

M. Ross

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Keith Grammar School & Former Pupils' Association

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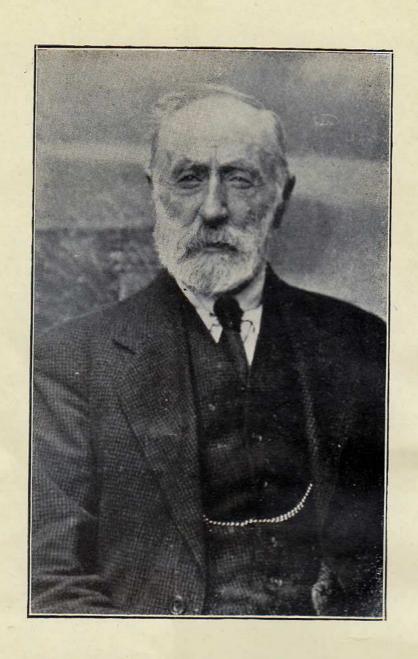
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Mr Charles McGregor

Foreword

We live in an age of wonderful discoveries. Yet it is an observation familiar to all that, amazing as are the achievements of scientific invention, beneficent in their application to human needs, bewildering in their variety, kaleidoscopic in the rapidity of their succession, they are surpassed in each of these particulars by the ordinary facts of human life and general experience. The finest modern developments of research into the motions of waves in space have not yet lessened distance so effectively or annihilated the sense of isolation so completely as does the simple operation of human thought.

And human thought is quickest, brightest, most wonderful when it is born of memory and affection. No picture is so vivid, no voice from a distance so clear as those that thrill the senses of the absent lover, whatever be the precise nature of his emotion. So if among the sweetest, most beautiful, most lasting affections is that which attaches itself to the scenes, the playmates, the incidents of our innocent and tender years, there can be few influences more potent to stir the soul, more productive of unselfish pleasure, more fruitful in practical beneficence, than those which trace their source back to the days of youth and school.

In that belief and spirit the Former Pupils' Association was conceived. In that spirit does it function—in the promotion of happy intercourse between sundered friends, in annual reunions of those that can meet, in works of useful benevolence, in the preservation by various ways of the chronicles of school life, in the cultivation of a fine ideal of noblesse.

In that spirit is the Magazine sent forth each year. Difficult to maintain without the active interest and co-operation of a wide circle of the members, it is yet too valuable to be allowed to perish untimely. If this present number is found to be lacking in interest, imperfect in form, or incomplete in information, that is to be deplored, but the fault is the fault of the many. What merit it may have, that is to the credit of the few. Such as it is, the Magazine is issued in the spirit of friendly greeting as befits Christmas time, the season when memory most leaps the seas and unites the distant dear. It goes from the old town and the old School, focus of warm affection for Former Pupils whether at home or far away.

The Association is alive, active in good work, increasing in membership. May the Magazine be found a pleasant stimulus by all the members, to whom, in the name of the Council, the Editor conveys his hearty wishes for a good and prosperous New Year.

Mr Charles McGregor

In one of his books W. H. Hudson has suggested that the memory of childhood is like the view seen from a hill-top on a day of heavy cloud and shadow, when there is no complete perspective but mere fragmentary glimpses of spires and summits floating in the mist. So it is that of the experiences of school years there are only a few that rise above the fog of oblivion—events that have never quite lost their first thrill, personalities once clear seen in that early morning light and endowed for ever with moving qualities of vividness and charm. Among these there is for many of us none that stands out in such high relief as the honoured figure of that great teacher, Mr Charles McGregor, last of the dominies.

Mr McGregor is a native of the parish of Keith, and was educated at Glen School, Newmill and at Keith School under Mr James Smith in the early sixties of last century. He began his career as a teacher in 1867 at Tarrycroys School, to which he was appointed by the Kirk Session of Keith. The school, which had been previously conducted by an old soldier, William Bremner, was a "but and a ben," into which fifty to seventy pupils were packed, including in the winter time farm servants who came in for a "raith" to learn "the coontin"." After the Education Act of 1872 Mr McGregor passed the Acting Teachers' Examination, and in 1876 (two years after Dr Grant's appointment as Headmaster) was appointed teacher of Standards III. and IV. at Keith School. He continued to teach the Fourth Standard there until his retirement in 1908, when he received a presentation from his old pupils. Since that time he has been frequently employed as a relief teacher in various schools in the county of Banff, and his services as a land measurer have been much appreciated by the agricultural community.

Mr McGregor has taken his full share in the public life of the town. He served on the Town Council from 1910 till 1919, and was for some time a Bailie and latterly a Police Judge. He was a member of the old Parochial Board, and of the Parish Council from the date of its inception in 1895 till about six years ago. He has a long and honourable record of service in the Parish Church of Keith. Until very recently the Superintendent of the Sunday School, he was a teacher in it from 1863, in which year he was also appointed precentor of the church, an office which he continued to hold until the introduction of the organ in 1891. He was elected to the eldership in 1888, and has been Session Clerk for the last eighteen years.

Mr McGregor's outdoor recreations were cycling and bowling, and it was a delight to see his limber figure moving actively about the town, or with astonishing vigour and enthusiasm skipping a rink of his old pupils whose sons were now under his care. It is pleasant to know that he still plays the game with unabated zest, and that the flying years have made but little impression on his wiry frame. Long may he live to draw the shot! All his life he has been devoted to music. He was a zealous adherent of the tonic sol-fa—indeed the warmth of his allegiance earned him the affectionate sobriquet of "Charlie Doh"—and both as teacher and precentor he did more than any single individual to advance the study of vocal music in Keith. It is open to doubt whether his services in this respect have been adequately recognised, for it is not too much to say that a whole generation of Keith folk learned the elements at least of their musical knowledge in the hours they spent following his pointer up and down the Modulator.

In method and outlook Mr McGregor was one of the old school, a survivor of that famous race of country dominies all but adscript to the soil, and deriving from that vital connection a near interest in the community and a sense of duty towards it not always so conspicuous in their more mobile successors. Born before the doubtful blessing of modern education had reduced all to a dead level of glib mediocrity, they were men of character and backbone, impatient of slackness and convinced of the salutary truth that "nothing can surely be ended whose beginning is either feeble or faulty, and no building be perfect whereas the foundation and groundwork is ready to fall and unable to uphold the burden of the frame." So it was in no slipshod fashion that we "learned up" the Capes of Europe, and we can still hear a class chanting the Bays of Ireland or Macgillicuddy's Reeks-unfailing stimulant of schoolboy humour. Under him, too, we learned "The Burial of Sir John Moore," "Lord Ullin's Daughter" and "The Wreck of the Hesperus," and got our first introduction to the mysteries of the relative pronoun, fractions, the G.C.M., proportion, and the tables of mensuration—surely no pupil of his will forget them, or Charlie's voice as he brandished his measuring chain, adorned with faded red ribbons, and said cheerily "a hundred links one chain." But these are only the minutiae of memory. The salient things are the singing lesson with the Modulator, and the Shorter Catechism. There must be hundreds of Keith folk who, when they think of Mr McGregor, see a choleric old gentleman striking a tuning fork and intoning "Doh me soh doh soh me doh," "Ring the Bell, Watchman," and then going round the unwilling class (what a girlish and unmanly thing this singing was to the "loons"!), pointer in hand, to see that there was "nae jamphin"! Other favourites were "Ye Banks and Braes" and "My Heart's in the Highlands," and a song about a meander-

ing river, which was sung to the tune of "Hosanna, loud Hosanna," until (so the wild rumour ran) the new rector, Mr Emslie, objected to this impiety and ordered it to cease! With what gusto we sang them on a Friday morning with the end of the week in sight! After the singing there was the playtime rush up the brae to Ronald's shop and the hasty consumption of the currant pasties for which he was renowned. Will ever sweetmeats taste so good as these, or the enormous peppermint "toldies," too big to get into your mouth, which you bought from John Stables at a "maik" apiece, and which, well camouflaged behind your hand, could keep you going, nibbling and sucking, till one o'clock? On Friday afternoons came the weekly test in arithmetic, when those who had all their four sums correct got away forthwith, and took leg bail up past the Aul' Kirk, flinging stones as they passed at the chestnuts on the old tree by the gate. Or maybe it was winter and there would be long "coachies" down the "rone" that stretched the whole length of the playground. Or "snawba' fechts" between Keith and Fife-Keith, in which, it seemed, Keith usually fared as the Celts of old, of whom it was written that "they always went down to battle and they always fell." Or maybe . . . but there would be no ending to this tale. The Catechism, first thing on Monday morning, was a kind of barometer for the week's weather, and we counted ourselves lucky when for that lesson we were handed over to the tenderer mercies of the pupil-teachers. For nothing aroused Mr McGregor's ire so much as the Catechism half learned. And woe betide the unfortunate whose memory could not retain the Reasons Annexed to the Fourth Commandment, or master the theological niceties of Effectual Calling. Then the blood would suffuse the master's face, and the tell-tale vein on his temple rose swelling and throbbing (sure sign of dirty weather that) as he shouted "Come but here, ye denumbed eediot." And such as escaped the wrath whispered to each other the classic rhyme,

"When Charlie Doh is in a rage, He's like a lion in a cage,"

and wondered why it was that his temper was always most uncertain just after he had had his beard and hair trimmed and looked his sprucest self. As for the culprit, he was doomed and knew it, nor was it of any avail to plead as one quavering youth did, "Please, sir, I ken the answer but I dinna ken the 'speirins,'" for Mr McGregor's system demanded a knowledge not only of the answer to one question, but of the "speirin'" of the following question as well.

There was indeed nothing soft about Mr McGregor's regimen, no mollycoddling, nothing of the enervating belief that the path of learning could be made easy, not to say delectable, no

trace of the slack modern heresy that the palm could be won without dust. For us it was a choice of hard work or the ring of hard knuckles on our heads and the sound of the strap wielded by no gentle arm, for though no flagellomaniac he ran small risk of spoiling the child.

Mr McGregor was stern but not unkind, and the hearty cuff which followed the flare-up of his anger was infinitely preferable to the thoughtless sarcasm used by some teachers of lesser mould to sear and wound the youthful spirit. Masterful rather than domineering, he was intolerant of outside interference (let no angry parent beard him because he thrashed her Johnnie!), but he possessed withal an old-world courtesy and dignity that sometimes shamed us even in our wilder moods. Yet he could unbend in a grim kind of way, and we recall how he rejoiced the heart of one class by reading with snorts of indignant contempt a letter from an illiterate parent explaining a pupil's absence, innocent of punctuation and couched in these terms:- "Sir John is in bed with a bile in the stomach." Sir John, quotha! Above all, he was a dutiful and conscientious teacher, thoroughly equipped for his task, and one who bent the whole energies of his being to the work of his profession. Keith "loons"—to say nothing of the "quines"—are an intractable material to work with, but Mr McGregor succeeded to a remarkable degree in giving his pupils a thorough grounding in the rudiments of education, in impressing on them the value of thoroughness and application, in training them to habits of mental discipline, and of developing in them the capacity for hard and sustained work even at uncongenial tasks, which is a key that opens more doors than native talent. There are many pupils of Keith School scattered throughout the world who will be glad to lay this meed of praise at the feet of their old master, and to bear witness with the writer of these lines to the deep and permanent impression which his character and teaching have left upon them. May he long be spared with strength and health to enjoy the retirement so nobly earned and so richly deserved!

T. M. T.

NUGGETS FROM NOODLES.

James Watt invented everything from a needle to a steam engine.

James Wat entered London at the head of a band of pheasants and demanded many things from the King.

The Great Cardinal was Cardinal Beaton. He was the wife of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Reminiscences

The "Weeping Philosopher" has said that all things are in a state of perpetual flux, that there is no permanency anywhere. If this is true of the material world it is also true of the intellectual world and eminently true of Education. "Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis."

The writer is to endeavour in this article to put before the younger race of Former Pupils of Keith Grammar School a picture of the School as it was some forty years ago, when it was content with the humble but historically incorrect title of Keith Combined Public School. At that time the Head of the School was that distinguished teacher Dr (or, as he then was, Mr) James Grant. He had, without any initial advantages except his own native ability, raised himself to the Headship of one of the best known schools in the North of Scotland. His ability, however, would be difficult to analyse. He was not a great scholar, though he was widely read, especially, perhaps, in History. Moreover he knew his Latin well and he was particularly fond of mathematics; he loved to wrestle with a problem in Arithmetic or Algebra or with a deduction in Geometry or, as it was then almost universally called, Euclid. No doubt he was a good organiser; no doubt he worked hard; and no doubt he was devoted to his work. But all this does not explain his undoubted great success as a teacher. The explanation is to be found rather in his personality. He possessed in full measure the "praefervidum ingenium Scotorum"; he was an enthusiastic Highlander, rugged in mind as in body. Everything connected with Scotland appealed to him-Bruce, Burns, Highland regiments, Highland scenery.

Two authors that he greatly admired were Dr Johnson, the lexicographer, and Macaulay, the historian. Occasionally he would produce Boswell's "Life of Johnson" or a volume of Macaulay's "History of England" to the older pupils and call on them in turn to read it aloud to the rest. For obvious reasons these readings were very popular. He liked to quote, especially Johnson's ponderous utterances beginning with "Sir," the "Sir" invariably receiving the emphasis that the Great Lexicographer would doubtless have considered appropriate. If the writer's memory is not playing him a trick, he has heard the Master give the following quotation with great gusto:- "Sir, a woman preaching is like a dog's walking on his hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all." Another favourite quotation was, "Much may be made of a Scotchman, if he

be caught young." This was probably quoted to impress on his hearers the idea that they might be able to make something of themselves, if they would only do as he told them.

Few jokes fell from his lips. One of them the writer still treasures. A boy was asked by a lady how he was getting on at school and how he liked lessons; the boy replied with the Virgilian line, "Infandum, regina, iubes renovare dolorem." ("Tis a tale of woe unspeakable, O Queen, thou biddest me recount).

Dr Grant was an exceptionally fluent speaker. In an emergency he was ready to take a minister's place in the pulpit. As his boys knew, he had been distinguished at the University for his facility of speech and skill in debate. Was he not mentioned by Neil Maclean in his classic, "Life at a Northern University?" James Grant, it should be explained, graduated at King's College in 1854, several years before the fusion of the two Colleges. When he was an undergraduate one of the burning questions was whether or not the colleges should be united, and the subject was no doubt often discussed by the students. In describing the proceedings at a certain meeting of the King's College Debating Society at which this was the subject of debate, Maclean says, "One of the first speakers to rise and obtain a hearing was a stout Highlander who went by the name of 'Glenlivet,' that being the part of the country from which he came. He was very shortsighted, had a peculiar cast about his eyes, and twitched them about in a manner that at once attracted attention. No sooner did he rise than the students cried out, "Go it, 'Glenlivet.' Pitch into him." " After giving the substance of 'Glenlivet's' remarks, which would appear to have been delivered at considerable length and with no lack of energy, McLean continues-"When 'Glenlivet' sat down applause greeted him from all sides, for he had struck the right chord and engaged the sympathy of the majority." 'Glenlivet' was, of course, James Grant.

The North-East has probably produced a larger proportion than any other part of Scotland of men who from comparative poverty and obscurity have risen to positions of trust and responsibility. Dr Grant was one of those, and having himself had to struggle in order to obtain a University education, he had ever a sympathetic and encouraging word for any who were going through the same struggle. With him example was better than precept; what others had achieved his pupils also could achieve. He breathed inspiration, as the bog-myrtle of his native glens breathes fragrance. That was the secret of his success. "Molliter ossa cubent." (Soft lie his bones!).

Such was the Headmaster. What was the mental food provided for the youth of forty years ago, the youth who would at

the present day be working or supposed to be working at five subjects on the higher standard? In those halcyon days there was no "Experimental Science," no messing about with laboratory apparatus. The brilliant idea had not then dawned on the Scottish Education Department that every boy is a potential Faraday or Kelvin and that he must therefore be introduced at the age of eleven or twelve to the rigorous methods of exact science and trained to measure with meticulous accuracy. This brilliant idea, like many another idea for which the Department has from time to time made itself sponsor, has now suffered eclipse, so that, after all, the "Weeping Philosopher" must surely have had a prophetic glimpse of the truth when he said that all things are in a state of perpetual flux.

In those days the staple subjects were Latin and Greek. English and Mathematics occupied a very subordinate position; only a few daring spirits ventured on a fifth subject, and it was never taken up seriously. But Latin and Greek were most successfully taught, or rather-what is perhaps nearer the truthpupils got guidance in Latin and Greek, also leisure to learn them. A most useful exercise was the writing out at home of a fairly long passage of Latin, usually from one of Cicero's version." But the great test of Latin scholarship was "The Version." Trained in the Melvinian school, Dr Grant believed, But the great test of Latin scholarship was "The as orthodox people still believe, that some sins in themselves and by reason of several aggravations are more heinous in the sight of the grammarian than others. "Hine illae lacrimae." (Hence those tears). Hence those graduated penalties—minies, medies, maxies, and umpteens. If a pupil ventured to enter an appeal in defence of a particular construction, Zumpt's Grammar was invoked to settle the question, and from this tribunal there was no appeal. The abiding feeling is that justice was dispensed with conspicuous fairness and not without kindness. The wind was tempered to the shorn lamb. Stern reproof was not administered unless-and this was very seldom-the work showed signs of gross carelessness. For the times the range of authors read was fairly wide both in Latin and in Greek. Sallust was often read and Horace was not neglected. In Greek, Euripides and Homer were touched; they were not seriously studied. A favourite work, at least with the Headmaster, was Xenophon's Memorabilia of Socrates.

As regards mathematics, arithmetic was taught intermittently. Presumably we were supposed to know by some kind of intuition all that was to be known about the subject. But the writer remembers very well the field days dedicated to arithmetic, which came round in a haphazard sort of way once or twice a year. On these days we were confronted with an exam-

ination paper of problems in arithmetic, most of them probably concocted by the Headmaster himself. There had been little preparation for the examination on the part either of the teacher or of the pupils; little wonder that the marks made were generally low.

English consisted almost exclusively of the writing of essays and the study of Bain's "English Grammar." The former was taught spasmodically like arithmetic, which meant that we were left to pick up the art as best we could ourselves. But the study of the "English Grammar" was a serious business. In a way it was soul-killing, but nevertheless it taught the exact use of words and showed the principles underlying any satisfactory system of definition and classification. How often, for instance, does one see the word "only" misplaced nowadays! Yet every Keith boy knew where it should be placed and could discuss in learned fashion the regulation printed on post cards, "The address only to be written on this side."

The part of the Grammar that dealt with Derivation was less satisfactory. Much of it was mere lumber. It contained lists, some of them amusing, that were of little practical utility except as exercises for training the memory. Many memorised these lists, and the writer met recently a distinguished alumnus of the school who could after thirty years repeat without a single mistake the twenty-eight names of natural objects which, according to Bain, were introduced from Latin into English when the country was brought under the influence of Christianity.

Hurriedly gathered and naturally fragmentary and disjointed, these brief reminiscences must end here.

In conclusion, the writer wishes the Old School a continuance and even an increase of prosperity under its present able and energetic Rector.

X.

MORE NUGGETS.

Arma virumque cano—An army man with a cane.

De mortius nil nisi bonum—Of the dead there's nothing left but bones.

A schoolboy, asked what Shylock meant when he said "My Deeds upon my head," answered "I suppose, sir, he was carrying his papers in his hat."

Unveiling of Memorial

ELOQUENT TRIBUTE TO THE GALLANT DEAD BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE F.P. ASSOCIATION.

At the conclusion of the presentation of prizes on 4th July the Memorial to the Former Pupils of the School who fell in the Great War was unveiled. The ceremony was brief but impressive, and all present stood while the President of the F.P. Association removed the Union Jack which draped the memorial.

After the singing of the hymn, "For all the Saints," Mr John Taylor, Vice-President, said he had a very simple and pleasant duty to perform. He had to introduce to them a distinguished former pupil of the school, Mr Wm. Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh. Mr Mitchell had an excellent record in Keith School, and when he left it he shed lustre upon it by his scholarly attainments, as they could see by looking at the tablets on the wall. In his profession Mr Mitchell had attained a very honourable position at the Scottish Bar. He was President of the Former Pupils' Association, and it was fitting that he should be asked to unveil the memorial to the former pupils who fell in the war—(Applause).

Mr Mitchell then unveiled the tablet, and the Rev. Matthew Stewart, Chairman of the Education Authority, gave a prayer of dedication. Amongst the wreaths placed at the foot of the memorial were one from the Former Pupils' Association and one from the pupils and staff.

Mr Mitchell thereafter said—"I ask your kind permission to detain you for a few moments on this busy day, the day of days in the school year, in order that I may perform, on behalf of the Former Pupils' Association, the unveiling of a memorial in honour of those pupils who lost their lives in the Great War.

It is fitting that the memory of their sacrifice should remain for ever in our hearts; that we should treasure the example which they set and, if possible, emulate the devotion with which they left their homes and friends, and gave their lives in the service of their country. Fitting, too, that some permanent mark of our regard should be placed upon our walls, so that future generations of scholars may have a great example clearly before them.

It is only a short time since these men and boys were students within these walls, full of hopes for the future and taking part in all the work of the School. Yet in a short space of time the world has passed through the greatest catastrophe in her history. Ten

years ago the whole earth was ablaze; a terrible war was raging; our own beloved country was grappling with the most powerful and terrible enemy that the world has known.

The summons went forth to our young men calling on them to defend their homes and their native land, and the summons did not go forth in vain. From city and countryside, from hill and glen the answer came; no place more nobly responded than the county to which we have the honour to belong.

They went forth, those young men, clean of limb, clear of eye, strong of heart. Not, as in days of old, in the spirit of wild adventure. They were men of peace, sighing for no new lands to conquer. They sought not wealth or personal distinction. The vain bauble of military glory made no appeal to them. Far other the harvest they sought in the water-logged trenches of France and Belgium, on the burning rocks of Gallipoli, on the cold North Sea. Their harvest was incessant toil, the long watches of the night, the sudden attack, fever and bullet and shell. Calmly and bravely they went forth; knowing all, counting all, sacrificing all for you and for me. In all the ages of time no finer thing has been done by mortal men. The nobility of their task made them heroes. Whatever in them was amiss was purified in their ordeal of fire, issuing forth like pure refined gold from the crucible.

Theirs was the victory, but what was the cost? Lame and halt and blind, shattered in body and in mind. Alas, many returned not. They lie in foreign lands, far from the Scotland of their love. No more will their light footsteps wander by placid Isla, or the rioting waters of the Spey, on the blue hill of Balloch, or on the purple moorland. But surely to them has been granted the divine gift of eternal youth. Their deeds are imperishable; it is only we who grow old. Death who takes all things away cannot rob them of their glory. We know, for they often said, that they wished us not to mourn for them; and they were wise. We draw from their sacrifice not the desolation of hopelessness but a holy joy; pride in their accomplishment, thankfulness for our deliverance, respect for their majestic courage and devotion. Thus we do not grieve for them with rebellion in our hearts. We regard our bereavement as a messenger from God, receiving him with all courtesy, inviting him to enter in. If we bear our affliction in that spirit, then truly will our dead be a blessed possession to us and we shall cling to their memory as our most priceless treasure. That memory will inspire us to make our lives worthy of their sacrifice; to comfort and to help the parents, widows, and children of those to whom we have raised this memorial to-day.

Ladies and gentlemen, as President of the Former Pupils' Association, who have caused this memorial to be erected to the memory of our dead fellow-scholars, I unveil this tablet."

Votes of thanks to Mr Mitchell on the call of Provost Kynoch and to Rev. Matthew Stewart on the call of Colonel J. G. Fleming, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the benediction, concluded the ceremony.

A Tribute

We have pleasure in giving below, from "The Scotsman" of 18th July, 1924, the beautiful tribute paid to Mr Eric Liddell by the University of Edinburgh on the occasion of his having created a world's record in the 400 metres race at the Olympic Games held in Paris last summer. Both the original in Greek and the translation in English verse are from the pen of our distinguished Former Pupil, a member of the Council of our Association, Professor Alexander W. Mair.

ΕΡΙΚΩΙ ΈΝΡΙΚΩΙ ΛΙΔΔΕΛΛ
ΔΙΑΥΛΟΔΡΟΜΩΙ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝΙΚΗΙ
ΣΥΓΧΑΙΡΕΙ
ΤΟ ΕΝ ΕΔΙΜΒΟΥΡΓΩΙ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΝ.

"Ολβιος οῦτος ἀνήρ, ἀπὸ φυλλοφόρων ὃς ἀγώνων ἔρχεται εὐτυχίας δρεψάμενος πέταλον καὶ σὺ τρισίλβιος ἐσσι δρύμον τοιοῦτον ἀνύσσας οἷον ἐν ἀνθρώποις οὔτις ἄνυσσε πάρος. χαίρομεν αὖθ' ἡμεῖς, χαίρει Κουροτρόφος αὐτή Μήτηρ καὶ στε ἡάνω τῷδε σε δωρέεται δέξο δ', 'Ολυμπιόνικε, Θεὸς δέ σοι ίλαος εἴη τήνδε τεαῖς μίτρην ἀμφιτιθέντι κόμαις.

The University of Edinburgh congratulates Eric Henry Liddell, Olympic Victor, in the 400 metres.

Happy the man who wreathed games essaying Returns with laurelled brow.

Thrice happy victor thou, such speed displaying As none hath showed till now.

We joy, and Alma Mater, for thy merit Proffers to thee this crown;

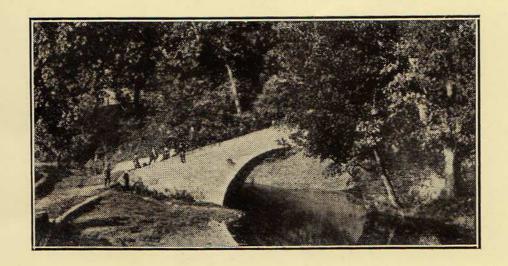
Take it, Olympic Victor. While you wear it, May Heaven never frown.



The Memorial Tablet

Erected by the Former Pupils' Association July, 1924

The Auld Brig



A bonnier brig than the auld bow brig Or a bonnier burn than Isla, never.

Yearning

O Maisie dear, what keeps me here, What ties have I to gar me bide? My heart's wi' thee ayont the sea In dear auld Keith by Isla side.

O to be a loon on Cuthil croon,
And breathe the air, and drink delight,
And see the heather hills a' roun',
Or watch the stars on a winter night!
There's nae hills here like the auld Keith hills,
The Ben and the Balloch, Knock and Muldearie,
I think o' them a', and my e'e sune fills
Wi' hamesick tears till I'm blin' and bleary.

By dark Tarnash if I only could
But watch the plashin' water fallin',
See the whins in bloom at the Mill o' Wood,
And hear at e'en the cuckoo callin'!
Nae cushie doo can croodle noo
Sae fain and sweet in the simmer gloamin',
Nae mavis sings as the mavis sang
When I was a loon thro' Keith woods roamin'.

Corsairtly is braw i' the briest o' the hill,

Fu' couthy the kye 'mang its clover restin',

O the bend o' the burn doon below by Strathmill,

And the trees by the brig when birdies are nestin'!

I've seen mony a brig, aye, an' a bonnie brig

Ower michty rivers, big and clever,

But a bonnier brig than the auld bow brig

Or a bonnier burn than Isla, never.

The auld minister's gane, 'mid pastures green
By ither streams at's ease to dander,
But I daur jaloose that he hasna a hoose
Than his ain auld Manse that's dearer or grander.
And the Keith Auld Kirk, there's nae ither kirk
As big or as braw the wide warl' ower—
Eh, I wuss I were doon in the Haugh i' the mirk,
By the Mill, and the Linn, and the auld peel Tower!

And the dear auld School, was there ever a school, Built or endowed by almichty dollars, Could boast o' a record as fine or as full As you Taiblets show, o' famous scholars? There may be schools in ither pairts

Nearly as gweed, that ithers cherish,
But the School o' Schools that grips oor hearts,
That mak's us prood, 's in auld Keith pairish.

I min' me yet o' the Maister's face,
Baith stern and human, shrewd and kindly;
He did his duty to the race,
Walloped us weel, and taught divinely.
God keep his memory fresh and green,
Revered for mony a generation,
For what he was and what he's dune
To help Keith loons and oor Scottish nation.

O the fun we'd hae on the Stroupie Brae,
Summer and winter, sunnin' or snawin',
Climmin' and slidin', nicht and day,
Skatin' and sledgin', tumblin' and fa'in'!
Those happy auld times come back to me
As I sit in my grandeur here and wonder
If ever I've been or if ever I'll be
As blithe's when I played as a bairnie yonder.

Far hae I gane and muckle hae I seen,
And Fortune's favours gotten mony,
And mony a frien' true and kind has been,
And the warld I hae fand baith winsome and bonnie.
But there's nae nae hame like oor ain auld hame
Where as bairns we spent life's happy mornin',
Nae ither hame is e'er the same
As the dear auld hame that we were born in.

So help me God, I'll tak' the road,
Why sit and sigh in useless yearnin'?
I'll end my days in the dear auld place,
Like a bairn at e'en to its hame returnin'.
In the auld Kirkyaird like a true Keith Caird,
My native yird for my bed not scornin',
My bones I'll rest on my dear mither's breast
Till the gladsome resurrection mornin'.

A Visit to a Chinese Theatre

The average person on reading the above heading would availy turn his thoughts towards distant China, imagining that something is to be related about wanderings in Canton or Peking, as a matter of fact the theatre referred to is situate in Canada, the Pacific Coast. Any reader who has witnessed a performance (or, what might be more correct, a part of a performance) he Far East must not be too critical of this narrative but exermines indulgence. Nor is this intended to be a literary effort acting the history of the Chinese stage, but merely ordinary moressions obtained from a visit to a theatre. Again, perhaps, hen Chinese are in foreign countries they do not stage such as productions as they would in China, so it may be possible to the have still a great deal to learn if ever we should witness a secondary in the Orient.

Chinatown" in any North American city is perhaps not the choicest of places to frequent, but you must first go there to take the theatre. If you should be alone there is every possibility that some sly-looking Mongolian will stop you and ask if want to play "fan-tan" or "chuck-a-luck," but, if it is still your to go to the theatre, give this Oriental no encouragement will find, after a short time spent at any of these games, you have no money left and your visit to the theatre would the question for that evening. The Chinese are born amblers. In your walk through "Chinatown" everything around as a touch of the orient about it. Here you are jostling along the acrowd of Chinamen, the gay lights of the "chop suey" cuses flood the street and where newspaper posters are displayed the "Chinks" gather to discuss the news.

By the time you reach the theatre you have acquired a distinct Chinese feeling. For this particular show that I am describing there were no reserved seats, so we had to be content to follow the motley throng. Those immediately around us seemed to express surprise at our venturing in, but as we were able to purticular tickets we realised that it was in order to proceed.

As soon as we stepped inside unearthly sounds came from the median of the stage, where we found the "orchestra" to be cated on the extreme left hand side. It seemed very strange and out of place for the orchestra to be on the stage. At any time mental music is most weird, but never before had we heard such an agglomeration of sounds. Of all the exquisite forms of torture much even the Chinese ever invented their music must be their supreme effort. It is devoid of all artistic sense, and there is no

such thing as melody. It has been rumoured that some people can go to sleep in the kirk, but there is not the slightest possibility of any one even thinking of such a thing in a Chinese theatre—the cymbals player will attend to that. It would seem as if he tried to make a greater noise each time he clashed them together, which he does every few seconds. It is indeed no place for anybody troubled with nerves. The orchestra was composed of five players. Four of them handled weird stringed instruments while the fifth looked after the drums and cymbals. There was no doubt that this member of the quintette had the hardest work.

The actors themselves were very gaily bedecked in oriental splendour, and what was lacking in scenery was more than made up for in wardrobe. To say the least it was lavish, particularly their headgear. Although we managed to survive in the place for about an hour and a half, the same half dozen characters held the stage and seemed to be going through the same rôle all the time. They spoke their parts in a curious falsetto voice to the accompaniment of the most plaintive sounds from the orchestra. We did not possess the slightest idea of the Chinese language, and that fact will save the reader the trouble of learning just what the play was all about. From the actions and attitudes of the actors we could discover nothing. As far as we were concerned the thing might either have been a musical comedy or a tragedy. We were told that a Chinese play was something after the nature of a serial story and might continue for a week before being completed. It is a case of "to be continued."

There is no such thing as a curtain, no interval to change scenes. This is all done in full view of the audience, which to us was most strange and amusing. The only satisfaction we obtained from this was the fact that the orchestra kept quiet. When the time arrived to make a change of "scenery" a shifter would get up from the audience and leisurely climb on to the stage. The actual scenery consisted mostly of hanging tapestries and an abundance of silk cushions. Changing the scenery—if it may be termed such—appeared to consist of merely shifting the cushions round and re-arranging a few chairs.

The audience was the source of some amusement. There was a full house and we were the only two white people there, much to the interest of the Chinese around us, who no doubt were wondering what we were doing there. They themselves paid very little attention to what was happening on the stage. They seemed more content to eat pea-nuts and oranges or to talk to one another. At no time did we find the audience showing signs of appreciation for the actors, unless they did so in some particular form which we could not notice. There was no such thing as a clapping of hands.

I do not know what is the Chinese notion of the theatre, mether they regard it as a means of education or as a place of musement. Judging from their behaviour on this occasion, it as neither the one nor the other, but part social rendezvous, meating-house. To the play the Chinese seemed quite interent. We found it a great novelty but one such visit is mough, and it will be a long time before we visit a Chinese meatre again.

D. W. W. W.

Golden Bar

Ah, Golden Bar! once more I wake
My muse to song for thy sweet sake;
I sing thy praises loud and long,
I praise thy flavour full and strong.
All other brands I now forsake,
All blends and mixtures, shag and flake,
Their ashes from my pipe I shake——
Ah, Golden Bar!

You're cheap: at your expense men make
Poor jibes and jeers—that's their mistake.
You only never can come wrong,
You only never burn my tongue,
You only teeth can never break,
You only frauds can never fake,
You only cost ninepence a cake—
Ah, Golden Bar!

R. C. T. M.

Poet's Note.—Post-war prices would upset the balance of the second last line!

Personalia

BIRTHS.

- Robertson.—At Southview, Keith, on 3rd January, the wife of Mr Ernest Robertson (née Jessie Cruickshank), a son.
- Kennedy.—At Dunallan, Keith, on 27th January, to Mr and Mrs R. B. Kennedy, Parit Buntar, F.M.S., a daughter.
- Watt.—At Coldhome, Keith, on 4th February, to Mr and Mrs William Watt, a daughter.
- Malcolm.—At Aberdeen, on 19th February, to Mr and Mrs Malcolm, a son.
- Corrigall.—At Schoolhouse, Rothiemay, on 15th March, the wife of Mr D. Corrigall (née Jessie Pirie, Newmill), a son.
- Petrie.—At Cathcart, Cape Province, South Africa, on 31st March, the wife of Mr Wm. J. Petrie (née Helen Hay), a son.
- Davidson.—At Midthird, Botriphnie, on 11th May, to Mr and Mrs John A. Davidson, a daughter.
- Scott.—On 20th May, at 8, Molyneux Street, Manchester, the wife of Mr J. Scott (née Madge Cruickshank), a son.
- Pirie.—At Pedwarden Road, Perth, on 25th July, to the Rev. J. E. Pirie and Mrs Pirie, a daughter.
- Pucher.—At Buffalo, U.S.A., on 31st July, to Dr and Mrs George Pucher (née Eleanor McKay), a daughter.
- Stokes.—At Sutton, Surrey, on 17th August, the wife of Mr Percy E. Stokes (née Jeannie R. I. Cameron, Bogbain), Buenos Aires, a daughter.
- Melvin.—At Reidhaven Square, Keith, on 2nd September, the wife of Mr W. H. Melvin (née Louisa Laing), a daughter.
- Stuart.—At 151 Land Street, Keith, the wife of Mr R. Stuart (née Nellie Hume), a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- McMillan-McHattie.—At Keith, on 24th December, 1923, Robert McMillan, Royal Bank, Keith, to Nannie McHattie, eldest daughter of the late Charles McHattie, and of Mrs McHattie, The Park, Keith.
- Sutherland—Cruickshank.—At Keith, on 4th January, William, only son of Mr and Mrs Sutherland, Braco Street, Keith, to Elsie, second daughter of the late Wm. Cruickshank, builder, and Mrs Cruickshank, Southview.
- Petrie Hay—Counsel.—At St. Sylvester's Church, Elgin, on 3rd April, George Petrie Hay, Keith, to Jean Stuart, elder daughter of Edward A. Counsel, I.S.O., Birlingham House, Hobart, Tasmania.

- Johnston.—At the Palace Hotel, Aberdeen, on 8th April, Les D. Davidson, auctioneer, Invergordon, son of the late John Davidson, Brae, Keith, to Helen Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lenston, 42 Fonthill Road, Aberdeen.
- Coaltown Public School, Fifeshire, to Marion Watt, youngest daughof the late James Watt, Coldhome, and Mrs Watt, Moss Street,
- —Donald.—At Singapore, on 19th April, John Millar, B.Sc. (Agr.), Jean, fifth daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Donald, Broadrashes,
- —McHattie.—At Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, London, on 12th July, Raymond Yoxall, youngest son of William Herival, Liskeard, Caterham, Surrey, to Mary Campbell, second daughter the late Charles McHattie, and of Mrs McHattie, The Park, Keith.
- Captain James R. Christie, D.S.O., second son of Mr and Mrs George Christie, Viewbank, Turriff, to Margaret Christie, second daughter of Mr W. Anderson, V.S., J.P., and Mrs Anderson, Brunscar, Keith.
- Hay—Reid.—At Alford, on 6th August, William David, County Organiser, Principal Farm Institute, Somerset, third son of the late James Hay, Mains of Paithnick, and of Mrs Hay, Edinburgh, to Annie, third daughter of Mr and Mrs John Reid.
- Stuart-McKenzie.—At the Parish Church, Culsalmond, on 6th August, William Stuart, Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., to Mary White, elder daughter of the late John McKenzie, and of Mrs McKenzie, Victoria Place, Fife-Keith.
- Stewart—Tulloch.—At Aberdeen, on 10th September, William H. B. Stewart, Glencottar, Keith, to Margaret, elder daughter of the Rev. George Tulloch, St. Ronan's, Forres.
- Dunlop-Grant.—At Aberdeen, on 17th September, Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Dunlop, Stewarton, Ayrshire, to Maggie, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Grant, 114 Mid Street, Keith.
- McConachie—Cooper.—At Holy Trinity Church, Keith, on 3rd December, William Alexander McConachie, Aberlour, to Eva, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Cooper, Tarnash, Keith.

DEATHS.

- Ogilvie.—At Leys Castle, Inverness, on 29th March, Charles George Ogilvie, of Leys, formerly of Delvine, Perth, and Earlsmount, Keith.
- Murray.—On 20th April, at a nursing home, after an operation, John Murray, of 6, Birchwood Mansions, Muswell Hill, London, managing Editor of the "Canadian Export Pioneer," and eldest son of the late John Murray, Regent Street, Keith.

- George.—At Elgin, on 25th April, James, eldest son of the late Alexander George, late of Earlsmount, Keith.
- Laing.—At Weston House, Keith, on 15th May, William Laing, V.S., Elgin.
- Pirie.—At Wimbledon, on 4th September, William R. Pirie, M.B., Ch.B., eldest son of the Rev. Dr Pirie, Nairn.
- McLaren.—Suddenly, at 57 Union Street, Keith, on 24th September, Kenneth, sixth son of Wm. McLaren, janitor, Keith Grammar School, aged 19 years.
- Macdonald.—At Manor House, Apethorpe, Peterborough, on 31st October, Sarah Margaret, beloved wife of George Grant Macdonald, late of the Soudan and the Royal Engineers, second daughter of the late John Macpherson, J.P., Mulben, and formerly Art Mistress at Keith Grammar School.

Mr Thomas M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B., son of Mr and Mrs Taylor, The Knowe, Keith, has been admitted to the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh.

Miss Caroline Thomson, Fife-Keith, is now acting as a Missionary in St. Columba's School, Bombay, W. India.

Mr Henry W. Auchinachie, who left school last July, has been apprenticed as a cadet in the Wimborne S.S. Line.

Mr Duncan Annand, son of Mr P. Annand, ironmonger, Keith, has received a commission and has been gazetted to the 6th Gordon Highlanders.

F.P.'s recently appointed J.P.'s-

William Anderson, Brunscar, Keith.

James Kemp, Parkmore, Dufftown.

James Hunter has been appointed accountant in North of Scotland Bank in London. Mr Hunter was for some time accountant in North Bank at Keith, Moss Street Branch. He left Keith to take up an appointment as a Bank Inspector in Aberdeen and has now been transferred to the bank offices in London.

Second Lieut. W. K. Watt, 6th Gordons, has been gazetted Lieutenant as from 3rd May, 1924.

Mr David Middleton Andrew, M.A., was unanimously appointed last June Rector of the Grammar School, Aberdeen. Mr Andrew, who is 46 years of age, is the youngest son of the late Dr Allan R. Andrew, H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools, and a

entered Aberdeen University in 1893, and graduated M.A.

inst-class honours in Classics. At Oxford he gained secondin Classical Moderations. After two years as classical
ter in Hillhead High School, Glasgow, he joined the staff of
milton Academy, Lanarkshire, in the same capacity, and in
he was appointed Rector. During the period of his rectorthe school nearly doubled in numbers and enjoyed honourmistinction for the marked success of its pupils in scholastic
other fields. Mr Andrew entered on his new and important
in the beginning of September.

Pharmaceutical Society.—Mr J. Simpson has passed the final mination of this Society and has been registered as "chemist druggist."

Mr James Sutherland, son of Mr A. Sutherland, Rosebank, phnie, who served in the Commercial Bank, Keith, has an important appointment in the Bank of Canada, Cuba.

Miss Jeannie Hay, who was formerly a pupil and afterwards Language Mistress in Keith Grammar School during the Head-stership of the late Dr Grant, and who has been teaching in Landuage. S. Africa, since she left Keith, has retired and received a presentation in appreciation of her services.

The late Mr Charles George Ogilvie died at his residence, Castle, Inverness, on 29th March, 1924. He was a native of and was educated at Keith Grammar School and Aberdeen Inversity. He served an apprenticeship with Messrs Thurburn Stephen, law agents, Keith. He went to South America, and ame manager of a sugar plantation in British Guiana. A few later he became interested in tin mining, and went to the Malay States. While in the East he was one of the pioneers in rubber planting industry. On returning to this country Mr live purchased Earlsmount, Keith, and sold it to the Banff-sire Education Authority as offices and a residence for the Director of Education. He acquired the estate of Delvine on the lanks of the Tay, and afterwards purchased Leys Castle. During war he handed over both Earlsmount and Leys Castle to the Red Cross authorities to be utilised as hospitals.

Mr William Anderson, Junr., engineer, son of Mr William Anderson, V.S., Brunscar, is at present with his wife home in Kenth from South America, and is residing with his parents.

Rev. John Garrow Duncan, M.A., B.D., parish minister of Examichael, is at present engaged in excavation work in Palesas Assistant Director of the excavations being carried on at Mount Ophel under the Palestine Exploration Fund. He was

granted two years' leave of absence by the Presbytery of Abernethy, a year of which has run, and at a meeting of the Presbytery in the beginning of October a petition asking for his recall was presented by the Kirk Session of the parish. Three ministers had acted for Mr Duncan during the past year and another change was impending. The Kirk Session submitted that these frequent changes were detrimental to the interests of the church. Finally the petition was held to have been departed from, the complainants having failed to appear before the Presbytery to state a case.

A marriage was arranged to take place on 18th December at the British Consulate and St. Andrew's Church, Cairo, between Robert William Urquhart, O.B.E., M.A., His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Cairo, and Brenda Gertrude, second daughter of Walter Ross Phillips, M.A., LL.D., Professor of Roman Law at the Royal School of Law, Cairo, and Mrs Phillips, of Exeter, Devon. It had, however, to be postponed for some weeks owing to Mr Urquhart's falling ill. He is at present in the Anglo-American Hospital with para-typhoid fever.

GENERAL.

Mr Charles MacHattie, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., The Park, Keith, was in April appointed assistant to the Director of the Veterinary Department, Iraq.

Mrs Geddes, Portgordon (Miss Margaret Collins, Land Street, Keith) has been appointed Headmistress of Glenrinnes Public School.

Mr Alexander D. Craigmyle, M.A., Headmaster of Deskford Public School and formerly English Master in Keith Grammar School, has been unanimously appointed Headmaster of Clyne H.G. School, Brora. His wife is a daughter of Mr James Ward, Seafield Estates ground officer, Keith, and was formerly a teacher in Keith Grammar School.

Mr Minto R. Gillanders, M.C., M.A., Principal Teacher of Science at Elgin Academy and formerly a Mathematical and Science Master in Keith Grammar School, has been appointed Second Master, Principal Teacher of Mathematics and Science, and Organiser of the Evening Continuation Classes at Banff Academy. During the war he served with the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Engineers and was commissioned in 1916.

Mr R. C. T. Mair, M.C., M.A., LL.B., has been appointed Director of Education to the Lanarkshire Education Authority, with the Executive Officer as a member of his staff.

Our Illustrations

For the attractive cover design we are indebted to Miss Catherine T. Grant, Art Mistress at the School, who readily meded to our request that she should place her skill at our sertine. The excellent portrait of Mr McGregor is by Mr William Parson, photographic agent, Keith; the picture of the Memorial model is by Mr Robert Garrow, chemist, Keith; the view of the Bridge was contributed by the Hon. Secretary. To all of the me give our hearty thanks.

The Little Less

On lonely mountain top he stood,
All Nature's face was fair;
The balmy breeze sang through the trees,
The song birds charmed the air;
But one alloy marred all his joy,
One thing was wanting there!
How sad to think that fairest scenes
So easily marred may be!

From summer skies the radiance dies,
The laughter leaves the sea;
And in the rose the canker grows
If one thing wanting be!
He sat him down disconsolate,
His fevered brow to wipe,
(I'm much afraid the things he said
Are hardly fit for type),
Matches had he, and B.D.V.—
But he had lost his pipe!

R. C. T. M.

MORE NUGGETS.

A boy's paraphrase of these lines,

"Him noble science never taught to stray Far as the solar path or milky way"—

as follows:—He was never taught to go for walks alone or to to a place where he could get milk.

Items of Interest

A Former Pupil who left Keith and the old Parish School fifty-eight years ago writes:—"I note from the Magazine of 1923 that it is itself the fourth issue. Have you perchance copies of the three earlier issues? If they are procurable I should be much pleased to have them, for these reminiscences have an attraction and a charm for one who has not forgotten the old times."

Unfortunately no copies of the four issues (1921 to 1923) have been kept as permanent records. It will be a favour if any readers or former pupils having copies of any or all of these numbers and being willing to hand these over for this purpose will communicate with the Editor. Perhaps, also, some kind reader will oblige this Former Pupil, whose appreciation of the Magazine we value highly.

We received for publication in this number an interesting article—Reminiscences of Keith and Keith Schools, 1863 to 1873—from a distinguished Former Pupil. It will appear in the 1925 issue. All Former Pupils are invited to contribute their reminiscences, whether full or brief, of recent or more distant times, so that the pageant of the history of the School may be as vivid and complete as possible. Any readers having useful anecdotes or items of information and not caring to elaborate these into an article should communicate with the Editor, who will take steps to have such valuable matter put into permanent form.

"The Aberdeen University Review" of November, 1924, contains the following paragraph:—"Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A., Rector of the Keith Grammar School, is a convinced believer in the Bursary Competition. At the annual prize-giving at the School, among other remarks on the latest educational programmes and changes, he expressed the opinion that, while it was unfair and unwise to judge a school exclusively by that examination, it called for the finest work from both teachers and taught, and stimulated both to do their very best as no mere pass examination could do. All stimulants could be abused, but the 'Comp.' was an inspiring thing in his opinion when used with wise discretion for the strongest intellects, and it was greatly needed in these times when the temptations to sloth, slovenliness, self-indulgence, and ignorant self-satisfaction—all under the seductive title of happiness—were so numerous and strong."

Mr Emslie has been invited to contribute an article on the Bursary Competition to the next number of the Review.

Two excellent articles on Keith Grammar School, its history, head teachers, and roll of honour, appeared in the "Banffshire

Journal" of 11th and 18th March, 1924. They are well worth preservation for the amount of information contained in them.

A special article was also contributed by a Former Pupil to the "Banffshire Herald" of 19th January, 1924, on "Dr James Grant—His Great Work as Headmaster of Keith Schools."

Former Pupils at Aberdeen University

GRADUATION.

Bessie I. Barclay, Botriphnie, has graduated M.A. with 2nd class honours in Maths. and Nat. Phil. She has also gained the Boxhill Mathematical Prize of £28.

Charles Allan, Keith, has obtained degree of B.Com.

Wm. Greenlaw, M.A., Keith, has graduated M.B., Ch.B., with distinction, and has gained the Anderson Gold Medal and Prize in Clinical Medicine.

Keith Students capped M.A.

Elizabeth Cruickshank Davidson.

Thomas McPetrie Duncan.

Isabella Paterson.

Georgina Thornton Strachan.

Capped B.Com.

Wyness D. Riddoch, Tarryblake, Rothiemay.

John S. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., Homewood, Keith, has obtained the Diploma in Public Health (D.P.H.). At present he is Resident Physician at the City Hospital, Aberdeen.

MERIT LISTS.

Greek-9th, Jean A. Stuart, Keith.

Latin-17th, Elizabeth C. Davidson, Keith.

Natural Philosophy-2nd class certificates (advanced), Isabella Paterson, Keith, and Bessie I. Barclay, Botriphnie.

Elementary Chemistry—2nd class certificate, Isabella Paterson, Keith (60 per cent.).

Materia Medica-Mary Riddoch, Rothiemay.

Public Health—Second class certificates, Edith Wilson, Drummuir, and James Paterson, Keith (each 72 per cent.); Frank McLean, Keith (68 per cent.).

Practice of Medicine—Bronze medal and first class certificate, Edith B. Wilson, Drummuir; first class certificate, James A. R. Paterson, Keith.

Midwifery—Second class certificates, Edith B. Wilson, Drummuir, and James A. R. Paterson, Keith (66 per cent.); Frank McLean, Keith (62 per cent.).

Banking, Currency, and Foreign Exchanges—Second class certificate, W. D. Riddoch, Rothiemay (74 per cent.).

School News

PRIZE LISTS—SESSION 1923-24.

Dr Grant Gold Medal, Dux of the School—Kenneth M. R. Laing, Glenlivet.

Silver Medals:

English-Elspeth M. Milne, Botriphnie.

Latin-Kenneth M. Laing.

Greek-Thomas J. Laing, Glenlivet.

French-John Goodall, Keith.

Mathematics-Kenneth M. Laing.

Bronze Medals:

Science-Adeline Grant, Keith.

Dux, Class V.—John Goodall.

Dux, Class IV.—Isobel Geddes, Keith.

Dux, Class III.—Robert G. Rhind, Keith.

Dux, Class II.—Thomas R. S. Campbell, Keith.

Dux, Class I.—Isobel Goodall, Keith.

Dux, Primary Dept.-Helen H. Cran, Keith.

Arts Bursary List-Positions gained by K.G.S. Pupils.

6th year-

24th-Kenneth M. R. Laing, Glenlivet.

51st—Thomas J. Laing, Glenlivet.

5th year—

83rd-John Goodall, Keith.

90th-Elspeth M. Milne, Keith.

101st-Adeline Grant, Keith.

Kenneth M. R. Laing had 171 and 160 marks out of 200 in Latin and Greek respectively.

Kenneth M. R. Laing and Thomas J. Laing gained the two Greenskares Bursaries (£30 for four years), open to Banffshire.

SCHOOL SPORTS.

School Championship-Henry W. Auchinachie, Keith.

Officebearers

Honorary President.

Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A., Rector, Keith Grammar School.

President.

Mr William Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh.

Vice-Presidents.

Ex-Bailie Charles McGregor, Oldmore, Keith.

Mr John Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.

Hon. Secretary.

Mr John Mitchell, Keith.

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs Robert Thomson, Mid Street, Keith.

COUNCIL.

Professor A. W. Mair, M.A., Edinburgh University.

Mrs Garrow, Keith.

Mrs Robert Thomson, Keith.

Miss Madeleine Kennedy, Fife-Keith.

Miss Elsie J. Raffan, Balnamoon, Grange.

Miss Mary Riddoch, Tarryblake, Grange.

Miss E. J. Stewart, Glencottar, Keith.

Mr James Anderson, V.S., Keith.

Bailie George Petrie Hay, Keith.

Mr Charles Machattie, The Park, Keith.

Mr John Mitchell, Ardmore, Keith.

Mr J. A. R. Paterson, Newmill.

Mr Herbert J. Sandison, Keith.

Mr Wilson Smith, Aberdeen.

Mr Alexander Sutherland, Boharm.

Mr Edward Taylor, M.A., Leith.

Mr George Taylor, Westview, Keith.

Dr J. S. Taylor, Aberdeen City Hospital.

Mr T. M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B., Edinburgh.

COMMITTEES.

Aberdeen.—Dr William Greenlaw, Mr Wilson Smith, Miss Bessie I. Barclay, M.A., and Miss Mary Riddoch (Convener).

Magazine.—Mrs R. Thomson, Miss E. J. Stewart, Mr Thomas M. Taylor, M.A., Mr Wilson Smith, and Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A. (Editor).

Sports Field.—Mr John Mitchell, Mr George Taylor, and Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A. (Convener).

Reunion.—Mrs R. Thomson, Mrs Garrow, Miss Ruth Smith, Miss Jeannie Taylor, Dr Greenlaw, Mr G. J. Lobban, and Mr Herbert J. Sandison (Convener).

Membership.—Mrs R. Thomson, Mr John Taylor, Mr Bert Fraser, and Mr J. Mitchell (Convener).

Annual Meeting-1923

At Keith and within the Grammar School there on Wednesday, 26th December, 1923, in the Annual Meeting of the members of the Keith Grammar School Former Pupils' Association, Mr Wm. Mitchell, K.C., President, presiding over a representative attendance,

Apologies for absence were intimated from Colonel J. J. George, Mr F. A. B. Mitchell, Dr J. S. Taylor, Dr Turner, and Mr Alex. Emslie.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure in being present at the meeting and wished to thank the Association, as he did from the bottom of his heart, for the high honour they had paid him in making him President of the Association for the past year.

The minute of the previous Annual Meeting held on 27th December, 1922, was read, approved, and signed by the Chairman. The Treasurer submitted the Annual Financial Statement showing that the Association commenced the year with a credit balance of £50 5s 7d. The income for the year amounted to £24 14s 11d and the expenditure to £19 17s 3d, leaving a balance on hand of £55 3s 3d at the end of the year. The Financial Statement was approved of, subject to audit by Bailie George Petrie Hay.

The Chairman stated that their financial statement was most satisfactory.

Office-bearers for the ensuing year were then appointed.

In regard to the next Annual Meeting it was agreed that the Council should fix the date of same and that the Secretary should send notices as usual of the meeting by post to members resident in the United Kingdom in addition to the usual advertisement in the local Press.

It was agreed to continue the donation of £5 to the School Sports Funds as last year.

The remit which the Council had made at the meeting on the 13th December to a sub-committee in regard to the provision of a playing field for the pupils in attendance at Keith Grammar School was considered. It was agreed that the matter should be left in the hands of the sub-committee already appointed, who would report in due course to the Council.

The meeting took into consideration the desirability of having a memorial erected in the School in memory of the pupils who had fallen in the Great War. It was remitted to the Council

to carry out a memorial and to charge the cost of same, not exceeding £20, to the funds of the Association.

The Chairman referred to the necessity for having some memorial to the late Dr Grant erected in the School. The matter was remitted to the Council, to take what steps were considered necessary.

At the close very cordial votes of thanks were passed, to Mr Fraser for his excellent services as secretary and treasurer; to Mr McPetrie for his work in the institution of the Association, and to Mr Mitchell for his services as President.

Summary of Business During 1924

Sports Field.—After negotiations with the Committee of the F.P. Association, the Keith Football Club has kindly agreed to permit the boys of the Grammar School to play football under supervision of Masters during specified hours on Saturdays during the winter of 1924-25, without charge. Steps are being taken through a committee of ladies and gentlemen in Keith to procure a playing field (with football and hockey pitches) to allow of organised games being incorporated in the school curriculum. Funds are to be raised to enable the ground available to be suitably prepared and enclosed, and also for the erection of a suitable pavilion. The hearty co-operation of all Former Pupils is hoped for, so that the necessary funds may be secured and the scheme may be successfully carried out.

Former Pupils' War Memorial.—A committee consisting of Mr John Taylor, The Knowe, Keith, and the Hon. President was appointed last March to arrange for the erection of a suitable mural tablet to the memory of the Former Pupils who fell in the Great War. This work has been completed, and the committee discharged. A detailed account of the unveiling ceremony is contained in this number.

Memorial to the late Dr Grant, Headmaster.—An appeal for subscriptions to this Memorial, issued by the President and the Hon. Secretary by the authority of the Council, has met with an encouraging response. About £25 more is required to enable the erection of the memorial contemplated to be proceeded with, and power was given by the Council to the President and the Hon. Secretary to have the work executed at the earliest favourable time. It is confidently anticipated that Former Pupils, whether taught by Dr Grant or not, will respond to this appeal.

Portraits of Former Headmasters.—Mr Charles McGregor acting for the Council has secured portraits of four former Headmasters—Mr Smith, Mr (afterwards Dr) Ogilvie, Dr Grant, and Rev. John Mair—and the work of having these portraits enlarged and suitably framed for hanging in the School Hall is now being carried out.

Honorary Life Member.—In acknowledgment of his great labours on behalf of the Association Mr James D. McPetrie, M.A., late Rector of the School, has been elected an Honorary Life Member.

Magazine.—The Magazine Committee are at considerable pains to secure records, wherever obtainable, of events connected with Former Pupils, and they endeavour also to induce Former Pupils to contribute reminiscences, literary articles, poetry, etc., to the Magazine. The Editor feels that much interesting and valuable information is lost because those who possess it do not send it in to him owing to undue modesty. He would be glad if Former Pupils, having anecdotes relating to their school times and not caring to elaborate these into formal articles themselves, would communicate with him so that steps may be taken to obtain for publication and to preserve what really is the best local and school history.

Useful Donations.—The Association contributes annually a Silver Medal to the School, and £5 to the Sports Fund.

Rules and Constitution

(Approved at Annual General Meeting, 1920)

- 1. The Association shall be called the Keith Grammar School Former Pupils' Association.
- 2. The objects of the Association shall be to promote intercourse among Former Pupils, to keep them in touch with one another and with the School, and to advance the interests of the present pupils.
- 3. The Association shall consist of Ordinary and of Life Members.
- 4. All former pupils of the Grammar School or Keith Parish School and all past and present teachers of the School shall be eligible for Membership.

- 5. The subscription for ordinary membership shall be 2s 6d per annum, payable on or before 31st December, and the subscription for Life Membership shall be £2. These subscriptions shall entitle members to a copy of the Magazine, which shall be issued annually and shall contain a complete list of Members and their addresses.
- 6. The financial year shall end on 11th November, and the accounts of the Association, made up to that date and duly audited, shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.
- 7. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in December on a date fixed at previous Annual Meeting and duly advertised in the local press, but a General Meeting may be called at any time by the Council or at the request of ten Members conveyed to the Secretary in writing.
- 8. At the Annual General Meeting the following office-bearers shall be elected—Hon. President, President, two or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, and, if desired, a Joint or Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.
- 9. At the same Annual General Meeting a Council shall be formed consisting of Office-bearers and not less than 15 or more than 20 Members. The Council shall have power to appoint an Executive Committee from their own number and also, for special purposes, sub-committees which need not be composed entirely of Members of the Council.
- 10. All Office-bearers and Members of Council shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 11. Intimation of General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be made to each Member within the United Kingdom seven days before the date of the Meeting, and intimation of Council Meetings shall be made to each Member of Council not less than three days before the date of the Meeting. Notice of motion for a General Meeting, Annual or other, shall be sent in writing to the Secretary at least ten days before the date of such meeting.
- 12. No alteration shall be made in these Rules and no rule shall be added except with the consent of two-thirds of the Members present at a General Meeting.

List of Members

LIFE MEMBERS

Alexander Emslie, M.A., Rector, Keith Grammar School.

Charles George, S.S.C., 31 Alva Street, Edinburgh.

Mrs Alice Gilchrist (née Mitchell), 30 Great King Street, Edinburgh.

John Gillies, M.A., Rose Cottage, Elgin.

J. Allan Gray, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., 107 Ferry Road, Leith.

Dr R. G. Henderson, 116 Egerton Street, Oldham.

Harry Horsfall, Huntly.

Alex. J. Innes, Blantyre, Nyasaland.

Provost John W. Kynoch, Isla Bank, Keith.

Dr P. W. Macdonald, Grasmere, Radipole, Weymouth.

Chas. T. McConnachie, The Dominion Bank, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Right Rev. Mgr. James Canon McGregor, St. Mary's College, Blairs, Aberdeen.

James D. McPetrie, M.A., Madras House, St. Andrews (Hon. Life Member).

Wm. Mitchell, K.C., 17 Great King Street, Edinburgh.

W. Munro, 23 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus, London, W.1.

John Reid, M.A., C.A., 6 Golden Square, Aberdeen.

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Dr Alex. H. Skinner, Hankow, China.

Robert F. Stephen, Badlipar Tea Co., Koomtai Division, Badlipar P. & T.O., Assam.

Dr A. G. Thomson, 32 West Allington, Bridport.

Wm. Turner, Villa Palma, Algecircas, Gibraltar.

Dr R. S. Turner, 18 Dean Park Crescent, Edinburgh.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Miss E. Addison, Ruthin, North Wales.

P. Stewart Annand, Bank Agent, Tobermory.

Miss M. S. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.

Patrick D. Annand, 102 Mid Street, Keith.

Miss B. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.

James Annand, 136 Moss Street, Keith.

Alexander Anderson, 149 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.

Miss Anderson, Fife Street, Fife-Keith.

Miss Anderson, Brunscar, Keith.

James Anderson, M.R.C.V.S., Craigisla, Keith.

Wm. Anderson, Jr., Brunscar, Keith.

Alexander Auchinachie, Beaufort, Keith.

Mrs Balfour (née Moir), Perth.

Mrs Barclay (née Macpherson), 23 Westfield Terrace, Aberdeen.

Mrs Alexander Barclay (née Wilson), Hillend, Botriphnie.

Robert J. T. Beverley, Elrick Villa, Keith.

Rev. George Birnie, M.A., B.D., The Manse, Speymouth.

Mrs E. J. Boucher (née Reid), Wern, Arderseir, Inverness-shire.

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John W. Brown, Drakemyres, Keith.

Rev. W. R. Brown, M.A., Kerse Parish Church, Grangemouth.

Robert A. Cameron, Bogbain, Keith.

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Alexander Davidson, Edithfield, Keith.

Miss Elizabeth Davidson, Edithfield, Keith.

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Mrs Mary Gray (née Bennett), Mill of Park, Cornhill.

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Mrs E. Innes (née Robertson), Schoolhouse, Alford.

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Mrs Gordon Key (née Bruce), Mental Hospital, Pretoria, South Africa.

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Mrs Stokes (née Cameron), Buenos Aires.

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George Taylor, Westview, Keith.

Mrs George Taylor, Westview, Keith.

Dr Thomas Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.

Miss Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.

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Miss M. J. Urquhart, The Sheans, Boharm, Dufftown.

Mrs E. Valentine (née Mitchell), St. Martin's, Portree.

Captain W. R. Watt, 1st Battalion 5th Gurkha Rifles, "F.F.," Abbottabad, India (N.W.F.P.)

Miss Margaret B. Watt, Maryhill, Boharm.

Miss Matilda Watt, M.A., Maryhill, Boharm.

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