

## SCRAPS OF SCOTCH FUN.

Two Lowland crofters lived within a few hundred yards of each other. One of them, Duncan by name, being the possessor of "Willson's Works," a rarity in the district, his neighbor, Donald, sent his boy one day to ask Duncan to favor him with a reading of the book. "Tell your father," said Duncan, "that I canna lend oot my book, but he may come to my hoose and read it there as lang as he likes." Country folks deal all more or less in "giff-gaff," and in a few days after Duncan, having to go to the market, and being minus a saddle, sent his boy to ask Donald to give him the loan of his saddle for the occasion. "Tell your father," said Donald, "that I canna lend oot my saddle; but it's in the barn, an' he can come there an' ride on it a' day if he likes."

A Forfar cobbler, described briefly as "a notorious offender," was brought up before the local magistrate, and being found guilty as libelled, was sentenced to half-a-crown or twenty-four hours' imprisonment. If he chose the latter, he would be taken to the jail at Perth. Having his option, the cobbler communed with himself. "I'll go to Perth," said he; "I've business in the toon, at any rate." An official forthwith conveyed him by train to the "Fair City;" but when the prisoner reached the jail he said he would now pay the fine. The Governor looked surprised, but found he would have to take it. "And now," said the calny cobbler, "I want my fare hame. The Governor demurred, made inquiries, and discovered that there was no alternative; the prisoner must be sent at the public expense to the place where he had been brought from. So the crafty son of St. Crispin got the 2s. 8½d. which represented his railway fare, transacted his business, and went home triumphant, 2½d. and a railway journey the better for his offence.

Our next specimen is cousin-german to the above. It is of two elderly Scotch ladies—"twa auld maids," to use a more homely phrase—who, on a certain Sunday not very long ago, set out to attend Divine service in the Auld Kirk, and discovered on the way that they had left without the usual small subscription for the "plate." They resolved not to return for the money, but to ask a loan of the necessary amount from a friend whose door they would pass on the way. The friend was delighted to be able to oblige them, and, producing her purse, spread out on the table a number of coins of various values—halfpennies, pennies, threepenny and sixpenny pieces. The ladies immediately selected a halfpenny each and went away. Later in the course of the same day they appeared to their friend again, and said they had come to repay the loan.

"Toots, havers," exclaimed old Janet, "ye needna hae been in sic a hurry wi' the bits o' coppers; I could hae gotten them frae you at any time."

"Ou, but," said the thrifty pair, in subdued and confidential tones, "it was no trouble ava', for there was naebody stannin' at the plate, so we just shpitt in an' saved the bawbees."

A Scotchman was once advised to take shower baths. A friend explained to him how to fit up one by the use of a cistern and colander, and Sandy accordingly set to work and had the thing done at once. Subsequently he was met by the friend who had given him the advice, and, being asked how he enjoyed the bath—

"Man," said he, "it was fine. I liked it rale weel, and kept mysel' quite dry, too."

Being asked how he managed to take the shower and yet remain quite dry, he replied—

"Dod, ye dinna surely think I was sae daft as stand ablow the water without an umbrella."

Two or three nights before the advent of a recent Christmas, a Scotch laddie of ten years of age, or so, was sitting examining very gravely a somewhat ugly hole in the heel of one of his stockings. At length he looked towards his mother and said

"Mither, ye micht gie me a pair o' new stockin's."

"So I will, laddie, by and by; but ye're no saur needin' new anes yet," answered his mother.

"Will I have them this week?"

"What mak's ye sae anxious to hae them this week?"

"Because if Santa Claus pits onything into thir anes it'll fa' oot."

Mr. Dewar, a shopkeeper in Edinburgh, being in want of silver for a bank note, went into the shop of a neighbour of the name of Scott, whom he thus addressed

"I say, Master Scott,

Can you change me a note?"

Mr. Scott's reply was

"I am no very sure, but I'll see."

Then going into his back room, he immediately returned, and added

"Indeed, Mr. Dewar,

It's out o' my power,

For my wife's awa wi' the key."

## SCALDS AND BURNS.

For a burn or scald, make a paste of common baking soda and water, apply at once, and cover with a linen cloth. When the skin is broken, apply the white of an egg with a feather: this gives instant relief, as it keeps the air from the flesh.

## CAUSES OF INSANITY.

The most frequent predisposing causes are, exhaustion from over-work, the various moral sources, such as grief, anxiety, disappointment, fear, *enmity*, the abuse of stimulants, and excesses of all kinds. These causes may so act as to induce insanity in a healthy individual, but they are undoubtedly most efficient in the presence of an insane temperament. These statements are trite enough, but are important as lying at the foundation of all treatment preventive or remedial. They have the most practical bearing on the education of children, the choice of occupation, and the conduct of life. Many a valuable mind has gone prematurely to decay, through misapprehension of neglect of these facts.

## EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON THE MIND.

It is one of the curious errors that alcohol stimulates the imagination, and gives a clearer, more practical insight into the relation of events of life. The whirl of thought roused up by the increased circulation of the blood in the brain is not imagination; it is not a superior insight or conception of the relation of events, but is a rapid reproduction of previous thoughts, soon merging into confusion. The inebriate never creates any new ideas or new views: all his fancies are tumultuous, blurred, and barren. The man who uses spirits to give mental force and clearness is doing the very worst thing possible to destroy this effect. Alcohol is ever and always a paralyzant. It never creates anything; it never gives strength or force that did not exist before; it never gives a clearer conception and power of execution, but always lowers, destroys, and breaks down.

## DELETERIOUS TINNED MEATS.

The British Consul at Baltimore, in a recent report on tinned goods deleterious to health, says that all tinned