

FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going on in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

Over 3,000 cattle passed under the hammer at the recent great sales at Oban.

The whiskey in Auchterarder, like that of other towns, has been raised to 18 cents per gill.

The subscriptions to the fund for the Elderslie Wallace Memorial now amount to over \$6,300.

The additional whiskey tax is expected to yield 9½ millions, of which 4½ millions will come from Scotland.

Distillers all over the north are up in arms against the large increase of duty on whiskey proposed in the budget.

Port Glasgow's ancient station may be doomed, but meantime the renovation of portions of the woodwork is being done.

The annual demonstration of the Eastern Band of Hope Union was held in Alexandria Park, Glasgow, recently. Muster, over 5,000.

The revenue of Aberdeen University last year amounted to \$109,760, of which \$72,000 came under the heading of Parliamentary grants.

Miss Alice Reid, Kirriemuir, is in a Civil Service Examination first for Scotland and second for United Kingdom, out of 600 competitors.

The proposal to form a farmers' defence association for both sides of the Tweed, working from Berwick market as a centre, is growing in favor.

Greenlaw Parish Council have resolved not to limit the medical officer to a certain sum for medicine, but to allow him to charge for whatever he supplies.

The annual outing of the South-western District of the Boys' Brigade, Glasgow, took place recently to Rouken Glen. The battalion numbered 25 companies.

Paisley's bowling clubs are of respectable antiquity, and so are some of their members. Of its nine clubs the premier one, Priors-croft, completes its 70th year soon.

The 200 new miners' houses at Fallin are now all occupied. There are 1,450 colliery workers employed within three miles of Stirling—750 at Millhall and 700 at Fallin.

Mrs. James Fisher, a native of Beith, now living at Aiket Mill, Dunlop parish, completed her 100th year the other day. Mrs. Fisher is still able to take an intelligent interest in everyday events.

The Dumfries and Maxwelltown Angling Association have been made the recipient of a very large consignment of young trout from Mr. James Smith of Craigielands, and these were put into the burns at Dalwoodie.

At Arbroath 17 veterans take advantage of the seat which has been placed at the Shore Dues Office, and their united ages total 1,217 years, the youngest being 51 and the oldest, Geo. Rae, a Crim-ean and Indian Mutiny veteran, 91.

A DOG EXPLORER.

Fox Terrier's Travels Through Central Asia and China.

A wonderful record as a traveler has been achieved by Dash, the smooth haired fox terrier which accompanied Dr. M. A. Stejneger, the archaeological explorer, throughout his great journey of 10,000 miles, undertaken on behalf of the Indian Government, through Central Asia into China and back, says the London Standard.

Though the aggregate of the marches amounted roughly to 10,000 miles in two years and eight months, the actual distance covered by Dash, taking into account his canine habits of progression, may be estimated at well over 20,000 miles. Dash made that journey on foot practically the whole way, except when he went "pony back" for short distances at times of great heat. When in the Taklamakan desert Dash, like the rest of the party, had his water allowance strictly limited. It came from the supply carried on camels in the form of ice.

Dash went over mountain passes as high as 18,000 feet above sea level. Throughout the journey the dog kept well and his menu was made up of scraps from the camp larder. Each night he slept in Dr. Stejneger's tent and on occasions proved himself a very useful watchdog. On the high Tibetan uplands his chief recreation was chasing wild donkeys, yaks and the like. He managed to kill several hares and bring them in to supplement the store of food.

Upon many journeys along the Indian Northwest frontier Dash has also been the comrade of his master, and he has probably seen far more of the world than most people. He has true British terrier blood in his veins, although India was his birth-place. The dog is now in quarantine after having come from India.

"There goes a man who always whistles at danger!" "What does he do?" "He's an engine-driver!"

SPLITTING UP LIGHTNING

DR. M. A. VEEDER'S NEW THEORY OF PROTECTION.

Nails Will, He Thinks, Give Protection Where Lightning Rods Fail.

Dr. M. A. Veeder, the scientist, thinks farmers can protect their barns from lightning better than with lightning rods.

His theory is suggested by the statement that fewer dwelling houses than barns burn when struck by lightning. It is also said that the old style frame dwelling where the timbers were put together with wooden pins were frequently burned from lightning, whereas dwellings lathed and plastered and put together with nails were generally immune from fire when struck.

Another interesting fact was that the old-fashioned barns with strips nailed up and down, or battened, were rarely or never burned, while the old style barns with siding nailed to joists were burned frequently by lightning. All this seems to indicate that the fire hazard from lightning decreased as the use of nails in construction increased both in dwellings and barns.

Dr. Veeder spent a long time gathering statistics as to the construction of barns struck and destroyed by lightning. He says:

WHEN DAMAGE IS DONE.

"Barns are commonly burned by lightning; dwelling houses are not. In order to get at the true explanation of the difference between dwellings and barns in this regard it is necessary to consider the manner in which electricity sets fire.

"When flowing through a good conducting substance the electric current passes quietly, having little perceptible effect of any sort. If, however, it meets with resistance, and the current is sufficiently strong, it generates heat and great disruptive force, tearing everything to pieces and setting fire as in the case of lightning stroke. The problem is to lower the strength of the current and at the same time decrease the resistance. In the case of atmospheric electricity this can be done by use of metal points.

"The air itself is not a conductor of electricity, but the moisture and dust it contains are capable of carrying considerable quantities of electricity in the vicinity of points. By multiplying the number of points it is possible to break up a very powerful current into a multitude of smaller currents incapable of doing serious harm.

"The dwelling house which I myself occupy as a residence has in it, as nearly as can be calculated, 275,000 metal points. By far the larger number of these points are jath nails, which are not found at all in barns as ordinarily constructed.

"Even though embedded in a slight coating of plaster or wood, 275,000 metal points in an ordinary house would split up even a very powerful lightning flash into tens of thousands of minute currents that

WOULD BE HARMLESS.

More than this, such a concatenation of metallic points from roof to ceiling would be at work lowering the tension, decreasing it materially in advance of the stroke. Thus we have both lessening of the strength of the current and decreasing the resistance of the current at work on a very large scale in the case of dwelling houses as ordinarily constructed.

"On the other hand, in the case of barns the ordinary construction increases the danger of fire from lightning. The metal points in their case are very much fewer in number and further apart, so that the electric current is compelled to make leaps and encounter greater resistance, which are the precise conditions that increase the danger of fire from lightning.

"It is obvious that if this is a correct statement of the case the remedy is within reach of every one at very small expense and effectually. With the evidence now at hand it would be best to imitate in barns the distribution of metal points ordinarily employed in lathing a house.

"This may be done very perfectly by putting rows of lath nails, about fifty in number, that is about an inch apart, for each lath. The best way is to start the nails into the lath on the barn floor, and they may be readily driven home when the lath has been adjusted to the place it is to occupy along the rafters, floor and upright timbers or on the siding of the barn between joists. It will be noted that the nails thus applied inside the building remain clean and bright, which may be a point of some importance. It may also be a service to employ the

HEADLESS NAILS OR BRADS.

"Localities where the metal points should be specially numerous are the cupolas and the corners where currents tend to converge. In the original construction of a barn many forms of arrangement that are likely to be advantageous will suggest themselves.

In the case of lightning rods it

has been found that there is a surging to and fro of the current which tends to defeat the object sought to be obtained in their construction. It would seem that such to and fro movement could not occur where lightning flash is split up into thousands of minute fragments through the agency of metal points, thus increasing the security in another way.

"The more widely and evenly the nails are distributed throughout the building from cellar to roof the better. They should be so arranged in lines as not to compel any long leaps, each point having a neighbor not more than an inch away. In other words they should be wrapped around the building in long lines, thus enclosing it after the manner of what is known as the electrical cage, objects within which, even the most delicate electrical appliances are protected absolutely from interference of electrical currents from without. It is very likely that the lines of metal points which happen to extend in a vertical direction and which reach the ground will afford the greatest protection."

THE KING AND THE CAPTAIN.

Secured a Splendid Position for a Faithful Officer.

There are many stories of the King's kindness of heart, some of which are founded on fact. Here is one of them:

One of the most efficient and faithful officers, Captain E—, on a certain Royal yacht, was a man of very moderate means. To hold a commission in the British Navy is an expensive undertaking, which frequently calls for an independent income in excess of the actual pay. Especially is this so in the case of the Royal yacht, on which, during the season, there is often a continuous round of entertainments.

The officer in question had a growing family, a home that befitted his social station, and little more than his pay. For some years he battled with the situation, but at last, worn out and heart-sick, determined to resign and enter the mercantile marine.

In some way or other the King heard of his resolve. Less than a couple of months after Captain E— was surprised, and even alarmed, to receive a peremptory command from the King ordering him to report at Buckingham Palace forthwith. Although he knew that his papers were clean, he felt perturbed, nevertheless. But his reception by His Majesty was of a most cordial nature. After some preliminary remarks, the King said:

"I think you are entitled to a holiday in return for your many years of work on the —, so you had better take this."

The astounded officer was handed an Admiralty order granting him a year's leave of absence on captain's full pay.

"You can renew that at the end of the year if you so desire," added Edward VII., with a significant laugh. "And by the way, this may interest you."

Captain E— was here given a letter offering him the command of a superb and newly-built ocean liner. The letter was to the effect that the personal recommendation of the King was the cause of its being written. The overwhelmed captain never quite remembered how he got out of the Palace. But he became the monarch of the ocean liner.

NOT FEARSOME DUNGEONS.

Spanish Prisoners Enjoy a Real Good Time.

Spanish prisons have so long held the evil reputation of being dank and fearsome dungeons that it comes as a surprise to learn that the inmates of the Central Prison of Madrid have been having a real good time; so much so that Senor Salillas, the governor of the prison, has just been dismissed on account of his too tolerant views on prison regime.

It appears that among other privileges enjoyed by the convicts in this model prison was that of publishing a weekly journal appropriately named Force. Copies of this were sold in the prison at one peseta (19 cents) each, but the principal source of revenue was the advertisements. Several long sentence men were allowed to keep stocks of wine, soap and playing cards, which they retailed to their comrades, advertising them for sale, for instance, at Cell No. —, second gallery.

The Minister of the Interior learned the facts and suppressed the journal and prisoners' traffic in commodities.

A WRONG READING.

Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, at a recent banquet, said of charity:

"Too many of us, perhaps, misinterpret the meaning of charity as the master misinterpreted the Scriptural text:

"This master, a pillar of the Western Church, entered in his journal:

"The Scripture ordains that 'if a man take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.' To-day, having caught the hostler stealing my potatoes, I have given him the sack."

FROM ERIN'S GREEN ISLE

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irishmen.

Westmeath county council has voted to erect a county hall in the town of Mullingar.

Fifty-two tons of eggs were dispatched from Covehill, county Cavan, in one day recently.

Mr. John Redmond intimates that Home Rule must be the live issue at the next general election.

The sub-postoffice near Enniskillen has been in the family of the present sub-postmaster since the year 1750.

The Limerick Guardians have adopted a resolution approving the principle of imposing special taxation upon bachelors.

Exciting scenes were witnessed near New Ross, when the River Barrow overflowed its banks and bursting over the walls, inundated the town of Rosbercon, and all the low-lying lands.

Oldest Castle Guardians have passed the "bachelor tax" resolution, which has been going the rounds of the Irish public boards.

The Castlebar Gas Company, which recently went into liquidation, has sold its extensive works in Castlebar, for the sum of \$15,000.

Bernard Kelly, aged 74 years, while on his way to Cavan, after drawing his pension, was overtaken by an evening train and cut to pieces.

A force of police on land protection, was attacked recently and the sergeant was seriously injured.

Arrangements have been made for the erection of a memorial in the centre of St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, to James Clarence Mangan, the Irish poet.

A unique drive took place off the now noted Church Body Ranch, when about 50 cattle, which had been placed on free pasture there a few weeks ago, were evicted.

Looking over the head at Rathlin Island, county Antrim, to see if any seaweed was coming ashore, a young man slipped and fell 150 feet over the cliffs being killed instantly.

At Court Quarter Sessions, before Judge Anderson, Lord Clancarty obtained decrees against 16 tenants for non-payment of rent. The amount of the decrees was nearly \$3,500.

At the quarterly meeting of the Leitrim county council proposal committee, it was unanimously decided to refuse to pay the cost of extra police in the county, amounting to \$1,350.

Fire occurred recently in the pattern store of Workman, Clarke & Co., shipbuilders, Belfast. A considerable portion of the store and contents, including some valuable patterns, were destroyed.

Large shoals of herring visited Red Bay and Cushendall Bay recently, but owing to the great want of harbor accommodation and fishing gear, little advantage could be taken of the opportunity by the fishermen.

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

Holland's Queen Spends Happiest Days at Loo.

The wifehood of Holland's queen has until now, when she holds a great happiness in her arms, not been without trouble and disappointment. She wanted a child, and it was denied to her. She wanted her husband to win the people's hearts, and they grugged him their good wishes. It was the same difficulty as with Queen Emma in the old days. The people have given the Prince Consort a Dutch name, they call him Hendrik, instead of Heinrich, but they have not been able to make him a Dutchman, and they do not like Germans. The Socialists voted against the allowance, proposed for his income, and the Queen was this time really angry. She rejected any allowance for her husband, as it was not granted unanimously, and the Prince Consort is still unpaid by the subjects of his wife.

Queen Wilhelmina shares her husband's fondness for outdoor exercise, and is a splendid horsewoman. She is devoted, indeed, to all animals, and has many pets, among which is the little dashhound which she always takes with her when walking. The happiest days of the Queen are at the beautiful old palace of Het Loo, in Guelderland, with its old-fashioned gardens and lovely woods. Here she leads the simple, industrious life of an ordinary Dutch lady, reading and working and sketching, taking photographs, and riding with her husband in the countryside, and chatting over the tea-table with the Queen mother and the few ladies whom she favors with intimate friendship. At The Hague, to which she comes as rarely as possible, she has to do her duties as the head of the State, and she does them conscientiously and with a strong grasp upon the business of a sovereign.

HER COMMENT.

An old Irishman named Casey made a lot of money as a contractor and built a fine house for his children.

The sons and daughters were much ashamed of the plebeian father, and Casey was always kept in the rear of the house when they had a party or reception. One day Casey died, and there was a great do about it. The children had a fine coffin, with plenty of flowers, and Casey was laid in state in the parlour.

That evening an old Irish woman, who had known Casey when he was a laborer, came and asked to see the face of her dead friend. They conducted her to the parlour. She walked up to the coffin, took a long look, and said: "Faith, Casey was a fine fellow—let ye into the parlour at night."

CLOCK MADE BY CRIPPLE

USED A SCROLL SAW, A JACK-KNIFE AND A FILE.

A Wonderful Piece of Work—The Lord's Prayer Laid With Wood.

Negotiations are under way by the management of the Hotel St. Regis, Philadelphia, for the purchase of what is said to be a unique and remarkable clock. The clock was made in a little Ohio town by a crippled workman, who spent four years in its construction and whose only tools were a scroll saw, a jackknife and a file.

"I have just returned from the west, where I heard of the clock, and after an inspection of it offered to purchase or lease it. The offer met with favorable consideration," said Manager Gus R. Schmidt. "The clock is a wonder. It is 12 feet 4 inches deep, 4 feet 4 inches wide and 29 inches deep. One large dial gives the standard time, while directly beneath it is a dial which shows the changes of the moon and gives the government weather indication for 24 hours in advance.

NIAGARA FALLS.

"By watching the clock one sees handsome pictures of the ships in the United States navy pass behind a glass. The history of Christ is shown from the nativity to the ascension by pictures painted by the maker.

"An interesting feature of the clock is a miniature Niagara falls, with real water, the color of which appears to change. Just below is an electric fountain and an arch which produces a beautiful effect. Flags appear on staffs in front of the dial and indicate the kind of weather expected 24 hours in advance. The weather reports are produced by a thermometer, a barometer, a hydrometer, a spirit level and a compass arranged on the front of the clock.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

"The front of the clock is lighted by 50 small electric lights, 35 of which are arranged around the Niagara Falls and electric arch. The history of the United States from the landing of Columbus to the present time is shown by 96 paintings attached to a ribbon 180 feet long, which is moved by electricity. When the clock strikes the hour the figures of Uncle Sam and the Goddess of Liberty pass out of an electric elevator on one side, down a stairway around the base of the miniature cataract and electric fountain to the other side, where they ascend another stairway and enter another elevator. A minute after the hour strikes 50 lights appear around the dial and a musical attachment is brought into play, sending forth delightful airs. At the half-hour the cathedral gong strikes once and the musical attachment is started again.

LORD'S PRAYER.

"An illuminated picture on one side of the dial shows Washington crossing the Delaware with his army. Three boats are portrayed with Washington standing in the first one. This scene is repeated every hour and 40 minutes. Other illuminated pictures, which appear periodically show the old battleship Maine both before and after the explosion in Havana harbor.

"On the back of the clock is displayed the Lord's Prayer, inlaid with 312 pieces of wood. Pictures of American poets, musicians and the presidents also appear on the back. All of these portraits are in motion, and travel at the rate of 25 feet a minute. Pictures of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley are shown, and at the hour of their death a light appears on the face of the clock while a phonograph announces the occasion.

"The face of the clock contains a piece of wood from every state and territory in the union, including the island possessions, and it took three years for the maker of the clock to collect them.

"All the mechanism for running the clock is in the base and includes 640 feet of electric wire and 412 electrical connections. The current is obtained from an ordinary electric light connection."

PA'S REBUKE FAILED.

A stern father had decided that he must administer a severe lecture to his six-year-old son Harry. The boy had been naughty, but it was with some reluctance that the parent undertook a scolding.

He spoke judiciously, but severely; he recounted the lad's misdeeds and duly explained the whys and wherefores of his solemn rebuke, his wife the while sitting by, duly impressed.

Finally, when the father ceased for breath, the lad, his face beaming with admiration, turned to his mother and said, "Ma, isn't pa interesting?"

WAS SHE SARCASTIC?

"Do you think that Miss Kidder was having fun with me?" asked Charley.

"Well, old chap, give me the details," was Arthur's response.

"You see, I had my bull terrier with me. And I said to her, 'That dog knows as much as I do.' And she said, 'Don't you think 10 shillings was too much to pay for him?'"

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That merical World.

American gooseberry mildew has appeared in the south of England.

The wrecked liner Mahratta is becoming slowly engulfed in the Goodwin Sands.

It is rumored that Bryant and May will build the finest factory in the world in London.

The first seal ever seen at Margate visited that watering place a few moments recently.

A cat belonging to Mr. Clayton, of Dersingham, Norfolk, has adopted and assiduously rearing a duckling.

Britain consumes 47,000,000 cwt. of meat a year, 120 pounds per head of the population. Only 54 per cent. of this is produced at home.

An unregistered woman money-lender named Harriet Jones was said at Waltham Abbey Police Court to have charged as much as 2,000 per cent. interest.

George Redmond, a medalled Mutiny veteran, who was offered but refused promotion for his services in the 20th Foot, has just died at Cambridge—in the workhouse.

Two children recently christened at St. Stephens—by—Saltash, Cornwall, bore the names Gloria Saidee Iris Doreen and Isla-Haidee Bernice Shella St. John respectively.

Mr. Carne the parish clerk of St. Colomb Minor, who has just celebrated his 103rd birthday, is a life-long non-smoker, but enjoys a glass of grog before going to bed.

Rogation-tide was celebrated at Ranworth, Norfolk, by the picturesque ceremony of blessing the crops, the vicar and his choir holding the service on top of the church tower.

Miss Wilcox, sister of Sir John Wilcox, late editor and proprietor of the Liverpool Courier, has promised \$50,000 to the Bishop of Liverpool's fund for the cathedral church.

A gooseberry bush, a currant bush and an elderberry bush are growing high up on a willow tree near Surrey, Eng. How they came to be graced to the willow no one knows.

It was announced recently that the Warwickshire Coal Company, Limited, had swept \$150,000 in acquiring land near Coventry, beneath which large coalfields are believed to lie.

Albert Gardner, a stockman, of Boxted, Essex, was served by error with a judgment summons intended for another man. He immediately went into his fowl house and shot himself dead.

New buildings for the purpose of higher elementary school and of pupil-teachers' centre, which have cost \$100,000 and are the gift of Ald. Herbert Strutt, were opened at Belper by the Duke of Devonshire.

An attempt was made to wreck a train on the London & North-Western Railway, by fastening an iron chair to the rail. The weight and speed of an engine which struck the chair alone averted an accident.

"The Scottish form of oath is really English," Judge Willis stated at the Greenwich County Court. "It has been used in this country for 300 years, and yet the Legislature is passing an act to make it legal."

Cowdray estate, including over 15,000 acres, which lies in the beautiful Midhurst country, has just been sold to Sir Westman Pearson, who thus becomes one of the greatest landowners in the south of England.

The great foghorn recently established on the Bass Rock has not disturbed the myriads of sea birds which annually nest there, and with one species, the Kittiwake gulls, there is a marked increase in numbers.

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