

Keith Grammar School &
Former Pupils Association

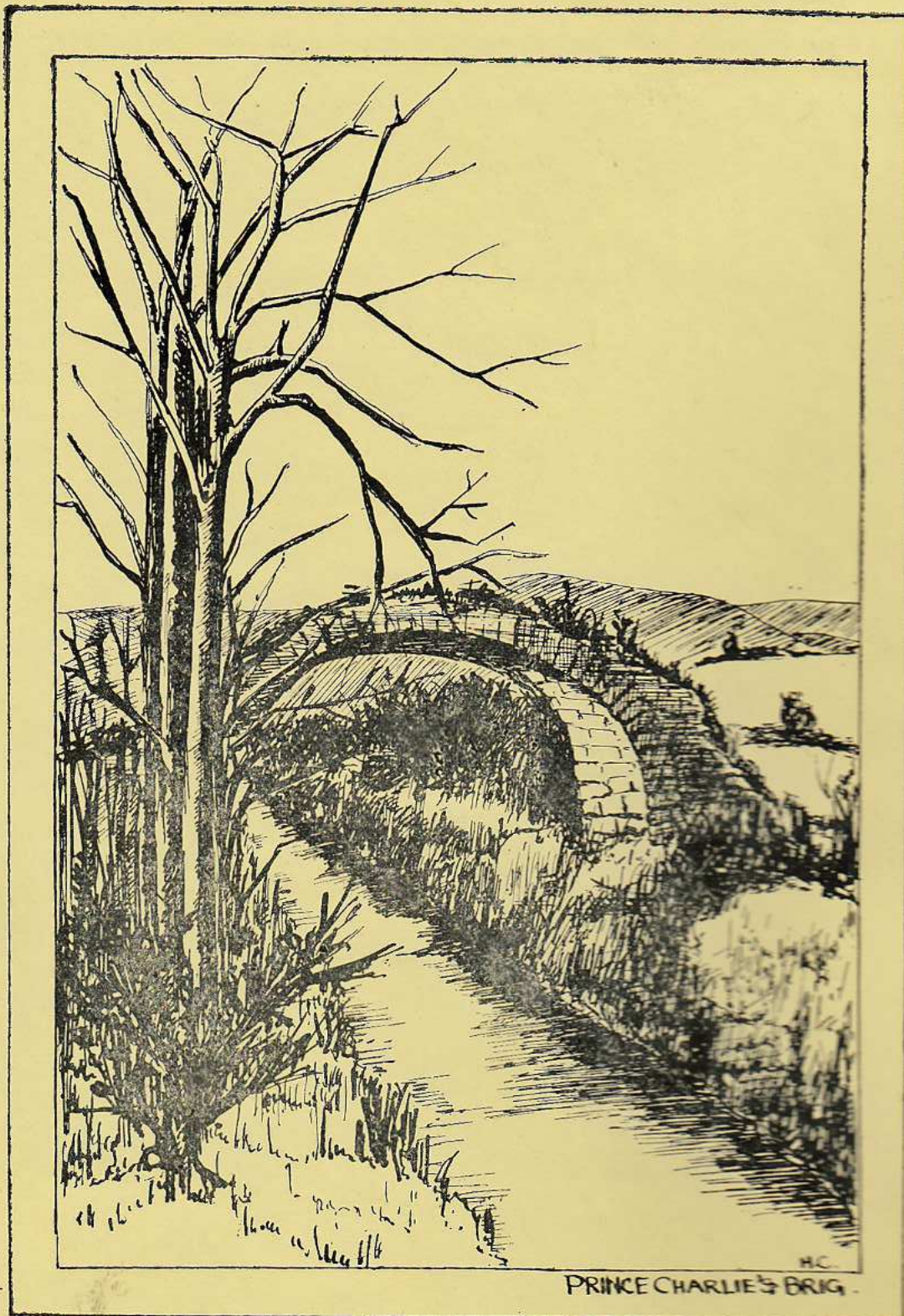
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER

1926

No. 7.

Price One Shilling




PRINCE CHARLIE'S BRIG.

—Helen Clark.

THE MAGAZINE

OF THE

Former Pupils Association
Keith Grammar School 

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Contents

	Page
The Scottish Tradition - - - - -	3
In the Latter Days of Smith - - - - -	4
Poem—Lucretius - - - - -	7
Miss L. Henry, L.L.A. - - - - -	8
On Writing Verses - - - - -	11
Keith in 1790 - - - - -	13
Life in the Island of Skye - - - - -	14
Body Snatching at Keith - - - - -	16
Four Headmasters of Keith School - - - - -	17
A Horse Race in 1706 - - - - -	22
“Bools” - - - - -	23
Poem—Epitaph - - - - -	24
Notes and Comments - - - - -	25
Personalia - - - - -	26
Former Pupils at Aberdeen University - - - - -	31
School News - - - - -	32
Statement of Accounts - - - - -	35
Keith Grammar School F.P. Association Office-bearers	36
Council Report - - - - -	37
Aberdeen Branch Report - - - - -	38
Aberdeen Branch Office-bearers - - - - -	39
Rules and Constitution - - - - -	40
List of Members - - - - -	41

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Frontispiece—Prince Charlie's Brig—Miss Helen Clark.

Miss Lizzie Henry, L.L.A.

James Smith, A.M.

Joseph Ogilvie, LL.D.

James Grant, LL.D.

Rev. John Mair, M.A.

The Junior School.

The Aberdeen Branch at Keith.

The Scottish Tradition

"Let the Scotsman be content to be a Scotsman and not try to be anything else," was the advice of the Prime Minister when he received the freedom of Edinburgh last summer. It is a warning not unneeded. In one generation the bicycle, the motor car, the cinema and the modern newspaper have changed the face of Scotland. The period has been one of advance in mechanical invention and material prosperity, and there are not wanting sanguine or shallow minds who are quick to equate the change with progress. For our part we doubt the soundness of the equation. The cult of the lipstick in our northern villages is not necessarily an index of progress, nor does it prove us better men than our fathers that we can whistle the latest fox-trot within a fortnight of its first appearance in the West End of London. It is a pitiful thing to see so many of our people tamely accepting the standards of thought and taste which suffice for a Cockney proletariat; Harmsworth, it seems, has achieved a triumph that eluded the First Edward.

These things, in themselves of little moment, are symptomatic of a departure from the traditional Scottish outlook on life which is sufficiently disquieting. The Scottish character at its best was a rural product; the Scottish mind was the mind of a countryman, frugal, independent, humorous, reverent, sane. It is a type of mind needed in our hectic urban civilisation, and it is becoming rarer every year. We have no desire, even if it were possible, to set the clock back to 1870, but the preservation of the distinctive Scottish character and language is a matter in which no patriot can fail to be interested. There is only one way in which they can be preserved, by deepening the sense of nationality and the feeling of historic continuity, and treasuring as things of intrinsic value every worthy tradition and every human memory of the past.

It is a sure instinct that has prompted one of our members to present prizes to the School for the study of the Vernacular. Not that we think that the old Scots tongue can ever be restored as a general medium of communication in the modern world. But that it should be loved and understood and preserved from vulgarizing and debasing influences is a matter of high cultural and political moment. We should like also to see our schools devoting more attention to local history and less to that "drum and trumpet history," which, despite the famous protest of J. R. Green, continues to loom too large in every curriculum. In encouraging such studies the Former Pupils' Association can play an important part, and to no better end can its energies be directed.

In the Latter Days of Smith

I was much interested in "A Few Reminiscences and Asides" by "G." in last year's magazine. Though somewhat younger than myself, the writer must have been a contemporary of mine, and I should like to add a few recollections to his.

My first teacher was also Mrs Taylor, in Chapel Street, and I thoroughly endorse every word "G." has written as to the kindly, sympathetic, and large-hearted nature of that old lady. I have in my possession an excellent, though somewhat faded, photograph of her, and it depicts a real nature's gentlewoman. The schoolroom is still intact, and is the first inhabited room below what was the United Presbyterian Church. Roughly taken by me, the external measurements of the room are 18 feet by 15. With a low ceiling, and deducting the width of three substantial stone and lime walls, the cubic air space could not have been great. It had one small window which I never saw open, and water was carried from the Square pump, where the little memorial fountain now stands. When I say that anything from thirty to fifty children were huddled in this room, you will understand the sanitary conditions. Some of us still live!

With fear and trembling, we were advanced to the Big School. In this, two large rooms, one at either end, composed the sole teaching accommodation—"Smith's en'," from the gable windows of which we could see the Auld Kirk clock over the tree tops, and "the Mannie's en'," with its gable to the Old Town. The two class-rooms were identical. The masters' desks faced the gables, and were raised by three circular steps on either side above the ground level. Two passage ways divided the floor space into three. Long seats and desks, to hold about seven pupils each, in the middle, and short seats to hold three or four on each side. An open space, with a square stove in the middle, was left between the master's desk and the front centre seat. Between the two class-rooms were situated the master's room and the bonnet lobby. The former was lit by the fan light of the unused main door and two narrow windows, one on either side, overlooking Earlsmill Station. Neither this room nor the lobby was ever used as a class-room in Smith's time.

The staff, when I joined up, consisted of Mr Smith, Mr Stephenson, and three pupil teachers (the first in Keith, I think). These were James Moir, afterwards Rector of Aberdeen Grammar School; Forbes Maitland Moir, his brother, afterwards a leading medical practitioner in Aberdeen; and Sandy Pirie, whom I lost sight of after he left the school.

The school was opened every morning by prayer in the "Mannie's en'," and after sixty years, portions of Smith's prayer

still echo in my ears—"High and low, rich and poor, old and young, teachers and taught, may they all be taught of Thee, who alone teachest savingly and to profit," and again—"What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou condescendest to visit him? Thou hast made him but a little lower than the angels, Thou crownest him with glory, honour, immortality."

After prayers the senior pupils adjourned to Smith's end and the "catalogue" or roll was called. Two boys were selected every Friday afternoon to take the catalogues for the following week, one for either end. To those selected a catalogue week was a source of pride and of considerable responsibility. They had to be written out carefully and neatly on sheets supplied for the purpose, and catalogue Saturday was not much of a holiday for the holders.

After roll call the day was largely spent in working out a sum from Gray's Arithmetic on a slate. This, after being examined by Smith and found correct, was transcribed into a copy book. This was again taken up for examination, and if satisfactory, was initialed J.S. Three of these sums a day accounted for most of the time till half past three, when the younger pupils adjourned to Stephenson's end for English.

Periodically a class was transferred from the junior to the senior room, and on its arrival, a searching examination was made as to each individual's grasp of the multiplication table,

Smith's name has been handed down to us, as that of an unmitigated tyrant. He had indeed, a rough tongue, and a heavy hand, but I recall him, not as a wielder of 'tag,' but as a born disciplinarian. He would write for an hour at his desk, without raising his head, and all the while you could hear a pin drop. It may be said that I only knew him when age had toned him down, but a cousin of mine, twelve years my senior, always of a very timid and sensitive disposition, left a small sum for the upkeep of Smith's grave. This did not look as if he had been bullied or terrified.

Once, I saw Smith in a towering passion. One dark afternoon, in December, we had gone through, as usual, to the "Mannie's" end at half-past three. There was no artificial light, and to read was an impossibility. Stephenson brought his chair from his desk, opened the door of the stove, poked up the fire, and was putting questions from a book by firelight. The door burst open, Stephenson was hurled to one side of the floor, his chair to the other, and Smith was shovelling the coal from the stove, "Roasting yourself like a yellow haddock, and setting the whole place on fire! Far better to have sent up to Meggie Hardy's for a penny candle." The chimney had gone on fire, and the sparks flown in an alarming way over the play-ground towards Smith's end.

Games in those days were very simple and inexpensive. No lawn tennis, no golf, no football (as now known), and no bowling. Cricket, however, had a much larger following than now, and I am sorry to see its place taken by other less manly games. Marbles were just in a transition stage, from the proper game of placing the knuckles on the ground, fixing the marble between the joints of the first finger, and flicking it with the thumb nail to the desired mark. Later it degenerated into, setting up a glasser, a roldie, or even a bawbee, drawing a line, some distance away, which the player had to toe, but over which he might reach as far as he liked, and chucking the marble anyhow at the target. Strange to say, as now, marbles were started in late winter, or early spring, just the worst possible time for such a game. "Ragie," very much like "I spy," and "Bonnet ragie" (Scottish bonnets were then the universal headgear) were common games during school intervals. In the latter, a row of caps was placed against a wall, a soft ball was tossed, whosoever's bonnet it got into, had to pick it up, and hit another player with it, before he got to a fixed goal. "Club," a form of shinty, and football were generally played in one of the town lanes, and the ball used was almost invariably "a chow" roughly turned from a block of soft wood. "Huns and hares" was also a great favourite, and mostly played in the long evenings, and in bounds fixed between two streets and a specified number of lanes. One game lives in my memory. All the hares had been caught except one, and we took it for granted that he had got tired of the game and gone home. He turned up, however, and explained that he had taken cover in the hearse in the Gordon Arms courtyard. Most of us gave that vehicle a very wide berth! In winter, of course, we had sliding, and in suitable weather the Auld Toon Brae was a very busy scene. Smith never interfered with our sliding on the brae, and indeed, I think, he considered we had a prescriptive right to do so. Snowball fights were common, and we had the pupils of the Free Church School as opponents. "Allan's Gypes" we dubbed them. As the numerically stronger party we were most valiant! A pair of skates presented to my brother was amongst the first in the town. Lending one to a school friend, and strapping on the other, he proceeded down Mid Street on the trampled snow. Turning the corner of Marno's garden wall (site of the Royal Hotel), my brother ran into the arms of Mr Inkson, probably the most active J.P. of his time in this district, and was promptly and literally collared. "Now, my boy, I've caught you in the act, and up you go with me to the police station." George Barnett was, as usual, by his corner at Cross Street, talking at, or to, every passer-by. "What are you about to-day, Mr Inkson?" "Oh, I have got hold of a young nickum here, making the roads impassable for man and beast,

and I am taking him up to the police." "D'ye ken fa ye hiv"? "No, and I don't care. I am going to make an example of him, whoever he is." "Weel, that's a son of Mrs K——." "Oh, dear me, and how's your mother"? The "volte face" was probably caused by the fact that my father died a month or two before.

Pennies were not then as plentiful as they seem to be now. Occasionally one was to be earned by holding a farmer's horse, or by keeping rounded up a flock of cattle, in a June or September market, while the buyer and seller adjourned to clinch their bargain in a neighbouring tent. If hard to come by, coppers were more valued, and considerable thought exercised as to the spending. On the principle of "A bawbee's worth of what you get maist o'," it generally resolved itself into crushed dates, "weet" sweeties, "chippit" apples, or locust beans. Sometimes, as a greater delicacy, a stick of "plunky" might be substituted. This was a toffee made from treacle, and drawn out into long yellow sticks. Most of our old copy books were bartered for little bits of the "plunky," and a half sheet from these made a substantial if not very hygienic wrapper for the candy.

With all deference to the more up-to-date education which followed, I have often regretted that Smith did not live and work among us a few years longer. To the type of boy to which I belonged, I am sure he was the right man in the right place. My memory still retains the bulk of what I was taught under him, and this is a great deal more than can be said of what I was supposed to have learned afterwards.

G. K.



Lucretius

This warld ye saw as but ane antrin dance
O' atoms cowpit heelster-gowdie throu'
The Void's ondeemas gulf for evermair.
Ye werena fleyt to keek oot ower there,
An' see its meiths an' mairches in a lowe.

But when ye held your dearie in your airms
An' felt her dirlin' he'rt anent your ain,
Did siccan eerie notions daunten you?
Was it for that she socht the Thracian brew,
That connached a' an' left her there alane?

L. M. S.

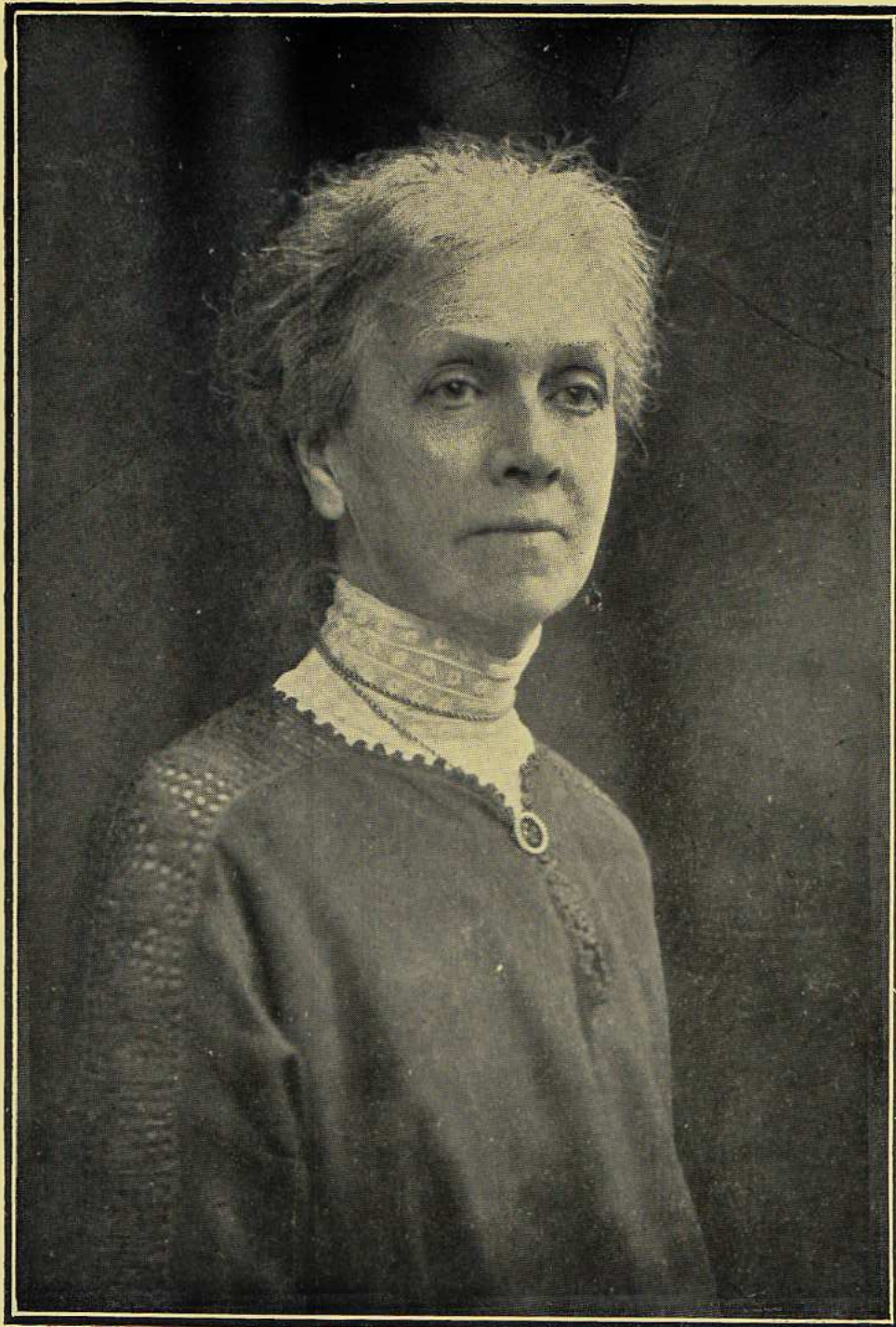
[Note.—Lucretius, one of the first exponents of atomic materialism, is said to have died in madness induced by a love philtre.—Ed.]

Miss L. Henry, L.L.A.

Miss Henry—how do you picture her, fellow former pupil of Keith Grammar School, now that she has retired and has to be regarded as a teacher of the past? A little lady with a bundle of books on arm, walking with very determined step morning after morning schoolwards via Mid Street, Union Street and the “Doctor’s Brae?” Or an equally purposeful-looking figure handing out exercises (corrected, as many still aver, with a paint brush and a pot of red paint) to a suddenly remorseful class, “the like of which for carelessness she had never seen before?” Or perhaps another, on the last day of the session, with a band of highly interested helpers, doing general repairs to war-worn dictionaries, or disposing for their summer sleep piles of French and German unseens with a past? Or perhaps none of these. She was vividly familiar to us in so many different circumstances, and each of us cherishes some particular memory of her; but to all who were under her care at Keith, she was a part, and a very essential part, of the school.

And in a sense she has become part of many of our lives too. Few teachers anywhere ever left a deeper impression on the minds of their pupils, and many who, in their school days, chafed under her despotic rule, have since learned to thank her for all her severity and insistence on the performance of every duty. A teacher who has secured such a permanent place in her pupils’ minds and lives, whose work is appreciated after years of absence from school by former pupils of every kind and degree, has been more than a mere crammer of hard facts. One is led to mention this because Miss Henry has so often been lauded as the finest Modern Languages teacher in all Scotland that one fears the inevitable impression received will be only a partly true one—that here was a teacher who knew her subject thoroughly and whose manner of imparting it was extraordinarily capable. But she was much more than that. She was a teacher in the best sense of the term—in that, besides knowing and teaching her subject thoroughly, her influence on her pupils extended far beyond the limits of mere French and German. The great majority of her pupils necessarily have had no further use for those languages, but very few can have left her classes without some sense of the sacredness of duty and a love of the ordinary (and yet extraordinary) virtues of order and carefulness which have stood them in good stead in after years.

Her teaching career was a long crusade against the old Adam of carelessness and laziness in every child. And no sterner Crusader was ever known. From Class I. raising its young voice at the commas in “Les Trois Ours,” to Class VI. conning over



MISS L. HENRY, L.L.A.

Blanchaud's Idioms, the same sermon was preached with homely, pithy illustrations suitable to the occasion. "Aide-toi, Dieu t'aidera." Be careful about the little things and you will not fail when the greater ones present themselves." And of course, in nine cases out of ten, sheer persistence won the day. "Hiv ye deen yer French?" was the vital question on the way to prayers in the morning, and the last-minute rush to make the room look tidy before her entrance was the result of another well-taught lesson. A propos, perhaps you too, like some others, can trace your dislike of disorder to one Friday night when you were called back by Miss Henry to clear away some microscopic bits of paper from your desk? Carelessness in speech, in dress as well as in school work, called forth her wrath at every turn. Our mouth-filling Banffshire accent got all the attention it deserved from her, but on the other hand, her scathing condemnation of affectation in speech or manner hit the mark as precisely. "Mincing young ladies" she detested beyond all things; and how happy was the innocent section of the class once she was fairly launched on this topic. "Is THAT the bell?" in indignant, incredulous tones finished this, like every other French period. Truly, if that bell had been human, we should not have envied it its life.

"You never wish a silk goon but you aye get a sleeve o't" was a favourite quotation of Miss Henry's when confronted, as she was too often, with unambitious pupils. Her standard was very high, and she made tremendous efforts to secure it. Like the true teacher she was, she kept books in their proper place and invited us to draw on herself freely for information. She had rules and catches for every occasion. Close your eyes and ask yourself when you use "de" without an article and you will see before you a hand with fingers arranged in unusual fashion, while a convincing voice repeats "Three afters and two before—after a negative, after a word of itself governing de ——" The gender of words in "age" presents no difficulty to Miss Henry's pupils, for "All words in 'age' are masculine except ——" Vous souvenez-vous? These were old and tried systems, but Miss Henry was not the person to cling to the old if she found the new could better serve her purpose. In spite of strong convictions about the degeneracy of modern times, she was ever on the look out for new and up-to-date devices. In the latter days of her teaching, when there appeared a race of pupils whom fashion in education had deprived of the joys of elementary grammar, Miss Henry forthwith adopted a new mode in speech and henceforth the verb appeared in its "I do," "I did," "I was doing," etc. tenses, and a new set of cards (the result of much labour, and emblem of still greater courage) with the newly-baptised tenses, each in its appropriate colour, were duly issued to the second-year class.

Educated as she must have been under the old system of language teaching, while still realising to the full the necessity of grammar teaching in Modern Languages, Miss Henry never permitted her subject to faint and die under a repulsive mass of many rules and more exceptions. At a time when French and German were being taught as if they had been dead languages for centuries, Miss Henry was protesting in no uncertain way. Her pupils were "taken out to the floor" (dread phrase for the novice and the slothful) and made to recite poetry and relate stories as if English were unknown to them; question and answer formed a great part of the work of the class, while her renowned picture lessons were perhaps most typical of her methods. Who could forget those picture lessons? Miss Henry seated in state on one of those high, yellow, un-chair like chairs which the school seemed to favour, with long pointer as sceptre, and discussing in the most cunningly devised sentences the picture dangling on the black-board. Then questions following hard on each other, and woe to the unresponsive and slow! The efficacy of those picture lessons successfully passed a very practical test during the war, when former pupils found themselves on French ground and obliged to use the every-day words and expressions which Miss Henry had insisted on their learning. Indeed, it is safe to say that the picture lesson formed one of the most valuable parts of all the work. To it was due in a great many cases that sudden awakening to the mysterious power and deep significance of a living, growing language other than one's own, which should be the aim of all language teaching. "Windows upon the souls of alien peoples"—languages as taught by Miss Henry were indeed. The mere satisfaction of His Majesty's Inspectors was not her aim, but needless to remind ourselves, failures in French or German at Keith were exceptional.

But what perseverance and what self-sacrifice must have been necessary to achieve all this, and how unspeakably discouraging the clumsy efforts (not to mention the thoughtless indifference) of her pupils must have been to her. We feel humble and grateful when we think of what she did for us. The pity is we realise our benefits too late; our gratitude to her would have been more convincing had it been expressed in better and more careful work at school. We regret that illness has marred the first year of her retirement, but former pupils will all join in wishing her a speedy recovery and many years of rest after duty well done.

J. KINDNESS.

On Writing Verses

The editor has provoked me with compliments to write verses for the Keith Grammar School Magazine, and although I protest myself to be superior to flatteries, I find that I have somehow pledged myself to produce something. I think now that after the manner of bad speakers who fill up the time of a speech in protesting their own inability to make one, I shall discharge my obligation by explaining why and how I cannot now write verses.

"Non sum qualis eram." By this I mean that although I never could write good verses, I did long ago for a brief period find myself, as young men may, in a circle and companionship of excellent fellows whose interest in that kind of thing induced me on many an occasion to scribble purely occasional verses. Although by force of circumstance and the whirligig of time this goodly fellowship is broken up, I daresay that many of these lines are still remembered against me; and some indeed are still in my possession, but so long forgotten and neglected that I cannot recall clearly the circumstances which evoked them. From this "bing" I have already dug out some scraps for the Grammar School Magazine and others, but it gets harder and harder to find anything reasonably suitable. One long screed lies before me of which I do indeed remember the origin. It is a burlesque Pastoral designed to express the regret of a friend and myself over the defection by marriage of a common friend. It is an interminably long thing and perhaps dull, but I can remember taking some pleasure in stringing it together as I cycled up the Fochabers Brae on my way to Keith. Such point as it had lay in a blending of the comparatively dignified with the comically absurd, and I shall partly discharge my obligation by quoting a specimen passage. It occurs at the point where one of the two "shepherds" is explaining how the defection alluded to came about through the bewilderment of Love:—

"'Twas thus that he was wildered: in the eyes
Of Thestylis the lure of Love was laid
And all the powers of Nature, Love's allies,
Waylaid his soul and set the ambushade.
She wooed him in the sighing of the breeze,
She wooed him in all pleasant sounds and sweet,
The moonbeams were her messengers, the trees
Her warders were and led him to her feet.
Her soul smiled on him from the starry blue
Of fair-eyed flowers refreshed with summer rain,
Always of her sang Philomel and drew
His feet to find the bliss that is our bane.

Anon, too, visions through his dreams would rise
Of such allurements as were wont to please
And she was quick to cook the currant cake
And knead the rinded rhapsody of cheese.
All these she wrought to bring him to his knees
Toffies and trifles, that elastic sweet
The turbaned Turks delight in, and with these
As with a gin she snared his willing feet.
And stronger means for stronger needs she knew
And goodlier bonds for his more sure control;
So made she subtle sauces, sausage too
That swift ensnarer of the Teuton soul."

Whatever that kind of thing is worth, I am asking the Editor to believe that I can't do even that kind of thing now. If he doesn't believe me I'll give him more of it!

Another thing I have unearthed which I must certainly acknowledge as mine, but whether it is a translation or an original effort or to what extent it is partly both, I honestly cannot say. Sentimental stuff this time.

"A hand I long for which I ne'er
Find, though I still may find the skies
Bright with bright stars and still may see
Out of the waves the sweet moon rise:
Under my feet the old ways lie
We walked together you and I,
And here no change where once we met
Had I not known, could I forget.

A voice I long for which I ne'er
Hear, though I hear the wandering seas
Call from the deeps: the great winds still
Rustle and roar in the cypress trees:
Still in the woods the cushats cry
Love Song at once and lullaby.
No sound is changed that once was dear
Hadst thou not been, wert thou but here.

A day I dream of when with you
Relinked, thy hand once more in mine
And thy voice hearing I shall go
'Mid sights and sounds once more divine;
Again the gorgeous pageant see
Wherein all things become and be,
And all those dull dead things of sense
Regain divine magnificence."



JAMES SMITH, A.M.

1829-1866.

Perhaps I have now earned my discharge, and in any case I have indicated, or I want to indicate, that I cannot now write anything new, and that any old thing that I have by me needs too much explanation to be worth explaining. I should like to say, however, that I am disappointed to find myself so sterile or so indolent. Just before I sat down to write this apology a fine theme occurred to me—the Bells of Keith, “The Auld Kirk Bell and the Institute.” And it occurred to me that time was when I could certainly have amused and even moved myself (if nobody else) in elaborating that theme in verse. As it is, I have a momentary glimpse of whimsicalities and sentimentalities setting themselves to verse and I hear these diverse bells. But nothing will come of it; and the readers of the Grammar School Magazine have nothing to fear from me!

R. C. T. M.



Keith in 1790

“As there are no persons of independent fortune within the parish the inhabitants are distinguishedly sober and industrious. Several of them have thus raised themselves to easy circumstances which enables them to enjoy the comforts of life in the greatest perfection. Unaccustomed to the elegancies and luxuries of life, or ignorant of them, they feel not their want; they are not disquieted with their desire; satisfied with their neat abundance they enjoy it with satisfaction; they show it with pleasure among their equals and extend it with liberality to such as are in want. The taverns are now nearly deserted; 20 years ago there was more spent in alehouses in one month than is now spent in 12. All ranks are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion; maintain, in general, great decorum of behaviour, and value themselves on respectability of character, which excites them to support it. Nor are they in any gradation of society notorious for any particular vices. They have no pastimes or holidays except dancing on Christmas or New Year’s Day. They are generally sensible, shrewd and intelligent. The tradesmen and manufacturers appear more cheerful and seem happier than the farmers and their tenants. This evident difference naturally arises from the difficulty the latter now find to procure a subsistence.”

Life in the Island of Skye

The island of Skye seems to be provocative of literary composition. I am continually meeting with articles regarding it in the magazines. Most of these have plainly sprung from the mind of the tourist, who is duly impressed by the beauty of its hills and lochs in summer, but has rather vague ideas as to the life of an inhabitant. I think, therefore, that a few experiences of one who resided there for five years, day in and day out, may be interesting to your readers.

My first introduction to Skye showed it at its worst. It was on a wet and blustering winter afternoon. When I stepped on to the quay at Kyle of Lochalsh the rain was pouring forth in sheets, while the "Sheila" tossed up and down far below, in a low tide, and ground against the timbers of the pier. A huge heap of luggage was being transferred to the little boat. First came the mails in canvas sacks, then great hampers of bread, for few of the villages have bakers, then a miscellaneous pile which I noticed included part of my furniture. I kept an anxious eye on this, and was not a little relieved when it was let down safely. I wished they could have lowered me down myself, for the gangway was so steep that it seemed specially adapted for the cragsmen of the Coolins. But it is wonderful what one can do. In no long time we were emerging into Broadford Bay in the teeth of a squally north wind which drove white flurries over the water. Broadford pier gave the captain some anxious moments. We swept round in a wide circle and approached it slowly and cautiously, but in spite of all there were not a few hard bumps. With equal caution we got off again, drifting down wind till we were clear, then steaming round to sail on under the lee of Scalpay, a stretch of uninhabited shore where the seals love to lie. That day they were in snigger quarters.

The strait between Scalpay and Raasay was a bad bit, with the high cliffs of Raasay close by on the east, the huge bulk of Glamaig looming up to the west, and the north wind rushing through between them. Raasay pier we made no attempt to take. But the worst corner was the last, just as we entered Portree Loch. Here the cliffs under Ben Tianavaig are open to the full sweep of the waves from the ocean. They form a lee shore hemmed by high rocks with black caves, and breakers pouring over the fallen fragments. I was very glad when we glided in under the shadow of the Beal past the Black Rock, and saw the flares on the pier shining reflected on the sheltered water. Still more glad was I to set foot on solid land again, though it was an island.

That we lived on an island I never was able to forget. I do not think most people realise what a large place Skye is. We

could motor forty miles in one direction and twenty-five on several roads. But at the end we always came to the sea water cutting us off from the rest of the world. Over this not only had we to go ourselves, but almost everything we needed must be brought. Hence the great event of the day was the arrival of the steamer—not of every day. At first, except in summer, we had a steamer only thrice a week, though in our last year a daily service was given. In the early evening, as soon as the vessel came in sight round the headland, the whole population poured down to the pier. Rows of motors from the country districts stood waiting outside. Some hours later, just at bed-time, the newspapers and letters for two days were delivered. If we did not wish our replies to be delayed till another trip, they had to be written and posted that night.

In summer the boats were full of tourists, but there was always a group of the inhabitants who gathered together a little apart. The gossip of the countryside was exchanged there, and we never made the voyage without hearing something new. Besides human beings there were often other passengers. All the sheep in Skye are sent to the low country to be wintered, and though flocks go by foot and over the ferry, many travelled by boat. In autumn we would be wakened early in the morning by the multitudinous baaing and the tramp of innumerable little feet as the sheep pressed along the road towards the pier. In spring they passed up again in the evening. Herds of shaggy little Highland cattle went south too on their way to market. It was hard work to induce these to cross the gangway. They turned in every other direction, and there was much barking of dogs and brandishing of sticks with not a few sound whacks before all were aboard. Once there they usually stood quietly enough, with a somewhat dazed expression in fact, looking at the waves slipping past. Our little house stood a short distance outside of Portree on a bank overlooking the bay. The view in calm weather especially on a moonlight evening, was like a glimpse of fairyland. There were many such evenings, but even more when the wind was rushing in from the west, howling round the rocks and lifting the burns like clouds of smoke into the air. Then torrents of water ran off the hill behind and all hands had to turn to in order to clear the channels and let the flood run past. We had a few trees round our house, and a small garden which seemed to nourish nothing but flowers. Everything edible failed and we often sighed for a cabbage. But of roses and lilies there was no lack.

Life in the islands is very quiet. There was a dance in the hall now and then, and the dancers were skilled. Sometimes there was a concert of Gaelic songs or the children gave a little sketch of crofter life. But usually there was nothing, not even a

cinema. When work was over we had no resource but a stroll, either down into the village to see if by chance anything was stirring or up the other way, which soon led us past one or two turf-roofed cottages to the open moor, where there was no house for eleven miles, and the huge Highland cattle roamed untrammelled by hedge or paling. Sometimes in summer we motored further up that road to fish in one of the lochs. There we drifted the whole day in sunshine or rain, one time half scorched in our lightest clothes, another hidden in huge oilskins off which the drops trickled. If it was fine we would stop an hour in the afternoon, land and gather heather roots to make a fire and boil our kettle. When it rained we ate a hasty sandwich, bending over it to keep it from getting sodden. Then at five o'clock the car appeared, always too soon, and we drifted slowly and reluctantly to the landing place, where perhaps some other party was waiting to compare the basket. What excitement there was when the fish rose freely! How many dull, hopeful, pleasant hours when they would not come!

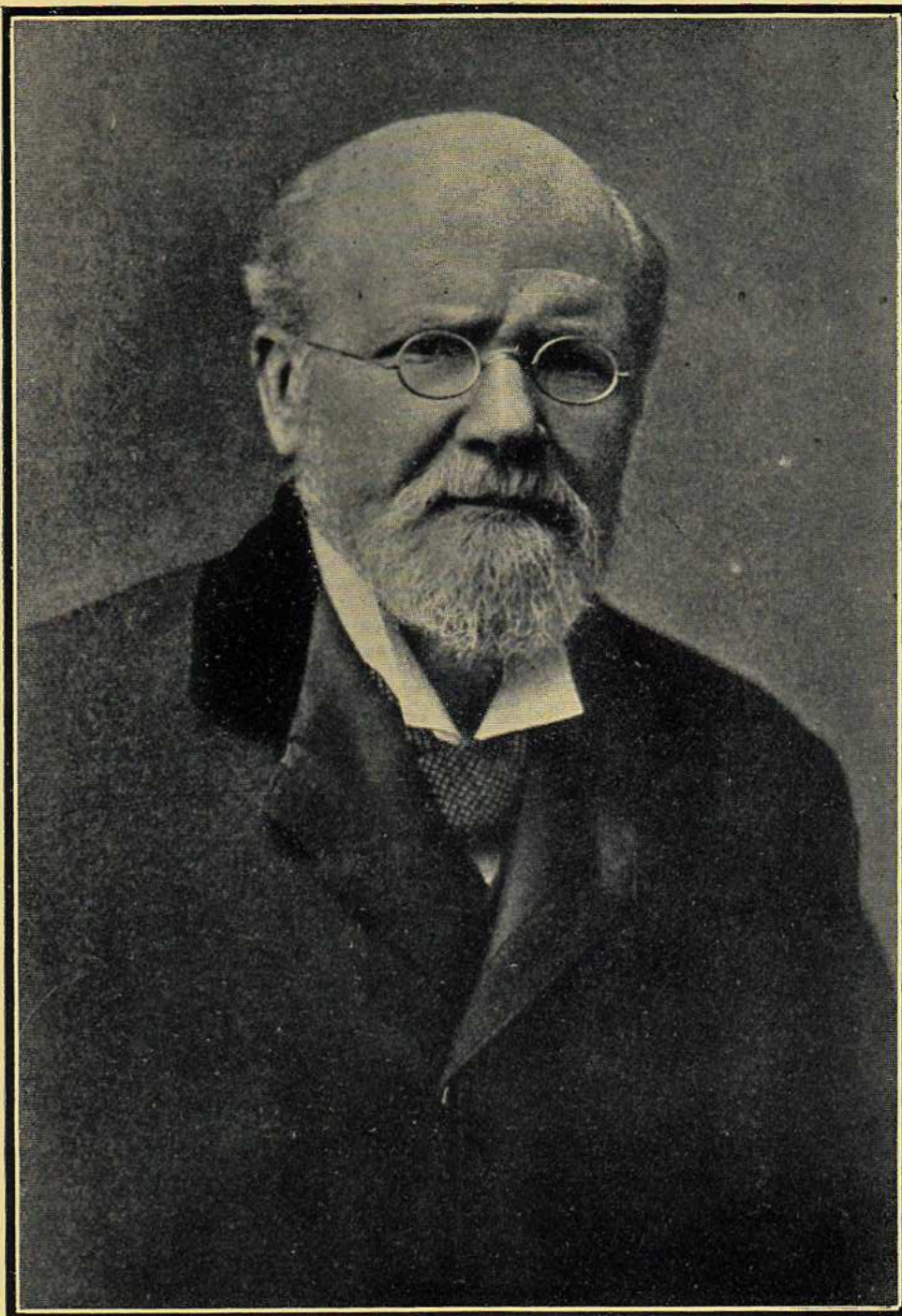
Well, I have told you I got a rough reception in Skye. I had a kinder farewell. It was a bright, limpid morning in May, and the great bunches of primroses were starring all the braes as we sailed out of the loch. The sea was so smooth that the gulls which hover about the steamer made great circles as they dipped down. The edges of the mountains were as clear cut as knives against the blue sky. When I looked back from Loch Carron side on the brown moors and purple rocks shimmering in the sun and the blue sea sparkling around it, I could hardly believe that such a scene could be visited by winter or rough weather, or that life there could be anything but one long, idle dream.

E. J. V.



Body Snatching at Keith

At the Spring Circuit Court at Aberdeen on 22nd April, 1817, the presiding judges being Lords Pitmilley and Reston, the first case dealt with was that of three apprentices to Mr John Gordon, surgeon in Keith, who were arraigned on the charge of violating the sepulchre of the dead by taking up the body of John Bremner, which had recently been interred in the churchyard of Keith. Admitting the offence, they were each sentenced to four months' imprisonment.



JOSEPH OGILVIE, LL.D.

1867-1873.

Four Headmasters of Keith School

JAMES SMITH.

In the churchyard of Keith there will be found a stone inscribed "To the memory of John Low, A.M., who for 40 years discharged faithfully the duties of schoolmaster of this parish, and died 1st May, 1829, aged 66 years." Not far from it will be seen another stone "Erected to the memory of James Smith, parochial schoolmaster of Keith for 37 years. Born at Toux, Old Deer, 3rd April, 1806; died at Keith, 12th November, 1866."

Mr Smith occupies a distinguished position in the hierarchy of the headmasters of Keith. He was a prizeman at King's College in Natural Philosophy and Greek, and on graduating in Arts in 1827 he became assistant at Keith to John Low. The latter died two years later, and he was succeeded by his assistant, who in his early days as head of the school took action in an attempt to recover the much discussed and somewhat perplexing Edin-daich Mortification for the benefit of school and schoolmaster. While it has been recorded of John Low, his predecessor, that he taught in "the upper flat in the old jail," Mr Smith came in course of time to have a more comfortable environment, the erection of the school on its present site taking place in 1834, during his incumbency. Rev. J. F. S. Gordon, in that extraordinary hotch-potch known as "The Book of the Chronicles of Keith," writes of him that he "taught Latin and Mathematics well but he was defective in English pronunciation and reading, retaining the strong Buchan doric"; his successor, Dr Joseph Ogilvie, said that than the vigorous personality of Mr Smith he could recall no better representative of the class of the "old parochial," adding concerning him the quotation, "A man severe he was, and stern to view"; while the late Mr James Lawrence uses words of high praise in speaking of the influence that he exercised among the young and in the community. It remains on local record how when Dr Ogilvie was introduced to his work at Keith, a happy distinction was drawn between him and his predecessor by a shrewd and well known townsman of Keith, Mr John Forsyth, tanner. Anxious to discover Dr Ogilvie's educational bias he subjected him to some enquiries, thereafter exclaiming, "Oh, well! Mr Smith will rest peacefully in his grave, for he maintained that there was nothing BUT Latin, while you believe that there is nothing LIKE Latin!"

When Mr Smith was appointed headmaster in 1829 there were on the roll of the parish school only 33 scholars, but in a few years under his vigorous guidance the number rose to 200,

and the school began to assert a high name for itself at the Bursary Competitions in Aberdeen. It is a remarkable fact that from the year 1831 to 1860, the amount won in the shape of such bursaries by pupils wholly taught at Keith and numbering about 30 persons, was £1755, while in the same period the schoolmaster's total emoluments amounted to £1280. It is said that in those palmy days of the "version," he had not his superior in the north. We find one of his old pupils, the late Rev. James McLachlan, minister of Inveraven, putting it upon record that it was Mr Smith who "made the school of Keith an institution of fame throughout the country, and died leaving that legacy of fame circling round it which attracted the best teaching talent in the whole country to succeed him." "The Latin version was his forte," added Mr McLachlan. It is worth recalling, perhaps, that the assistants who acted under Mr Smith in the course of the years included one of the most brilliant Scotsmen of his period, the Rev. Dr Wallace, whose versatile ability is shown in the fact that he was in turn minister of Old Greyfriars in Edinburgh, Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Edinburgh, editor of the "Scotsman," a Queen's Counsel, and member of Parliament for one of the electoral divisions of Edinburgh.

Mr Smith was for 37 years parochial schoolmaster of Keith. His predecessor, Mr Low, held the position for 40 years, so that for a period of 77 years these two men guided the educational affairs of the town and parish. We have it from Dr Gordon that Mr Smith, among other bequests, left £10 to provide for the boarding expenses of a favourite dog, a circumstance that it is not unpleasant to recall.

DR JOSEPH OGILVIE.

Joseph Ogilvie was a member of Banffshire's most distinguished family of educationists, a family, said Professor Cowan on one occasion, that had done more for Scottish education than any other family in Scotland. His father, Wm. Ogilvie, who was born at Knowehead, Marnoch, 1798, and died at Ternemny, Rothiemay, 1872, was pre-eminently a self-taught man, for a single quarter at the school of Ordiquhill was all the regular instruction he received. There he had as his companions his elder brother, John, who was to become John Ogilvie, LL.D., editor of the Imperial Dictionary, and his cousin, John Cruickshank, who was to become John Cruickshank, LL.D., Professor of Mathematics in Marischal College, Aberdeen. In his life-time he saw five of his own sons pass with high credit through a University curriculum, and four of them receive the degree of LL.D., and at the date of his death they held altogether outstanding positions in the educational world—William was rector of Morrison's Academy, Crieff; George was at the head of George Watson's

College in Edinburgh; Alexander was schoolmaster of Monymusk and was soon to become the head and creator of the modern Gordon's College, Aberdeen; Joseph was schoolmaster of Keith, and Robert was a Government Inspector of Schools.

Joseph Ogilvie was born on the family holding of Ternemny in April, 1832. He had his early education at his native parish school; he was for a quarter under the famous Latinist, Dr Melvin, at the Grammar School of Aberdeen, and in 1852 he entered Marischal College as third bursar. He won distinction in all his classes and graduated with Honours in 1856 as the most distinguished classical student of his year. He also attended Divinity classes, a part of his study that had prominent results during all his fine and indeed unique career as an educationist. He began his work as a teacher in the parish school of Turriff, where he succeeded his brother George. He spent a year there. The succeeding ten years he spent as headmaster of Methlick, where he had the gratification of turning out a first and a second bursar; many years later it was said at a public meeting in Aberdeen that "During his reign in Methlick, Dr Ogilvie secured in bursaries for deserving lads about £400." On February 5, 1867, he began his work as parochial schoolmaster of Keith, and he was the last to hold that position. At the ceremony of his introduction, Rev. Mr Begg addressing the new master said—"Your predecessor, the late Mr Smith, left the parish school of Keith in a high state of efficiency. But the good report which has preceded you gives us ground to hope that you will not only maintain its reputation, but will carry it forward and give it a higher position than it has hitherto obtained," a hope that was realised in abounding measure. Many years afterwards Dr Ogilvie attended a school ceremony at Keith, when there was unveiled the tablet bearing the names of distinguished pupils, and in remarks he then made said—"I am not a native of Keith, though I may claim to have received the freedom of citizenship. I am here in a historic character, and, if I may say so, 'ultimus Romanorum'—the last representative of the old parochial regime. It was on a cold winter morning, the 5th of February, 1867, that my inauguration as schoolmaster of Keith was celebrated, with a pomp and ceremony uncommon for the times, in the presence of the leading citizens, from whom I received a cordial welcome. Of that noteworthy set of men, not one now survives."

Dr Ogilvie's successful management of the school attracted attention in interested circles, and brought him to the notice of Professor Laurie, Examiner for the Dick Bequest Trust, on whose recommendation he was chosen in 1873 to inaugurate the Training College system at Aberdeen. For the long period of 34 years he presided over the destinies of the College with a genius

that was inborn, years those that left their mark deeply on the course of education in Scotland. At a gathering in June, 1907, fifty years after his first appointment as schoolmaster of Turriff, when he retired from the rectorship of the College, Dr Ogilvie—he was the fourth brother to receive, in 1889, the degree of LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen—was presented with a striking public testimonial subscribed for by over 1100 former pupils, students, colleagues and friends, the testimonial including his portrait in oils.

Dr Ogilvie died at Aberdeen on August 14, 1914, and lies in Allenvale Cemetery there. At the funeral service it was stated by Professor Cowan that in the course of his 33 years as rector of the Church of Scotland Normal College, he and his colleagues had trained 1500 students for the profession of teacher, not only in Scotland but throughout the British Empire—"a Training College which, from a modest beginning, grew under Dr Ogilvie's fatherly fostering into one of the leading institutions of our city until, seven years ago, at the time of his retirement, it was absorbed into the Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre." Dr Ogilvie's publications included, in 1889, an edition of Bursary Competition Versions, with Key; in 1894, in conjunction with Rev. J. W. Legge, a centenary collection of Melvin's "Correct Latin"; and a memoir of his relative, Professor Cruickshank.

DR JAMES GRANT.

The name of James Grant stands out probably as that of the most distinguished and successful of all those who have held the position of headmaster of Keith, and it continues to this day to occur in familiar conversation on the subject of the education of the young. He was the first headmaster to be appointed by the School Board and so, as the late Mr Jas. Lawrence has put it, was privileged to be a participator in the opening up of a new era in the educational history of our country.

James Grant was a son of the farmer of Blairfindy, Glenlivet. He was born there on January 19, 1826. His early school days he passed at Tomnavoulin and Kirkmichael, the latter then in the heyday of its glory under Alexander Cameron, a scholar of such note that he was entrusted with the teaching of the Greek class at Aberdeen University during a vacancy in the Greek Chair. In 1847 he was appointed teacher of a small school near Balmoral, and with money so earned he went to Aberdeen Grammar School for a quarter under Melvin. That year he was tenth in the bursary list at King's College. Not content with that, he went back to his school on Deeside, and in the following year gained the sixth place in the list. Graduating in 1854, he was appointed teacher at Tomnavoulin, and although there were 100 scholars and but a single teacher, within three years six bursars went straight from this little school in Glenlivet to Aberdeen Univer-



JAMES GRANT, LL.D.

1874-1895.

sity, four of them in one year. Then for eleven years he was teacher at Tomintoul, whither he attracted pupils from Strathspey, Strathdon and Deeside; during that time twenty bursaries were won at Aberdeen University by lads from this little school in the capital of the Banffshire Highlands. From 1870-73 he was teacher at Hilton School, in the parish of Banff. In January, 1874, he became headmaster of Keith, and it was in that capacity that he accomplished the most distinguished part of his life work. Under his inspiration the fame of the school as a secondary centre became widespread. He had the supervision of about a thousand pupils, but during all the twenty years of his active work in Keith he had the personal charge of the highest class. During the first fifteen years his Keith scholars carried off nearly 70 bursaries, and ere his twenty years' work had gone, the number had increased to not far short of 120. Twice, eight bursaries were carried off in one year. In 1893 the first, the sixth, and the tenth bursaries all went to his pupils; repeatedly his old scholars won the blue ribbon in the Faculty of Arts at Aberdeen; at Cambridge and Oxford some of them won further distinctions, and quite a number of headmasters of the most efficient of our northern schools had come under his hand. One gentleman who at Dr Grant's death paid tribute to his memory, wrote that he had "heard a Fellow of a Cambridge College declaring again and again that the best teaching he ever got was at the school of Tomnavoulin from James Grant."

Mr Grant received the degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University in 1889. The same year he was entertained by his former pupils. In making a presentation on the occasion Dr Dey, Inspector of Schools, said that at one time or another Dr Grant's pupils had won every bursary and every valuable prize the University of Aberdeen had to offer. Dr Grant died in January, 1895, and his remains lie in the old Kirkyard of Keith. Former pupils and friends have sought to perpetuate his inspiring memory by providing a Dr Grant Memorial Medal to be awarded annually to the dux of the school, while in July, 1925, there was unveiled and dedicated the medallion at the school in his memory, the ceremony of unveiling being performed by a distinguished former pupil, Mr Wm. Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh.

REV. JOHN MAIR.

Rev. John Mair is a member of a family belonging to Central Banffshire, the sons of which have won high renown in the sphere of scholarship. He is one of five brothers who have made the unique record of all graduating at the University of Aberdeen with First Class Honours in Classics. He himself entered the University as First Bursar of 1880, and left it with the award of the Town Council Gold Medal as the most distinguished student of his year. In the Divinity Hall afterwards of

Edinburgh University he gained the Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Oriental Languages. There he spent the next three and a half years as Assistant to the Professor of Hebrew. He had been about four years assistant minister of Nairn, when Dr Grant, headmaster of Keith School, died. Mr Mair had been a favourite pupil of his, and he had also been for about a year and a half altogether his chief assistant before and during the Divinity course. Dr Grant declared him to be the best assistant he ever had, and it came out after his death that he had expressed a wish for Mr Mair to succeed him. Mr Mair was invited to apply for the vacant headmastership, and, while he had ever wished to be a parish minister and kept his ambition in view, he consented to take up the duties of headmaster of the school of Keith, and that at a time when the candidates for churches far exceeded the vacancies. For twelve strenuous years he acted as headmaster, and in that capacity gained much credit for solid, painstaking, brilliant work. His pupils remember him very kindly and with a wealth of affection, and several of them acquitted themselves so well at the University as to be qualified for the record of their names in the select number commemorated for distinguished scholarship in the school's memorial tablet. It should be recalled that it was at the happy suggestion of Mr Mair that the name of the school was changed to Keith Grammar School. In 1907 Mr Mair was elected minister of Spynie, and for the past twenty years he has been the honoured pastor and the beloved friend of many in that delightful Morayshire parish.

WM. BARCLAY.



A Horse Race in 1706

"At Keith the third day of January 1^m viic and sex years. It is condescended and agreed upon Betwixt the pairties ffollowing viz. Patrick, Master of Oliphant, of the ane pairt and James Mitchell of Achanocie, of the other pairt in manner following, to wit; That upon the first Twesday of Apryle next to come they are to run ane horse Race betwixt Speymouth and Buckie for seven Guineas Gold. The horse to be run for the Master is the mear belonging to Walter Montgomerie in Milne of Ruthven which was run at King Charles fair and that of Achanacies is his own sorall whyte faced who had the course with the mear the said day. The Ryders are to weight seven stone and ane half merchant weight with this provision allways: That the said Walter Montgomerie allow the Master the use of his mear and lastly the loser oblidges himself instantly to pay to the Gainer the said seven Guineas and both pairties oblidge themselves to perform the premises hinc inde to others under the penaltie of two Guineas to be payed by the pairtie failzier to the pairtie observer or willing to observe by and attour performance."

“Bools”

“Will I get te next, Erchie?”

“No, it’s me next, isn’t it, Erchie?”

“It is nut.”

“It is sut.”

Erchie maintains a judicious silence and then a third voice breaks into the altercation: “Gie’s ma fun, I’m nae gaun to fire nae mair.”

The scene is the Church Road just below the school gate; time 190—, but before 1907, when a new rector came who put “bools,” as played on their old pitches, in a lengthy list of forbidden things. Two parallel lines of boys facing each other, are stretched across the road—for this is a “wing glasser” that has been “cockit up,” and a Chinese one to boot—and down the avenue so formed an urchin standing in the “stran’ie” on one side of the street is firing “bools” in long parabolas at the “glasser cockit up” on the opposite pavement. The owner of the “glasser” is “getherin’ the bools” and returning every third one as a “fun.” He is watching the player like a hawk to see that there is “nae hirchin’ ower the score,” and angrily repudiating the charges of envious onlookers who keep on saying “Dinna fire at ’er, Jock, she’s chippit.” Sometimes an “ill-trickit” onlooker intercepts the “bool” on its way through the air and there are loud protests from the firer. There is no need to fear any traffic. An occasional cart goes past or a lorry laden with beef from the Aul’ Toon, but unless Mr James George comes out in his yellow motor car, there will be nothing more dangerous than the funny covered buggy in which Dr Turner goes his rounds.

The “fun” is duly returned, and as often happens, the last shot scores a hit. “Thon’s ’er!” shouts the marksman in triumph. But the claim is disputed: “Awa’, min, it wis a roll-up.” A first-class row is developing when someone calls “Here’s a peg, boys, skirt!” There is a rush for the playground, and when “Little Willie” heaves round the corner the road is deserted and at peace.

What were the rules determining the times and seasons at which “bools” might be played? Were there indeed any rules or was it a matter of chance inspiration, a primal urge in the boyish heart at certain phases of the moon? Wet weather and “bools” went well together; like righteousness and peace they kissed mutually. It took “dubby” roads, for instance, to bring out the fine flavour of games like “chasey” and “holey.” “Chasey” was a game played on the way to and from school. You singled out your opponents and challenged them by saying “Chasey lug min,” or “Chasey lug lug” (to make doubly sure) the mystic word “lug,” if uttered timeously, conferring on you the advantage of

playing last. As soon as you played your "bool" you had to cry "Nithings." If you were slow about it, your opponent might nip in with "Evenies" or "Square Evenies" or "A'things," a term which included all possible advantages. It used to be a moot point whether "Square Evenies" were legitimate at all, and whether the call "Evenies" did not mean "Roun' Evenies" and nothing more. But that, like the controversy over "Played nae lie" at "holey," was never definitely settled.

"Holey" was another game that wet weather favoured. True, the advantage to be gained by the process of "skinking" was diminished when the ground was heavy, but when the hole was filled with water you could go boldly for it and be in no fear of running through. With you in the hole, a cautious opponent might elect to keep away at a safe distance until you were tempted to go for him. His call of "A'things" or "Played" gave him the right to do this, but you could foil him (so one school of opinion maintained) by calling "Played nae lie." "Smouts" and "duntie" were other variants. "Smouts," a common game in Aberdeen, was played but seldom with us, for there were few cement pavements in these days. "Duntie" was a game for dark evenings under a street lamp, and happy were you if you had a good span of fingers for "skicin'," a wall with many a secret "boss" patch and a "stran'" you knew like the back of your hand. Then you might look for success against a stranger, for it was the canny loon that heeded the advice, "My son, with chasey it makes not where you play; but as touching holey and duntie, play them not on the ground of the stranger, lest perchance you go home to your supper runt." This, no doubt, meant playing for safety; it was not the highway to large fortune; it was not the policy of the great entrepreneurs of the "bool" industry, captains and chief estates of the game like "Foxy" Shand in Keith or Andrew "Cruick." on our side of the water. But with players of common clay it kept the wolf from the door; it gave you a competency; and in days when schoolboys' pennies were much scarcer than they are now, it saved you from the final ignominy of BUYING "bools."

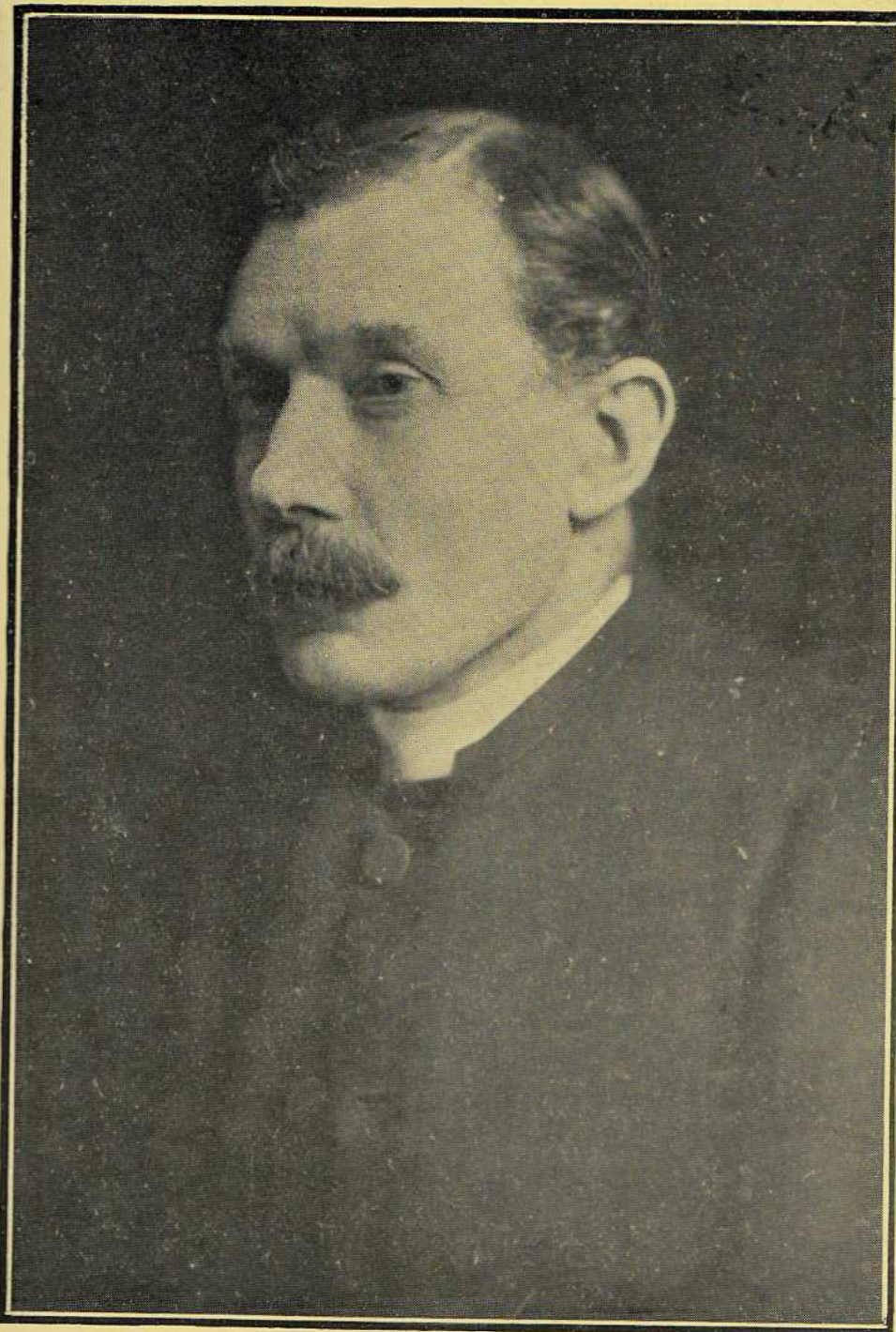
R. R.



Epitaph: From the Greek

Here I Jock Scott frae Peterheid
At saxty year lie dour and deid,
A bachelor—for wed I wadna
And oh! I wish my father hadna.

A. W. MAIR.



Rev. JOHN MAIR, M.A.

1895-1907.

Notes and Comments

OUR AIM AND POLICY.

The Magazine is the organ of the Former Pupils' Association and its purpose is to give form and expression to the ideals for which the Association exists. It is not the plaything of a coterie, and while it is designed primarily for the interest of our members, it aims at reaching a wider circle of readers and contributors than the membership of the Association only. We conceive its main objectives to be these—

(1) To foster the traditions of the school and of the old Scottish life and character by publishing articles of reminiscence and of local history and antiquities.

(2) To provide for its readers pictures of life, aspects of thought, views on music, art and literature, as they present themselves to former pupils at home or abroad.

(3) To collect and disseminate news of former pupils.

So far as practicable we shall try to give due representation to each of these aims. We do not conceal our conviction, however, that the last is by far the most important.

We desire to thank those who have assisted in the production of past numbers of the magazine. The work has been worth while, but it has fallen hitherto on a few shoulders, and it has been at times, in the phrase of one of our contributors, "a fashious job." A magazine like this can only reach its full stature with the assistance of all former pupils whether members or not. We shall be glad to receive contributions from any of our readers, and we specially invite their co-operation in gathering such personal notes as are to be found on pages 26 to 30 of this issue. Articles on any subject, especially vernacular prose or verse, will be welcomed, and the Magazine Committee will be grateful for criticisms and suggestions. Contributions should be sent to the Editor or any member of the Magazine Committee.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

While we very gladly acknowledge our indebtedness to all who have helped to produce this number of the magazine, we may express our special thanks to Mr William Barclay, editor of "The Banffshire Journal" and author of "Schools and Schoolmasters of Banffshire," for his article on the Four Headmasters; to Sir Robert Bruce, editor of "The Glasgow Herald," for permission to publish Professor Mair's translation; to Miss Helen Clark for the drawing which forms the frontispiece; to Mr William Pearson for the photographs of the Junior School and the Aberdeen Branch; and to Mr John Mitchell for his readiness to place his great technical experience at our command.

Personalía

BIRTHS.

- Hunter.—At London, on 4th February, 1926, to the wife of Mr J. G. Hunter (née Magdalene Cuthbert), a son.
- Urquhart.—At Athens on 27th April, 1926, to the wife of Mr R. W. Urquhart, a daughter.
- Corrigall.—At Schoolhouse, Rothiemay, on 28th April, 1926, to the wife of Mr Donald Corrigall (née Jessie Pirie), a daughter.
- Imlah.—At Buckie, on 22nd May, 1926, to the wife of Mr Walter Imlah (née Jeannie Brown), a daughter.
- Hunter.—At Selkirk on 9th September, 1926, to the wife of Mr William Hunter, solicitor (née Marion Davidson), a daughter.
- Morrison.—At 40 Rothwell Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on 16th October, 1926, to the wife of Mr Lewis Morrison, a son.
- Key.—At Cape Town on 25th October, 1926, to the wife of Dr Gordon Key (née Alice S. Bruce), a daughter.
- Nicolson.—At 77 Land Street, Keith, on 29th November, 1926, to the wife of Mr Nicolson (née Minnie Cruickshank), Mudhall, Brodie, a son.

MARRIAGES.

- Morrison—Gordon.—At London on 22nd December, 1925, Lewis Morrison, B.Sc., Armstrong College, Newcastle, son of Mr and Mrs J. Morrison, Cairnie, to Ethel Mary Gordon, B.Sc., Macduff.
- Nairn—McPherson.—At Aberdeen on 23rd December, 1925, Harry J. Nairn, Shanghai, to Mary Helena, youngest daughter of the late John McPherson, J.P., Mains of Mulben.
- McCaskie—Roy.—At Keith on 23rd December, 1925, Charles Stewart McCaskie to Nellie, daughter of the late Robert Roy and of Mrs Roy, 48 Land Street, Keith.
- Stronach—Young.—At Keith on 31st December, 1925, Andrew Stronach to Madge, daughter of Mrs Young, 15 Land Street, Keith.
- Lounds—Will.—At Grantham on 12th January, 1926, Edward Lounds to Hannah Jackson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Will, Turner Street, Keith.
- Munro—Robertson.—At Vancouver, B.C., on 19th March, 1926, John Allan Munro, son of Mr and Mrs John Munro, Regent Street, Fife-Keith, to Agnes, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Robertson, Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen.
- Mayer—Robertson.—At Keith on 8th April, 1926, Samuel Wyatt Mayer, solicitor and bank agent, Keith, to Annie, third daughter of Mr Thomas Robertson, Rosebank, Keith.
- Donald—Slorach.—At Banff on 14th April, 1926, James Donald, elder son of the late James Donald, clothier, Keith, to Helen Slorach, Banff.

- Robertson—Stephen.**—At New York on 14th July, 1926, James, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Robertson, Newmill, to Ella, eldest daughter of the late William Stephen, cattle dealer, and of Mrs Stephen, 63 Mid Street, Keith.
- Robb—Norrie.**—At Aberdeen on 16th June, 1926, James A. T. Robb, son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Robb, 69 Mid Street, Keith, to Christian Norrie, 156 Crown Street, Aberdeen.
- Lobban—Sandison.**—At Keith on 4th August, 1926, George James Lobban, architect, Keith, to Margaret Isabella, only daughter of Mr Wm. Sandison, draper, Keith.
- Watt—McGregor.**—At Keith on 12th August, 1926, Charles, youngest son of the late James Watt, Coldhome, and of Mrs Watt, Keith, to Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr Charles McGregor, Oldmore Lodge, Keith.
- Proctor—Rennet.**—At Chester on 5th October, 1926, Sydney Smith Proctor, M.B., Ch.B., Ampthill, Beds., to Margaret Joyce, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Rennet, Chester.
- Brown—Ross.**—At Aberdeen on 8th November, 1926, William Brown, manager, Milton Distillery, Keith, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late William Ross and of Mrs Ross, Rosebank, Braco Street, Fife-Keith.

DEATHS.

- Laidlaw.**—At Yarrow Bank, Keith, on 15th December, 1925, Margaret Duff, wife of Provost Laidlaw.
- Dick.**—At San Francisco, U.S.A., on 15th January, 1926, James A. Dick, son of the late James Dick, merchant, Keith.
- Kemp.**—At Parkmore, Dufftown, on 20th January, 1926, Margaret, second daughter of the late James Kemp, Parkmore, Dufftown.
- Beverley.**—At Keith on 20th May, 1926, Robert James Taylor, youngest son of the late George Beverley, chemist, and of Mrs Beverley, Elrick Cottage, Keith.
- Thomson.**—At 18 Lauderdale Ave., Glasgow, on 2nd August, 1926, Alex. Scott, eldest son of the late Alex. Thomson, auctioneer, Keith, aged 43 years.
- Neish.**—At Bank House, Lumsden, on 5th August, 1926, Harry S. Neish.
- MacDonald.**—At Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith, on 6th August, 1926 (result of motor cycling accident), George, youngest son of Mr MacDonald (late Highland Railway), and Mrs MacDonald, Keith.
- Imlah.**—At High Street, Buckie, on 2nd October, 1926, Walter Imlah, agent, Union Bank, Cullen and Portknockie.

GENERAL.

Mr William Davidson, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Post Office Telephones, Aberdeen, has been promoted to the post of Traffic Superintendent, Post Office Telephones, Liverpool. Before leaving Aberdeen Mr and Mrs Davidson were entertained

by his colleagues on the Post Office staff and received a presentation. Mr Davidson was the first chairman of the Aberdeen Branch of the Former Pupils' Association. The formation of the Branch was largely due to his initiative, and its present flourishing condition is no small tribute to his energy and popularity.

Mr Alex. F. Laing, solicitor, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Laing, Broomhill Road, Keith, has been assumed as a partner in the firm of Messrs C. & C. Boyd, solicitors, Coupar-Angus.

Miss Elizabeth C. Davidson, M.A., Edithfield, Keith, has obtained an appointment under the Aberdeen Education Authority.

Miss Annie Morrison, M.A., Botriphnie, who was formerly teaching in Golspie, has been appointed to the staff of Keith Grammar School.

Rev. W. Farquharson, M.A., has been called to the charge of Monquhitter and New Byth U.F. Church, and was ordained on 6th October, 1926. He was educated at Keith Grammar School and graduated in Arts in 1923.

Mr Norman C. Anderson has been promoted to the post of assistant superintendent of the postal department of Aberdeen Post Office.

Mr William Turner has recently returned from a voyage round the world.

Miss Christina S. Eddie, M.A., has been appointed assistant headmistress at Aberdeen Girls' High School.

Mr James A. Geddes, son of Mrs Geddes, Broomhill Road, has passed his final law examination entitling him to practise as a solicitor. Mr Geddes was apprenticed with Messrs Kemp & Auchinachie, solicitors, Keith, and is now in a law office in Glasgow.

Mr George A. Currie, B.Sc., has been for the last three years manager of a sugar growing company in Queensland.

Mr James Gordon, president of the Aberdeen Branch of the F.P. Association, was during the past year the president of the Scottish Federation of Merchant Tailors which held its annual conference in Aberdeen last September. On vacating the presidential chair Mr Gordon was presented with a mahogany bureau and Mrs Gordon received a gold wristlet watch.

Mr Thomas A. Duncan, M.A., has won the Foote Scholarship in Hebrew and the Eadie Prize in New Testament Greek at the Aberdeen U.F. Church College.

Mr William Sutherland, assistant superintendent, Aberdeen Post Office, has been promoted to be Postal Superintendent.

Mr C. G. Anderson, son of Mr Charles Anderson, Keith, is a law apprentice with Messrs Martin, Smart, Macdonald & Prosser, W.S., Edinburgh.

Mr Allan Robertson, Santa Cruz, California, is setting out on a tour round the world in the early spring, and hopes to reach his home country in time for the Keith Show.

Mr Allan M. Clark, I.C.S., returned home on leave at the end of April. He sailed again for India in November.

At the annual dinner of the Aberdeen, Banff & Kincardine Association held in Edinburgh in February, Keith F.P.'s were well represented. Mr William Mitchell, K.C., was in the chair. The toast of the "Ladies" was proposed by Mr Henry Mitchell and Miss McGregor replied. Mr Alexander Anderson and Mr T. M. Taylor contributed to the musical programme.

Mr Frank A. G. Inglis has passed the final examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and has been elected an Associate Member of the Institute. After being articled to Dr A. Marshall Mackenzie, architect, Aberdeen, Mr Inglis in 1924 obtained the Diploma at the School of Architecture, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, and was awarded the Henry Jarvis Travelling Studentship open to ex-service men.

Mr and Mrs J. D. McPetrie and their family spent their summer holiday in Lossiemouth. Their many friends in Keith were glad to have this opportunity of renewing acquaintance with them.

Mr James Cruickshank and Mr Alex. Simpson, Penang, have been holidaying in Keith during the summer. Mr Cruickshank has returned to Penang and Mr Simpson sails again for the East early in January.

Mr Alex. Gordon Hastings, M.B., Ch.B., Schoolhouse, Shennell, Cairnie, has been appointed house surgeon in Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Tynemouth.

Miss Annie Jenkins, M.A., has been appointed principal teacher of classics at Fordyce Academy.

Mr James Anderson Moggach, who was till lately overseer of Postal Telegraphs, Aberdeen, has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal. He entered the postal service at Keith in 1879, passed the Civil Service Examination in 1885, and was transferred to Aberdeen, where he has spent the most of his official life. In 1915 he was appointed overseer in the Telegraph Department, Aberdeen, and held that position until July, 1926, when he retired from the service.

Mr William Greenlaw, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., is now in practice at Bury, Lancashire.

Mr John Moir, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., is in practice at Long Eaton, near Nottingham.

Mr William Malcolm, who served his apprenticeship in the Moss Street Branch of the North of Scotland Bank, Keith, and who was lately an Inspector of Branches, has been appointed Agent of the Broad Street Branch, Fraserburgh.

Mr Alexander Davidson has been appointed Agent of the North of Scotland Bank at Findochty.

A new U.F. Church at Whitehills was opened and dedicated by the Very Reverend Principal Cairns, D.D., Aberdeen, on 6th October, 1926. The church is that of the former U.P. body at Banff; its stones and fittings were bought by the Whitehills congregation, transferred to that village and re-erected there with a handsome spire. The minister of the congregation is the Rev. W. S. Laing, M.A.

The death of Mr Frank Gordon MacIntosh, architect, Whitecrook, Pretoria, occurred on 16th September, 1926. He was the son of the late Mr John MacIntosh, joiner, Keith. He emigrated to South Africa in 1889, and after working some time as a carpenter, he set up as an architect in Pretoria. He soon established a very successful business and was responsible for the carrying out of a number of large contracts in different parts of South Africa. Mr MacIntosh married Miss Henderson, Whitecrook, Keith, and is survived by his wife and a family of three sons and three daughters.

Mr William Davidson, accountant, North of Scotland Bank, Turriff, has been appointed agent of the bank at Mintlaw. Mr Davidson served his apprenticeship with the late Mr Adam Annand, Moss Street Bank, Keith, and was later at Nairn, Inverness and Tain.

The Rev. William Robertson Brown, M.A., Kerse Parish Church, Grangemouth, has been inducted to the charge of St. Modan's Parish Church, Falkirk. Mr Brown, who is a son of the late Mr W. Brown, Burnside, Newmill, was educated at Keith Grammar School and at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, where he had a distinguished academic record. He acted as assistant in Hamilton for three years and was called to Kerse Parish in 1914. During the war he served in France and Italy as a chaplain in the 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Mr Robert A. Cameron, formerly of Bogbain, is now sub-tenant of the farms of Tauchers and Rosarie, Mulben.

Mr John S. Taylor, M.D., D.P.H., City Hospital, Aberdeen, has been appointed assistant Medical Officer of Health at Manchester.

Mr Peter Grant has recently purchased the estate of Auchinderran.

Mr Jack Mitchell, Gowanlea, Drum Road, has gone to Leicester to study motor engineering.

Miss May Pirie is a missionary in the Church of Scotland Mission at Tumutumu, Nyeri, Kenya Colony.

Miss Bessie McCallum, Auchinhove, has gone to Singapore as a nursing sister in the new Government hospital there.

Mr Alexander Emslie, rector, Keith Grammar School, has resigned from the rectorship and left Keith.

The Late Mr Charles McGregor

We regret to announce the death of Mr Charles McGregor, which took place at Oldmore Lodge, Keith, on 24th December, 1926.

Mr McGregor, like the ancient Nestor, had seen two generations of mortal men pass away, and among the third generation he held rule. When such a figure leaves the scene, it is more than a mere incident in the story of a community. For his old scholars in many lands it is a portent that declares the extinction of one of the fixed lights, and warns them that more and more they must lay their courses by unfamiliar stars. His passing not only removes a personality that is among the most vivid memories of our early school days. It marks the end of an epoch, for we know that in him we beheld the last of the Romans. We shall not look upon his like again.

Mr McGregor's interest in the Former Pupils' Association was from the first keen and untiring, and it was to him a source of much satisfaction to know the affection and gratitude with which his old pupils regarded him. Last September he was, to the delight of all, present at the visit of the Aberdeen Branch to Keith, and it is due to his efforts that we are able in this number to publish the interesting photographs of the four headmasters.

Of recent years his hardy frame became less "swippert" than of yore, but his cheerful temper was unimpaired. With philosophic resignation he discerned the coming on of years and thought not to do the same things still. When even his favourite game of bowls was beyond his strength, he yielded to no vain repinings; "every age," he used to say, "has its compensations." So, like Dante's good mariner, when he drew near the port, he lowered his sails and entered it softly with gentle steerage.

Former Pupils at Aberdeen University

Faculty of Arts.

Jean Ann Stuart, Keith, and Wilson Hird Smith, Keith,
have obtained the degree of M.A.

MERIT LISTS.

Latin (Junior Honours)—

6th, equal, Kenneth M. Laing, Glenlivet.

10th, Thomas J. Laing, Glenlivet.

Greek (Advanced)—

1st, Kenneth M. Laing.

8th, Thomas J. Laing.

Mediaeval Palaeography—

4th, equal, Thomas J. Laing.

11th, Kenneth M. Laing.

Comparative Philology—

5th, equal, Kenneth M. Laing.

8th, equal, Thomas J. Laing.

Moral Philosophy—

8th, equal, Wilson H. Smith.

Mathematics—

9th, Adeline Grant.

21st, John Goodall.

Natural Philosophy—

5th, John Goodall.

23rd, Adeline Grant.

Chemistry—

Bronze Medal, Adeline Grant.

2nd Class Certificate, John Goodall.

Zoology—

2nd Class Certificate, Elspeth M. Milne.

Geology—

1st Class Certificate, John Goodall.

2nd Class Certificate, Adeline Grant.

History—

11th, Elspeth M. Milne.

20th, Jean A. Stuart.

Faculty of Law.

William Allan Leslie, Keith, has obtained the degree of B.L. (with distinction). He was 1st in Conveyancing and 4th in Jurisprudence, and he won the Edmond Prize which is awarded to the student graduating in law with the highest number of marks.

Faculty of Medicine.

John Stevenson Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., has obtained the degree of M.D. (with honours). His thesis was (1) The newer knowledge of diphtheria and scarlet fever and its application in hospital practice and in community immunisation. (2) The photometry of therapeutic lamps. (3) The measurement of the content of Vitamin A and Vitamin D in cod liver oil and its clinical application.

Alexander Gordon Hastings has obtained the degree of M.B., Ch.B.

MERIT LIST.

Practice of Medicine—Silver Medal, Mary Riddoch.



School News, 1925-1926

Dr Grant Gold Medal, Dux of the School—Isobel G. Geddes, Keith.

Silver Medals:

English—Isobel G. Geddes.
Latin—Isobel G. Geddes.
Mathematics—Isobel G. Geddes.
French—Mary E. Fiddes.
German—Mary E. Fiddes.

Bronze Medals:

Science—Robert G. Rhind.
Dux, Class V.—Robert G. Rhind.
Dux, Class IV.—Alice Milne (Little Gibston).
Dux, Class III.—Florence Traves (Towiemore).
Dux, Class II.—Janetta M. Johnston (Newmill).
Dux, Class I.—Lewis J. Mitchell.
Dux, Primary School—Wm. Innes.

Special Prizes:

- Drawing and Painting (presented by "Well-wisher")—
(a) Mary C. Goodall (Class IV.).
(b) Janetta M. Johnston (Class II.).
Latin (Prize of £1 for best scholar, presented by "An Appreciative Parent")—Mary E. Fiddes.
Scots Vernacular—18 Book Prizes (presented by a Member of the F.P. Association)—
Class III.—Equal, Eliz. Gilligan, Jean Chapman, Netta McD. Riddoch.
Class II.a.—1 Ellen Simpson, 2 Isobel Will.
Class II.b.—1 Gladys Stephen, 2 Ann Geddes.
Class II.c.—1 Wm. Jamieson, 2 Jean Stuart.
Class I.a.—1 Winifred Davidson, 2 Mary Craib.
Class I.b.—Chrissie Webster.
Class I.c.—Wm. Porter.
Primary V.—Equal, Wm. Innes, Winifred Milne.
Primary IV.a.—Douglas Allan.
Primary IV.b.—1 Charlotte Grant, 2 Edith Low.

Aberdeen University Bursary Competition:

- 34th—Mary E. Fiddes.
43rd—Isobel G. Geddes.

Glasgow University Bursary Competition:

- 54th—Isobel G. Geddes.

Donaldson Prize Fund (Knowledge of the Scriptures):

- George Smith (Class IV.)—Prize of £1.
Elizabeth Mutch (Class VI.)—Book prize.

Leaving Certificate Results:

- (1) Six Group Certificates—Wm. B. Cowie (H.E., H.F., H.M., H.L., L.Gk.); Catherine Goodall (H.E., H.F., H.M.); Eliz. Mutch (H.E., H.F., L.M., L.Ger.); Robt. Rhind (H.E., H.F., H.M., H.L., H.Sc.); Ann B. Smart (H.E., H.F., L.M.); Isabella Taylor (H.E., H.F., H.L., L.Ger.).
- (2) Two Junior Student Certificates—Catherine Goodall and Ann B. Smart.
- (3) Three Day School Certificates (Higher)—Mildred M. Cruickshank, Alexander Gordon, Mary MacGregor.

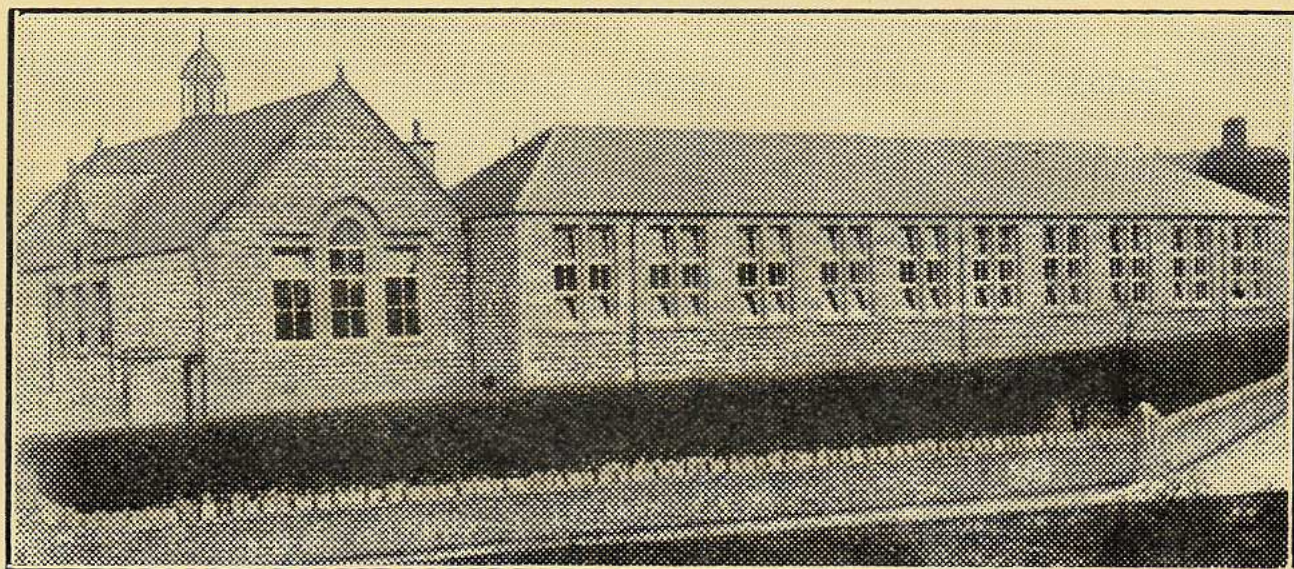
School Sports Championships:

Upper School—Girls—Margaret Reilly. Boys—Alex. Rutherford.

Middle School—Girls—Isobel Goodall. Boys—John Barbour.

Lower School—Girls—Jane Young Murray. Boys—George Denny Taylor.

The Playing Field Fund now amounts to £322 13s 1d.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL TO-DAY.

Statement of Accounts for Year 1925

1925.

INCOME.

By 1 Life Member - - - - -	£2 0 0	
186 Ordinary Members at 2/6 each - - -	23 5 0	
54 Ordinary Members, Aberdeen Branch, 2/6 each	6 15 0	
Dr J. Allan Gray (for Vernacular Prize), 1925 -	2 2 0	
Dr J. Allan Gray (for Vernacular Prize), 1926 -	2 2 0	
Proceeds from Re-Union, 1924 - - - -	1 17 6	
Transferred from Dr Grant Fund - - -	2 3 7	
Interest on Deposit in Bank - - - -	0 9 5	
	<hr/>	£40 14 6
		<hr/>
		£40 14 6
		<hr/>
At Credit at beginning of year - - - -	£41 18 5	
Credit Balance on year's working - - -	1 13 6	
	<hr/>	£43 11 11

1925.

EXPENDITURE.

Mar. 2—To John Mitchell & Son for Printing and Publishing Account - -	£25 17 8	
Mar. 2—To C. D. Wilson, Jeweller, Elgin, for Medal and Engraving (1924) -	1 13 6	
July 2—To John Mitchell & Son (Prizes for Vernacular) - - - - -	2 2 0	
Aug. 3—To C. D. Wilson, Jeweller, Elgin, for Medal and Engraving (1925) -	1 13 9	
Sept. 25—Carriage on Dr Grant Memorial to Edinburgh - - - - -	0 3 8	
Dec. 7—To Wm. McConachie, Hirer, for expenses of Miss Grant's funeral -	3 6 6	
Dec. 24—To Knowles & Son, Aberdeen, for wreath for the late Miss Grant (per Mr Emslie) - - - - -	1 9 5	
Dec. —Hon. Treasurer's Outlays - - -	0 17 0	
Proceeds of Re-union, 1924, to Dr Grant Memorial Fund - - -	1 17 6	
	<hr/>	39 1 0
Credit Balance on year's working - - -	- - -	1 13 6
		<hr/>
		£40 14 6
		<hr/>
Cash in Deposit Receipt - - -	£33 3 1	
Cash in Bank (Current Account) -	9 4 2	
Cash in Hon. Treasurer's hands -	1 4 8	
	<hr/>	£43 11 11

The above Statement of Accounts examined and found correct.

G. PETRIE HAY.

KEITH GRAMMAR SCHOOL F.P. ASSOCIATION.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

President.

Ex-Bailie George Petrie Hay, Keith.

Honorary President.

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

Vice-Presidents.

Ex-Bailie Charles McGregor, Oldmore, Keith.

Mr William Davidson, Chairman of Aberdeen Branch.

Hon. Secretary.

Mr John Mitchell, Keith.

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs Robert Thomson, Mid Street, Keith.

COUNCIL.

Mr William Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh.

Mr John Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.

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

Mrs Garrow, Keith.

Miss Elsie J. Raffan, M.A., Balnamoon, Grange.

Miss Mary Riddoch, B.Sc., Tarryblake, Grange.

Miss E. J. Stewart, Glencottar, Keith.

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

Mr Charles Machattie, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., Serai, Bagdad, Iraq.

Mr J. A. R. Paterson, M.B., Old Cumnock, Ayrshire.

Mr Herbert J. Sandison, Keith.

Mr Wilson H. Smith, Aberdeen.

Mr Alexander Sutherland, Boharm.

Mr Edward R. Taylor, M.A., Leith.

Mr George Taylor, Westview, Keith.

Mr J. S. Taylor, M.B., D.P.H., City Hospital, Aberdeen.

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

Mr Bert Fraser, Keith.

Mr Alex. Davidson, Edithfield, Keith.

COMMITTEES.

Magazine.—Mrs R. Thomson, Miss E. J. Stewart, Mr Wilson H. Smith, Mr A. M. Clark, M.A., I.C.S.; Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A., and Mr T. M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B. (Editor).

Re-union.—Mrs R. Thomson, Mrs Garrow, Miss Ruth Smith, Miss Jeanie Taylor, Mr G. J. Lobban, Mr Geo. Taylor, and Mr Herbert J. Sandison (Convener).

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

Sports Field.—Mrs Thomson, Mr Fraser, Mr Geo. Taylor, Mr Mitchell, and Mr Emslie (Convener).

COUNCIL REPORT.

Dr J. Allan Gray, Leith, again offered prizes amounting to £2 2/- for the encouragement of knowledge of the Scots vernacular tongue, the competition being conducted by Mr Alexr. Emslie, M.A., Rector. The Association conveyed to Dr Gray its cordial appreciation of his generosity and continued interest in the school.

The Council granted the usual donation of a silver medal and a sum of £5 for the School Sports' Fund.

A credit balance of £4 2/- was intimated from the annual re-union.

In accordance with the remit from the Annual Meeting the Council appointed Magazine and Re-union Committees respectively. Mr Emslie intimated that he could not see his way to continue in the office of Editor. The Council was unanimously of opinion that Mr T. M. Taylor be asked to fill the vacancy, and a remit was made to the Magazine Committee accordingly. At a subsequent meeting of the Council the Magazine Committee intimated that Mr Taylor had accepted office.

On 18th September the members of the Aberdeen Branch, to the number of about 50, paid a visit to Keith. They were met at the Grammar School by the officials and members of the Association, and spent a short time there examining the War and Dr Grant Memorials, and the school generally. The President accorded to the visitors a very cordial welcome. Following upon a service of tea and a vote of thanks to the Keith members, on the call of Mr John Barclay, M.A., Treasurer, the company adjourned to Church Road, where Mr Gordon, President of the Aberdeen Branch, placed a laurel wreath, bearing appropriate inscription, on the Parish War Memorial.

The Council fixed the date of the Annual Meeting for Wednesday, 29th December, deciding also, on the suggestion of Mr T. M. Taylor, conveyed by letter, that the meeting be held at 3 p.m. in the School Hall, that it take the form of a Thé Chantant, followed by the transaction of business; that the cost of the tea be paid by the Association; that all members receive a personal invitation to be present, and that in the case of married members the invitation should include their husbands or wives; that a dance be held in the evening of the same day from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Aberdeen Branch

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

This Branch has now practically reached the end of its second year, and continues to flourish. The Membership to date stands at 102—71 Ordinary Members and 31 Associated Members. Twenty-five new members have joined in the course of this year.

The arrangements for meeting socially once a month in the West End Café during the winter of 1925-1926 were fully carried out. The gatherings were well attended, the members enthusiastic, and the proceedings on every occasion were greatly enjoyed. The programme for the current session follows the same lines as that for last year.

Early in the year the Committee of the Branch arranged to visit patients—both Former Pupils and others from Keith—who might be undergoing treatment at any time in the Hospitals of Aberdeen. A sub-committee, consisting of Mrs Barclay, Miss Emslie, and Messrs Alex. Anderson and Frank Inglis (convener), was appointed to take charge of the matter, and the sub-committee or the Secretary will be glad to receive the names of any such patients, so that arrangements may be made for visiting them.

The Branch is the poorer, since its inception, through the removal from the city of some of its most enthusiastic members, who have received promotion in their several spheres. While regretting the loss of these members, the Branch offers them its hearty congratulations and good wishes.

A much anticipated and very successful outing to the "Homeland" took place on Saturday, 11th September, when a company of over 50 members and friends journeyed to Keith to spend an afternoon among "oor ain fowk," revisiting the haunts of youth and renewing old associations. The reception accorded to them by the Parent Association at the Grammar School gave the greatest pleasure to all, and to many who had not visited Keith for years the recollection of the day will remain as a happy and lasting memory.

The student members take an active and energetic part in the work of the Branch, as far as their University studies permit, and by their freshness and keen zest in life, leaven the seriousness of maturer members.

ABERDEEN BRANCH OFFICE-BEARERS.

Hon. President—Mr David M. Andrew, M.A., Rector, Aberdeen Grammar School.

President—Mr James Gordon, 138 George Street, Aberdeen.

Vice-President—Mr Norman C. Anderson, 1 Hilton Avenue, Woodside, Aberdeen.

Secretary—Miss Annie Robertson, Denmore Schoolhouse, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.

Treasurer—Mr John M. Barclay, M.A., 11 Rosebery Street, Aberdeen.

Committee—Mrs Barclay, Mrs Moir, Miss Emslie, Miss Eddie, Messrs F. A. G. Inglis, A. Anderson, J. Cruickshank, with the Student Representatives, Miss Jean Stewart, M.A.; Miss Adeline Grant, and Mr John Goodall.



ABERDEEN BRANCH AT KEITH,

11th September, 1926.

The group includes ex-Bailie George Petrie Hay, Mr James Gordon, ex-Bailie Charles McGregor, Mr John Mitchell, Mrs Robert Thomson, Miss Annie Robertson, and Mr John M. Barclay.

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. A rebate of 1/- per member shall be paid to the Aberdeen Branch.

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. That the annual general meeting be held on a date to be fixed by the Council 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. In the case of the Aberdeen Branch a general meeting may be called at any time on the requisition of ten members of the Branch, same to be intimated by the Council under the signatures of the Branch Chairman and Secretary.

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., late Rector, Keith Grammar School.
Rev. D. M. Forrester, U.F. Manse, Broughton, Peebles-shire.
Charles George, S.S.C., 31 Alva Street, Edinburgh.
Mrs Gilchrist (née Alice Mitchell), 30 Great King Street, Edinburgh.
John Gillies, M.A., Caerleon, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
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, Richmond Road, Huntly.
Alex. J. Innes, Box 461 E/Ville, Congo Belge, Central Africa.
Ex-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).
Professor A. W. Mair, 9 Corrennie Drive, Edinburgh.
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.
William Riddoch, M.A., LL.D., Mackie Academy, Stonehaven.
Allan Robertson, M.A., 39 Second Street, Santa Cruz, California.
F. W. Robertson, 28 Cameron Street, Stonehaven.
Robert Roy, Val D'Or Estate, Bukit Tambun, Province Wellesley, Straits Settlements.
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.
Dr R. S. Turner, 18 Dean Park Crescent, Edinburgh.
Wm. Turner, Villa Palma, Algeciras, Gibraltar.
Miss E. Addison, Hazelwood, Union Street, Keith.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- Alexander Anderson, 69 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh.
 Wm. Anderson, Jr., Santa Elena, Rios, Argentine, South America.
 Charles G. Anderson, 14 Hillside Street, Edinburgh.
 James Anderson, M.R.C.V.S., Craigisla, Keith.
 Miss J. Anderson, 40 Fife Street, Fife-Keith.
 Miss B. Anderson, Brunscar, Keith.
 Miss B. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.
 James Annand, 136 Moss Street, Keith.
 Miss M. S. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.
 Patrick D. Annand, 102 Mid Street, Keith.
 P. Stewart Annand, St. Ninian's, Banff Road, Keith.
 Alexander Auchinachie, Beaufort, Keith.
 Mrs Balfour (née Agnes H. Moir), 75 Glasgow Road, Perth.
 Miss Alice S. Barclay, Tortorston School, Peterhead.
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