far as I know, the suit still gives its owner every satisfaction.

Much the same sort of thing, on a larger scale, happened later in the day.

The total "takings" for the day were contained in a small cart, which was standing in the camp square, guarded by one poor old "Landsturmer." On the top of the pile was a very fine specimen of a hat, of the Homburg species. Half a dozen officers saw the hoard, and held a hurried consultation. Then one of the six advanced boldly to the cart, grabbed the hat, and ran. The sentry, acting on a very natural impulse, ran after him. He did not catch him, and when he returned to his charge, less than a minute later, the cart was there, but alas! it was empty. It was too late and too dark to start the search again, and the experts from Berlin returned empty handed to their employers, sadder, and, I trust, wiser men. I may say that that day's work proved such a strain on the nerves of the Bosche that it was his last attempt to find anything in Schweidnitz Lager I.

Unfortunately all search parties were not composed of such heaven-sent fools as our friends from Berlin, and many a hard-won compass and map were unearthed and confiscated on these occasions.

From what has gone before you may be able to conceive the feelings of the man who has successfully cleared his camp, travelled his 500 miles, but through ill-luck or mismanagement, fails to cross the frontier he has toiled so hard to reach. For the surmounting of this, the last barrier which lies between him and freedom, the escaper depends, we may say chiefly, on luck. Stealth, cunning, and the

gift of seizing an opportunity, all make for success, but luck usually decides the matter, one way or the other.

Now I come, at the last, to the first problem on my original list, that of escaping from the precincts of the camp. The solution of this problem offers a wide scope for ingenuity and resource, and as an example of the value of these attributes, let me say that in twenty-two months of captivity, I saw upwards of two hundred escapes from camp. Very few of these enterprising prisoners reached the frontier, and, to the best of my knowledge, only ten won their way to freedom. Many and varied were the methods of getting out of camp. Favourite schemes were (1) tunnelling, which involved much labour and risk, and was not on the whole satisfactory; (2) cutting the wire, which was a simple but at the same time an exceedingly dangerous plan. As a general rule, it was the cool, daring, audacious effort that succeeded. I have seen a man walk calmly up to a gate, unlock it with a key he had made, and walk out of the camp unchallenged. Men have made pseudo-German uniforms, and solemnly marched a companion, dressed as an orderly, out of the front gate of the camp, in broad daylight. Altogether, the question of getting out of camp was the least difficult the seeker after freedom had to answer.

Now, dear reader, if you have borne with me thus far, you may have some idea of the difficulties and dangers the prisoner must overcome if he is to see his name referred to in the phrase which I chose as the heading of this article; and I trust that, with me, you feel readier to congratulate those who, by their ingenuity, courage, endurance, and good fortune, were able to return to strike another blow for the King whose uniform they wore, than to criticise those who were, by force of circumstances, compelled to resign their part in the great drama.

C. R. DOUGALL.

Haverings.

BY A SEPTUAGENARIAN.

Now, British aircraft "up to date,"
 Doth Time and Space annihilate,
 And men who know anticipate
 More daring feats in flying:
 So when one wants to spend a day
 In Honolulu or Bombay,
 We book our berths and sail away,
 High altitudes defying.

Since Science has evolved a boon—
 Whose only limit is the moon—
 For dialogue and song and tune
 We need no longer "cable."
 Yet, stranger still, that people blind
 Shall *read* through *hearing* what they find
 Conveyed direct from type to mind,
 While aural power is able.

When highways are with rubber laid,
 Their upkeep by the State defrayed,
 Each road will be a Grand Parade,
 And thus will end all rumbling.
 Propelled by electricity,
 Across the land from sea to sea
 We'll travel in great luxury,
 And never dream of grumbling.

When all great works these Isles contain
 Have passed into the State's domain,
 If net results produce no gain,
 How will it cut its losses?
 Some men rejoice that Labour won
 The richest stakes beneath the sun;
 And yet, when all is said and done,
 We cannot all be bosses!

School Reminiscences.

THE Editor of the *Magazine* kindly suggested I should write some of my reminiscences of "athletics and rambles—the cricket field and hill climbing." I am emboldened to do so from his kind reception of my "recollections," published in the June number.

I see from the September number of the *Magazine*, which I have before me, that the Rev. William Campbell Penny, M.A., when at school at Dollar, "competed daily against a girl for the dux medal." If it was at Miss Gellatly's Preparatory School, as suggested by the Editor, I have recollections of the same medal. It *was* of generous size, and the ribbon was blue, I think. My first essay at speaking in public was at that school, at the close of the session. I had to recite (in fear and trembling) a poem, entitled "Bite bigger, Billy"—a very pathetic poem. So much was my sensitive spirit touched that I nearly broke down.

I was no great athlete when I was at School, and by that I mean I never got into the 1st XV. or the 1st XI. I had a great

admiration for some of the older boys, however. There was one yearly football fixture which was well worth going far to see. That was the match between Dollar and Tillicoultry. As the "Tilly" team were mostly artisans and big, "hefty" fellows, Dollar had to call in the aid of such F.P.'s as resided in the district. Douglas Driver, Garry Maitland from Alloa, Willie Anderson from Hillfoot, Nattie and Davie Murray from Dollarbeg, helped to make Dollar all but invincible. The other side had two famous three-quarter backs—the brothers Millar, I think. They were tremendously speedy, and the match usually ended in a draw. The "following" from "Tilly" was large and representative, and free fights were frequent at the end of the match. Needless to say, the Dollar boys could hold their own. The Murrays were fine cricketers. It was a treat to watch Nattie Murray batting, and David always had a high bowling average. Another famous cricketer most Dollar boys will remember was Willie Massey. I used often to bowl to him to give him as much practice as possible, and when it was my turn to take the bat it said something for my nerves to be able to stand up to his bowling. Another of my School heroes, when I was a small boy, was Charlie Davie, well known to the *Magazine* readers. He was a fine football player. I remember we had to attend church twice on Sundays. One Sunday forenoon, on the way to church, we met Charlie with a great white bandage across his nose. He had had an accident on the football field on the Saturday, and it was thought his nose was broken. He looked quite happy and proud of himself. I wonder if he remembers the occasion?

Generations of Dollar boys must have carved their names on the trees on the Back Road. I remember being rather proud of my initials on a certain tree, and pointed them out to a rather pompous relation who was staying with us for a short holiday. He said, "Carve your name upon the world, my boy, and leave the trees alone." Although I have, perhaps, badly failed to do as the "old boy" suggested, still I would say to the boys at Dollar to-day, "Carve your names upon the world, as so many old Dollar boys have done." Your time at Dollar has given you a magnificent foundation on which to build, and always remember the words of the Persian poet and philosopher, Omar Khayyām:—

"That moving finger writes ; and, having writ,
Moves on ; nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it."

A. M'INTYRE.



From Plate in Billings' "Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland"

CAMPBELL—INTERIOR OF THE KEEP

The Ministers of Dollar Parish Subsequent to the Reformation.

By REV. W. B. R. WILSON.

REV. WILLIAM WALKER, A.M.

TWENTY months elapsed between the close of Mr Gray's active ministry and the ordination of his successor. During this period, the Session records show that the Dollar elders magnified their office in a very remarkable way. Conclusive evidence of the accuracy of the above statement is supplied by the following comparison of the records of the Session meetings that were held during the twenty-two months which preceded the last illness and death of Mr Gray, and those that were held during the twenty months that passed before Dollar Session had again a minister of its own to preside over its meetings. Thus, for the final twenty-two months during which Mr Gray was in control of his Session, that is to say, from the 6th February 1743 to 31st December 1744, Dollar Session met only three times. On the other hand, they met no fewer than twenty times during the twenty months that passed before Mr Walker was ordained, that is to say, from the 31st December 1744 to the 24th August 1746. And what, I take it, is equally significant during the last months of Mr Gray's control of Session business, only two cases of discipline are recorded, each of these being what was then called a case of antenuptial fornication. These cases, moreover, were dealt with in the briefest possible way. Thus, each meeting was called, as the records describe it, *in hunc effectum*, i.e., for the special business then to be dealt with, and no other. It is suggestive, too, that the meetings were called for an hour immediately preceding the time fixed for the regular public worship of the congregation, so that there was next to no opportunity at all for other business, should anyone attempt to bring it forward. Moreover, as the records show, the parties to be dealt with appeared promptly on each occasion, and having confessed their fault, and been suitably exhorted, were then enjoined to present themselves that same day, in the usual place of repentance before the pulpit, where, after a public rebuke by the minister, they were regularly absolved from the scandal they had caused, and had their Church privileges restored. And all this is succinctly noted in the minutes for the day. On the other hand, during the twenty months in which the elders exercised their authority, unsupervised by their own minister, no fewer than five cases of discipline were dealt with, while the twenty minutes, which relate

the sessional proceedings in the period and cases referred to, are filled with elaborate and often unnecessary and even offensive particulars. Moreover, the Session, when alone, seems to have been much harder on persons guilty of antenuptial fornication than Mr Gray was. It is true only one such case was dealt with during the régime of the elders, another alleged case reported from Dunfermline having broken down through lack of evidence. But in the case referred to, instead of the matter being dealt with in one day, as Mr Gray was wont to deal with it, each of the parties inculpated was required to appear before the congregation for three successive Sabbaths, the woman for the first three Sabbaths alone, and the man for the following three, similarly alone, to be publicly rebuked by the minister officiating for the day. Moreover, all these appearances are duly recorded as *pro primo*, *pro secundo*, and *pro tertio*.

The other three cases of discipline were of a much more extraordinary kind, and caused much more trouble. The first was the case of a woman, at one time resident in the parish, named Ann Forrester. This woman, whom we would now call a worthless tramp, had, as she alleged, given birth to a child alone in the night season by a dykeside in Fossaway parish. Shortly thereafter she had endeavoured, but without success, to desert the said child, by leaving it in a street in Alloa. Failing, however, in this heartless and unmotherly action, she had apparently once more returned to Dollar, and was "sheltering herself in a glen beneath the rack mill." Tidings of the return of this unwelcome visitor having come to the ears of certain members of the Session, two of their number, whose names, however, are not recorded, at once took drastic action with the view of getting rid of this undesirable addition to the parish population. Their motive for the action they took seems to have been that they were apprehensive that the woman might again desert her child, and that the support of another foundling might thus be laid on the parish, in addition to the one to whom reference has already been made more than once in one or other of my previous essays on Rev. Mr Gray.

In this connection it is pertinent to remark that, in the eighteenth century in Scotland, the Parish Kirk Session seems to have discharged functions of a legal and administrative kind that are now much more satisfactorily discharged by the parish council, the poor inspector, the sheriff for the county and the police. But to return to the action of the Dollar Session, in the matter of Ann Forrester, the two worthy elders already mentioned, taking with them the kirk officer, proceeded early in the day to the glen in which Ann Forrester was then skulking, and duly cited her, in the

name of the Session, to appear before them that afternoon. Ann Forrester, however, declined to receive the citation, and said resolutely that she would not attend any Session meeting unless she was compelled to do so. On receiving this answer, the two elders, who seem to have had little to do that morning, straightway proceeded to Tillicoultry, where they obtained from Sir Robert Stewart, a Justice of the Peace residing there, a warrant for a constable to arrest and bring Ann Forrester before the Session of Dollar. They also called upon the Rev. Mr Steadman, the parish minister of Tillicoultry, and brought him back with them to preside over their meeting. At this meeting, to which Ann Forrester was duly brought by the constable, the unfortunate woman was straitly and sternly catechised by the members in regard both to the question of the child's paternity and also in regard to her own shameful and unnatural conduct towards her child. Obtaining, however, little satisfaction, in the end the elders handed her over to the constable again, so that he might "carry her off to the Justices of Peace of the shire, to let them proceed against her as they found cause." This, however, was not the last that Dollar congregation heard of Ann Forrester, for in a minute of Session, dated 2nd February 1746, we are told that the following minute of the Presbytery of Stirling was read that day to the congregation by the Rev. Wm. Campbell, minister of Alloa. "A paper was read containing a sum of the process with reference to Ann Forrester, an unmarried woman, who brought forth a child in this parish, and fathered it on one John Gall, whom, upon sufficient grounds, they absolve from the scandal; and also, considering that the said Ann Forrester had never appeared before the Presbytery but once, though cited several times, and also suspecting her disingenuity in not dilating the true father of her child, they therefore did, and hereby do, leave her under the scandal."

The other two discipline cases were of a much more painful and perplexing sort. Each of them was a case in which an unmarried woman resident in the parish, had, after more than one prevarication and delay, finally fathered her child on a married man dwelling in Dollar. The first of the two cases, that of a man—John Scotland—was the subject of discussion in every one of the twenty minutes referred to, the last minute recording the final issue of the case being as follows: "The Rev. Mr William Campbell, minister of the gospel at Alva, preaching here by appointment of the Presbytery, a paper was read from the pulpit—before the congregation, by appointment of the Presbytery—wherein was contained a sum of the process, with reference to John Scotland, a married man in this parish, and Ann Drysdale, an unmarried person,

who had fathered her child upon him, which he obstinately denied ; as also bearing that the said John Scotland, having been three several times cited by the kirk officer in this parish to appear before the Presbytery, and twice from the pulpit here, but that he had not compeared before them. Therefore the Presbytery did and hereby does declare the said John Scotland ane obstinate person, fugitive from Discipline, and debars him from all Church privileges."

The second case, after being frequently before the Session, seems to have broken down, and no final issue of it is recorded. It was that in which a young unmarried woman, named Christian Clark, after more than one evasion and false statement, had finally laid the paternity of her child on one of the landed proprietors in the parish, who was a married man. This charge the gentleman referred to firmly denied, offering at the same time to prove his accuser an infamous and worthless woman. It is further stated that with that end in view he had twice cited the woman "before the Commissar in Stirling," and that she did not appear to answer the charge. "The Commissar" here spoken of is, of course, the Sheriff, as acting in his proper Court of jurisdiction. His decision is not reported in the minute, but in a later minute we read : "It was reported to the Session by one of the elders that Christian Clark was gone away out of the parish, but they knew not where she was at present." And that is the last, so far as the Session minutes are concerned, of this painful and unsavoury case, in which the Session seems to have acted with much more zeal than discretion.

Two other items of a more or less interesting character are mentioned in the minutes. The first is a grant of twelve pounds (Scots) for building a church and manse at Amulree in the Highlands, which shows a commendable spirit of brotherly kindness on the part of a Lowland congregation to their brethren in the North, especially when it is remembered that the year 1745, when this grant was made, was the year of the last Jacobite rebellion, when a large part of the Highlands was seething with disaffection to the Government. It must be admitted, indeed, that Prince Charles did not land in Scotland for two months after the Dollar elders had made their contribution to the building of Amulree kirk and manse ; but it says something for the public spirit of the congregation that they had responded so well to the appeal made to them by the Presbytery on behalf of their poor brethren in the Perthshire Highlands.

A second and not unsuggestive entry I find in the minute for 15th September 1745, some six months after Mr Gray's death. For here I learn that one of the elders, having mentioned that Mrs Gray was about to leave the parish, the Session resolved to pay

a business visit to the manse on the Friday following, "To take the box," as they express it, "out of the manse." This visit was duly paid, and the result is thus minuted. "Upon Friday, 20th September 1745, the which day the elders of the Kirk Session of Dollar being convened, and finding that Mrs Gray was about to leave the manse, they removed the Kirk box out of the Manse, and set it into the House of Kirkstyle, therein to remain during pleasure." On this occasion, also, we are expressly informed that the Session learned, for the first time, the gratifying fact that their late minister, Mr Gray, had left a legacy for the poor of the parish, and the Session Clerk duly records the circumstance that before they left the manse, there was put into the box "a Bond," dated 24th January 1745 (exactly two months before Mr Gray's death), "for the sum of 300 merks, left as a gift or legacy to the poor of the parish." To this statement the characteristic clause is added, "This bond bears interest since the term of Whitsunday last."

There is one remarkable omission in these minutes. In not one of the twenty is there any allusion to the hearing of any candidates for the vacancy. It is true, of course, that patronage prevailed at this period in the Church of Scotland, and that many patrons placed men over a parish without any regard to the wishes of the people. On the other hand, the presentee usually preached in the pulpit before a call was addressed to him, as that step had formally to be taken in order to presbyterial ordination. But no record of this has been made by the Session Clerk, nor is there any notice of the new minister's ordination. The only reference to that event is contained in the minute of 24th August 1746, where we read, "This being the first Lord's Day immediately after the ordination of Mr William Walker, preacher of the gospel, to be minister of the parish, the Session being met, sederunt and constitute by prayer, they delayed entering upon any of their affairs relative to the utensils of the Kirk, and to the poor's money until a week day." I interpret this minute as an indirect reproof by the new minister of the practice hitherto followed by the Dollar Session, of meeting and discussing all sort of "affairs," some of them of a very unsavoury character, on the Lord's Day. And it says something, I think, for the new minister's wisdom, that he began thus early to show that he meant to be the moderator in his own Session.

Mr Walker seems to have been a native of the West country. At any rate he was educated at Glasgow University, where he graduated in 1714. He was not, however, licensed till 1722, the reason for this delay being that he was meanwhile engaged as tutor in the Laird of Meikle's family. Subsequently, but at what date

Dr Scott does not state, Mr Walker became assistant to the minister of St Ninians. And in all probability it was owing to his serving in that church, which is, of course, like Dollar, connected with the Presbytery of Stirling, that the way was opened up for the St Ninians assistant to become the parish minister of Dollar. Mr Walker, at the date of his ordination, was by no means a young man. He had been born in 1694, and so in 1746 he must have been a man above fifty years of age. He seems also to have been already married, and to have had a family. At all events, when he died in 1757, aged sixty-three, Dr Scott, in the "Fasti," describes him as having been then "married with issue." The few particulars I have just enumerated are all that Dr Scott has recorded in his sketch of Mr Walker's history in his valuable compilation, the "Fasti of the Scottish Church." I have, however, ascertained a few additional particulars from the Session records and other sources, which cast some light on the kind of man Mr Walker was. And first of all, I have abundant evidence that he was a painstaking and laborious minister and pastor. One proof of this came under my notice not long after my settlement in Dollar. I was examining some old records of the doings of the General Assembly, and I was delighted to find that Mr Walker, who was then the minister of the parish, was able to give the Assembly an estimate of the number of inhabitants who, in the year 1765, were resident in Dollar. That number he put down as 517. This report suggested to me then, and suggests still, that Mr Walker was a man who knew every family in the parish, and therefore was most careful and assiduous in the discharge of all his duties, a conclusion this, which my careful study of the Session minutes during his eleven years' ministry amply corroborates. For one thing his meetings of Session were held much more regularly, and are much better reported than was the case in Mr Gray's time. Then, too, his interest in the financial state of the poor's fund, and in the proper investment of that fund, was not less keen and intelligent than that of his predecessor. Continual reference is made in the minutes to the annual interest received from Mr Gray's heirs for the sums which had been lent to that gentleman during his ministry, and which, I may add, were not fully paid up till after the death of Mr Walker. Half-yearly reports, too, of the receipts and disbursements by the kirk treasurer are duly given in and minuted. In one word, the Session records, during Mr Walker's pastorate, are thoroughly business-like and to the point. He seems also to have been a man of a cautious habit of mind, who would do nothing rashly. Thus, when any case of discipline of a novel or perplexing sort arose—and several such cases are recorded—he was always ready to appeal to

the Presbytery for guidance, a course which, in one case in particular of a very painful kind, must have greatly relieved him from a crushing sense of responsibility.

The correctness of the above estimate of Mr Walker's character will, I am sure, be realised by all my readers, after I have presented them with a condensed analysis of the dealings of Dollar Session in that minister's time. Take, as suggestive of his punctilious and business-like methods, the narrative we have of his first week-day meeting with his Session, on 10th September 1746, a practice he kept up during his whole ministry. After the meeting had been duly constituted, we read "The moderator inquired what utensils belonged to the church." He was told "There were no communion cups nor flagons, but there was a communion table and table cloth, together with a good many tokens and some deals for a tent; as also two plates and three stools for the collection, also three old sessional records and two new ones." The old sessional records here mentioned seem now to have been lost.

The minister next inquired what poor's money there was belonging to the Session. The answer, carefully recorded, is that there were the following sums: (1) A Bond, granted by the late Rev. John Gray, minister of the parish, for 1,000 pounds Scots, dated 14 May 1731, together with all the interest since. (2) An accepted Bill, granted by the said defunct for 100 merks, dated 11 December 1732, and all the interest since that date. (3) A Bond, granted by the said defunct for 300 merks, mortified by him for the use of the poor of the parish, dated 24 January 1745, with the interest thereon since Whitsunday. (4) Another Bond for 100 merks, granted by Janet Glass, merchant, Dollar, with four years' interest unpaid. (5) A Bond, granted by the proprietor of Westerton for 1,000 merks, of which 440 belong to the poor, and 560 represent an old mortification for behoof of the schoolmaster. In order to guarantee payment of interest on the sum, it was stated that the Session had a tack of the land called the Westerton Haugh, together with the sasine thereof, which piece of ground had been possessed by the late Mr Gray till his decease. When these points had been duly established, the Session instructed Mr Burn, one of their number, to write to Mr Black, Clerk to the Regality of Dunfermline, factor of the deceased Mr Gray's heirs, "requesting him to pay up the interest of the foresaid sums with all expedition." I may perhaps as well introduce here the issue of this matter. At the next meeting of Session Mr Burn reported that Mr Black had written him to the effect that the unpaid interest on Mr Gray's loans from the Session would be paid on Martinmas first. But as the Martinmas term passed without any remittance being received

from Mr Black, the Session minute for 13th December 1746 mentions that Mr Christie, their clerk, was appointed to go to Dunfermline and acquaint Mr Black that they had present need for the money, and gave him a formal commission in their name to make the above demand. This step had the desired effect, and the minute of the next meeting, dated 26th December, duly records that Mr Black had paid to Mr Christie £10 sterling in cash, and had further given him a bill, dated 16th December, for 219 pounds 8 shillings (Scots), payable in twenty days, as also another bill, signed by Mr Gray and Mr Black, for 1,000 merks, bearing interest since Martinmas last, which sum covered the whole interest still due to the Session on the sums lent to Mr Gray.

An earlier minute, dated 17th November 1746, which records a request made by Stirling Presbytery to all the congregations within their bounds to furnish an exact record of all the legacies and mortifications possessed by Kirk Sessions for parish purposes, suggests the thought that the trouble experienced by the Dollar Session in recovering the sums lent to their late minister had moved that reverend body to obtain information which might, in the future, obviate such misuse of funds as the Dollar case had disclosed. The minute referred to reads thus: "Considering that the Revd. Presbytery of Stirling had appointed their several brethren to produce at their next meeting a written account of the several mortifications within their respective parishes that they may be recorded in their Presbytery books, the Dollar Session appoints their Moderator to lay before the said Presbytery a list of the mortifications in this parish as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1 ^{mo} The soume of five hundred merks mortified of old by Mr Archibald Paton, late Merchant Burgess in Edinburgh, for the use and behoof of the Schoolmaster of Dollar, for which there is no other document but a short minute in the old Session Book dated the 18th July 1652 years - - - -	333	6	8
2 ^{do} The soume of 60 merks, said to be mortified by — Kirk, indweller in Dollar for the above purpose, for which no document exists -	40	0	0
3 ^{io} The soume of 300 merks mortified by the late Rev. Mr John Gray, minister of the Gospel in this parish, for the use and behoof of the poor therein. By his Bond dated at the Manse of Dollar, 24 January 1745 -	200	0	0
The whole amounts to - -	573	6	8"

The incidents I have just recorded all took place in the first four months of Mr Walker's ministry, and the natural inference from that fact is that the new minister in his own way was as capable a business man as his predecessor had been. Moreover, that the Stirling Presbytery, possibly at Mr Walker's instigation, was bent on securing that in no parish should the poor's money be used for any purpose but that for which it was given, is proved by the fact that a further request was sent down to every congregation under its care to state definitely what were the sums contained within its poor's box. The Dollar Session's answer to this request, as dated 20th March 1747, is very full and precise, and reads as follows :—

- (1) £1,000 0 0 Scots in a Bond by the late Rev. John Gray,
Dollar.
- (2) 66 13 4 do. in a bill for 100 merks by the above
John Gray.
- (3) 666 13 4 do. in a bill for 1,000 merks by Mr Black
and Mrs Gray.
- (4) 293 6 0 do. in a bond by the proprietor of Westerton
for 440 merks.
- (5) 66 13 4 do. equal to 100 merks mortified by Janet
Glass, Dollar.

£2,093 6 0 in all.

As further evidence of the new minister's interest in his parish, and his business-like care of the funds of the poor, I note next that before Mr Walker had been a year in the parish he had persuaded the Session to purchase "two velvet mort-cloths, a large and a little one, the produce and benefit of which," it is carefully stated, "was to be applied solely for the use of the poor." The cost of the mort-cloths is minutely recorded, each item of charge being given, and as a result it was found that this new addition to the parish utensils had cost no less than £198. 7s. 6d. Scots. As, however, the charge for the use of the large mort-cloth was fixed for Dollar parishioners at 4s. for each occasion of its use, and at 5s. for all residents in other parishes, and as similarly Dollar parishioners were to be charged 1s. 6d. for each use of the little cloth, while persons outside the parish were to be charged 2s. for the same privilege, it is clear that the poor box would soon know the benefit of the new minister's purchase.

Another illuminative glimpse we get into the character of Mr Walker is the fact that about two years after his ordination he asked and received authority from his Session to purchase all the

Acts of Assembly which had then been published from the beginning of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland till 1748. This he did at a cost of £2. 11s. *sterling*, not Scots. I wonder if these old volumes are still in the possession of the Kirk Session? During the early portion of Mr Walker's ministry, he seems to have had only two elders, John Christie, Clerk to the Session, and James Burn. One of these, Mr Burn, is reported as having died in October 1750, and as having left a legacy of 100 merks to the poor of the parish, which sum, it is stated, was to be lent out, and the interest derived therefrom to be devoted to the service of the poor. For this benefaction the thanks of the Session to Mrs Burn and her sons are duly recorded.

It was not, however, before the month of November next year that formal steps were taken to have the vacancies in the Session filled up, as the following extract shows: "Dollar Kirk, 3rd November 1751, the which day the Session being met, the minister represented that he had acquainted the Presbytery at their last ordinary meeting that since Mr Burn's death he has had but one ruling elder, and therefore desired that they would allow him to elect some few honest and well disposed men who he thought were fit for that office. The Presbytery therefore allowed their Brother Mr Walker to elect and ordain such as he thought fit for being ruling elders in this parish according to the rules of this Church. Thereupon he, with consent of John Christie, the present ruling elder, did publicly propose to the Congregation, John Hamilton, dyester in Dollar, and Thomas Hall, weaver there; and their edict was thereafter served to the effect that if any of the Congregation had anything to object against these two men why they should not be ordained as elders, they might compear before the Session on Friday come eight days, being the 15th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and give in their objections, and they should be heard accordingly."

There are two points in this extract that have impressed me. The first is that seemingly at that time authority had to be given by the Presbytery to a minister before an election of elders could take place. The second is that the minister and not the congregation did the election. Surely the Church of Scotland in the twentieth century has found a better way of conducting these matters than seems to have satisfied the Church of the eighteenth century?

But to return to our narrative, the ordination of the two men selected by the minister duly took place, and the new elders took their seats in the Session, 24th November 1751. Mr Walker's Session seems to have had the same class of cases coming before it as those to which allusion has been made in the earlier part of this essay. That is to say, all cases of proved and even suspected unchastity were punctiliously reported to the Session and rigorously

inquired into, and the culprits duly and strictly censured. Eleven such cases are recorded as having been dealt with in the eleven years of Mr Walker's ministry, that is, about one annually. This, considering the small numbers resident in the parish, not more, according to Mr Walker himself, than 517, seems rather a large proportion. Most of the eleven cases dealt with by Mr Walker's Session were of a simple character, and seldom involved appeals to the Presbytery. It was not so, however, with the very first case of this kind that came before Mr Walker and his elders. The manner in which this case was brought under the notice of Mr Walker, who had then been scarcely a year in Dollar, was startling enough. One summer evening, in 1747, a stranger carrying an infant child appeared at the manse and asked to see the minister. He turned out to be one James Hunter, a weaver from Inverkeithing, and the message he brought must have caused some excitement at the manse, when he informed the minister that he had been instructed by the authorities in Inverkeithing to leave the child, at the manse door, unless the Dollar Session would at once inquire into the question of its true paternity, which he stated had been laid by its mother at the door of a married man, Thomas Scotland by name, then residing at Dollarbeg. On further inquiry into the case, Mr Walker learned that a woman of bad character, named Isobel Baxter, residing in the parish of Balingry, had exposed and deserted her infant child in the outskirts of Inverkeithing, that the child had ever since been nursed at the expense of the Kirk Session in that parish; but that the woman Baxter, having been suspected and arrested, had acknowledged to the Provost of Inverkeithing that she was the child's mother, and had given as its father Thomas Scotland in Dollar. The threatened desertion of the child, by laying it at the manse door, naturally frightened Mr Walker, and accordingly we find that the kirk officer summoned a Session meeting for the following day, the weaver from Inverkeithing doubtless waiting to learn the result. The Session having met, and Thomas Scotland having appeared before it, and firmly denied the charge made against him, it was resolved to report the case to the Presbytery of Stirling for its advice and guidance. This was accordingly done, and the decision duly recorded, 6th September 1747, was as follows: "The Presbytery, finding that the said Isobel Baxter did originally belong to and reside in the parish of Balingry, particularly at the time that she says the guilt was contracted with the said Thomas Scotland, then residing therein also, did judge that the case belongs to the inquiry and cognisance of the Session of Balingry, and Presbytery of their bounds, and therefore did advise the Dollar Session to remit the whole affair to the said Session of Balingry and Presbytery of

Kirkcaldy." They further instructed that an extract of what had occurred, and been judicially alleged and confessed before the Dollar Session should be sent with a covering letter to the minister of Balingry. This course was followed, and Mr Balfour, of Balingry, duly replied to Mr Walker, stating that it was his belief that the child which had been deserted in Inverkeithing was really the child of a man named Weems, with whom Baxter cohabited, and that Thomas Scotland was innocent of the charge made against him. He declined, however, to enter into any investigation of the charge made against Scotland, which he said could only be properly dealt with by Dollar Session, who might require him to deny guilt on oath. Meanwhile he apprised the Session that both Weems and Baxter were worthless persons, and unworthy of belief. It is very suggestive of the caution of Mr Walker that this letter was sent on to the Stirling Presbytery for their decision regarding it. That decision was that Mr Walker should write to Mr Balfour stating that it did not seem to the Stirling Presbytery to belong to them to meddle any further in the affair of Thomas Scotland and Isobel Baxter, seeing that the guilt was not incurred in their bounds, and that Mr Balfour was of opinion that the charge against Scotland was groundless, and that he be requested to intimate this finding to the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy. This, so far as Dollar Session records are concerned, was the end of Thomas Scotland's case. But what became of the infant that had been left in the care of the Inverkeithing Session we have no record to show.

(To be continued.)

I Wonder.

[Excursions to the Belgian battlefields are advertised.]

I WONDER what it's like to-day
 Round Wipers and St Jean,
 If down at Hooze, or Plug Street way
 Our tracks can still be seen.
 I wonder if the poppies bright
 Still glow as once they glowed,
 Or are there ghosts that crawl by night
 Along the Messines road?

I wonder if the trippers come
 With sandwiches and stout,
 And voting Passchendaele humdrum,
 Throw orange-peel about.

And do they walk through No Man's Land
 To hunt for souvenirs,
 Or do they see on every hand
 A place of blood and tears?

A. S., jun.

Commerce *versus* Sentiment.

THE decision of a Parliamentary Commission, which authorises the Town Council of Greenock to demolish the Old West Kirk and desecrate the kirkyard, in order that the shipbuilding yards of Caird & Co. may be extended by utilising the hallowed ground, has called forth from our valued contributor, Judge Benet, an angry protest against such vandalism. He says: "The venerable church has stood there for three centuries. What does that matter? In the kirkyard is the grave of Highland Mary. What does commerce care for Burns or his sacred song? Pull the old church down; it blocks the progress of business. Remove the old tombstones; cart away as best you can the dust of the dead to a new graveyard; they can't object—and the shipbuilding company needs the ground in their business. It is very true that when Burns's Highland Mary was buried here it was expected that she would rest in her grave till the resurrection; but times have changed since then, and sentiment must now yield to business."

To read that article was, I have no doubt, pain and grief to all Scotsmen and lovers of Burns. The destruction of cathedrals and churches, and the desecration of graveyards by the Huns horrified and shocked us. But that was during dreadful war, and claimed to be a necessary war measure. This Greenock iconoclasm shocks us still more, for it is perpetrated, not in the heat and passion and excitement of cruel war, but in cold blood, in the heartless, calculating counting room of commerce. If it had been possible to submit the proposal to a referendum, Scotsmen and lovers of Burns everywhere would have voted "No."

This heartless, soul-less commercialism and disregard of sentiment is no new thing. A striking illustration is given by Dean Ramsay in his "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character." Let me quote it:—

"Viscountess Glenorchy built and endowed a church for two ministers, who were provided with very handsome incomes. She died, 17th July 1786, and was buried on the 24th July, aged forty-four. Her interment took place, by her own direction, in the church she had founded, immediately in front of the pulpit, and

she fixed upon that spot as a place of security and safety, where her mortal remains might rest in peace till the morning of the resurrection. But, alas, for the uncertainty of all earthly plans and projects for the future. The iron road came on its reckless course and swept the church away. The site was required for the North British Railway, which passed directly over the spot where Lady Glenorchy had been buried. Her remains were accordingly disinterred, 24th December 1844, and the trustees of the church, not having yet erected a new one, deposited the body of their foundress in the vaults beneath St John's Episcopal Church, and after resting there for fifteen years, they were, in 1859, removed to the building which is now Lady Glenorchy's Church."

(14th Edition : note on pp. 290-91.)

The beauties of Nature, as well as churches and graves, have to give way to the demands of business and money making. As a native of the lovely Devon Valley, I have a personal controversy with commercialism. There is no lovelier valley in Scotland. Burns, after seeing it on his visit to Harvieston Castle, sang of "the green valley where Devon, sweet Devon, meandering flows." The links of the river were the chief beauty of the valley, as Burns saw it, and as it was in my boyhood. In another song, composed just nine days before his death, Burns again refers to the lovely links—

"Fairest maid on Devon banks,
Crystal Devon, winding Devon."

Winding, alas! no longer. Those picturesque meanderings, hallowed for all worshippers of Burns and lovers of the beautiful, were destroyed when the railroad was constructed in 1869. To save the expense of building bridges, the channel of the Devon was made straight. I heartily sympathise with the local rhymer, who wrote :—

"The links o' Devon wi'd nae mair :
Eh, man, it makes my heart grow sair ;
Nae mair we'll view their beauty rare
That Burns enjoyed.
For railroad trains to travel there
A' were destroyed.

Foul fa' the ruthless Vandal race,
To their Maker's image a disgrace ;
Wha Nature's beauties will deface
For sake o' gain.
Deil tak' them to the ugliest place
In's het domain."

That ruthless spirit carries on its destructive work in America

as well as in Europe. The electrical engineer measures the horse-power of the waterfall, condemns it to work, like Samson at the mill, and all of its beauty is gone. Two of the finest waterfalls that I have ever beheld have thus been destroyed. They were known by their Indian names, Toccoa and Tallulah, meaning the Beautiful and the Terrible. Stripped of their beauty and their grandeur, they are now the slaves of man, busy in their native Georgia mountains, supplying motor-power for the needs of commerce. Even Niagara has been partially harnessed, and would be wholly so, I understand, if Canada did not resist the demands and plans of New York State.

Rambling through a virgin forest with a friend, who had retired from business with an ample fortune, I pointed out to him a splendid specimen of a poplar tree, a magnificent giant. He looked intently at the grand old tree, and then said: "I have been calculating the value of that tree." And he stated how many feet of lumber it would yield, and what it would be worth. I had no more to say.

A June Morning in Arran.

WITH wings outstretched comes smiling morn;
The erstwhile darkness is no more;
Instead, a light o'er earth's soft floor,
Her myriad jewels to adorn.

Beyond where cattle wade knee-deep,
Lo! eastward, gorgeous to behold,
A sea transformed to liquid gold,
Whose waves their rhythmic measure keep.

Down craggy heights light moves apace,
The shadows dwindle at our feet;
Birds twitter where two streamlets meet
To babble in their wild embrace.

Through sylvan groves with many a brook,
Perchance where dryads danced and sang,
While weird reverberations rang,
And Flora's pendant blossoms shook.

Full-orbed, the sun now mounts on high,
And colours everywhere abound;
Save those of pastoral life, no sound
Disturbs the morn's tranquillity.

O happy Arran—fair, sublime!
This lotus land in northern clime.

J. T. R.

Air Post Stamps of Newfoundland.

BY ARCH. G. GIBB.

IN the September issue of the *Dollar Magazine*, editorial mention is made of the stamps used on letters conveyed by the first Atlantic air flights from Newfoundland, and it has occurred to me that a brief account of the history of these mementos of the great achievements might be of interest not only to present pupils of Dollar Academy, but possibly to many F.P.'s.

Away back in the "seventies," when I attended the Academy, most of the boys were stamp collectors, and, as many of the pupils of these days were from "places far abroad," a brisk business was done in "exchange" and from "approval sheets."

In the days I speak of, the condition of a stamp was not of the same importance as it is to-day. To the boys of my time a stamp was a stamp, and though we preferred good specimens, we did not worry much if they were heavily cancelled, or were minus a few perforations. Nowadays, however, the average collector wants his stamp "just so." It must be "lightly cancelled," "well centred," and every perforation must be perfect in outline and without ragged edges. Perhaps this is one of the results of higher (philatelic) education, who knows?

The Great War, now happily over, has given a great impetus to stamp collecting, as, owing to so many changes in the map of Europe and in other parts of the world, thousands of new stamps have been issued. Many of these are extremely interesting, and have not only been the means of reviving the "hobby" amongst old collectors, but no doubt have formed the nucleus of many new collections.

For these reasons I imagine that some details connected with the Atlantic air post stamps will not be out of place in the pages of the *Dollar Magazine*, and may be useful to any who have the so-called stamp collecting craze.

I may add that I am indebted to the courtesy of our ex-Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. Alex. Robinson, LL.D., for much of the following data, so it can be looked on as *official* and accurate.

There were four flights from Newfoundland of British planes during the summer of 1919. Each of these carried a mail.

1. The *Sopwith*, commanded by Hawker and Grieve, left on 19th May, but had to descend in mid-Atlantic, owing to engine trouble. The two aviators were subsequently rescued, and landed in Scotland. The mail was also saved; 101 letters were taken

by the Sopwith, and the stamps used were the regular 3 cent brown caribou, and were over-printed—

Trans-Atlantic
Air Post
1919.

An *unused* specimen of this stamp was presented to Captain M. H. Fenn by the Postmaster-General, and was afterwards sold in London by Mr Fred Melville for the benefit of the (local) Marine Disasters Fund, and realised the handsome sum of 200 guineas. It was bought by Lieut.-Colonel Halford, of the Air Ministry.

Altogether there were 200 of the 3 cent "caribou" over-printed for the Hawker-Grieve flight. Of these, twenty-three were damaged in printing, and burnt in the presence of the auditor-general, and seventy-six were unused and sold at \$25.00 each for the Marine Disasters Fund.

2. The *Vickers-Vimy* machine, commanded by Alcock and Brown, left St John's on 14th June, and made the first successful direct flight across the Atlantic, arriving in Clifden, Ireland, in sixteen hours and twelve minutes, thus establishing a record.

This biplane carried a mail of 197 letters. The stamps were the 15 cent Cabot issue, and were surcharged—

Trans-Atlantic
Air Post
1919
One Dollar.

There are, at least, two types of this stamp. One has a comma after "air post," the other has none.

3. The *Raymor*, commanded by Raynham and Morgan, came to grief an hour or so after the Sopwith started, and the flight had to be abandoned. There were from 50 to 100 letters on board at the time, and these were afterwards taken over by Raynham and Biddlescombe in a liner, and mailed in England when they arrived there. Most of these were franked with the ordinary 3 cent caribou, with particulars in handwriting over them. There might possibly have been a few of the \$1.00 air stamps amongst them, but this is uncertain.

4. The *Handley-Page* was commanded by Vice-Admiral Mark Kerr, Major Brackley, and Major Gran. The original intention was to attempt the direct flight from Harbour Grace, but on the invitation of the Aero Club of America it was decided to go by way of Atlantic City. On 14th July the big biplane "hopped off" from

Harbour Grace, but, unfortunately, was wrecked at Parrsboro, Nova Scotia.

Particulars of this eventful trip and its disastrous ending have appeared in all the papers, so it is unnecessary for me to go into details, more especially as I wish to confine this article to a philatelic standpoint.

Here, however, I hope my readers will pardon me if I touch on a personal connection with the Handley-Page mail. In doing so, I must admit that the step I took was not wholly disinterested, as I had mailed two letters to go by the Handley-Page, and was naturally anxious that they should cross by air post.

A day or so after the Handley-Page had "come a cropper" at Parrsboro, I went to the Postmaster-General here and suggested that he should cable to Admiral Kerr to see if arrangements could be made to transfer the mail bag to the dirigible "R 34," then about ready for her flight from Mineola, New York. Acting on this suggestion, the Postmaster-General made out a message to that effect, and at the same time sent off another message to General Maitland, Commander of the "R 34," to ask if he would be willing to take the mail with him. Both replies were favourable, and the bag was sent on from Parrsboro.

Unfortunately, the "R 34," owing to an approaching storm, had to get off some hours earlier than expected, and the mail bag did not arrive in time. It was subsequently sent across in the "Mauretania" from New York. The number of letters dispatched was 171. The envelopes, besides having the St John's postmark, are postmarked "Harbour Grace, 14th July."

The total number of the 15 cent stamps, surcharged "one dollar," was between nine and ten thousand. These were on sale at the General Post Office here up until last October, when they were sold out, mostly to stamp dealers. I was fortunate in securing a few before they were exhausted.

In conclusion, I may add that very few of the Newfoundland air post letters have British postmarks. I have seen two with the London postmark, but the majority were delivered in the Old Country without any postmark but that of St John's (or Harbour Grace, for the Handley-Page). The reason given for this apparent omission is that during the war, and since, letters arriving from abroad were not postmarked in Great Britain. Probably this plan was adopted to save time in handling.



A. Drysdale

TILLICOUNTRY, FROM DEVONKNOWES

Notes from Near and Far.

OUR subscribers, like ourselves, will regret that the Committee have found it necessary to raise the price of the *Magazine* to two shillings. The matter was carefully considered by them at their last meeting, and it was thought better to raise the price for all rather than appeal to our wealthier readers for donations. After all it only means that the pre-war cost is doubled, and among costs we all know it doesn't stand alone.

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THE transfer of the Academy to the County Education Authority, which was foreshadowed in our last number, has now been carried through. Even those members of the Governing Body who were most opposed to the change came to see that it was inevitable. The resolution was confirmed at a meeting of the Governors held on 5th February, and it now awaits the approval of the Education Department in London. It may be reassuring to our former pupils and friends who have been unable to give their approval to the transfer, to read the words of Bailie Mullan, which breathe such a fine, kindly spirit to the old School. We give them below :—

Bailie Mullan, Chairman of the County Education Authority, said that while the matter had been under consideration he had taken no active part in it, because, although he was a Governor and had long taken an interest in Dollar Academy, he believed that the question of transference was one for the people of Dollar themselves to determine. Now that the Governors had decided, he would like to say that he congratulated the people of Dollar on their decision, for he believed that it would ultimately be for the benefit of Dollar. He assured the Governors that the Education Authority would make certain that Dollar Academy would not suffer educationally in any way, for he was sure that the Authority would conserve the money under the Endowment, as directed by John McNab's will. He thought that Dollar people would not regret that step now taken, because, even although £20,000 or £40,000 had been raised, it could not, to his mind, have met the future requirements of education. He asked the Governors to relieve their minds and feel sure that Dollar would receive every possible consideration, and when the new Governors came to be appointed they would find that their interests had been safeguarded. He assured the Governors that the endeavour of the Authority would be not only to keep up Dollar Academy to the high standard it had always held, but, if possible, to better it.

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FRESH HONOUR FOR SHERIFF CONSTABLE.—It will, we feel sure, give pleasure to many of our F.P.'s, as it does to ourselves, to learn that Mr A. H. Briggs Constable, K.C., who for some years has been Sheriff of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland, has been promoted to the Sherifffdom of Argyllshire. The Sheriff's pride in his old School so recently avowed by him is echoed by the old School's pride in him.

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PROMOTION OF F.P.—Court of Session Appointment.—The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, to approve the appointment of Mr R. A. Roxburgh as Depute Clerk of Session. Mr Roxburgh, who is fifty-two years of age, was employed for nearly two years of the war as a voluntary worker in the Territorial Force Association. He received a commission in the 2/1 Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Scots, and qualified as a first-class musketry instructor to his battalion. In the last year of the war he was on full military service on the coast.

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COLISEUM ATTRACTIONS.—Not the least interesting item of the attractive Coliseum programme this week is the turn provided by an untrained musician, who composes by ear alone. He is Mr Bob Anthony, a native of Penang, and his song-ballad, "If You could Come to Me," which is played by the orchestra in connection with the "Young Composer's Series," is a delight to listen to.—*Daily Graphic*, 10th February 1920.

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DOLLAR ASSOCIATION.—In aid of the Red Triangle Campaign, Lady King Stewart, O.B.E., gave a most interesting and illuminating lecture on "Devastated France," in the Academy Hall on Thursday evening. From her personal experiences we learned, in some part at least, of the horrors which that part of the war zone and its occupants had to undergo. Villages obliterated and unrecognisable as such, with only heaps of stones or rubbish to mark the sites of once happy homes, the ground pitted with great shell holes, trenches running everywhere, and the soil mixed up with broken shells, barbed wire, and other war wreckage. All these were described and pictured on the screen, as well as the poor human wreckage removing their poor belongings to safety. Lady King Stewart was awarded a very hearty vote of thanks at the close on the call of Colonel Haig, chairman.

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HARVIESTOUN SHORTHORNS COMMAND GOOD PRICES.—At the Perth annual sale of pedigree shorthorns held on Tuesday, entries from Mr J. Ernest Kerr's famous shorthorn herd commanded

good prices. "Nonpariel Duke" sold at 1,150 guineas; a white "Venella," 220 guineas; and another young bull (placed third in the prize list), 680 guineas. At Wednesday's sale Mr Kerr sold other two animals at good prices, the average for the five being £621, as compared with £477. 15s. last year.

We might adapt the words of the poet to our famous breeders, "The breeders are a' gaen wud, gaen wud." £1,150 for a bull calf! Yes—gaen wud, gaen wud.

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ON TOP AGAIN.—Recently we published a statement touching upon the manner in which the Tenterfield district had been able to stall off the ravages of old man drought, and was dispatching fat stock in fairly large quantities to the city. Another concrete instance of the drought-resisting qualities of the district was afforded last week when Mr Alex. Stewart, F.P., the Laird of Millera, sent twenty-seven bullocks to the Sydney markets. These were a fine average lot, and were in splendid condition. A telegram received on Friday announced the fact that five of the consignment had averaged the phenomenal price of £34 apiece, easily topping the market, and the other twenty-two head sold to £27. 13s., averaging £24. 14s. 7d. apiece. Mr Stewart is one of the best judges of stock in this district, and we join with many friends in congratulating the grand old Scotchman upon his success. Despite his years, he is as active mentally and physically as many a man twenty years his junior, and there seems every prospect of his topping the century in the same manner as his stock has so often topped the market. The bullocks in question received no special favours, but were fed on natural pastures, and put in the whole of the past severe winter on the high country on the eastern fall ten miles from Tenterfield. No bullock in the draft was over five years old. The sale clearly proves the value of the Tenterfield district for fattening. Naturally, no one was more pleased with the result than Mr Stewart, who, though in his eighty-sixth year, drafted, assisted to drove, and trucked these bullocks at Tenterfield last Monday. Mr Stewart has been a very successful grazier, and during every drought that has occurred over the State he has been in the happy position of being able to provide prime cattle from his Millera, Strathalpine, and Billarimba properties, which he has owned and managed for many years.—*From the Tenterfield Star.*

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THE STEWART BOUNTY.—The annual distribution of coals and Christmas fare, provided, as "a hand grip across the seas," by Mr Alexander Stewart, of Millera, N.S.W., has again given comfort

and good cheer to over thirty of the relatively poor people of Dollar (not in receipt of parochial relief), and has elicited many warm expressions of gratitude and goodwill to the large hearted and generous donor.

Marriages.

PINKERTON—HENDERSON.—At the Presbyterian Church, Penang, on 4th November, by the Rev. Donald J. Ross, M.A., W. J. D. Pinkerton (F.P.), P.W.D., F.M.S., to Mary (Mollie), eldest daughter of Robert Henderson, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

LAWLER—DICKSON.—At Edinburgh, on 6th December 1919, Lieutenant J. R. Lawler, R.E. (F.P.), late of East African Expeditionary Force, and of Gorakhpur, India, only son of the late Hugh Lawler, chemist, Milnathort, and of Mrs Lawler, Marchmont Road, Edinburgh, to Eliza (Louie) Mackay Dickson, M.A., only daughter of the late James Dickson, Notary Public, 10 St Vincent Street, and Mrs Dickson, Scotland Street, Edinburgh.

WILLISON—GIBSON.—At the Church of the Transfiguration, New York, on 24th January, by the Rev. Dr Houghton, R. G. Ernst Willison (F.P.), third son of the late Alexander Willison, Dalry, Ayrshire, to Agnes Elsie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Gibson, Elliceville, Dumfries.

Birth.

M'GRUTHER.—At Lahore, India, on 15th June, the wife of John M'Gruther, jun., A.M.I.M.E., a son.

Obituary.

WILLS.—At Ootacamund, South India, on 6th December, Florence Maude (F.P.), wife of Harold I. Wills, M.A., B.Sc., and daughter of the late Rev. J. Duthie, D.D., Travancore.

HUNTER.—At Ashgrove Place, Kelty, on 27th January, James Hunter, mason, late of Dollar, aged 78 years.

GLASS.—At Station Road, Dollar, on 16th February, John Glass, long known as a familiar figure in Dollar.

GELLATLY.—At East Rosebank, Dollar, on 10th March, Jemima Watherstone Gellatly. We hope to refer to the able and useful work of the deceased in our next number.

BRYCE.—At 26 Granville Street, West, of pneumonia, on the 18th inst., Thomas Bryce (F.P.), aged 23, dearly beloved son of the late Thomas Bryce, chemist at Tharsis Mines, Huelva, Spain, and Mrs Bryce, 26 Granville Street.

MARGARET H. SIMPSON.—It is with great regret, and a keen sense of loss, that we have to record the death, at the early age of twenty-five, of one on whom we had built great hopes of future literary distinction. While yet a school girl Margaret Simpson was a frequent, and always welcome, contributor to our pages; and we cannot, I think, offer a higher tribute to her memory than by reproducing the following :—

TO THOSE THAT ARE LEFT.

There walked among us those whose faces shone
With the dim radiance of a distant light
Reflected, and whose eyes seemed bent upon,
With far-off looks, things holden from our sight;
And we were blest that did beside them stand
And speak with them; these signs the fate foretold
Of their young lives. They ransomed our fair land;
They gave us freedom, more to prize than gold.
'Tis ours to guard this precious treasure bought
With youth's green spring, when life was wondrous sweet;
To cherish it nor bring their deed to nought,
But live to crown it, that, when next we meet,
Then they, who erstwhile went to fairer ends,
May count us worthy to be still their friends.

(Vol. XV., p. 96.)

MARGARET H. SIMPSON.

We deeply sympathise with her sadly afflicted mother.

On 10th March, Miss *Jemima Gellatly*, who for many years conducted, very successfully, a preparatory school at *Parkfield* as well as a boarding establishment for girls attending the Academy. For the last twenty years or so she and her two elder sisters have lived in retirement and well earned leisure at *Bloomfield, Dollar*. We offer our sympathy to the bereaved sisters.

Roll of Honour.

AS promised in the last number, circulars have been sent to representatives of every former pupil whose name appears on the Roll of those who fell in the Great War, and replies have been received from the great majority. If no circular has been received by an immediate friend of any Dollar boy whose name should be on

that Roll, it is earnestly requested that communication should be made to the headmaster.

A sketch of the monument, which it is proposed to erect in the School grounds, has been circulated among the members of the Sub-Committee appointed in June, and it is hoped that the matter will be finally settled in the very near future.

WILLIAM A. BLELOCH, eldest son of Mr George Bleloch, Fox Farm, Southam, was a pupil of this School from 1904-09. At the outbreak of war he was in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, and was sent to France in September 1914. After being badly wounded in May 1915, he rejoined his regiment in August of that year and, except for one month's leave, was continuously in France until he was killed in action at Ypres on 1st July 1917. One of his officers wrote that "He was absolutely reliable for any job that I gave him, and he was such a quiet, brave man that nobody who knew him could fail to be encouraged by the example that he set them."

IAN DERMID CAMPBELL, R.A.F., who boarded with Dr Butchart from 1909-13, was reported missing some time ago, and is now presumed killed. Efforts to get details have proved unavailing, and the headmaster would be glad if any of the readers of this note can put him in touch with Ian's relatives, so that he may communicate with them.

JOHN W. PROCTOR, whose death was mentioned in the last number of the *Magazine*, boarded with the headmaster in session 1905-06. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, and went to France as a gunner in 1915. At the end of 1918 he was sent home, suffering from gas poisoning and shell shock, from the effects of which he died in the Belfast Military Hospital, 31st July 1919.

Mrs Norman Crawford has received official notice from the R.F.A. Record Office, Woolwich, that her late husband is buried at Suzanne French Military Cemetery (about seven miles north-west of Peronne).

Many former pupils of Dollar will remember the Darby family, and will be pleased to hear that they distinguished themselves on the field as much as they did on the School athletic field. Major A. W. DARBY was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel on the general list. He also received the decorations O.B.E. and the 1914 medal.

Captain B. G. DARBY was awarded the Military Cross.

Captain RALPH DARBY, Scottish Rifles, attached Machine Gun Corps, formerly prisoner of war, has been promoted to Major.

Lieutenant DOUGLAS DARBY, R.F.C., was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, 23rd September 1918.

HERBERT DARBY was Sergeant in the 1st Reconstructed Native Regiment, Rhodesia.

We have just received confirmation of a report that HERBERT WALLER, who left School in 1903, was killed in action on 10th April 1917. He joined the 21st Battalion (2nd Tyneside Scottish) Northumberland Fusiliers in February 1915, and was promoted to the rank of Captain. In January 1916 he went to France and distinguished himself in his work as a soldier, with the result that he was awarded the Military Cross.

His younger brother WILLIAM, who left Dollar in 1907, was mobilised as a Lance-Corporal in the Motor Cyclist (Northern Cyclist) Battalion in 1915. He afterwards obtained a commission in the Northumberland Royal Engineers, reached the rank of Captain, and was mentioned in dispatches.

School Notes.

DEATH OF RICHARD I.

Richard—What noise is this without that greets mine ear?

What means the unusual bustle that I hear?

Deep buried on my vassal Vidomar's ground

A precious treasure trove has just been found.

Enormous taxes my fair name have stained—

My people cannot long supply my want,

My Parliament will give no other grant.

And Philip, knowing my supplies are short,

Boasts of his future victory to his court ;

This from my difficulties sets me free,

For treasure trove belongs of right to me.

Vidomar—Does he demand the treasure I have found,

Which my ancestors buried in the ground?

And shall an avaricious tyrant's rage

Suffice to wrest from me my heritage?

A part he has refused—shall I

Give him the whole? Sooner I'll die—

No! Help me, heaven, and my good blade,

My vassals all for war arrayed,

Shall hold my right against the band

He brings to aid his sordid hand.

It must be, ere with that I part,

I'll shed the best blood of my heart.

Richard—Yes, I was wrong : my faults arise
 (*wounded*) Like spectres now before mine eyes.
 Why did I leave my English home
 Afar in foreign climes to roam?
 Why did I waste my nation's strength
 In wars which I gave up at length?
 Repentance comes too late to aid,
 Soon I'll be numbered with the dead ;
 And why? because I sought to own
 What did not unto me belong.
 Oh, why did I from Vidomar tear
 That of which he was really heir?
 For that I now yield up my breath ;
 My crime is punished by my death.

[*Gourdon is brought in by an Officer.*]

Officer—Sire, behold ! we captive bring
 The archer who has slain our king ;
 Sure there was never in our land
 One fitter for the headsman's hand.

Richard—Unhappy youth ! before thee see
 The King of England slain by thee ;
 Say, canst thou now for other hope
 Than for a peasant's death—the rope.
 But I forgive thee from my heart—
 Thou art forgiven, in peace depart.

Officers—And he is dead, our noble king,
 Whose praises every age shall sing :
 A sovereign greater never yet
 Upon the English throne was set.
 No epitaph they need him give,
 For brave men's deeds behind them live.

(Miss) M. R. Age 13.

SINCE our last notes were written there has been a marked improvement in the play of the 1st XV. Though still behind the standard of recent years, the team show that with a little more experience they will become a very formidable side indeed. Owing to illness and accidents the team have hardly ever turned out in full strength, so that there has been, in practically every game, a weak link in the defence and attack. The forwards are a hard working lot but lack a real leader, though Wilson, Wrighton, and Cairns give promise of fine work next year. Behind the pack the team is weak ; a good scrum half is wanted, and the threes require tightening up. Thakin has the speed and ability but doesn't make full use of them, and Young is lost for want of a good partner.

Since January the XV. have won 2 matches and lost 4. In the Glasgow Academy game the XV. played extremely well and were level at half-time; during the second half the pack failed to heel out cleanly, and the scrum half was decidedly off, so that the threes never got a chance to show their ability.

The 2nd XV. have not won a match since January, and have only won one during the whole season. Here the fault is inexperience and lack of weight. Against such 2nd XVs. as Watson's, Glasgow Academy or Glasgow High School, where there are large numbers to choose from and where the 2nd XV. falls little short of 1st XV. play and weight, it is not to be expected that our 2nd XV. can hope to be successful.

Mr Watson has already got a full fixture card for cricket, so we look forward to seeing our colours retrieving their position in the summer game.

OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

Owing to the absence of the O.C., through illness, before Christmas, the training is behind last year's stage. Arrangements are being made for a Field Day, near Falkirk, for all the Scottish O.T.Cs., and the contingent will be represented.

In previous years the contingent has had the post of honour in the Field Day, and has never failed to rise to the occasion and carry out its work in a brilliant manner. We look forward to the School contingent keeping up its reputation this year again.

At a meeting of the officers of the Western Schools O.T.Cs. in Glasgow, in February, Major P. Couper, O.B.E., T.D., on resigning from the command of the Glasgow Academy contingent, and from the senior position amongst the western officers, handed over to the Western Schools a beautiful silver cup, as a trophy to be competed for annually at camp by all the western contingents, the winners of the highest number of points in the open events of the camp sports to hold the trophy for one year.

Major Couper expressed his pleasure in the fact that the contingent which had won this sports championship on every occasion but one since the O.T.C. began, was that commanded by Captain Calvert Wilson, Dollar Academy O.T.C., and he asked Captain Calvert Wilson to take possession of the trophy for the current year, and to note that all Dollar's previous successes were inscribed upon the cup.

Captain Wilson, for the other officers, thanked Major Couper for his handsome gift, and assured him that all regretted the time had come for him to retire, but that they all hoped he would still

keep in close touch with the western O.T.Cs. and give them the benefit of his long experience.

The School has won the championship ten times, and Glasgow High School once.

We understand that Captain Calvert Wilson is due to retire this year, having completed a second period of command, and we trust that some of the younger members of the staff, who have had overseas experience, will see their way to carry on the fine traditions of the old School Cadet Corps and O.T.C.

HOCKEY.

During this term the hockey has shown general improvement. So far, 10 matches have been played by the 1st XI., and of these 8 have been won and 2 lost. Points for the XI., 33; against, 20.

A 2nd XI. has been formed this session, and although their fixtures have been unavoidably few, they have acquitted themselves quite creditably in the 4 matches that have been played. Points for XI., 14; against, 14; 2 matches having been won and 2 lost.

1ST XI. FIXTURES.

Date.	Team.	Ground.	Points.	
			For.	Against.
1919.				
Nov. 1.	Dollar F.P.'s - - - - -	Dollar	4	5
" 22.	Perth Academy - - - - -	Perth	4	0
" 29.	Edinburgh Provincial Training College	Craigmillar	4	5
Dec. 6.	Dunfermline P.T.C., 2nd XI. - - -	Dollar	5	2
" 13.	Stirling High School - - - - -	Stirling	3	3
1920.				
Jan. 10.	Glasgow High School - - - - -	Glasgow	3	1
" 17.	Dunfermline P.T.C., 2nd XI. - - -	Dunfermline	4	1
" 31.	Dollar F.P.'s - - - - -	Dollar	2	1
Feb. 14.	Falkirk High School - - - - -	Dollar	2	1
" 21.	Glasgow High School - - - - -	Dollar	2	1

2ND XI. FIXTURES.

Date.	Team.	Ground.	Points.	
			For.	Against.
1919.				
Oct. 25.	Morrison's Academy, 1st XI. - - -	Dollar	3	5
Nov. 22.	Dunfermline High School - - - - -	Dunfermline	3	0
1920.				
Jan. 31.	Dunfermline High School - - - - -	Dollar	8	0
Feb. 14.	Morrison's Academy, 1st XI. - - -	Crieff	0	9

1st HOCKEY XI.



Miss Millar (<i>Games Mistress</i>)	G. Radford.	M. Bradley.	I. Sands.	C. Gemmel.
A. M'Pherson.	E. Bradley (<i>Vice-Capt.</i>).	K. Kaye (<i>Captain</i>).	L. Beattie.	M. Fisher.
	M. Robertson.	M. Alexander.		

ATHLETIC CLUB CONCERT.

The Annual Concert was held on Thursday and Friday, the 11th and 12th of December. This year a divergence was made from the former type of entertainment, and Mr Allsopp produced three short plays: one an operetta, "The Fairy Slipper"; and the other two, comedies, "The Conversion of Nat Sturge" and "A Little Fowl Play."

"The Fairy Slipper" is based on the Cinderella story, and proved an exceedingly dainty and melodious operetta. Miss Eleanor Young, as Cinderella, was in excellent voice, and played the part in a most graceful and charming manner. Miss Evelyn Stein, as Prince Charming, made an excellent mate for Cinderella; whilst Master A. Young, as the Baron, and Misses Ritchie and Robertson, as his Daughters, completed the principal cast.

The Academy orchestra played the incidental music.

"The Conversion of Nat Sturge" was excellently staged, and Mr Walton, as the Bishop, gave a very fine rendering of his lordship in the attempt to palm off his beautiful and charming (?) daughter upon Nat. Mr Allsopp, as Nat Sturge, was in his element; and if all burglars were as entertaining as he, then we would be pleased to meet one now and then for the pure joy of having a talk together.

Master Eric Musgrave was seen to advantage as the Daughter.

The second playlet, "A Little Fowl Play," was the better of the two, as it lent itself to more go and humour.

Miss Dougall, as the harassed Wife, and Mr Walton as the worried but flippant and gay Hubby, proved irresistible, and the audience showed their appreciation by the outbursts of applause which followed the play.

Miss Walker made a delightful Servant, and her nippy tongue made the hubby squirm and the spouse sad.

Mr C. R. Dougall, as the owner of the "little fowl," proved that he had lost none of the cunning of his schoolboy talent, but had matured in the art of the actor.

His study of the old man in search of the lost bird was excellent, and we trust he will be seen soon again.

Mr Allsopp is to be congratulated on another successful Concert, and the Athletic Club take this opportunity of thanking him and all those who took part in the plays, or the production of them, for their kindness.

We should imagine that few former pupils of Dollar have a record comparable with that of Eddie Myers who played for England in the International matches against Ireland and Scotland.

He was at School from 1906 to 1913, got his 3rd XV. cap in 1908-09, 2nd XV. in 1909-10, and 1st XV. in 1911-12. He played half-back, and captained the School XV. in 1912-13, and in that season he was also captain of the 1st Cricket XI., the Golf Club, and the Tennis Club. He won the Gymnastic Medal in 1911-12, and the Edina Cup in 1912-13. In the latter year he was captain of the "Devon" Quint, which won the Cricket Cup; runner-up for the Golf Medal; in the winning Tug-of-War team (Overseas); and Colour-Sergeant of the O.T.C.

In his first year after leaving School, he was reserve for England in all four International matches. Joining up on the outbreak of war, he saw much service with the West Yorks. For his gallant service he was awarded the Military Cross.

He was chosen to play for the English team against Ireland, and justified his selection by scoring a try between the posts and having a part in making two other tries. The Scots papers were full of praise for his brilliant play in this match, and predicted that he would not only be chosen to play against Scotland but would prove one of the most formidable opponents the Scotsmen had to face. One paper said, "His football education at Dollar, and his experience in Scotland, have made Myers a power in defence as well as in attack, and I fancy he will be the most dangerous of all the English backs." As it turned out, the English backs, with Myers as one of the centre three-quarters, completely outplayed the Scottish backs, and reporting the match, the *Glasgow Herald* said, "The national weakness in the centre completely disappeared."

This is no small praise for one who learned all his football at Dollar, and should be an incentive to our young players to stick into the game and keep up the traditions of the School.

Greater Dollar Directory.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

ANDERSON, E. H. B., engineer, 2 Rector Street, New York, U.S.A.

GOW, J. BARNETT, Somerset Lodge, Somerset Road, Wimbledon Common, London, S.W. 19.

MACINTYRE, D. M., gas manager, 24 Bridge Street, Montrose.

MORRISON, J. H., The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Phoenix, B.C., Canada.

WHYTE, Mrs A., North Yeronda, Poona, India.