

tongue and its literature, and one of the best modes of securing this would no doubt be the erection in Scotland of a well-endowed chair, which would necessarily be always filled by one of the most eminent Gaelic scholars. That the subject has attracted some attention in this country is shown by the fact that in one at least of the Colleges affiliated with this University, instruction in Gaelic has been provided, and that in another a scholarship and a prize are offered for proficiency in Gaelic grammar and translation. I may add that Her Majesty the Queen heads the subscription list with two hundred pounds, and that the other subscriptions range from £105 to £10. Subscriptions may be forwarded to Prof. Blackie or to Donald Beith, Esq., W. S., 43 Castle street, Edinburgh.

Truly yours, J. W. DAWSON.

TO HIGHLANDERS ABROAD AND IN THE COLONIES.

It has been a matter of regret with the friends of the Highlanders and all lovers of native history and literature, that the language of the Gael, as now spoken in the Highlands of Scotland and in the Colonies, has been treated with such undeserved neglect, not only by the inhabitants of the low countries, but in not a few cases even by the Highlanders themselves. The consequence of this has been not only that the excellent poems of Alastair M'Donald, Duncan Ban MacIntyre, Dugald Buchanan, and many others (not to mention the sublime strains of Ossian), are practically unknown to the great mass of the Gaelic-speaking youth of Scotland, but that even the sacred Scriptures in the Gaelic version, whose excellence is generally confessed, are left unread by hundreds of persons who can be edified only by religious addresses in the familiar mother-tongue. Into the causes of this neglect, various and sad as they have been, it is not necessary to enter here; let it be sufficient to allude to one, that, when young Highlanders of any intellectual ambition betake themselves to the Universities of their native country in pursuit of the highest attainable culture, they find the language and literature of the Celtic races either not named at all, or named only to be ridiculed, while all their energies are directed into the channel of Greek and Roman learning. In these circumstances it is natural for them to look upon the language of their great forefathers rather as a necessary evil than as an element of good; and, if the teaching of the parish schools has in most cases done little to make the young Gael familiar with the printed traditions of his native tongue, the Universities generally succeed in eradicating altogether from the youth any germ of enthusiasm for Celtic literature that might have been growing in the bosom of the boy.

As the natural remedy to this evil, a few friends of the Gael in the Council of the University of Edinburgh bethought themselves of the very expedient of founding a Chair of Celtic Languages and Literatures in one of the Scottish Universities; and, as the seat of such a Chair, Edinburgh at once presented itself, not only in respect of its historical traditions and metropolitan position, but as being the great centre of ecclesiastical and intellectual action in Scotland. The erection of such a Chair would at once lift up the language of the Gael from the contempt into which it has fallen, and present to aspiring young Highlanders an object of scholarly ambition in the field of their own most cherished traditions which has so long been denied them. It would manifestly act also as a grand training school for those who are to be employed as preachers in the Highland pulpits, and teachers in Gaelic-speaking districts of Scotland, and in connection with the Greek and Latin classes, and the recently erected Chair of Sanscrit, tend to create a school of well-disciplined scholars, who might dispute with the Germans on Celtic ground the most interesting and difficult problems of Comparative Philology.

In order to realize this idea, as various circumstances render it hopeless to look to Government, at least in the first place, for aid, a Committee was appointed to collect contributions of which Principal Sir Alexander Grant, the Honourable Lord Neaves, Cluny Macpherson, Professor Masson, Sheriff Nicolson, of Kirkcudbright, Professor Blackie, and Professor MacGregor, of the Free Church College, were prominent members. Of this Committee Professor MacGregor was appointed Convener; but the Professor finding his hands sufficiently occupied otherwise, retired from the work, and the duties belonging to the Convener'ship devolved on Professor Blackie. At first the encouragement offered was so slight that the originators of the scheme almost despaired of success; but the more the matter was looked into, and the more firmly the pulse of true Highlanders was felt in the matter, the more did the prospects brighten, and the result has been that now, after a little more than four months' activity, a sum of more than £5,000 has been raised, subscribed by the leading Highland aristocracy, the heads of the Clans, the merchant princes of London and the West of Scotland, citizens of various Highland towns, and the Gaelic Societies and Celtic clubs in the various parts of Scotland where Highlanders congregate. Her Majesty the Queen also, as the Convener on the

best authority believes, is in favour of the scheme, and will stamp it with her approval as soon as she sees it placed on a firm foundation of popular support.

The sum required as a capital to provide an income of £400 a year for the Professor will be £10,000 pounds; but in order to secure the services of a first-rate man, and considering the increased expenses of living in the present age, it is very desirable that a sum of £12,000, or £14,000, should be subscribed, as it cannot be expected that the young men who attend a Celtic class will either be very numerous or able to pay a very remunerative fee. The Committee, however, have not the slightest reason to doubt that there are hundreds of intelligent and patriotic Highlanders, both at home and abroad, who will not only be ready to furnish the means for founding such a Chair, but who might also be willing to increase its efficiency, by creating along with it a few Fellowships which would act as a seminary of accomplished Celtic scholars for future generations. The intellectual misfortune of Scotland has always been that University study has been confined too much to strictly professional channels, and that all learning which does not produce a direct practical result has been allowed to starve. This, and this only, it is that in so many branches of interesting research causes our acknowledged Academical inferiority to the Germans and the English; and from this specially arises the lamentable fact that the most learned works in Celtic Philology have been composed by Professors in German Universities—Zeuss and Ebel—not, as would naturally have been expected, in the Universities of the country where the language still flourishes in a green old age. Comparative Philology and Ethnology, with their important bearings on early history, both profane and biblical, suffer, as a matter of course, from the neglect of the material which lies at our doors. The reproach thus cast on our national learning nothing will tend so effectually to remove as the scientific treatment of the Gaelic, and other Celtic languages, on the elevated platform of University teaching.

For these reasons, and others which will readily occur to you, we sincerely trust that you may feel moved to give the friends of the Celt in the mother-country that substantial aid which they require, in order to realize the proposed scheme in a manner worthy of the known patriotism of Highlanders.

(Signed)

CLUNY MACPHERSON.

ALEX. GRANT, Bart., Principal of the University.

ALEX. DUFF, D.D., LL.D., Edinburgh.

JOHN KENNEDY, D.D., Dingwall.

THE REV. DR. JOHN MACLEOD, Glasgow.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD CLERK, D.D., LL.D., Kilmallie.

JOHN STUART BLACKIE, Professor of Greek, Edinburgh.

JAMES BEGG, D.D., Edinburgh.

THOMAS MACLAUCHLAN, LL.D., Edinburgh.

—Montreal Witness.

THE COLLEGE REGATTAS.

The Rowing regatta and athletic sports of the American Colleges came off at Saratoga on the 13th and two succeeding days, and have so far given more satisfaction than any previous event. The interest seemed to centre chiefly in the representative crews of Harvard and Yale, the two foremost supporters of rowing on this side of the Atlantic among college men, and either of those crews was looked upon as a sure winner. The result has surprised every one, and goes to show that the favourites do not always win. Cornell, by winning the Freshman and University races, has achieved a success which has never fallen to the lot of any college crew since the inception of those intercollegiate carnivals, and one which may safely be set down as certain of seldom occurring in future. Although the colours of Harvard went to the fore in eight out of the eleven contests with Yale between 1852 and 1870, the former crew has not since then won a single race. In 1871 the crew of Massachusetts Agricultural College won at Ingleside, and in the two following years at Springfield, Amherst and Yale were respectively the victors. Last year Columbia won at Saratoga to the surprise of every one—her own crew included—Harvard and Yale having fouled each other out of the race, and this year Cornell pluckily comes to the front out of thirteen University crews, and wins one of the closest races ever seen on Saratoga Lake. It were useless to speculate upon the results to each crew, of the severe strain upon their physical energies caused by the constant practice and hard training necessary now-a-days to win a college race, but the students are to be congratulated that there was an absence this year of that ungentlemanly conduct which characterized the sayings and doings of many the disappointed partisans of Harvard and Yale at their first meeting at Saratoga.—*Montreal Gazette.*