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rday night sixty years ago and the scotch divines, the beadle and Precentor. The late Lord Neaves. self a man of a genial, humournature, was wont to complain easantly of his friend Dean Ramfor having drawn so many specimens of Scottish humour from the ayings and doings of the native dergy. But the worthy Dean, to employ a figure of his own recording, at o't." in other words, he gathered most grain from the field which had produced the most abundant crope field of clerical life and work.

Hand and personal labour of every kind in Scotland, as everywhere else. has in recent years been largely suerseded by machinery, and no one an have failed to notice that even a rapidly decaying institution in decay is will be recognized from nsideration of the fact that, withmemory of many persons still illve, "reading the line" was the genral custom in Congregational praise. a those far away days, there was no "St. Asaphs," "Doversdale," or the such thing as an organ, or "kist o" in any Presbyterian Kirk the land, and Choirs were the exion. Langsyne St. John's had resbyterian Kirks, the "Upper' was called, and about the last

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Archie Gibb, Andrew Wilson, John Thistledown Frae Anderson—and many others of long ago who have passed away. In the North of Scotland hymns were not mentioned, except with scorn and tunes were regarded as a frivolity demanding extermination. By and by the repeating tune was hymns were introduced here an there, choirs became the fashion; and paration for the Sabbath by the thus far the precentor was a sine qua non. Ultimately the Kirk doors were opened to the introduction of known as "Choirmasters and Conductors of psalmody." Now the whustles and free. "Whustle Kirks" to-day is the rule rather than the exception and the precentor has become most unknown quantity. Many of the old Scotch people behold the spec

tacle with acute twinges of regret for many pleasant memories of the pleasantest period of our lives cluster around the familiar form of the village-Kirk precentor as he appeared in the desk with clean-shaven chin, black "stock," stiffly-starched, high rimmed linen collar, and ample e office of "lettergae," or precentor, the imagination we can even now hear the familiar snap of the snuffbox lid, see him prime the one nos tril, then the other, and hear the equally familiar dire of the "pitchfork" on the book-board, and the reading of the line on the keynote of "Balermo," or "Devizes," "Coleshill. wild warbling measures of "Dundee,

THE MUSICAL IMPROVER.

The enterprise and ingenuity o ning link of loving memory is milliners, dressmakers and tailors life-long freen, Sandy Robertson, hosiers and purveyors of purple and was one of the pillars. In the fine linen is so remarkable that we seventies the Upper Kirk had are often misled into the belief that precentor by the name of Joe Wil- it is the monopoly of our marvellous -Free Kirk-Mr. William Irving age. But just as there were brave men was the outstanding precentor for before Agamemnon, so there were many years; Mr. Frew the highly re- probably monarchs of mode even bespected and loveable Scotchman, has fore the Queen of Sheba I am moved been for over sixty years an out- to make this observation by an old standing figure, and is to-day the newspaper cutting, which I saw a atriarch of Presbyterianism in New- few days ago, describing a case which oundland, and has done much to came before the late Mr. Justice ement unity in the Kirk. The Upper Kekewich in the nineties. Rival manad the lower Kirk are now as one ufactures of an article of dress known -although we have a kist of whustles as a dress improper were concern the Kirk. In the old days we re- ed, and in the course of the proceed ain pleasant memories of the Choir, ings one of the counsel engaged de and the able support in singing the scribed the "Jubilee Dress Improver Praises of the church by such Scotch- The peculiar merit of this apparatu

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man as A. Robertson, John Hepburn, was this that when a lady equippe with it sat down it played "God Save he Queen." Compared with modern nethods of expressing loyality, this effect may appear somewhat crude and aggressive, but there is something magnificent about its startling sensationalism. It is said before the introduction of a kist o' whustles in certain Presbyterian church in the Highlands of Scotland, the precentor Dress Improvers for each, The musi-, Agents, aug29,3m,eod cal instruments for them were made in Berne, Switzerland. In these days the congregation sat during the singing, the musical bustle being the only instrument which led the choir, careful time being kept by the pre centor. During the singing the latter ould be heard to say, fine ladies, fine ladies, just a little louder, squeeze your bustles a little more, It is need ess to say there was good congregational singing. The tune Old Hunired went with a swing to the words Praise God from whom all blessings flow," "I need thee every hour," "Oh, what shall the harvest be?" Several other old familiar tunes were beautifully sung by the choir, led by the dainty some of our present every day young ladies would look modeled with a Grecian bend, and wearing a musical bustle playing "O' whustle an' I'll come tae ye, ma lad."

The feeling against repeating tur

present century. A precentor of age and experience, thinking to steal a march on the minister, whose mind on the subject was well known, he started a reneating tune one day. As soon as his drift was evident the minister's hand was over the pulpit and his fingers among the "lettergae's" hair, and "Stop, Dauvit! peats we'll repeat, but not till then.' Of course, then, even as now, repeating tunes had to be chosen with neat discrimination, as much of our sacred verse does not yield itself gracefully to such treatment. Repeats generally occur in the last lines of a stanza, and the praise of a congregation has not infrequently been rendered ludicrous from the want of good taste and common sense in the selection of tunes suited to the words as well as to the sentiment of a psalm or hymn. To the well known Hundredth Pslam a repeating tune has sometimes been applied, which from the peculiarity in its arrangement has rendered the line, "And for His sheep, he doth us take" thus-"And for His sheep he'd-And for His sheep he'd-And for His sheep he'd-oth us take." From the same indiscretion multitudes of people have been made to exclaim: "Oh, send down Sal-Oh, send down Sal-Oh, send down Salva-tion to us," and solicit the privilege to "Bow-wow-wow before the throne." But surely the most ludicrous example of the kind ever prochoir had to repeat to themselves: "Oh, for a man—Oh, for a man—Oh, for a man-sion in the skies." Occastons have also been made memorable by precentors from ignorance or accident launching into a tune in a different measure from the psalm. In this way a "lettergae" in a rural parish in the North, far from perfect in his profession, astonished the congregation one Sabbath many years ago. In the psalm which was intimated, the second line to be sung ended with the word "Jacob," said psalm

approached to something like horror

in certain parts of Scotland, even in

the second and third decades of the

us the day, Geordie." "Ay," replied Geordie, "Yon's Kin noull Hill," and away he went, avoid ing further question as much as he could, saying "Teach us o' Lord the perfect way." Insure with The Connecticut had made to order for the lady mem- Fire Insurance Co.. of Hartford hers of his choir, several Jubilee Conn. T. H. CARTER & CO.

being a common metre. The precen-

tor, who sang "by the lug" and used

no tune-book, went off on a peculiar

metre tune, and not discovering the

error until he was short of verbal,

material, he improvised for the oc-

casion, and sang it "J_a_Jay_fal_

de-riddle-cob," and so on, as ne-

were finished. On coming out of the

church some of his neighbours ap-

"O'd, you was a new ane ye ga'e

proached him and said:



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Pope's Head Alley.

tle thoroughfares, Pope's Head Alley, situated in historic Cornhill, is shortly to disappear. Rebuilding operations in connection with the extenend of Lombard Street are responsible

stop," he shouted. "When the Lord re- took its alluding name from the celebrated Cornhill tavern "The Pope's creature comfort mentioned in many literary places, and as early as the reign of Edward IV. In the time of Henry VI. wine was sold there at a penny a pint, bread being granted to drinkers gratis. Stowe inclined to the

was a royal palace. Very possibly diversion "so home, on my way call- however, was King Ferdinand of Bulhis surmise was correct, as the an-ing at Pope's Head Alley and there garia, with whom he got in touch by cient royal arms of England (three bought me a pair of scissors and a a letter of introduction from a Paris eopards supported by two angels) brass square." were discovered chiselled on its stone and English goldsmiths decided after such things. In 1615 Sir William Craven, father of the first Earl of Craven, bequeathed the "Pope's Head" to the Merchant Taylors' Company. The Company held it for charitable purposes, and, in 1849, had

The first print sellers in La John Sudbury and George Humble, are reported to have commenced their business in matters artistic in the al ley at the "Sign of the White Horse." Cunningham authorizes the statement together with the fact that the first edition of Speed's Great Britain (folio 1611) was sold by them at their promises therein. Ben Johnson refers to the pamphlets of Pope's Head Alley and the rouge-receiver of the "Beggars Opera") has a word for the print

him five shillings. Once he adjourn- day at his favourite game, which was ed to the famous tavern and there roulette. discussed affairs of State, after which

places, the Pope's Head was once the the King was nearly a million france scene of a brawl in which Quin, the the poorer for having made the acactor, killed Bowen, a brother quaintance of Ardisson. Not only Thespian. Jealousy was the cause of was Ardisson clever at all games of

'King of Crooks" Dead

at Marseilles by inhaling gas would seem appropriate, as "The King of the Crooks," as he was called, caus-In his earlier days he was a man of considerable personal attraction and charm of manner. Nobody ever knew who he was, but he himself spread the report that he was the natural son of the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia. He was a man of good education, and at one time found his way into good society. His most to a Countess of American birth who had extraordinary influence over the ex-Kaiser. Through her Ardisson Before the Great Fire it was famous got to know some of the leading for its toys and turner's wares. Pepy's members of Berlin society, with the "aggate-hafted knife," which he pur- result that he very nearly ruined two chased in Pope's Head Alley, cost or three of the young bloods of the

faculty of being able to faint when continue the game. He arrived in not succeed, and was exposed by the late Sir George Chetwynd, not, however, before he had relieved a young officer in the Coldstreams of a considerable sum of money at a West-End hotel. He was a well known fig-Princess Souvaroff there some 20 odd jewellery caused a great sensation at the time, and resulted in his expulsion from the principality. But he found his way back, for he had been frequently seen there of recent years. He must in his time have amassed great wealth, but it is said he died

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