

AN ABERDEENSHIRE "JOHN POUNDS."

There resides at Badenscoth, Auchterless, Mr. James Beattie, who has now far over-reached the "threescore and ten," and who, for upwards of half-a-century, has combined the faithful discharge of his professional duties as a shoemaker with the no less faithful discharge of the responsible duties of a schoolmaster. The number of his scholars has ranged from the nucleus of one to the round figure of 70. Seated on his Crispin stool, he has been accustomed to perform his two-fold duties at one and the same time, within the narrow limits of his humble workshop. When we add that, through the long period above-mentioned, Mr. Beattie's teaching was given gratuitously, and was purely a "labor of love," we have stated what will form the apology for a handsome testimonial with which he was presented on Saturday last, and his claim to rank as "an Aberdeenshire John Pounds." Mr. Beattie's individuality and genuine labor of love had not escaped an observant and talented lady novelist—Mrs. Gordon of Parkhill, who, in her last work, "Lady Elinor Mordaunt," refers to him under the name of "Thomas Baird." In 1835, Mr. Beattie was presented by his pupils with a handsome silver snuff-box, "as a mark of respect for his unwearied exertions in the education of the youth." Notwithstanding his determination to enjoy the gratification of teaching gratuitously, he could not altogether escape the good wishes of those who knew how to appreciate his worth. The fruits of his industry had taken the shape of some 10 or 12 acres of land—which he holds at a moderate rent—and the neighboring farmers would insist on "a yokin," which it would only have been an insult to refuse. In December last, however, an influential committee was organized to raise subscriptions for a suitable testimonial. The presentation took place on Saturday in front of the Badenscoth Inn, at 3 p. m., in presence of Mr. Beattie's 67 scholars, a number of the parents and other ladies and gentlemen interested. The attendance comprised a number of the most respectable parties in the district. Mr. Chalmers, of Monkhill, in presenting the testimonial, after some introductory remarks, said—We are met here to-day for the purpose of tendering to you, Mr. Beattie, an offering of respect and esteem on behalf of the parents of the children attending your school, as well as of the countless numbers who have gone forth and prospered in the world mainly through the instrumentality of your labors amongst them. History fails in recording a parallel case. You have, I believe, been a teacher of the young, for a period of 56 years—unostentatiously and gratuitously making all welcome to drink of the pure fountain generously accorded to the rich as well as the poor. For the benefit of the poor, however, have you chiefly bestowed your time and unbought service; and while

I am well assured you neither asked nor expected remuneration in this world beyond the comfort of an approving conscience, I trust that, in your old age, you may appreciate this somewhat tardy mark of respect which, emanating from your immediate neighbors and friends, has also enlisted the sympathies of others who, like myself, have felt it a privilege to unite in the present demonstration. It would be wrong, however, if I did not mention as liberal subscribers Mrs. Leslie of Rothie, the respected widow of your late landlord; his successor, Colonel Forbes Leslie; Mr. Leslie, M. P.; Major King; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon of Pitlurg; Mr. Gordon of Fyvie, &c. Without further remark, I beg now to place in your hands a deposit receipt for the sum of £60, lodged in the Aberdeen Town and County Bank in your name, and of the little purse now in my hand containing £26. Let me also add that it is intended to place this, your admirable photograph, in a frame, accompanied by a brief narrative of the events of this day, and the previous circumstances in your long and useful life which gave rise to the present meeting, in order that the same may adorn the walls of your schoolroom, so long as Providence is pleased to spare you, and thereafter continue as an heirloom in your family for future generations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

THURSDAY, May 30.

The General Assembly of the Established Church was opened on Thursday in the usual manner. Lord Belhaven, Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, held a levee at 11 o'clock in the Picture Gallery of Holyrood Palace, which was completely filled. The sermon in St Giles' was preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Maitland of Kelis, who took his text from Revelations, 3rd and 20th, and delivered a very eloquent and appropriate discourse. The Rev. Dr. Smith of Inverary, was then elected Moderator. The royal commission and letter were then read, and after some routine business the Assembly adjourned.

FRIDAY.

The business of the day was commenced by the Assembly engaging in devotional exercises.

Dr. Hill as convener of the committee for the arrangement of business, was instructed to say that the Assembly would meet daily next week at 11 o'clock; that after the reading and approval of the minutes, the special business as fixed by the committee should be proceeded with and that the adjournment should be from 4 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and no longer. All irrelevant discussions should be avoided—(hear, hear)—and the members of the Assembly would express