

A RELIC.

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MUCH of the readers of the Owl as took an interest in the papers on the Poet Burns which appeared not along ago, will learn with pleasure that Canada possesses a relic of Scotland's celebrated bard which is at the same time a relic of the learned and saintly Bishop Geddes of Edinburgh. This interesting relic was brought to light on occasion of the celebration of Burns' anniversary in the year 1877. It consists of a copy of his poems which was presented to the Bishop by the poet himself. In addition to the poems the volume contains the letter from Burns to Bishop Geddes which accompanied the present. This is not the only letter extant addressed by Scotia's Bard to the learned Bishop of Edinburgh. The correspondence expresses more than ordinary friendship, even filial affection and reverence on the part of the poet towards the minister of the Church. It is particularly noticeable that Burns, in one of his letters, declared that he is more honoured by the notice and acquaintance of one who was truly great, than by the favours that were heaped upon him by the high and titled of the land. It affords us no ordinary pleasure to record such sentiments, which cannot fail to be highly valued by all who appreciate character.

The volume in question after having been presented to the Bishop, was handed back to the poet with a view to having inserted some more recent poems in Burns' own hand. This having been done, the book was returned to the Bishop. Bishop Geddes left the volume to a lady relative who bequeathed it to her daughter. This lady being well acquainted with Henry Goadby, M.D., author of the "text book of animal and vegetable physiology," presented to him the volume on occasion of his leaving for America in 1838. It first came into public notice in this country at the Centennial celebration held by the Burns' Club of Detroit in 1867. Mr. Black of Windsor, Ontario, presented on

that occasion an elaborate account of the much valued volume. Dr. Goadby's publication not having succeeded financially, he was reduced to straits. This circumstance induced Mr. Black to correspond with Dr. Goadby with a view to affect a purchase. The doctor did not at the time feel inclined to part with his treasure, but intimated that if ever the book should be for sale, Mr. Black should have the preference. On the death of Dr. Goadby, Mr. Black negotiated with his widow who was comparatively poor, with the result that a purchase was carried out on the 12th of December, 1860. Mr. Black has no hesitation in shewing the relic of which he is not a little proud. It was shewn to a reporter of the Globe in 1876. This writer describes it as an unpretending little volume. In the beginning was found the original letter addressed by Burns to the Bishop on occasion of the book being presented. Throughout the volume there are twenty-seven pages of poems in the handwriting of the author, written on pages which had been left blank at the time the book was printed, probably for correction or alteration. As the poems so inserted cannot fail to be interesting to the admirers of Burns, it may not be considered inappropriate to subjoin a list of them.

1. In reading in a newspaper of the death of John McLeod, brother to Miss Isabella McLeod, a particular friend of the author.
2. On the death of Sir J. Hunter Blair.
3. Written on the blank leaf of my first edition which I presented to an old sweetheart (then married).
4. An epitaph on a friend.
5. The humble petition of Bruar Water to the noble Duke of Athole.
6. On the death of Robert Dundas of Arniston, Esq., late Lord President of the Court of Session.
7. On seeing some waterfowl on Loch Turit, a wild scene among the hills of Ochertyre.
8. Written at a hermitage at Taymouth.
9. Written at the fall of Foyers.
10. Written at Friars Carse Hermitage on the banks of the Nith, June, 1788.
11. The same altered from the foregoing, December, 1788.
12. To