pe to the floor. As I
man I fancied I
the quarry move,
emed my imaginanoment I had barely
ook out there, men!" pointing to a great th heaved and crashed ise to the floor of the up the blue dust as it oed with its thunder. covered my eyes, hat I most feared. At panting breath and t. Clare was nowhere

ed. I found myself as ul nightmare helping it took us one hour or e great boulder from a body. They brought helping cottage, ide, leaving me to raise if it were my right, him on the bier, still d helpless. Was this a dream? Was this very truth my friend hanged, crushed out of to himself, who could w? Once, we had held m. Now, the gulf of between us. Yet no; dy dies, the soul lives sefore!

idea aross the common advance to break the . How would she redered? I entered the e trim tea-table, the h, the home-made bread for the man who would ministry again. The cat dly on the hob; the cat dly on the hearth by eel fender; where he stand. I flung myopposite her without a risen in her usual rhaps it was something at arrested her, I made s to speak, but the e. At last, "Sit down, I said with quiet author, trembling a little, and , trembling a little, and t, trembling a little, and ension creeping into her broke the news to her, uid, sparing her as much of it as possible. Her leadly white. She rose eet, clasping her hands seechingly; one moment d, then she fell heavily before me. Not a word

before me. Not a word ips. Raising her eyes, be searching mine for ough she still doubted sound of the slow tramp garden path. Someone and flung open the door, e stood tranfixed; then arms she sent up a long ry and rushed madly to-mained of the man whom d, yet half-despised. I between her and the oul," I said, "you are not o bear it," and I forced into her own place, limp

at followed were full of stricken widow. Her ead and buried, yet she ble of believing in his comfort now seemed to y feet and let me talk to

y teet and let me tank to ry subjects which before h despised. and yet he is not dead," her ear, "surely those ht you about God have the dead rise from the risen. His soul is in eeping. The grave caneeping. The grave can-He is free at last from He is free at last from the bound him before. He son—he is free, and some wills, we shall all three e there are no delusions e world to separate soul re the veils which hide other are torn down for the veils when you are known? other are torn down for now as we are known."

numbly, "Yes, I was told to the total total to the total total total to the total total



oend largely on keep-ver and kidneys in nd aches, stiffness of

mbago and rheumaf poisons left in the sluggishness of the kidneys.

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will only disappoint you

"You will meet again: God Himself has promised that."

She looked at me with a patient, pathetic smile.

"Tell me more," she said, "I want to know more."

Then I spoke to her as simply as I could of the Church foreshadowed in the Old Testament, of Christ and the hidden wonders of His life, of the one and only Church He founded on the Rock of St. Peter, how He promised to be ever with that one Church to the end of time, keeping her free from those errors which must inevitably creep into every merely man-made institution such as the Protestant Church and her own little Primitive Methodism. I pointed out to her how He spoke of His Church, the kingdom of God, as growing from that little grain of mustard seed then being planted in Palestine, until, as one great undivided tree it should cover all the earth; how no branch lopped off from that divine parent tree by human hands can live.

The sudden termination in July, 1798, of his brilliant, but in some respects, erratic career, is a warning text, especially to those who put the bottle to their own or to their neighbor's lips. His boon companions of yesterday that found him a young man with jest and fun upon his lips find him to-day with the signs of old age and early death creeping stealthily upon him. In fleeting sunshine and darkening shadow he lived his few years. The enjoyment of the great distinction which he had shortly death the signs of old age and early death creeping stealthily upon him. In fleeting sunshine and darkening shadow he lived his few years. The enjoyment of the great distinction which he had here were proved to the same and darkening shadow he lived his few years. The enjoyment of the great distinction which he had shortly darkening shadow he lived his few years. The enjoyment of the great distinction which he had here were proved to their own or to their neighbor's lips. His boon companions of yesterday that found him a young man with jest and fun upon his lips find him to-day with the signs of old age and early death creeping stealthily upon h how no branch lopped off from that divine parent tree by human hands can

Burns, attained high rank among the immortals is the verdict of his worldwide celebrity. His prolific muse has captivatingly sung the most exquisite feelings of the heart, the fluctuating passions, the joys and sorrows of manifold She drank in my words, her eyes aglow She drank in my words, her eyes aglow with wonder and new born understand-ing; and as the 'days passed I realized that God had wonderfully answered my prayers at last. It was the soul's

prayers at last. It was the soul's awakening to divine truth. Her happiness now was to kneel in the little French chapel in the place where her husband used to kneel. Through his death she had arisen to life. The two divided souls were united at last. Some time afterward I heard of her reception into the Church. She was childless and, therefore, free to follow whereever God might call. I was never told the details as to how it came to pass, but truly said, were often enough common-place, but this fact is a strong tribute to his rare genius which could find material for its exercise even in the orthe details as to how it came to pass, but the last I heard of her was that she had Carmelite nun. - From the English Messenger.

ROBERT BURNS

BY A. J. MCGILLIVRAY The strength and greatness of the British empire owes much to English literature. The bullet may turn back the empire's foes, but literature inspires the patriotism and the moral strength that nerves the soldier's heart in the hour of battle. The warrior sons n the hour of battle. The warrior sons of Scotland have experienced the bloodof Scotland have experienced the blood-rousing effect of the songs of the bards, as well as of the music of the bag-pipes, when hard-pressed in trench, or on par-apet, crossing the sands of Egypt, rush-ing the Crimean fortresses, or watching for the elusive enemy on the lonely Veldt. When a country's literature is destroyed, it is shorn, like Sampson, of its strength, its pride of birth and race, its enthusiasm for mastery, and the traditional glory of arms stagnate tace, its enthusiasm for mastery, and the traditional glory of arms stagnate and perish. Snakespeare, Tennyson, Byron, "Robby Burns" and "Tom Moore," have done much to make the British people kin. If the Irish Celtic race the world over were drawn into the contract of t closer sympathy with England by the concession to Ireland of Home Rule, the

cooser sympathy with angular concession to Ireland of Home Rule, the goal of centuries of Irish endeavor and just aspiration, Irish literature, would become a new and richer source of Irish patriotism, to the vast gain of the British empire, la gain greater for the interests of peace and of defensive war than the mere physical value of dreadnoughts and torpedoes.

Robert Burns leaving his unpretentions occupation of ploughman, in the flush of the success of the first edition of his poems, decided to try one more suited to his ambition and genius in Edinburgh. His appearance in that city in November, 1780, caused a flutter among its literary celebrities by whom he was cordially received. But although he was lionized by the learned and elite oft-times strikingly effective in a line or two as this from "Winter Night," mercy's immortal plea for man and ne was cordiany received. But although of t-times ne was lionized by the learned and elite or two fithat brilliant and aristocratic capital, mercy's he was lionized by the learned and elite of that brilliant and aristocratic capital, where he was entertained with munificent hospitality and loaded with suspiciously ostentations adulation, he was not in his true element. The monotonous sights and noises of the city had replaced the green sward, the sound of tumbling waters, and the captivating music of the softly-whistling birds. Before long, tired and satiated, he yearned to return to his humble station to woo anew his rustic muse at the plough-tail, although the desire to visit the principal battlefields of Scotland caused him for a while to hesitate. Very dear to his heart was such a tour, so well calculated to fire his muse, and when in April, 1787, a second edition of his poems appeared netting him £500 he yielded to his strong inclination to make this patriotic excursion among scenes eloquent of the warlike spirit of Scottash heroes, renowned in song and story. In company with Robert Ainslie he made this interesting trip which lasted about a month, during which he "dander'd owre a' the kintra frae Dunbar to Seleraig," before returning to his home at poems appeared netting him £500 he yielded to his strong inclination to make this patriotic excursion among scenes eloquent of the warlike spirit of Scottish heroes, renowned in song and story. In company with Robert Ainslie he made this interesting trip which lasted about a month, during which he "dander'd owre a' the kintra frae Dunbar to Selectaig," before returning to his home at Mauchline. Subsequently he made one or two other visits to the Highlands before returning to Edinburgh, one of them to the West Highlands, which does not seem to have created a very pleasant impression on his mird, being piqued impression on his mind, being pique at the fancied neglect shown by some of the inhabitants towards him. With his characteristic impetuosity he resented this by depicting this primitive region as "a country where savage streams tumble over savage mountains, thinly overspread with savage flocks, which starvingly support as savage inhabitants." These pungent words can readily be forgiven in view of the lavish praise bestowed by him upon the Highlands and its people on other occasions. the fancied neglect show

occasions.

He finally settled on a farm at Ellishand near Dumfries but his poor success as a farmer and the fact that later his duties of exciseman took up most of his time and attention induced him to time and attention indu abandon it. The largest salary which he received in the Government service was only £70 and he had some difficulty in retaining the position on account of being suspected of disloyalty towards the Crown. The evidence of this disloyalty was superficial, although his frank and sometimes incantious conduct and his impetuosity, aggravated by his baneful indulgence in the deceptive cup, rendered him apparently subject to this charge. It is certain that his patriotism was the opposite of that of the selfish, mouthing dissembler, proclaimed from the house tops, or that of the narrow minded and unchristian race-hater, for it was ennobled by a humanity that over-leaped the boundaries of race or country and embraced the world in its comprehenhe received in the Government service was only £70 and he had some braced the world in its comprehen-

The sudden termination in July, 1798,

The subjects of his muse, it may be

At plough or eart,
My Muse tho' hamely in attire,
May touch the heart."

sprightliness, appeares
ly as the flowers of the field, or leaves
of the forest, each a new creation
stamped with the impress of his originality. What Scotsman has not felt the
warm thrill of one or other of these
songs which, at their best, combine
tenderness with strength, gravity with
laughter, or pathos with sprightliness as
in the following air:

We'll o'er the water, we'll o'er the sea, We'll o'er the water to Charlie! Come weal, come woe, we'll gather

dinary experiences and incidents of daily life and vividly interpret the charms of nature's humblest offerings. charms of nature's humblest offerings.

Pain, suffering and helplessness, how ever exhibited, struck at once a responsive chord in his tender heart. The unpoetic "we, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie," the unlucky mouse whose "we bit housie" was demolished by his servant, as well as the wounded hare, or the mountain daisy, "we, modest, crimson tipped flow'r," disappearing under the sod turned by his ploughshare, evoked each his feeling emotions.

The simplicity of his rhyme, its hamely westlin jingle" unaided by the rules of the metre or the tricks of art, owed its strength and charm alone to Nature's inspiration. "Tyrants fall in every foe! Liberty's in every blow!"

But some of his songs, although of great poetical merit are merely amorous lyrics and might well have given way to more of his poems like "Tam O'Shanter," brimful of humor, or "The Cotter's Saturday Night," a graphic word picture of the peaceful homes and religious lives of humble Scottish families. In turning the leaves of his published poems and afterwards of his songs, contributed to Mr. George Thomson's "Collection of Scottish Airs" and Johnson's "Musical Museum," one cannot fail to be impressed by the disproportion between the number of the former and that of the latter. If the proportion had been reversed the numerical disparity would have been, it seems, much more welcome and befitting. Posterity would have been enriched by more of his beautiful poems, any one of which would be worth many of his songs that are of little or no ethical value, however virile and perfect in the expression of natural love. But some of his songs, although of great poetical merit are merely amorous lyrics and might well have given way to more of his poems like "Tam O'Shanter," brimful of humor, or "The Cotter's Saturday Night," a graphic word picture That's all the learning I desire, Then tho' I drudge thro' dub and mire ile and perfect in the expression of

pride,
The palace rising on its verdant side,
The lawns wood-fring'd in Nature's native taste,

The lawns wood-fring'd in Nature's native taste,

The lawns wood-fring'd in Nature's nossy cell," his versatility asserted itself. The following he wrote on the back of a bank note:

"Wae worth thy power, thou cursed

leaf!
Fell source of a' my woe and grief,
For lack o' thee I've lost my lass,
For lack o' thee I scrimp my glass!
I see the children of affliction,
Unaided, through thy curs'd re-

striction, I've seen the oppressor's cruel smile

For lack o' thee I leave this much lov'd shore,
Never, perhaps to greet old Scotland

On a goblet he wrote:

born stream, The village glittering in the moon-

The sweeping theatre of hanging

woods,
Th' incessant roar of headlong
tumbling floods,"—
Poetic ardors in his soul enkindled.

His graphic brevity, so true to life, is

of his lot. We love to think of him then as

"The simple bard, rough at the rustic

"The simple bard, rough at the rustic plough,
Learning his tuneful trade from every bough."

It is certain, however, that he had grown weary of his bondage and yearned for a change, "the glorious privilege of being independent," although never ashamed of honest poverty.

"is there for honest poverty That hangs his head an' a' that? That hangs his head an' a' that?
The coward slave, we pass him by We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, an' a' that,
Our toils obscure an' a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that."

His immutable songs displaying rich pathos, rollicking humour and Celtic sprightliness, appeared as spontaneous-ly as the flowers of the field, or leaves

and go, And live and die with Charlie!

Come boat me o'er, come row me o'er, Come boat me o'er to Charlie! I'll gie John Ross another bawbee To boat me o'er to Charlie."

Others of his spirited songs, such as "Auld Lang Syne," Duncan Gray,"
"McPherson's Farewell," "My Highland Laddie" and "Annie Laurie, heard and encored in every town and city of Europe and of America almost with as much delight as they are received in the glens of the Highlands, breathe of the heather's Gaelic melody. But "Scots Wha Hae," pronounced by Carlyle the best war song ever written, is naturally the Scotsman's favorite. When he hears it sung, he feels as if actually present at Bannockburn where "Tyrants fall in every foe!

Like a master musician who makes the instrument upon which he plays an almost living power, the very reflex of his own being, altho' comparatively dull and mute in the hands of an ordinary and mute in the hands of an ordinary player, he revealed not only some of the sublime riches of nature, but also its simple beauties otherwise hidden to ordinary mortals. The blue sky, the murmuring streams, the bright sunshine and the merrily singing birds, "The Tay meand'ring sweet in infant natural love.

native taste,
The hillocks dropt in Nature's careless haste,
The archers striding o'er the new-

Amid his helpless victims spoil; And for thy potence vainly wish'd To crush the villain in the dust.

On a goliet ne wrote:

There's Death in the cup, so beware!

Nay, more—there is danger in touching!

But who can avoid the fell snare?

The man and his wine's so bewitch-

After breakfasting at the inn, he com-

sed the following: My blessings on ve, honest wife,

I ne'er was here before;
Ye've wealth o' gear for spoon and knife:
Heart could not wish for more.

Heart hear to see the flow is the form of the flow is the five in the river.

A moment white—then melts form of the flow is the flow is the flow is the flow in the flow is Heart could not wish for more. Heav'n keep you clear o' sturt and strife.

Or like the borealis race, That flit ere you can point their place,

strife, Till far ayont fourscore, And by the Lord o' death and life I'll ne'er gae by your door!' On seeing the royal palace at Stirling

ruins, he gave expression to these

But now unroof'd their palace stands, Their sceptre fallen to other hands: Fallen indeed, and to the earth,

hence grovelling reptiles take their birth! their birth!
The injured Stewart line is gone,
A race outlandish fills their throne;
An idiot race, to honour lost—
Who know them best despise them
most."

Of his numerous amusing epitaphs the following, referring to an innkeeper, John Dove, is a fair sample: Here lies Johnnie Pigeon:

JOHN HALLAM, TORONTO

To some other war!'
Mann follow the carl,
For here Johnnie Pigeon had nane!
Strong ale was ablution;

small beer persecution, A dram was mento more But a full flowing bowl Was the saving his soul, And port was celestial glory." His love for the Highlands is expressed in the song beginning:—

My heart is in the Highlands, my heart is not here. My heart is in the Highlands a-chasing the deer,

A-chasing the wild deer and following
the roe.

the roe, My heart is in the Highlands wherever I go." And to Highland hospitality he paid

"When death's dark stream I ferry o'er (A time that surely shall come) In Heaven itself I'll ask no more Than just a Highland welcome."

The following composed on hearing a thrush sing in a morning walk in January, is one of his beautiful sonnets: And softer flame;
Sing on, sweet thrush, upon the leafless bough.

But thoughtless follies laid him low
And stain'd his name.

less bough, Sing on, sweet bird, I listen to thy strain:
See aged Winter, mid his surly reign,
At thy blythe carol clears his furrowed brow.

So in lone Poverty's dominion drear Sits meet Content with light, unanxious heart,
Welcomes the rapid moments, bids
them part,
Nor asks if they bring aught to
hope or fear.

I thank thee, Author of this opening

Thou whose origin and good orien skies!

Riches denied, Thy boon was purer

Burns was mighty, even great in one sense, but not great in the true mean-

art
Surpasses me to know;
Yet sure I am that known to Thee
Are all Thy works below.

Thy creature here before Thee stands All wretched and distrest ;

All wretched and distrest;
Yet sure those ill that wring my soul
Obey Thy high behest,
Sure Thou Almighty caust not act
From cruelty or wrath!
O, free my eyes from tears,
Or close them fast in death!

But if I must afflicted be To suit some wise design,
Then man my soul with firm resolves
To bear and not repine!" Such serious, religious sentiments in

contrast with his accustomed hilarity may seem to some but the beginning of his wisdom.

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e poor inhabitant below Was quick to learn and wise to know, And keenly felt the friendly glow

Reader, attend! Whether thy soul

Soars Fancy's flights beyond the pole. Or darkling grubs this earthly hole In low pursu't; Know, prudent, cautious, self-control Is wisdom's root."

This, in the last analysis, is a truer estimate of himself than that of Emer-son's lopsided judgment of poets or other gifted children of nature when he

them pare,
Nor asks if they bring aught to
hope or fear.

thank thee, Author of this opening
day,
Thou whose bright sun gilds yon
coion skies!

"Nature's darlings, the great, the
strong, the beautiful are not children of
our law; do not come out of Sunday
School, nor weigh their food, nor punctually keep the Commandments."

"To him, the powers that made him

brave, Yet weak to avoid the fatal wave, A mighty gift of hatred gave, A gift above All other gifts benefic, save The gift of love!

He held with cant a bitter feud; Singly he faced the bigot-brood, The meanly wise, the feebly good,— He fought them well, But, ah! the stupid million stood, And he—he fell.

All bright and glorious at the start,

Twas his, ignobly, to depart,
Slain by his own too generous heart
And affluent blood;
And blindly, having lost life's chart,
To seek death's flood.

WRITE TO-DAY London, Canada letters to the Sun on the decline of Christianity, I have looked in vain for even a passing comment on the facts that there are no empty seats in any of the numerous Catholic churches and that the Catholic Church in America

is doubling her membership each score of years. According to the last census report she has increased 93.9 per cent. in twenty years. "That the tide of Catholic immigra-"That the tide of Catholic immigration in that period has been large and
that she includes baptized infants in
reckoning her members by no means
explains this marvelous growth. It
would be more honest to confess that
she cares for the immigrant classes and
that race suicide is rare in the Church
when explaining the proportion of her
worth due to these two causes.

growth due to these two causes. growth due to these two causes.

"Regarding attendance at church it is a marvel to non-Catholics everywhere the crowds that pour in and out of the Catholic churches on Sundays and hely days over at what some the control of the Catholic churches on Sundays and hely days over at what some the control of the Catholic churches on Sundays and hely days over at what some the control of the catholic churches on Sundays and hely days over at what some the catholic churches on the catholic churches o

and hely days, even at what seems to them unearthly hours of the morning. Rain or shine, summer or winter, it is "Why do they come? What brings "Why do they come? What Drings them? It is not the priest, the sermon, the music, the ceremonies, the lights or the flowers. It is the Sacrifice of the Mass. It is the willing obedience that Catholies render the precept of the Church obliging them to hear Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

Buffs Consults C

"Upon those two points precisely Catholies and all others are poles apart—authority and the Mass. The former they think a usurpation, and the latter

Such sections. religious sentiments in contest with his accessfound filiarity may seem to some but the beguing of his wiscom. Many the section of the sectio

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