

Queen of Scots. Among the many relics was the Oratory in the Queen's Audience Chamber where, the guide told us in his own vernacular, she married her third "maun" very early in the morning. The High Street with its "lands," once the home of the great, now, as there is striking evidence, of the "great unwashed." The narrow "closes" running in between the "lands," looking as if they did not lead to paths of virtue, and John Knox's house were all neighbours. Then came world-famed Princes Street, with its gardens, its statues, its shops. We had little time to study this city of such striking contrasts.

Of Scotland generally we have recollections of ripened grain fields with poppies raising their impertinent heads, grim stone walls or dykes, not the hedge-rows of England, rowan trees and castles and ruins. The trip up Loch Lomond from Balloch Pier to Ardlui brought us into the home of Scottish songs and romance. Ayr and "Bonnie Doon," a run back to Glasgow, and our steamer is boarded.

Three things marked our trip home; a farewell dinner on the eve of sailing, in honour of Mr. Ney, whom we were to leave behind us; "A call to Prayer," on our first Sunday out; and the work for the Red Cross Society. The order of service of the Call to Prayer was most fittingly arranged by Rev. A. J. W. Crosse, Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle, and Mr. F. J. Ney. Service at sea at any time is most impressive, but in time of war it seemed doubly so. To be idle on the return trip was to be ashamed. The result was that forty shirts and twenty-eight pairs of stockings were sent back by the Scandinavian for the soldiers.

Now that our beautiful summer is seen in perspective we cannot express too warmly our gratitude to the Hon. Organizer and his associates, for all that was done to make our official visit to the old land one of the greatest profit and pleasure.

CANDLEMAS DAY,

(February 2.)

If Candlemas Day be cold and clear,
The worst of the winter is yet to appear.

If February brings the rain,
'Tis neither good for grass nor grain.

THE RED CROSS.

We have received from the Central Committee of the Canadian Red Cross Society a little pamphlet, setting forth reasons why the society should be supported, with a request to publish in whole or in part, the information thus supplied, for the benefit of the Canadian Overseas Contingent.

We gladly accede to this request, and believing that many people who freely give time and money to the Red Cross are yet not very definitely informed about the beginnings and working of this famous organization, we preface our extracts from the society's booklet by a very brief outline of its history, most of the facts in which are gathered from a full and interesting article by Henry C. Shelley in the "Edinburgh Review."

"The true and only begetter," says this writer, "of the Red Cross Movement was a Swiss philanthropist, Henry Dunant." An accidental experience at the battle of Solferino, 1859, so deeply impressed M. Dunant with the need of organized help for wounded soldiers, that he never rested until by writing, speaking, and interesting already existing organizations, he succeeded in bringing about an international conference to deliberate on the matter. This conference met at Geneva, in September 1863, with thirty-six delegates representing fourteen governments, and led to the famous Geneva Convention of 1864, to which we may look back as the real beginning of the Red Cross Societies. The convention laid down, among other principles, that all hospitals and ambulances were to be regarded as neutral and to be protected and respected by combatants; and that wounded and sick soldiers should be entertained and taken care of, to whatever nation they may belong.

The conference of 1863 had already decided upon the adoption of an identical, distinctive sign for the medical corps and an identical flag for the field and stationary hospitals of all armies. The sign thus adopted was the Red Cross, chosen as a compliment to the Swiss originators of this beneficent conference, for the Red Cross on a white ground is simply the flag of Switzerland with the colours reversed. In the convention of 1906, it was expressly declared that this sign has "no religious significance." Turkey, however, claimed the right to substitute a Red Crescent for the Red Cross.