

They learned all they cared to know of

—what the news is,
Who wins and who loses,
The cause of all this pother and rout,

in the outer world, from the *Aberdeen Journal*, that eminently successful and well-conducted newspaper, which has continued, in the hands of the lineal descendants of the original proprietor, to maintain the advocacy of a mild and tolerant conservatism since the Scottish rebellion in 1745. The household had their turn of this paper, subscribed for by a small "club" of neighbours in Tullich, and it was read aloud by William for the benefit of his brother and sister. When the Parliamentary Reform Bill for Scotland was passed, William was entered on the roll of voters, and, with the other tenants on the estate of Monaltrie, for which the late Mr. Roy, of Altdowrie Cottage, Invercauld, was factor, always voted for the conservative candidate, Whiggery being tabooed on the estates of Monaltrie and Invercauld.

The visit paid by me to our friends in company with my father was of brief duration; but I had ample opportunity of getting intimately acquainted with them on a subsequent occasion, when I spent the whole of my summer holidays under charge of Lizzie, as I had been ordered to the country to recruit. The kindly woman petted and made much of me, administering on every fitting occasion a due supply of the dainties already referred to. I shortly knew when she intended thus to treat me, by her exclamation, "faar's my laddie?—faar's my laddie?" and her satisfaction with my conduct when I was a "good boy" was expressed by her hearty exclamation, "fawmous, fawmous!" I was at this time also the subject of regard by an ancient maiden, Lizzie Galt, living in an adjoining cottage, who had been for a good many years, when in her prime, a servant in my grandfather's family, in the neighbouring village of Ballater. Lizzie Galt was famed the country side for the peculiar style of head-dress which she affected. It consisted of a stupendous white mutch, owing its bulk, it was said, to half a dozen interior coverings, of which it was the outer integument, and her head was thus in its appearance out of proportion to the rest of her person. She set great store on a few yards of white muslin sent to me from Aberdeen, to be presented to her for the construction of mutches. Notwithstanding this peculiarity, Lizzie Galt was not wanting in shrewdness and intelligence, her style of head-gear being her only weakness.

It may here be noted, as bearing on the topography of this district of Deeside, that the inhabitants, living as they do in a narrow tract of country lying between steep hills, seldom traversed laterally but by sportsmen and shepherds, talk of their motions hither and thither only in one line. The folk in Tullich thus speak of going "wast to the village" (of Ballater), or "east to Cammis o' May;" and they have seldom occasion to speak of the other two cardinal points of the compass.

Some years after Lizzie Paterson's death, William gave up the farm, and having "made his pile" by a life of industry and economy, he purchased a small property adjoining the farm of Milltown of Tul-