

The 164th Burns Anniversary.

Is Scotland Neglecting Her Poet?

Scotland in her battle for freedom. If Burns were alive to-day, would he not sadly confess that his great watchword of Liberty was being utterly neglected by all classes of society? The working-class ideal in Scotland is not Liberty but Control. Socialist control may be a good thing; with that aspect it is not here concerned. My point is that those who on the 25th of January enthusiastically endorse the Burns doctrine in principal affairs absolutely neglect his teaching.

So, too, with the poet's doctrine of Equality. Clerical orators at the festival was eloquent over equality and claim Burns as an exponent of practical Christianity. Do the Churches give effect to the principle of equality and claim Burns as an exponent of practical Christianity. Do the Churches give effect to the principle of equality? Is "a man's a man, for a' that" recognized by congregations on Sundays? Nay, verily, if a poor, ill-clad man or woman were to attempt to enter a fashionable congregation in Scotland they would be refused admission, or if they gained an entrance consternation would be caused among the worshippers. Are there not missions in the slum quarters for human derelicts?

In olden times the Jews had no dealings with the Gentiles; in like manner the fashionable Christian has no dealings with slum humanity, except through the medium of tract distributors, soup kitchen agencies, and such like. Apart from clerical orators at Burns anniversaries, a man is not a man, for a' that.

What of Fraternity, one of the cardinal doctrines of Burns? Is it, too, suffering neglect? He looked forward to the time when "man to man, the world over, would brothers be for a' that." Is there any sign of the realization of the Burns ideal? In this matter, too, notwithstanding 25th of January declarations, the attitude of man to man is the reverse of brotherly. It must be thankfully admitted that we have not supplanted Burns by the German Hymn of Hate, but it must be sorrowfully admitted that Scotland, like the rest of the world, treats with neglect the glorious humanitarianism of Burns. During the world conflict a gleam from Burns shone through the ghastly tragedy in the saying that it was a war to end war. Alas! it was but a gleam. The nation is now asked to prepare for the next war.

A step in the right direction, and one which Burns would have hailed with joy, is the formation of the League of Nations. Through a deep sense of the horrors of war Scotland may be led to stone for its neglect of the teachings of the great national poet, and by throwing her influence on the side of the League of Nations help to realize the ideal of Burns—universal brotherhood.

In another way atonement might be made or neglect of the teaching of Burns—namely, by the establishment of a league of classes for the study of the poet's works. This is an imperative necessity inasmuch as the rising generation, it is to be feared, are not so well acquainted with Burns as were their forefathers. The dialect of the poems is an obstacle which is not lessened by the decay of the old Scottish language, owing largely to the Union and modern educational methods. This obstacle cannot be overcome by Burns anniversaries, which are as ephemeral as they are misleading in their influence.

Scotland can never overestimate the indebtedness to Burns. In the region of song he exercises an influence at once imperishable, inspiring, and elevating. In the matchless oration of Lord Rosebery at Dumfries on the centenary of the death of Burns: "Many of Burns' songs were already on the lips and minds of the people—rough and coarse and obscene. Our benefactor takes them and with a touch of 'inspired' literary transmutates and leaves them pure gold."

"He loved the old catches and the old tunes, and into these gracious moulds he poured his exquisite gifts of thought and expression. But for him, those ancient airs, often wedded to words which no decent man could recite, would have perished from that corruption, if not from neglect. He rescued them for us by his songs, and in doing so he hallowed the life and sweetened the breath of Scotland."

In the opinion of Carlyle it is upon the songs of Burns that his greatest influence rests. "In hut and hall," says Carlyle, "as the heart unfolds itself in many-coloured joy and woe, the voice of that joy and woe is the same which Burns has given them. With that tenderness he sings, yet with what vehemence and earnestness! There is a piercing wall in his sorrow, the purest rapture in his joy."

In one brief word, Scotland cannot afford to neglect Burns. H.M. in John's London Weekly.



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LADIES' WOOL GLOVES—Excellent all Wool Gloves, closed wrist. Just what is needed for cold weather; in White, Chambray, Navy and Black. Very special value at **65c**.

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BABY'S OWN BLANKETS—Full size, fluffy Nap Cotton Blankets, in Blue and White and Pink and White mixtures, nursery patterns, wide stitched binding, makes a splendid wrap. Special each Friday, Saturday **\$2.68** and Monday

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LADIES' VESTS—"Phoebe Snow" finest Jersey Vests, short sleeves and sleeveless, with straps; sizes 38 to 44 inch. Reg. \$2.20. Friday, **\$1.98** Saturday and Monday

SPOCK PANTS—Infants' Waterproof Knocabout Pants, buttoned front, drawstrapping at waist, breeches style, all white, assorted sizes. Special Friday, Saturday and Monday **78c**.

SILK POPLIN WAISTS—Black Silk Poplin Waists, with roll collar, long sleeves, trimmed with Crochet Buttons and hemstitched, assorted sizes. A special **\$3.39** value. Reg. \$5.50. Fri., Sat. and Mon

LINGERIE TAPE—5 yard pieces in Sky, Hello and White, with special needs; very handy. Reg. 15c. card. Friday, Saturday and Monday **10c**.

SUSPENDERS—Children's suspenders in Black and White, well finished and well suited for children. Reg. 15c. pair. Friday, Saturday and Monday **14c**.

SMART SKIRTS—Ladies' all Wool Skirts in pretty Plaids, stripes and checks, accordion pleated, all the newest color blendings, assorted sizes. Reg. \$10.00. Friday, **\$7.98** Saturday and Monday

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In Fine Wool Serges, navy shade, assorted colours in cluster stripes running through the entire length, nice for one piece Dresses. Regular \$7.00 yard. Friday, **\$3.98** Saturday and Monday

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PILLOW CASES—Plain White Pillow Cases, finished with wide button hole edge, value for 55c. each. Fri., Saturday and Monday **45c**.

PILLOW CASES—Plain, extra strong White Cotton Pillow Cases, finished with a wide hemstitched end, real good value. Special Friday, Saturday and Monday **64c**.

PLAIDS—38 inch Plaids, in assorted mixtures, nice for Skirts, Waists or one-piece Dresses for children. Reg. 80c. Friday, Saturday and Monday **78c**.

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WOOL SQUARES. Only 6 of them in mixed Blue and White and Pink and White fringed, convenient size for baby's sligh; were \$4.00, slightly soiled from handling. To Clear Friday, Saturday and Monday **\$2.48**



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ROLLER TOWELS—Made up Turkish Roller Towels, striped, unbleached quality, extra strong. Regular 80c. Friday, **54c**. Saturday and Monday

TABLE DAMASKS—Several pieces of strong White Damasks, 62 inch width, good value at their regular price \$1.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday **89c**.

LACE CURTAINS—52 pairs of White Lace Curtains, two and a half yard size, value for \$2.50 pair. Friday, Saturday **\$1.59** and Monday

CURTAIN LACE—60 inch White Nottingham Curtain Laces, all-over lacey patterns. Special Friday, Saturday and Monday **64c**.

NOTE PAPER—In the linen finish, put up in pound parcels, mostly White. Special. The package **29c**.

ART MUSLINS—Always handy for drapes of every kind, pretty floral patterns, cream grounds. Special Friday, Saturday and Monday **36c**.

WHITE SHEETS—Best quality English Sheets, in extra strong, White twill, deep stitched hem, special quality for particular housekeepers. They're new. Regular \$5.50 pair. Fri., Sat., Saturday and Monday **\$5.98**

SHEET WADDING—Black and unbleached, for padding suits, muffs and such like; each **18c**.

CHECK DUSTERS—Soft, chambray like finish, hemmed each **20c**.

CUP TOWELS—Strong White Crash Cup Towels, hemmed ready for use; each **18c**.

SCRUB CLOTHS—Course and strong to, wideband hard rubbing; each **18c**.

Dwindling Prices ON SHIRTS, etc.

TOP SHIRTS—Men's soft fronted striped Top Shirts, in neat patterns; all sizes. Special **\$1.25**

DRESS BOWS—Corded Black Silk Dress Bows, with controlling band; neat. Special **60c**.

COAT SWEATERS—All Wool Coat Sweaters, with shawl collar, snug well finished and neat appearing; Heather mixtures. Reg. \$6.50. Special Friday, Saturday **\$5.90**

SOLITAIRE—Neat pearl tipped Solitaires, with unartificially gilt back. Special **35c**.

COLLARED SHIRTS—Neat appearing Shirts in assorted striped patterns, collar attached; \$1.50 value. Friday, Saturday and Monday **\$1.30**

WOOL SOCKS—Pretty Heather Wool Socks, unshrinkable, heavy ribbed finish, spliced heel. Special **95c**.

WINTER CAPS—New ones just to hand, showing pleated and one piece crowns, ear protection folded inside, plain and fancy mixtures. Special Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday **\$1.70**

DANCING SHOES—Patent leather Dancing Shoes, bow front, easy fitting, ver neat shape. **\$3.85** Special

PYJAMAS—Striped Flannelette Pyjama Suits, military collar, with silk braiding button assortment. Special **\$2.75**

BOYS' PYJAMAS—English Union Pyjama Suits, to fit 8 to 15 years, very strong materials in striped patterns; \$2.50 value. Friday, Saturday and Monday, the suit **\$1.50**

WOOL SOCKS—Beautiful quality "Alpha" Wool Socks in, assorted popular shades; assortment of sizes. Special **\$1.25**

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Children's Heavy Elder Dressing Gowns fitting 10 to 14 years, girle at waist, mixed shades of Grey and Cardinal, Size and Navy and Cardinal. Reg. \$3.70. Friday, Saturday and Monday, **3.15**

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In assorted widths, strong bleached Cottons, offering most unusual values, suitable lengths for Bolsters and Pillow Cases. To clear at **48c**

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BROGUE SHOES—In Black Calf. medium heel and semi-pointed toe, solid leather sole and heel and front flap. Reg. \$6.59. \$7.25. Friday, Saturday and Monday **\$6.59**

TAN BOOTS—Dark Tan Calf Boots, blucher shape, block toe, sensible footwear. Regular \$6.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday **\$5.69**

CHILDREN'S BOOTS—Dongola Boots, laced style, sizes 2 to 8 only 48 pairs in the lot; they're a bargain. Regular \$1.20. Friday, Saturday and Monday **79c**

ANKLE SUPPORTS—Just the thing for skating time, suitable sizes for girls and boys, very strong, were 60c. pair. Friday, Saturday and Monday **38c**.

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WOOL PLAID SKIRTING—Fine Wool Cashmere Plaids, beautiful texture, distinctive patterns, thoroughly shrunken, assorted grounds. Reg. \$5.00. yard. Friday, Saturday and Mon. **\$3.98**

56-INCH WOOL PLAID SKIRTINGS—Heavier, wool makes in beautiful plaid patterns, uncommon shades, last for years and they're smart-looking. Reg. \$7.00 yard. Friday, Saturday **\$4.98** and Monday

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