

THE LIFE OF IAN MACLAREN



EVER since Dr. John Watson died it has seemed to those who knew him an absolutely necessary thing that his life should be written. While it was in a large measure true of him that the man was in the books which he left behind him, it was felt very strongly by all who had had the privilege of coming into contact with him—by those who had merely seen him and heard him no less than by his familiars—that, self-revealing as the books were, there was in the man himself a charm and brilliancy greater than ever had been communicated to them. When he died the great world grieved that there could never be another "Bonnie Brier Bush," but those to whom I have referred sorrowed most to know that never again would they feel the warm grasp of his hand, look upon that strong kindly face, or hear the voice to which men could not choose but listen, as it called them to gaiety or solemnity, to laughter or to tears. It was my privilege to meet Dr. Watson only once—on the last occasion in which he was in Belfast. But ever since the day on which I saw him first—a memorable day as it was in his life—that of the opening of Westminster College, Cambridge, I have been under the spell of his personality. I never missed an opportunity of hearing him preach, and, although it would not be right to describe him as the greatest preacher I have ever heard, I can honestly say that there is no one whom I would have gone further to hear. Even with the slight knowledge that I had of him, I am prepared to affirm that there was a magnetism about him, about his manner and his converse, which was far more efficacious and pervasive than that which emanated from his books. In order to get a just estimate of his powers, it was essential that account should be taken of this. But how should a grace that was so elusive be preserved, how should those who had never seen Dr. Watson smile, had

never listened to his telling of a story, had never heard his voice in trembling pity or in withering scorn, be made to realize the ineffable charm of the man himself. It was indeed a difficult task, yet it was necessary that it should be essayed, and by universal consent there was no one who could attempt it with greater hope of success than the versatile journalist and man of letters, of whom in later years Dr. Watson, referring to the circumstances that led to the publication of the "Bonnie Brier Bush," wrote to Principal Dale—"Nicoll made me write." There is no one who reads Dr. Robertson Nicoll's life of his friend, published the other day by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, who will not confess that his work has been supremely well done. It is the best book that Dr. Nicoll has written. Inspired throughout by loving sympathy and wholehearted yet discriminating admiration, it is indeed a noble offering on the altar of friendship.

Dr. Nicoll has seized upon and given the prominence due to the salient element in Dr. Watson's personality—his Celtic temperament. That comes out clearly in his books, and, as I may be pardoned for recalling, was pointed out in this column over two years ago. It was fully realized and proudly acknowledged by Dr. Watson himself. It has interested me much to find that, while he was intellectually at the opposite pole from Roman Catholicism, the mystic element in Catholicism had a great fascination for him. I have heard him contend in sprightly mood—there is no harm in telling this now—that it is a mistake to try to convert the Irish to Protestantism; that to make them Protestants would only spoil them. Dr. Nicoll gives a striking example of the strength of Dr. Watson's sympathetic imagination in this respect. He was once in a Roman Catholic church in Italy, and got into conversation with a woman, whom he had previously watched as she engaged devoutly

in prayer. "Don't you," the woman asked of him, "ever pray to the Mother of God?" "No," said Watson, "for it seems to me that all you find which is holy and helpful and adorable in the character of that most revered and beautiful woman, all that and infinitely more I find in her Divine Son." "Yes, sir," she said wistfully, "I understand that, but you are a man, and you do not know how a woman needs a woman to pray to." "My dear good soul," said Watson, very gently, "Yes, yes, I understand. I think I know something of a woman's heart, of a woman's needs. I take back all I said. Forgive it, forget it. Do not let any word of mine stand between you and your prayers to the Mother of our Lord." Dr. Watson married, as many of my readers are aware, a Glasgow lady, a near relative of the distinguished Irish poet, whom Belfast counts one of her greatest sons, Sir Samuel Ferguson. This and other things led him to think a good deal about Ireland, and one deliverance of his on the subject is quoted—"If," he said, "the just and honorable, but perhaps over-sensible and somewhat phlegmatic, persons who have in recent times had charge of Irish affairs, and have been trying to unravel the tangled skein, had appreciated the tricky spirit which inhabits the Irish mind, and had made a little more allowance for people who are not moved by argument and the multiplication table, but are touched by sentiment and romance, as well as vastly tickled by the absurdity of things, they might have achieved greater success and done more good to a chivalrous, unworldly, quick-witted, and warm-hearted people." This saying is very characteristic, and if it does not contain the whole truth about Ireland it does embody a truth which is worthy of more consideration than it has received. It is not enough that he who tries to govern Irishmen should have a sense of humor, but I think it will be admitted that without that sense he will be very seriously handicapped.

Dr. Watson matured late. The writer of his biography states his belief that this was due to the silent conflict that in his earlier days proceeded within him between the somewhat narrow Evangelicalism in which he was reared and the broader views into which he afterwards entered. At Logiealmond his preaching was unequal, and depended upon the mood in which he was; he was subject to fits of acute depression. With all his brilliance he was curiously unequal to the end. Yet everything with which he took pains he did well. His best literary work was in his first books, over which he took immense trouble. To preaching, on the other hand, he became more devoted as he became more deeply conscious of the office of the sermon in Christian worship, and his preaching became every year more notable. To his doing of his best work a sympathetic atmosphere was essential, and he found it when, but not until, he settled in Liverpool. Sir Edward Russell says "that his strength lay in the many-sidedness of his sympathies. He could preach sermons which pleased the Evangelicals, sermons which pleased the Unitarians, sermons indicating great breadth, and sermons of such intensity and urgent appeal that they might have come from a flaming evangelist in the great revival." There have been few men of larger mental hospitality than Watson. He rejoiced in recognizing how much he had in common with men of every party. Watson was what he was by reason of the saving grace of humor. He was absolutely free from that disease, almost invariably the accompaniment of popularity, which is colloquially known as swelled head. He was always ready to make fun at his own expense. He counted it the chief defect in Mr. Gladstone's character, that he was devoid of the sense of humor, and when he heard that he was reading "The Bonnie Brier Bush" he wrote to Mrs. Stephen Wil-

liamson, "Hope the book will not make Mr. Gladstone weep for his eyes' sake." When Dr. Nicoll asked him to write a certain article for the Expositor he replied:—

"My faith in human nature is, however, much shaken by the fact that the editor of the Expositor, who is supposed to be its friend and protector, has insisted upon a man whose mind is doddering devastating the pages of the Expositor with a subject which has been adequately treated by eminent scholars, and about which the proposed writer knows very little more than a village pastor. He is sorry to think that the days of the Expositor, a useful though didactic magazine, are so near an end, and humiliated that he has been chosen to give the coup de grace."

In another letter to Dr. Nicoll, after a reference to Morley's "Cromwell," which he had been reading, on which he passes judgment as a fine piece of writing, but as history not to be compared with Firth or Gardiner, he adds:—

"Although this is a valuable remark, and contains news which might not otherwise reach your ears, I make no charge. I am that kind of man."

Dr. Nicoll dwells at length on Watson's gifts as a raconteur, which were certainly of the very greatest. "The charm of his talk," says his biographer, "largely depended upon his insight into human character, its joys, its sorrows, and its weaknesses. This peculiar insight and the power of mimicry which he inherited from his mother, together with the tones of his voice and the changing expressions of his face, put him in the front rank of talkers and after-dinner speakers." Several of his stories are given. Most of them are good to read, but one cannot help feeling how much their humor was enhanced by the manner in which they were told. It seems almost sacrilege that any other than Dr. Watson himself should try to tell them—"Quill," in Belfast Whig.

British Emigration Report



RETURN to an order of the House of Commons for a copy of the statistical tables relating to emigration and immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1907 and the report to the Board of Trade thereon have just been issued as a Parliamentary paper [292].

The report states that the numbers of inward and outward passengers of all classes and nationalities in and from non-European countries were 634,949 and 293,633 respectively, showing a balance of outward over inward passengers of 341,316. The figures for 1907 were the highest recorded, the number of outgoing passengers, that of incoming passengers, and the net number of outgoing passengers, being each in excess of the corresponding figures for any previous year. Of the total number of outgoing passengers, 110,041 were cabin passengers and 524,908 steerage passengers.

Assuming that the number of passengers who travelled for pleasure or for business reasons was about equal in each direction, it would appear that the net number of outgoing passengers roughly represents the number of actual emigrants, whether of British or foreign nationality, leaving the United Kingdom with the intention of settling in non-European countries. On this assumption the total number of "emigrants"—i.e., the total balance outward—appears as 341,316; the number of British and Irish "emigrants" appearing as 235,092, and the number of foreign "emigrants" as 106,224. The foreign "emigrants" were for the most part bound for the United States.

In 1907 there were 949,379 inward and 835,994 outward passengers between Great Britain and the Continent, showing a balance of inward passengers of 113,385. The passenger movement between this country and Europe was greater in both directions in 1907 than in any previous year.

The passenger movement between the United Kingdom and non-European countries was largely a movement between Great Britain and other parts of the British Empire. There were 212,672 British outward passengers and 81,239 British inward passengers as between the United Kingdom and the overseas British possessions, showing an excess of 131,433 outward. Of foreigners there were 37,947 who left Great Britain for other parts of the Empire and 24,093 who came from our Colonies to the United Kingdom, showing an excess of 13,854 outward. During the year 366,396 persons went to the United States from Great Britain and 171,642 persons came from the United States (including 196,126 and 101,247 foreigners respectively), an excess outward of 194,754.

The information which the Board of Trade have statutory power to obtain with regard to the countries from and to which the passengers proceed consists of particulars as to the ports at which the incoming passengers embark and those at which the outgoing passengers contract to land. It is known that in the case of North America a number of passengers to and from Canada disembark and embark at ports in the United States, and that conversely a number of passengers to and from the United States disembark and embark at Canadian ports. As regards the outward movement, returns furnished by the courtesy

of shipping companies show that, during 1907, 2,287 British and 11,169 foreign passengers who contracted to land at ports in British North America were known to be proceeding to the United States; and that 4,750 British and 2,539 foreign passengers who contracted to land in the United States were known to be proceeding to British North America. These voluntary returns cannot be regarded as affording a complete account of the indirect passenger movement from the United Kingdom to British North America and the United States, and no corresponding returns are available in respect of the indirect inward movement, but the returns obtained are of interest as indicating that accurate conclusions as to the countries to and from which the passengers travel cannot be drawn from the statutory returns alone.

Of last year's outward passengers, 250,687, or 39 per cent, contracted to land at ports within the British Empire, 185,831 going to British North America, 23,264 to British South Africa, 25,067 to Australia and New Zealand, 8,601 to India and Ceylon, and 7,924 to other British Colonies and possessions. The remaining 384,262, or 61 per cent of the total outward passengers, went to foreign countries, including 366,396, or 58 per cent, to the United States. As compared with 1906 these figures show an increase of 44,045 in the number of passengers to British North America, and an increase of 27,784 in the number to the United States. Of the British and Irish passengers outward, 212,672, or 54 per cent, are shown in the statutory returns to have contracted to land in countries within the British Empire, 38 per cent going to British North America, 6 per cent to British South Africa, 6 per cent to Australia and New Zealand, 2 per cent to British India and Ceylon, and the remainder to other British colonies and possessions. Forty-six per cent went to foreign countries, including 43 per cent to the United States. The number of British and Irish passengers to South Africa was 20,925, or 4,787 less than the number who returned therefrom. The number of those who proceeded to British North America was 151,216, as compared with 114,859 in 1906, a number itself in excess of any previous figures, and the number of those who proceeded to the United States rose from 144,817 in 1906 to 170,264 in 1907. The number of foreign passengers to British North America was greater than in the three preceding years, but was still below the high figures of 1902 and 1903. The number to the United States rose slightly from 193,568 in 1906 to 196,126 in 1907.

As before stated, the number of outgoing passengers in 1907 was the greatest yet recorded. The total number rose from 557,737 in 1906 to 834,949 in 1907, an increase of nearly 14 per cent, largely, but not entirely, due to an increase in the number of British and Irish passengers. Of the total of 634,949, 89,286, or 14 per cent, were children of 12 years of age or less. Of the remaining 545,663, all described as "adults" for the purpose of the Merchant Shipping Acts, 350,623 were males, and 195,040 females. Of the total number of outgoing British and Irish passengers in 1907, English passengers formed 67 per cent, Scottish 17 per cent, and Irish 16 per cent, as compared with 68, 16, and 16 respectively in 1906.

In 1907 the net balance outward of British and Irish passengers was 235,092; the balance

outward to British North America being 117,525; to Australia and New Zealand, 13,896; and to the United States, 99,944. There was a balance inward from British South Africa of 4,787 persons, and a balance outward of 8,514 to other destinations. The net balance outward to all British possessions was 131,433, or 56 per cent of the total; and to foreign countries 103,659, or 44 per cent.

WHEN NELSON PASSED

Some ten weeks after the sea fight in which he died victorious the body of the most noble Lord Horatio Nelson, Vice-Admiral of the White Squadron of the Fleet, was, says the Standard of Empire, brought home to the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich. All up and down the river that winter's day the bells were tolling, minute guns were booming, and colors flew half-mast high. The great iron Water Gates of the Hospital stood wide to receive the coffin. Between the stately palaces of dead Kings and Queens, past the central statue of King George the Second, up the steps to the terrace, the funeral train bore the hero into the Painted Hall. They laid him upon the catafalque, set up on the dais, there to lie in state during four days. So Nelson came home from the sea, to the people of the sea, his own people.

On January 8, they took him away, in a storm of wind and rain. The coffin was brought by river to the Admiralty in a long procession of state barges, attended by nine Admirals, five hundred Greenwich Pensioners, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London, and received at Whitehall Stairs by Norroy, King of Arms, with nine heralds and pursuivants. On the 9th the funeral went in procession to St. Paul's, where it may be said that England herself was visibly present.

But Nelson lay first of all among his own men, the men of the sea, who, like him, had worn ships' thin beneath their feet in patrol and vigil, watching and chasing; men who walked naked into carnage, going joyful as to a festival; and who now, maimed and scarred, received their greatest captain, dead, in a palace, the gift of a Queen.

HINDOO AGITATORS IN NEW YORK

Within the past few months New York has, says the Post, become one of the most active centres of the Hindoo revolutionary party outside of India. Part of the bombs which were confiscated in Calcutta a few months ago, and some of the 42,000 rifles smuggled into India and Afghanistan (as was reported at the British Foreign Office), were undoubtedly shipped from this port. Scotland Yard and other detectives say they have tangible evidence to show that at least one large shipment of rifles was made from New York.

A southerner, hearing a great commotion in his chicken house one dark night, took his revolver and went to investigate.

"Who's there?" he sternly demanded, opening the door.

"Who's there? Answer or I'll shoot!" A trembling voice from the farthest corner: "Deed, sah, dey ain't nobody hyah 'ceptin us chickens."—Everybody's Magazine.

Borleigh—Yes, Miss Doris, I suffah dweadfully from insomnia, y' know.

Miss Doris (suppressing a yawn)—Did you ever try talking to yourself, Mr. Borleigh?—Boston Transcript.

The Antarctic Earthquakes



REVIEWING the physical observations of the National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1904, with discussions by various authors, the London Times says:

This volume contains observations of tides, of pendulums swung to determine the force of gravity, of earthquakes, of aurorae, and of magnets. With regard to the tides, Sir George Darwin finds some curious unexpected results for which no reason can be assigned, but they are scarcely of general interest. The determinations of gravity show a slight excess over the theoretical value; a phenomenon which appears also, and to a greater extent, in the results obtained by Austrian observers in Australasia. The earthquake observations led to the detection of a new and extremely active centre of earthquake activity, sub-ocean, and lying between New Zealand and the winter quarters of the Discovery—say East longitude 160 degrees, South latitude 55 degrees. This new centre, so close to our antipodes, has a special interest for us in England, since shocks which diverge from it ultimately converge again in our neighborhood. The phenomenon is somewhat similar to that familiar in a "whispering gallery," where a faint sound uttered at one focus is easily heard at the other, though it may not be audible in other parts of the hall owing to its diffusion. So an earthquake-shock occurring in this new centre of disturbance (which has been designated by the letter M) is recorded on the instruments at the Liverpool Observatory, or at Professor Milne's station in the Isle of Wight, though there may be no trace of it on the seismograph records at intermediate stations, where it is diffused round the globe. This curious phenomenon suggests more than one train of thought. Will it become, at some time in the future, easier for us to send a wireless telegram to New Zealand than to India? The signals emitted at any point are transmitted in all directions and become therefore rapidly weaker as the radius increases. But if they follow the surface of the globe the radius will not increase indefinitely. When the circle over which the signal spreads out has become a great-circle of the globe, it will contract again, and if the wireless signals can get so far, however emaciated, their vigor will begin to increase again by concentration, and may be sufficient at the antipodes to affect a receiving instrument. Such an experiment may be worth trying. But to guard against possible misconception it should be remarked that in the case of earthquake shocks, from which we started, the diffusion is not equal in all directions outwardly; it favors some more than others, and this is another important result due to the Antarctic observations. If we ask some for a moment that, in the region called M, there is a fault running in a direction continuous with New Zealand, then the shocks are more easily transmitted in directions at right angles to the fault, and less easily in the direction of it (i.e., towards and away from New Zealand). The earthquake observations of the Discovery have in fact turned out unexpectedly valuable.

There are some striking pictures of aurorae, but Mr. Bernacchi remarks that, on the whole, the displays, although very frequent, were extremely poor. An interesting feature of the magnetic observations is the determination of

the South magnetic pole. This can be found by two independent methods. First, we may carry a needle round it and draw horizontal lines to show the direction in which the needle points; these lines should all meet in the pole. Secondly, we may seek the point where the needle points vertically downwards. Both methods were used and they gave remarkably accordant results; the pole being placed in South latitude 72 degrees 51 minutes S, and longitude 156 degrees 25 minutes E. The magnetic and tidal observations made by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition on the other side of the South Pole are repeated from the Scottish volume in the present, so that they may readily be compared with those of the Discovery.

In reviewing the meteorological observations of the Discovery a few months ago, we had occasion to express regret that the observers set out on this important expedition with little or no preliminary training. To what was then said it is only necessary to add that the observations in the present volume suffered in the same way. This must not be allowed to detract from the praise justly due to the observers, who accomplished a difficult task with remarkable skill and patience. But, nevertheless, it remains true, as Dr. Chree remarks, that in drawing conclusions from the observations, "due allowance must be made for the conditions under which the work was done. Those responsible for the expedition found themselves shortly before its departure without a physical observer. At the last moment Mr. L. C. Bernacchi consented to fill the breach, and in the very short time that remained he did all that was possible to obtain familiarity with the instruments." Mr. Bernacchi deserves sincere thanks for undertaking a difficult task in such conditions, and for the undoubted success he achieved; but what of "those responsible for the expedition?"

A DANGEROUS SPORT

Spearing the leopard from horseback, a sport upon which some of the Indian rajahs—and also some Europeans—are very keen, is an even more dangerous and exciting amusement than pig-sticking. The leopard is first trapped in a cage (baited with goat), and removed as soon as possible, so that it shall not have lost courage or activity before being "enlarged," or let go, on some open maidan or plain. Having been set at liberty, it is pursued by horsemen armed with ordinary boar spears, and generally gives a good gallop. It generally comes to bay and charges the riders, sometimes making good its spring, and landing on the horse's quarters—the usual mode of attack adopted by a leopard against horsemen. The frantic kicks and bucks of the horse soon unseat both leopard and rider, so that the killing of a leopard under these conditions is attended by no small amount of danger.

"So you sold that miserable old mule of yours!"

"Yessir," replied Mr. Erastus Pinkley; "foh real money."

"Doesn't it weigh on your conscience?"

"Well, boss, I's done had dat mule on my mind so long it's kind of a relief to change off an' git 'im on my conscience."—Washington Star.