

A GLANCE AT SCOTLAND'S NOTABLES.

REV. W. D. REID, B.D.

"The land of heather" has been the home of many famous novelists, inventors, orators, philosophers, statesmen and philanthropists. Not only does this statement refer to the past, it has a present application as well. Great Scotsmen are not all dead. Since becoming a resident of Edinburgh I have had the pleasure of sitting under Scotland's most noted sons. In many ways Scottish speakers differ from those of America. One noticeable characteristic common to the generality of public speakers here is their decidedly philosophic trend of thought. The ordinary student takes to philosophy rather than to classics, consequently the Scotch colleges excel in the former subject, but cannot compare with Cambridge and Oxford in the latter. Public speaking here is apt to be theoretical rather than practical. In delivery there is no attempt made at oratory. If a man gives an address he writes it and reads closely. On Sabbath the preacher does likewise, depending entirely upon the quality of his thought and the polish of his diction to hold the attention of his audience. The only "Edinbro" minister heard by me who delivered his discourse "sans" MSS., was Dr. Mathewson, of St. Bernard's Parish Church, and doubtless he dispensed with the paper because of his blindness. As a result of this, one hears very little nonsense from platform or pulpit. Occasionally the "matter" is as dark and dense as an Egyptian night, but light and frothy, never.

One of the most popular political speakers of Scotland is Lord Roseberry. On two different occasions I have listened to this man of fame. The first time I heard him, he spoke under the auspices of the Liberal Club of Edinburgh; my second opportunity was when he was chairman of the "Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial" meeting. The club, association, or society that secures the presence of the late Liberal leader