

placed in circumstances that shall nurse and unfold it. Thus, beside the ordinary and everyday effects of this education, we have its necessary tendency to mature and to disclose rare capacity of the highest order—all that is called genius; a Watt to alter the whole face of the world by the changes which his profound science and matchless skill produced, each change an improvement, and adding to the happiness of mankind; a Burns whose immortal verse makes the solace and the delight of his countrymen in every age and every country where their lot may be cast.

"But it is also fit that we should, on this occasion, consider in what language Burn's poems, at least by far the most celebrated, and the most justly celebrated, are written. It is the language, the pure and classical language of Scotland which must on no account be regarded as a provincial dialect, any more than French was so regarded in the reign of Henry V., or Italian in that of the First Napoleon, or Greek under the Roman Empire. Nor is it to be in any manner of way considered as a corruption of the Saxon; on the contrary, it contains much of the old and genuine Saxon, with an intermixture from the northern nations, as Danes and Norse, and some, though a small adoption, from the Celtic. But in whatever way composed, or from whatever sources arising, it is a national language, used by the whole people in their early years, by many learned and gifted persons throughout life, and in which are written the laws of the Scotch, their judicial proceedings, their ancient history, above all, their poetry. Its Saxon origin may be at once proved by the admitted fact, that Barbour, Chaucer's contemporary, is more easily understood by an English reader at this day, than the Saxon of the father of English poetry. The merits of the Scotch language are attested, as regards conciseness, by the brevity of the Scotch statutes compared with the English, and as regards clearness,

by the fact that there has been much more frequent occasion for judicial interpretation of the latter than of the former. But the peculiar value of the language arises from the great body of national poetry entirely composed in it, both in very remote times and in those nearer our own day; and there can be no doubt that the English language, especially its poetical diction, would greatly gain by being enriched with a number, both of words and of phrases, or turns of expression, now peculiar to the Scotch.

"The events which brought about the general disuse of the Scotch language—first, the union of the Crowns, but infinitely more, that of the kingdoms—have not extinguished the great works in which it is preserved. It stands in very different circumstances from the Italian in this important respect. The accident of the great writers, especially the poets, being Tuscans, in all probability prevented the dialect of Venice from being the classical language of Italy, and its great beauties make men lament that it is not partially adopted into the more expressive but harsher Tuscan, the prevalency of which has kept all poets of eminence from using any other. Scotland stands very differently in this important particular; for the greatest of modern lyric poets has used the Scotch alone. Assuredly had either Dante or Petrarch been Venetians, the Tuscan would have divided its sovereignty with the dialect of Venice. Let it be added, that the greatest poet after Burns, whom Scotland has produced (there wants no mention of T. Campbell), was wont to lament the inability of using his mother tongue with the mastery which he had so happily gained over a foreign language."

The receipts of the Great Western Railway for the week ending May 6, 1859, amounted to \$35,658 01½; corresponding week last year, \$44,607 38½.