

## SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES.

In no part of the world has the value of university education been more thoroughly tested and more strikingly illustrated than in Scotland. Through all the centuries of their existence there have been found gathered into these schools the very *élite* of Scottish youth from every class of rich and poor, sons of the nobility, the gentry and the common people. In a large degree they have had the training of the people and the formation of that public sentiment, even among the labouring classes, which has made the Scottish parent look upon scholarship with respect and desire it for his sons as the highest passport to distinction, usefulness and honour. The universities have thus been an open door through which successive generations of talented and aspiring young men have pressed their way to the highest positions in the service of the country, and have perpetually filled up the ranks of law, divinity, medicine, teaching and successful authorship. The brightest lights of the Scottish pulpit have been those at every epoch that were kindled at the universities. The result has been that through all its history the Church in Scotland has been eminently blessed with a learned and godly ministry fully abreast with the advancing science and literature of the age. A large proportion of the best British authorship, not only in theology but in science and literature, has been connected with the Scottish pulpit and has come of the fostering influences of the Scottish universities. This has been abundantly illustrated in the annals of the American churches in all the earlier periods, when our pulpits and our college halls were adorned by eminent divines—like Charles Nisbet and John Witherspoon, John Glenly of Irish birth, John Mason, and his still more distinguished son John M. Mason, of New York—born or educated in Scotland.

What is true of the universities in Scotland as the source of a highly-educated and influential clergy is equally true as it regards all the other learned professions. In an eminent degree the leaders of the people have been trained to thought and activity in these ancient and renowned schools. Much of the intellectual and moral power that has given life and character to her home-population, and then gone forth to make that influence felt in other lands, may be traced back to the universities as the primal well-spring. Statesmen, jurists, orators, divines, physicians, educators, discoverers, eminent scientists, great merchants, bankers, publishers, manufacturers and engineers, as well as soldiers and artisans, have caught that inspiration which useful knowledge gives to the mind and prepared themselves for their life-work at these great seats of learning and religion. Christianity is the world's greatest civilizer. Christianity can do nothing better for a country after it has once converted its inhabitants to Christ than when it founds and opens for youth its permanent institutions of the higher learning. This it did in Scotland at an early day, and thereby gave the guarantee of progress and set the seal of its power over an educated people for all time to come. The Scottish universities have been the centres of light and influence not only to the educated youth of Scotland, but in an unusual degree to the young men of England, Ireland and America. Even to this day, when universities and colleges have been so multiplied in our own land, it is no uncommon thing for our talented young men of wealthy families to obtain a part of their educational finish as students at these universities, especially that of Edinburgh.

It is certain that the universities may claim the honour of having trained in almost every branch of literature and science the men who have made Scotland illustrious. At these seats of learning they have been educated, and here, in maturer life, they have lived and taught and carried forward their profound investigations. The literary, scientific, philosophical and even religious, life of Scotland has gathered around these schools. There could be no complete history of the Scottish people without taking them into the account.

—*Scotland's Influence on Civilization, by Dr. Halsey.*

## THE "ALABAMA" IN ACTION.

From an account of "Life on the *Alabama*," by one of her sailors, in the *April Century*, we quote the following: "We got everything ship-shape and left Cherbourg for our last cruise on a bright Sunday morning, June 19. We were escorted by a French armoured vessel, and when we got outside we could see the *Kearsarge* awaiting us, about four miles away. Captain Semmes made us a short speech which was well received, though it seemed odd to me that an American should appeal to an Englishman's love of glory to animate him to fight the speaker's own countrymen. But we cheered, and the French ship leaving us, we steamed straight for the *Kearsarge*. There is no doubt that Semmes was flurried and commenced firing too soon. We were, I should say, nearly a mile away, and I do not think a single shot told. The enemy circled around us and did not return our fire until within seven or eight hundred yards, and then she let us have it. The first shot that struck us made the ship reel and shake all over. I was serving on one of the thirty-two-pounders, and my sponger was an old man-o'-war's man, who remarked, after a look out of the port, 'We might as well fire batter puddens as these pop-guns: a few more biffs like that last and we may turn turtle.' He had scarcely spoken when a shell burst under our pivot-gun, tilting it out of range and killing five of the crew. 'What is wrong with the rifle-gun?' was asked. 'We don't seem to be doing the enemy any harm,' while with slow precision came the crash of the heavy shell of the Yankee. One missile that seemed as big as a haystack whizzed over our heads, taking a section of the port bulwarks away, fortunately missing a man that was handling shot. He only remarked that he believed the Yankee was firing 'steam-buffers' at us. Another shell struck us amidships, causing the ship to list to port so that our gun, weighing three tons, raced in, pinning one poor fellow against the port sill. He died before we could get him clear. This was the missile that sunk the *Alabama*. 'She's going down!' was the cry, and all was confusion. Another shell struck about the water-line, and the vessel reeled like a drunken man. The dead and wounded were lying about the deck, which was red with

blood. Our officers did their duty and the men at once began to get up the wounded. The cutter and launch were in the water, and the officers were trying to keep the men back till the wounded were all in; but certainly many of them were left, for I saw several on the berth-deck when I went below, and the boats were then full and pushing off. When it was certain that the ship was sinking, all order was at an end. I had £10 and a watch in a locker between decks, and I ran below, but they were gone.

"'All hands on deck—ship's going down!' was called, and I had just got on the upper step of the forward companion-way when the water, entering the berth-deck ports, forced the air up and almost carried me off my legs. I cast my eyes around for a moment. Old Gill, with his head crushed under the carriage of the eight-inch gun, was lying there, his brawny hands clenching the breast of his jumper. Just as the water came over the stern I went over the port bulwarks. I was a good swimmer, and had not been in the water five minutes when a French pilot-boat came running past, and a brawny fellow in petticoats and top-boots dragged me out of the water."

## CASALE ROTONDO.

[A ruin in the Campagna, about six miles outside Rome, on the Appian Way, is called Casale Rotondo.]

If life indeed were ours,  
Well might the heavenly powers  
Smile as they watched Man's fruitless struggle here;  
We build, and build in vain,  
Poor ants; the autumnal rain  
Drowns all the work, but yet we persevere.

Man's proud achievements fall;  
Keft arch or mouldering wall,  
Where solemn temple stood or palace high,  
Tell the old tale anew  
Which royal David knew,  
The works of Man, as Man himself, must die.

When Scipio beheld  
Despairing Carthage, held  
By his stern leaguer, girdled round by fire,  
Rise into flame at last,  
And o'er the dark sea cast  
Her dying light like Dido's funeral pyre.

Deeply he sighed, and said:  
"Great Babylon is dead,  
And Tyre is gone, and Carthage now, and then  
Rome, Rome must fall, and we,  
The conquerors, conquered be  
And taste the doom which tracks the pride of men."

Bare the Campagna round  
Circles this lonely mound,  
Half tomb, half tower—a dust heap—type of all  
The once triumphant Rome,  
Now beneath Peter's dome  
Crouched yonder, shrunk within her mighty wall.

Mistress of many lands,  
Imperial England stands,  
Through East and West by force and law prevailing;  
Say I shall we see the fate  
Of Rome dissolve her state,  
And Albion's star of fame and victory paling?

And we, her sons, who give  
Our life that she may live  
Beneath Canadian frosts and Indian skies,  
"Is this," we cry, "the end  
Whither our labours tend,  
Is this the balance of our sacrifice?"

If life indeed were ours—  
But oh, ye heavenly powers!  
Pitying ye look, and know it is not so;  
Life is the mystic scroll  
God wrote—he reads the whole;  
How should the letters His wide meaning know?  
—B. H. H., in the *Spectator*.

## HOW TO GET ALONG.

Don't stop to tell stories in business hours.  
If you have a place of business, be found there when wanted.  
No man can get rich sitting around stores and saloons.  
Never "fool" in business matters.  
Have order, system, regularity and also promptness.  
Do not meddle with business you know nothing of.  
Do not kick every one in your path.  
More miles can be made in a day by going steadily than by stopping.  
Pay as you go.  
A man of honour respects his word as he does his bond.  
Help others when you can, but never give what you cannot afford to, simply because it is fashionable.  
Learn to say no. No necessity of snapping it out dog-fashion, but say it firmly and respectfully.  
Use your brains, rather than those of others.  
Learn to think and act for yourself.  
Keep ahead rather than behind the times.  
Young man, cut this out, and if there be any fallacy in the argument, let us know it.

THE Roman Catholic bishop of Salford, in his Lenten pastoral, declares that the recent encyclical of the Pope on the constitution of states is "the most remarkable, if not the most important, of all the wise and far-reaching documents with which Peter has instructed and strengthened his brethren during the present learned and practical pontificate."

## British and Foreign.

PROF. CHRISTIE, of Aberdeen, is a candidate for the deputy-clerkship of assembly.

EDINBURGH Free Church Presbytery has agreed to the translation of Rev. George Macaulay to Bowling.

THE *Lancet* strongly condemns the practice, still too common, of giving wine and other intoxicants at children's parties.

DR. CAMERON LEES has been appointed dean of the chapel royal and dean of the order of the thistle in succession to the late Principal Tulloch.

IN a religious journal of fifty years ago, among other articles prepared for the edification of the devout, is one entitled "To Pious Dealers in Ardent Spirits."

ST. ANDREW'S has conferred the degree of D.D. on two of its own clergymen, Revs. Matthew Rodger, of the College Church, and Mark Lowden Anderson, M.A., of the second charge, St. Andrew's.

THE Rev. D. D. Bannerman, M.A., of Perth, is the Cunningham lecturer this year, his subject being "What the Bible Teaches about the Church." The lectures are being delivered in the Assembly Hall.

DR. BLACK, of Inverness, preached in St. Mary's, Edinburgh, on 14th ult., and in the evening delivered a stirring lecture to a crowded congregation on "A Man who Missed the Mark: lessons from a lost life."

THE Rev. John Watt, of Anderston, Glasgow, formerly assistant professor of humanity in Aberdeen, is named in connection with the vacancy caused by the approaching removal of Dr. Donaldson to St. Andrew's.

ABERDEEN Senatus has conferred the degree of D.D. on Rev. G. Jamieson, B.D., of Old Machar, and Donald Mackinnon, M.A., of Strath, Skye; and the degree of LL.D. on Rev. George Davidson, M.A., Logie Coldstone.

ONE result of the simultaneous meetings in February in behalf of Foreign Missions is that the English Church Missionary Society has received, within twelve days, no fewer than twenty six fresh offers for service in the mission field.

DR. J. J. BUNAK, the oldest co-presbyter of the late Rev. James Smith, M.A., preached a memorial sermon in the Middle Church, Greenock, on Sunday afternoon, in which he gave a characteristic sketch of its departed senior minister.

A COMMITTEE appointed by Edinburgh U. P. Presbytery to consider what steps should be taken toward the abolition of fast days have been authorized to communicate with the Established and Free Presbyteries with a view to concerted action.

A WIDOW in the Lews, who regularly every Sabbath attended the Macrae Memorial Church at Shabost till the close of her life, has died at the age of 102. She had become blind but retained full possession of her mental faculties.

DR. KENNEDY, speaking in Edinburgh U. P. Presbytery on the report of the committee for the supply of vacant pulpits, said the Synod might adopt any laws they chose in the matter of church vacancies, but these would soon become a dead letter.

MR. CONYBEARE, M.P., has been asked by the Sunday School Union to draft a bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to children. He will apply the principle of the pawnbrokers act, which prohibits pawnbrokers from receiving goods in pledge from children.

THE German Government have consented to take part in the conference with the Netherlands and Britain on the liquor traffic in the North Sea; and it may therefore be concluded that the "coppers" who have so long preyed on our poor fishermen are at length doomed.

THE Rev. S. R. MacPhail has been sent by his congregation at Canning Street, Liverpool, to take a tour in the Holy Land for the benefit of his health. He will join the party of which Dr. Munro Gibson, Dr. Thain Davidson, Dr. Valentine, of India, and Mr. Graham, of Broughty Ferry, are members.

DR. JOHN BISHOP, of Edinburgh, one of the most earnest friends of the Medical Missionary Society as well as of the temperance cause, has died at Cannes. His latter days were marked by peaceful triumph. His widow, formerly Miss Bird, is the well-known authoress of several remarkable books of travel.

THE Rev. G. W. Rusden has been adjudged by a jury in the Queen's Bench to pay \$25,000 damages for imputing cruelty in his dealings with the Maories to Mr. John Bryce, for some time minister for native affairs in the New Zealand Government. The libel is printed in Mr. Rusden's "History of New Zealand." Stay of execution was refused.

DR. WALTER SMITH, in a sermon to young men on "Amusements," delivered in his own pulpit on Sunday afternoon, said he could not tell what the drama now actually was, having no personal experience of it; but if it had been lifted out of the mire, assuredly he would rejoice in that, for it was the most powerful of all amusements that men had ever tried.

PROF. MITCHELL, of St. Andrew's, Moderator of Assembly, gave the closing St. Giles' lecture on Sabbath, his subject being "The Church and the People." All things led him, he said, to cherish the hope that re-union on the old historic lines was not yet to be abandoned by the Scottish nation, and that if men of all parties would only act wisely, fearlessly and in earnest the idea might still be realized.

MR. CHRISTIAN F. COLE, B.A., the second son of Rev. Jacob Cole, a negro clergyman at Sierra Leone, and the first negro graduate of Oxford, has died at Zanzibar. He was called to the bar in 1883, and was the first negro barrister ever heard in the High Court of Justice in England. He was the author of several works in prose and verse, including a threnody on the death of Bishop Colenso, of whom he was an ardent admirer.