

applause was that there was a Dundonian of the same name. It was the most sincere applause of the evening—and this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Yet, though from Dundee the country is flooded with journals—with a guaranteed circulation of three hundred thousand a week—containing founded-on-fact stories (a concession to truth!) in which one may live in a world of the "Tragedy" of this or the "True Story" of that, there is wealth of local legend, going back by way of Bloody Clavers and Sir William Wallace, who went to the Dundee Grammar School, says history, to far-off lies (of hobgoblins and dragons even), better than the truths of to-day in that we know they are lies and their charm is their antiquity, hinting eternity. Thus is the visitor to Dundee button-holed, as it were, by an illuminated place-name on the front of a tram-car buzzing down the Nethergate on some autumn night of sticky pavements and tiny stars; and he inquires why "Nine Wells" is so called. His answer is scarcely likely to come from the first man he interrogates; but it awaits him nevertheless, has indeed been told in verse by the local bard, in "Tales o' Our Town," to be had of George Montgomery, New Inn Entry, off the High Street; and in that small tribute to the place, made by one of her unostentatious sons, you may hear of the Nine Maidens and the Well, and discover why the Deil's Stane is so called, or peruse the Strange Story of the Castle of Mains. But the frail volume is hardly likely to sell three hundred thousand in the author's life-time.

Printers' ink being thus mentioned, it is pleasurable to affirm that one of its journals is alert for any local or national manifestation of the Divine Fire, and has printed words by singers whose names are like to live in Scottish Song and Ballad Books to be, when a new anthologist shall arise, as witness the best ballants of Alexander Anderson and Joseph Lee. And its "leading daily," in a country where so many dailies claim the title, can

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