



Education.

THE meeting of the Faculty, last Thursday, was indeed unique: business was conspicuous for its absence, but deficiency in that respect was amply made up for by a most interesting and illuminating address by Prof. Morison on "Scottish Life and Manners in the 18th Century."

Scottish character, he began, has manifested itself in history in ways quite remarkable—always definite, always clear-cut: we are struck with the extraordinary social equality—no sectarianism, no sharp class distinctions, no caste system. We are struck with the remarkably harmonious blending of town and country: both go hand in hand but the country rules. We are struck with the total absence of convention: a people close to nature: human nature with all its vices and virtues, with its rudeness, roughness and uncouthness, is free and unrestrained.

The union with England in 1707 brought certain mollifying influences: the rude, rough, barbarous element is gradually eliminated, but the strong undercurrent of Scottish character remained, and came into greater relief.

To the south lived the borderers: a rude, primitive people. Whiskey and border warfare were the glory of their life! A little story will illustrate: a young student preacher is holding prayer at the house of a borderer; during prayer the hoof beats of horses are heard outside; up jumps the old borderer and with, "By God! here's the casks!" rushes out, followed by all the rest, to do justice to the whiskey and let devotions care for themselves.

Central Scotland, in and around Edinburgh, presented nothing pleasing: a land of dirt and uncouth habits!

The Highlands, however, prove more fascinating. Superstitious the borderers might be, but the old Highlander was far more; he had a faith as old as the hills and the streams; each with its own divinity. His whole literature is steeped in this idea of a spirit world. Passionate devotion to his chief and unfailing loyalty were ever his virtues: and it has been these qualities which have at all times brought fame to the Highlanders and glory to England.

Let us now glance at Scottish civilization in Edinburgh at the end of the 18th century: Edinburgh itself, a rocky, wind-swept city—narrow, winding streets, obscure and filthy: here society was jumbled up indiscriminately with no regard in the least for any sanitary laws. In the cellars the poor—in the garrets the poor—all in between a sort of gradation from rich to well-to-do. But many things gave this same Edinburgh distinction at that time. 'Twas a nucleus for men of learning and brilliant intellect: 'twas a centre of wealth as well as squalor: old border feuds were healing and the borderers were flocking to this centre. The English, isolated from the continent through the French Revolution felt instinctively drawn to Scotland.

How about the social life in Edinburgh at the close of the 18th century? It was conventional—a mere veneer of stiffness for culture though underneath it all there still boiled and bubbled the true genuine primeval Scottish