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[The following article was intended for publication at the time of the Burns Anniversary.]

THE RELIGION OF BURNS AND HIS INFLUENCE UPON RELIGION.

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WHEN the Burns anniversary is being celebrated all over the empire, it may not be unreasonable that we should ask; "What has been the influence of Burns upon the religion of his country and his countrymen, as well as a host of others?" Scotsmen are now as widely scattered as the Jews, and their religious views can be as widely disseminated. Burns has himself recorded in immortal verse, and with characteristic humor, his birth and its date. He tells us that he was born on the 25th January in the last year but one of the reign of George the *Second*, or 1759. A very small and somewhat unshapely cottage situated close to the Doon and auld Alloway Kirk, about two miles from Ayr, is visited by thousands annually as the place of his birth. The plain little cot was rudely built by his father, William Burns, with his own hands. His father came from Kincardineshire and his mother was from Kirkcaldy in the county of Ayr. Paltry as this little "auld clay biggin" is, it divides the honors of